

LIQUOR TRAFFIC'S CLAIMS AND FACTS

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gent of your ranks. A Republican convention in Georgia may consume more peanuts and crackerjack than yours of recent date at Springfield, but their delegates have never yet repudiated Abraham Lincoln's idea of liberty for the modern brand given them by the Chicago Liquor League.

The Illinois Republican convention of 1908 stands for class liberty as against universal liberty and proposes to license for the money there is in it the slavery of millions of Illinoisans living and yet to live, to the bondage of drink. Illinois Democrats have yet to act, but nothing better is expected of them than to outbid the Republicans for the dominant liquor vote of Chicago by standing for the liberty of the liquor interests against the liberty of the whole people.

Illinois has given to the country two distinct brands of liberty, the liberty taught by Abraham Lincoln and the new type promulgated by the Chicago "liberty," alias liquor, "league." The Republican convention of 1860 declared for universal freedom and thousands of strong, big-hearted Illinois Republicans died for their convictions.

Liberty as taught by Abraham Lincoln meant the liberty of the man under, not over, the law. The liberty of the Chicago "Liberty League" means the liberty of the man, the class, the interest, over the sovereign law of Illinois, not under it. It stands for the thing above all others destructive of the virtue and intelligence of the people.

A hundred thousand mothers in Chicago say to 8,000 liquor dealers: "You are capitalizing the appetites of our boys for drink. You are destroying in them the great virtue of sobriety. They are not only our children, but they are to be the future citizens of this great city of the West.

The reply comes straight as a rifle ball: "To — with the sobriety of your boys. We stand upon our priceless liberty to sell liquor for the money there is in it."

I am a stranger in Chicago and I may be wanting in intelligence, but I cannot understand the distinction between an individual in petticoats talking anarchy in some back street and candidates for municipal office pledging themselves in advance of election to nullification of the law. Nullification? We used to hear a good deal of that word back in the '60s. How time does move!

HOWARD IN DETROIT

The Man from Rochester Captures Great Crowd of Young People in Michigan's Metropolis

DETROIT, MICH., April 16—(Special correspondence)—Clinton N. Howard captured an audience of two thousand young people that crowded the great auditorium of Woodward Avenue Baptist church in this city last night, and held them from eight to ten-thirty o'clock in an address that was punctuated with repeated rounds of enthusiastic applause. From the time of his introduction to the close, he drew the fire of the big crowd. The meeting was under the joint auspices of the Baptist Union, Christian Endeavor and Epworth League of Detroit, and called out the largest audience of young people assembled in this city in years, delegations arriving as early as seven o'clock.

Howard's address was straight from the shoulder, and Prohibition was preached "without variability or shadow that is cast by turning." Great credit for the success of the demonstration is due to Mr. Webb Dudley Doane, president of the Baptist Young People's Union, chairman of the committee, who is known as one of Detroit's aggressive young Prohibitionists.

Under this editorial caption, "Response of Truth to Error," in the *People's National Monthly* for March, the writer of this article published an answer to one of the posters issued by the liquor men. The editorial was originally prepared to be put in poster form and gave by diagrams or "graphs" vivid illustrations of its points in answer to the liquor misrepresentations. It has since been issued as a leaflet by the Prohibition national committee.

Inasmuch as it promises a "free demonstration" of the truth of its statements, the author has prepared and presents here the following in proof of its accuracy.

Enormous Drink Bill

The first point is as to the cost of the drink traffic to the American public. It is represented to be the enormous sum of two billion two hundred millions of dollars! The items which go to make up this vast total are set forth in detail at the close of the document, with the official authority for each item. So far as known no attempt has ever been made by the liquor men to impugn the statement, for such would be an argument against government records.

The remainder of the items in the first "graph" or diagram consists of quotations from the liquor men's poster, stating their "claims" as to monies "benevolently" expended by them, purely for the benefit of the public. They will not dispute their own figures, although open to successful challenge for exaggeration.

