

THE RECONNAISSANCE

A Critical Review of Current Newspaper Thought and Utterance upon the "Drink Problem"

DRINK AND THE GRAIN CROPS . . .

One of the ablest replies yet made to the frantic prophecies of evil indulged in by the liquor interests in their mad campaign to check the Prohibition movement in another of the remarkable series of editorials appearing in the Philadelphia *North American*. Taking for its text a liquor dealer's advertisement the *North American* says:

The talk of "desert farms" and "wasted lands" is the silliest sort of nonsense, of course. Our best research for an atom of sanity in the argument to farmers results in the liquor men's contention that if our grain should not be in demand for domestic consumption by breweries and distilleries there would be overproduction and a crash in market prices.

It is a waste of time to treat such folly seriously. Where is the Pennsylvania farmer who does not know that this country's surplus of grain is in ever-increasing demand by the old and hungry countries across the seas, and that the grain-grower in Manitoba or middle Pennsylvania must watch, not for brewery bids, but for the demands of Odessa, Genoa, Hamburg and Liverpool, before he knows whether he will sell "dollar wheat" or market his product at a lower figure?

Let us suppose, however, that the brewers had not made their millions of grain purchases last year. Europe was glad to buy every bushel that we could ship. Had this surplus been exported instead of brewed, it would have added just that many millions to the balance of trade in favor of this country. It would have meant just so many more transfers of foreign gold to our credit during the panic months.

But it is not only the farmer who is to be hurt by the shutting of some saloons. We are informed that a mil-

lion working men will be starved. This million is to include not only the skilled labor of the breweries and distilleries; not only the hostlers and drivers of delivery wagons, but, in addition, the woodworkers of the country, the glassblowers, the cigarmakers.

In this connection we might recall the fact that when a machine was invented for the making of bottles, thousands of men were put out of employment and a death-blow dealt to a highly skilled and highly paid craft, while the brewers and whisky bottlers rejoiced over the reduction in cost of one of their raw materials.

And when it comes to the woodworkers, we cannot recall that any such protest went up when tens of thousands of girls were ousted from the match factories. Nor was there any outcry when the recent building of the last of the wooden ships in Camden marked the end of a once thriving industry.

But these are minor aspects after

We repeat our advice that the liquor people should study a little history before they undertake to talk of economics.

The truth of the matter is that the laws of change are constant. The shifting of men from one industry to another has been unceasing ever since the advent of machinery and invention. There never has been a time when workers of worth, shut out from their accustomed employment by any step of progress, became an idle, burdensome, suffering and helpless class.

We admit that the revenues from certain properties are enhanced by liquor licenses. But we say that the bulk of such properties are the dives of the slums. Landlords who let holdings on the basis of a franchise that permits participation in the proceeds of vice base their investment, not on value, but on the capitalization of the worst weaknesses of humanity.

We deplore any contempt of law, and the sober second thought of this country will support us in the opinion that legislation touching such matters for example as Prohibition, church-going or any other regulation of personal conduct in private affairs is better let alone entirely than framed into laws and statutes that are contemptuously disregarded and openly violated.

What scintillating intelligence! What brilliancy of thought! Why did not the *Dispatch* include among its matters of "personal conduct and private affairs" the paring of toe nails and the trimming of whiskers? Such items have just as much place in a discussion of Prohibition as has church-going. The matter under discussion is traffic, a matter that the English-speaking people have recognized as subject to legal enactment for more than a thousand years. Somewhere out

COFFEE EYES

It Acts Slowly, But Frequently Produces Blindness.

The curious effect of slow daily poisoning and the gradual building in of disease as a result, is shown in numbers of cases where the eyes are affected by coffee.

A case in point will illustrate:

A lady in Oswego, Mont., experienced a slow but sure disease settling upon her eyes in the form of increasing weakness and shooting pains, with wavy, dancing lines of light, so vivid that nothing else could be seen for minutes at a time.

She says:

"This gradual failure of sight alarmed me and I naturally began a very earnest quest for the cause. About this time I was told that coffee poisoning sometimes took that form, and while I didn't believe that coffee was the cause of my trouble, I concluded to quit it and see.

