

## It Seems To Prohibit

National Chairman Jones of the Prohibition party has been going over the advance report of the United States internal revenue bureau to find out whether prohibition prohibits.

He finds that on the basis of the official records issued by the internal revenue department for the four fiscal years, June 30, 1905, to June 30, 1909, the astonishing fact develops that the liquor traffic during that time has come short of its expected sales to an estimated aggregate total of 389,087,333.97 gallons of spirits and fermented liquors.

The liquor traffic had been increasing its output by leaps and bounds for the years up to 1907.

### Nearly 90,000,000 Gallons Less

On a basis of growth conservatively estimated at figures only equal to the increase during the year 1905 and 1906, there would have been a total expansion of liquor production during the two years from 1907 to 1909 of 300,080,702.66 gallons of liquor. Did it happen? Well, hardly so you would notice it. As an actual fact during those two years instead of the gain above mentioned, which might naturally have been expected, there was an actual decrease of 89,006,621.31 gallons.

And here drop a tear for the poor alcohol mixer. For in just two years, from June 30, 1907, to June 30, 1909, the total difference between expectation and realization was actually the mere bagatelle of 389,087,333.97 gallons.

### Beer Shrinkage

Of this enormous shrinkage from expected figures of increase of liquor production, the whisky total is 37,882,607 gallons, while the beer production in the same time shows net shrinkage of not less than 351,204,726.97 gallons from expected developments.

This thirty-seven odd million gallons of whisky means a total of 1,894,130,350 drinks of fire-water, reckoning fifty to the gallon, a conservative estimate; and 5,619,267,631 drinks of beer, reckoning every schooner at half a pint. The cost of these seven and a half billion of drinks of "booze," reckoning at the current market value, would have been not less than \$464,449,997.15.

This is the sum the liquor traffic two years ago might have expected would pass through their tills in the twenty-four months which closed June 30, 1909, but of which, sad (?) to relate, they have never seen a penny.

### Suggests a Vacation

Isn't it about time for the brewers' press agent and the whisky scribe to take a vacation till further orders?

Putting aside for the moment the startling totals of expected increase in liquor production, which did not materialize in the last two years, we find an actual drop in liquor production of 1908 and 1909 from the figures of 1907, of 14,657,329 gallons of whisky and 2,142,614 barrels of beer. That is, there was an aggregate drop in liquor production for these two years of 2,045,987,685 drinks of distilled and fermented liquors from the total for 1907.

Reckoning that the average moderate drinker buys four drinks a day, the figures show that the equivalent of 1,408,098 men no longer patronize the saloons as they did in the year ending June 30, 1907.

In Memphis, Tennessee, which became dry on the first of July, the site of a saloon of more than twenty years' standing has been leased for a savings bank. The savings bank is the logical successor of the saloon.

## That Game at Gary

The brewery and saloon interests of Gary have opened up a new line of attack in their efforts to secure immunity from enforcement of the prohibitory law there, says the Joliet News. They are trying to embarrass the big steel corporation by inducing the laborers, especially those of foreign birth, to leave the town and thus leave the mills with an insufficient force.

The result of this move may be unexpected before it ends. It may result in the steel corporation securing a higher grade of labor to take the place of cheap labor and the installation of new labor saving devices that will make it possible for the mills to dispense with its cheapest labor.

While the higher officials of the steel company are saying nothing for publication, it is known that they are working on the problem. Should it work out as they believe, it will mean a revolution in the steel mill business in this nation.

Here at the Joliet plant the saloon problem has been one of the most perplexing to the steel corporation. For years the officials fought to keep saloons away from the mill gates. Finally, however, they found themselves defeated in these efforts.

When Gary was established it was decided to set aside certain places where liquor would be sold under restrictions. Sunday closing was included so that the men would come to work sober Monday morning.

Then came the developments that made Gary dry and the establishment of the blind pigs in the patch district which was not under control of the steel corporation.

This resulted in a rather unique condition. Gamblers and keepers of the worst kind of joints invaded Gary. According to Mayor Knotts these elements threatened to close up all the places where liquor was sold unless they were permitted to run too. The carnival of vice followed and then came the reaction and the enforcement of the law.

## Loss to a Wet Town

The Hinners Organ Company is about to move from Pekin, a very wet town, to Champaign, a very dry town, and the Pekin people are not pleased with the prospect of losing one of their most substantial manufacturing institutions.

Some of them have hinted very broadly that the company owes some sort of a moral obligation to Pekin which would be violated by its removal.

The Peoria Star has printed a communication from A. W. Hinners, secretary of the company, defending his company against the hint that it owes Pekin a moral obligation.

Mr. Hinners asks if Pekin does not owe her citizens something in that respect and calls attention to the invasion of the city by saloons, licenses for which were granted by the city council over protests from 600 of the best people of the city, this list of names being posted in saloons and the signers branded as undesirables.

He says the removal of one company is not to be a great shock to Pekin, but if the whole 600 of the so called "undesirables," should happen to move away the shock would certainly be felt.

The pleasures incident to drinking are gross in character, harmful in quality, and transient in duration.

The liquor traffic costs many times more than the revenue derived from it.