The proof that these liquors "are harmful and poisonous to body, mind and character," and that "drink makes men less skilful, less industrious, less saving," is a matter of public knowledge. It is such a fact as comes under the observation of all. The testimony is abundant, too profuse to be here quoted. Anyone who desires to see evidence, piled up and running over, on this point is referred to the "American Prohibition Year Book for 1908," just issued, pages 10 to 43 inclusive, and pages 58 to 78 inclusive.

"Over 250,000 saloons," is the next assertion. This is derived from the report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for 1907, pages 98 and 99.

The Army of Drinkers

"Ten millions of deluded drinkers." This statement is not a matter of government statistics, but is fairly and reasonably derived from them. Inasmuch as the quantity of every kind of liquor drunk in the year is given us by the government, together with the number of saloons, it is readily seen how much liquor each saloon sells on the average. And as the selling price is known, the receipts of each saloon per year are evident. It is found that the average saloon sells about 430 drinks per day of all liquors, receiving about \$25 per day, 365 days in the year. Prof. A. A. Hopkins, author of "Wealth and Waste," in a personal letter, states that he has for years figured the number of drinkers in the average saloon at forty. Even at that low estimate, each drinker takes eight glasses of beer and two and three-quarters glasses of more costly drinks every day. To estimate a smaller number would make every drinker a "tank," indeed. So the forty drinkers in 250,000 saloons mount up to ten million drinkers in the whole country. At the usual estimate of four or five persons in a family, these ten million drinkers represent from forty to fifty millions of people harmed by the liquor traffic, out of our

population of eighty-five millions! Anything "serious" about that fact? Is it worth attending to?

Farm and Factory

The farm products for the year 1906 were \$5,160,687,634. If liquor pays for farm products \$110,309,097, as claimed, it pays about two percent and a fraction over.

The wants of man are met almost entirely from the farm and the factory. (Bulletin 57, Census of Manufactures, page 24.) While the farm products sell for five billions, the factory products bring nearly fifteen billions (see page 25). Hence, when we find that ten millions of drinkers will have under Prohibition two and a quarter billions of dollars saved from the saloon drain to be spent for legitimate products, we see that one-quarter will tend to farm products and three-quarters to factory products. Here, then, is a new demand, a steady demand, a "home market" demand for tremendous quantities of farm and factory products, as stated in the article.

Allowing the liquor traffic's statements to be true, they are infinitesimal beside what sobriety will bring in patronage to our farms and factories.

The figures as to labor are derived from Table 84, pages 76 to 93, and also from page 25, in Bulletin 57. Considering only factory labor (though our farms will demand many thousands more farm hands), the \$1,650,000,000 increase in demand for factory products will cause need for a corresponding increase in factory labor, and in the wages paid out by factories. The increase is so large that the wages now paid by breweries and distilleries are trifling in comparison.

The Rank of Liquor Manufacturing

Table 84 already mentioned, in Bulletin 57, shows the facts as to these branches of manufacture. Adding the capital of distilled, malt and vinous liquors together, it is found that there are but five single industries which exceed the sum. Adding the liquor wages together, there are shown to be sixteen single industries which exceed the sum in wages. Adding the number of wage-earners employed in liquor manufacturing, the sum is exceeded by twenty-seven single industries.

Those who desire these facts in greater detail than a newspaper article allows, are referred to the comprehensive new "American Prohibition Year Book for 1908" (already mentioned), which is the latest contribution to accurate knowledge on this subject, and which will be found interesting to the student of current affairs, and of political economy as well.

Drunk Congressman Dead

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., April 15—(Special correspondence).—A Congressman recently died in this city. The daily papers, with a kindness they would not have shown a hod-carrier or his mournful relatives, drew the curtain over his sad ending and gave a respectable name to the cause of his demise. In point of fact, the politician came to this city to attend the Republican state convention and went upon a prolonged drunk. His friends were unable to restrain him and the usual Turkish bath method failed to sober him up. He was taken to a sanitarium, where he died of acute alcoholism. Out of pity for his friends, let his name go unwritten. He is simply another American citizen killed by the power that has so long controlled American politics.