

**BEER AND THE GERMAN ARMY**  
(Continued from Page 5.)

send an army into a waste country like Mexico and subject them to the dangers of poisoned water holes and typhoid, when you might so easily transport beer. But since coming to America I begin to understand. I have visited your drinking places, which are only frequented by men—where men stand up at a bar and one man treats the other in succession, and where drinking is more of a business than a pleasure, and where one never sees a woman, or if there is a woman, not of the better class. In Germany, it is different. One goes into a German restaurant where the whole German family sits at a table, orders food and drinks beer. The first thing in the morning the Munich woman drinks her stein of beer, and yet I know that German women do not become slaves to the habit the way the American women become slaves to the cigarette and the cocktail.

You notice that the men who have been foremost in the fighting around Verdun are the Brandenburgers, the Badenians and the Rhinelanders. Those men come from provinces where more beer and wine are consumed than probably any other territory in the world. You can draw your own conclusions from this, as to whether the moderate drinking of beer and wine destroys the wholesome strength of the people or breaks down manly virility, as your fanatical prohibitionist says they do.

Another thing not generally known abroad is that the Austrian army was under strict prohibition during the early part of the war. After the battles in the Carpathians, the Austrian army was reorganized, and one of the first reforms was the introduction of beer into the army. Now the Austrians have organized a bureau, such as our German bureau, and the Austrian army gets about the same amount of beer as our own army. Since the reorganization, you know that the morale of the Austrians is 60 per cent better than it was. I do not mean to imply by this that the improvement is due to beer but beer evidently played a part, and today the Austrian military chiefs would no more think of sending out an army corps without beer than it would without bread.

On the side of the Allies I want to call your attention to the fact that it is not the prohibition Russian army, nor the English who have made the best showing. The backbone of the Allies is the French army, who drink their wine as we Germans drink our beer.

I am not attempting here to disparage the temperance movement. Only you in America and we on the continent have an entirely different view of what constitutes temperance. I do not consider that the German who takes his beer with his meals, nor the Frenchman who takes light wine in the same way, is intemperate. I consider the Russian peasant, who used to get drunk every day on vodka, but who, now that Russia has prohibition, has substituted varnish for vodka, intemperate. But I suppose that your American prohibitionists would class all three nations as intemperate, and the only truly temperate nation Turkey, which drinks neither wine nor beer, nor hard liquors.

My own view of what constitutes temperance agrees pretty much with the French. If you will read the tract sent by the French Medical society to the soldiers at the front you will see that while the men in the trenches are warned that a nip of brandy is delusive, and strong liquor of every kind habitually taken leads without fail to diseases of the stomach, liver and mind, a distinction is made in regard to fermented liquors, such as wine, beer and cider. Fermented liquors, the French soldier is told, may be safely used in moderation. This is what we, on the continent, consider real temperance reform.

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is necessary to the armies.

Dr. Stein says further: "We do not consider beer a luxury, we consider it a necessity, and we believe that the health of our troops would suffer greatly if for any reason the beer supply were cut off."

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