"I took up Postum Food Coffee in spite of the jokes of Husband, whose experience with one cup at a neighbor's was unsatisfactory. Well, I made Postum strictly according to directions, boiling it a little longer, because of our high altitude. The result was charming. I have now used Postum in place of coffee for about three months and my eyes are well, never paining me or showing any weakness. I know to a certainty that the cause of the trouble was coffee and the cure was in quitting it and building up the nervous system on Postum, for that was absolutely the only change I made in diet and I took no medicine.

"My nursing baby has been kept in a perfectly healthy state since I have used Postum.

"Mr. —, a friend, discarded coffee and took on Postum to see if he could be rid of his dyspepsia and frequent headaches. The change produced a most remarkable improvement quickly."

"There's a Reason." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.



"WELL, HE FELL LIKE A MAN!"

"Let a man strive in Freedom; if he win, well. If he fail, at least he will fail like a man." From an advertisement of Pennsylvania State Brewers' Association.

—From the Philadelphia North American.

Subscribers' Wants.

Readers of *The National Prohibitionist* may use this column for publishing their wants or wares. The charge is three cents for each word, the cash to accompany orders. 200,000 interested people read this column each week.

FOR SALE—Improved real estate in rapidly growing city of 10,000; three cottages and one 16-room house. Rentals, \$75 to \$100 per month. Will give clear title for \$6,000 cash. Address Douglas, care THE NATIONAL PROHIBITIONIST, 87 Washington street, Chicago.

SHEET MUSIC, five copies, 25c. Free bulletins of all the latest hits. Semple Music Co., 84 West avenue, Norwalk, Conn.

WANTED—A young man with clean habits to sing tenor in a mixed quartet, give readings and impersonations and play a marimbaphone. Position will be open about the first of January. Compensation liberal to one who can "make good." Address C. W. Meneley, Room 38, No. 93 La Salle street, Chicago.

Plymouth Rock cockerels, \$1.50; eggs, 75c per setting. Apple trees, 12 1/4; cherries, 84c; plums, 28c; grapes, 3c; currants, 12 for \$1.00; hardy peaches, 25c. Best seeds. Catalogue free. Cyrus Harvey, Altoona, Iowa.

"OUR CHILDREN in the OTHER LIFE," ten cents; "HEAVEN and HELL," by Swedenborg, fifteen cents. Postpaid, stamps taken. Pastor Landenberger, St. Louis, Mo.

SHORT STORIES of religious experience for use in new Sunday School library book. Also poems for new S. S. Hymnal. Rev. W. S. PRICE, NEWPORT, N. Y.

SIXTEEN POST CARD views of New Hudson River tunnel, all different. Also descriptive booklet; very interesting; 25 cents. FIDELITY PUB. CO., Bible House, New York.

ALLROUND REFORMER? Read "Usury," an exposure of the fraud of interest. Postpaid, \$1.00. ANTI-USURY LEAGUE, Albany, Ore.

all. In the evolutionary progress, due to the harm done to humanity by the abuses of the liquor traffic, if it becomes necessary to throw certain men out of employment that supplies no reason for the halting of a movement toward civilization.

Many good fellows suffered when smuggling was wiped out. Men of family, with vested rights sanctioned not only by statutes, but by the constitution of a sovereign state, were deprived of their livelihood when this government adopted high-handed and arbitrary methods to demolish the Louisiana lottery. There was not only confiscation of property—there was the wrecking of varied forms of wage earning industry when the race tracks of Chicago and St. Louis were reduced to suburban building lots, and when the \$5,000,000 investment of D. D. Withers, at Monmouth Park, was made a scrap heap by a New Jersey statute.

Never was there a more thriving, profitable and respectable industry wiped out than that of the slave trade, when, in the early days of the nation, it was stopped against the protests of the shipping interests of New England.

FROM THE THICKETS . . .

Either the absolute inability of the average newspaper editor, even at this late day, to grasp the meaning of Prohibition or the slippery tricks to which a "kept" editor will resort in order to misrepresent the real facts, finds good illustration in an editorial in the *Dispatch* of Richmond, Va. Virginia has a new liquor law which among other things prohibits the licensing of a saloon in a town of less than five hundred inhabitants. The *Dispatch* seizes this provision of law as an excuse for singing a most doleful tune about the violations of law which will come to pass because of it. "It will cause," says the *Dispatch*, "a severe setback to the cause of Prohibition" (about which the *Dispatch* suddenly has great anxiety). "It will force the Prohibition policy upon towns that have tried it under local option and have found it a failure." Then comes the masterpiece. The *Dispatch* says: