

# Grit.

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THE VENTRILOQUIST AND HIS DUMMY

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## SAND OR GRANITE?

### PASSING THROUGH THE SUPREME TEST.

By ERNEST H. CHERRINGTON.

"American Prohibition will either stand or fall as a result of the supreme test through which it is passing to-day.

"Prohibition's supreme test is to determine whether Prohibition is a passing fad or a permanent policy of free government, whether its foundations have been laid in sand or on granite."

This was the statement of Dr. Ernest H. Cherrington, Westerville, O., General Secretary of the World League Against Alcoholism, speaking in Minneapolis and St. Paul on the field day of the Anti-Saloon League of Minnesota.

"Prohibition has been in the testing period from its beginning and it has successfully passed the legal tests, the experimental tests, the tests of public opinion and the tests of enforcement even under adverse conditions," Dr. Cherrington continued.

"The strictest of laws and even the Eighteenth Amendment, however, carry in themselves no guarantee of permanency of Prohibition. Laws may be modified—constitutional amendments may be repealed. Political expediency may support to-morrow what it condemns to-day. Even public opinion may swerve and shift. Something far more fundamental than all these must be found to guarantee the permanency of the structure of Prohibition and sobriety. The real question, therefore, is whether in our day and civilisation there are such factors in the case.

"Coincidental with the coming of Prohibition there have occurred two momentous changes which are already profoundly affecting American institutions and American life. One of these changes is the industrial revolution in the throes of which America now finds herself. The keyword of this modern revolution is 'mass production.' The transformation already taking place is almost unbelievable. Throughout the entire industrial realm, electrical current is being rapidly substituted for human muscle. The conservation of man power by the use of intricate and delicate electrical equipment has served to transform the human factor in industry from the unskilled labor of yesterday to the highly skilled workmen of to-day whose imperative requirements are not muscle but keen eyes, quick wits, steady nerves and clear brains.

"Where in all this new industrial regime, with its complications and implications, with its delicate machinery and equipment and with its exacting demands, is to be found the place for beverage alcohol?

"The other momentous change which has been coincidental with the coming of Prohibition is the all but complete transformation in means and methods of communication and transportation.

"Time was when the newspaper headlines frequently charge a railroad wreck to a drunken engineer, but with 110,000 locomotive engineers in America to-day, who ever

reads of a drunken engineer either on or off duty? The American Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, with more than 90,000 members, is one of the greatest total abstinence societies on earth. Why? Is it because of the Eighteenth Amendment? No; it is due to the great economic law of the age and the greater law of public safety.

"This nation's agricultural and manufactured products, a few years ago, were transported on short hauls by waggons with teams and teamsters, when if a teamster happened to get topheavy with alcohol he could throw the lines over the dashboard

and depend upon the mules to avoid collision or the ditch. That cannot be done with a modern auto truck. America within two decades has become automobilised. There are 500,000 miles of surfaced highways in America to-day, and the present investment of the people in automobiles and surfaced highways is already greater than the total investment in all the railroads and railroad equipment of the nation which has been developing for a century. The United States has six per cent. of the population of the world, yet of the 23,500,000 automobiles of the world, 20,000,000 are in America. Consider one moment what the old beverage alcohol system of yesterday would mean to-day with 20,000,000 automobile drivers.

"Beverage alcohol belongs to a slower and a lower civilisation.



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## HOW CHRIST SAVES.

### YOU MAY BE SURE YOU'RE SAVED.

By ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

Most of us deeply resent being asked if we are saved. There are few other questions from which we so naturally shrink, and which we meet with such prompt evasion. You don't mind being asked if you are going to England, but you do mind being asked if you are going to Heaven. You don't resent being asked if you are married, or a Nationalist, but you do mind anyone asking are you saved.

There are two reasons for this. First we misunderstand the question; secondly, we are not really sure of the answer.

Now even the most casual religious person knows that "He was called Jesus because He shall save us from our sins," that "there is no other name under heaven whereby men may be saved," and that "He wills that all men shall be saved," and that "He came to seek and to save that which was lost."

Who needs to be saved? How can we be saved? Is it possible to know if you are saved?

These are the sanest questions man can ask, and only an imbecile is indifferent to them.

#### FROM WHAT ARE WE SAVED?

Sin, which is common to us all, is not only subtle, it is also complex, in that it is a three-fold problem.

Sin is not a misfortune, it is a mischoice, and therefore I am guilty. I need to be saved from a penalty which is humanly inescapable.

Sin is a lure, a habit, an enveloping net and a dominating force, the power of which I need to be saved from.

Sin is a part of my flesh, as microbes are a part of the air. I need to be saved from "this body of sin."

Since sin is therefore more than guilt, salvation must be more than forgiveness.

#### A THREE-FOLD STATEMENT.

We are all familiar with the Bible statement, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Then there is the statement, "I am the door; by Me if any man enter in he shall be saved."

Finally, "if ye endure unto the end you shall be saved." These three scriptures set out a condition of faith, and a decision of the will and a purpose for the future. The statements are in no way contradictory, but are supplementary. To believe is an active confidence and trust in Christ. I ask His forgiveness, and am confident that He can be trusted to keep His promise.

When I have offended a friend, I ask his forgiveness. He says, "It is granted." I believe he means what he says, and so am assured of my forgiveness, though I have no other way of knowing this than believing his word. When I assert I have been saved, I mean I am forgiven. His pardon has saved me from my guilt. Immediately I find my old habits and temptations availing themselves of every favorable opportunity, but this is met by the restraining presence of Him who died to be my Saviour and now lives to be my friend. I find I am being saved. The old power no longer holds me in bondage. His grace is sufficient and I am free.

I am buoyantly hopeful, and with confidence assert I shall be saved. I am so sure He won't fail me. I am so encouraged by my experience that I am fully determined to endure to the end and have not a doubt that I shall be finally and completely saved. He who has saved me (i.e., forgiven me), He who is saving me (keeping me from sin), will save me (from the body of sin).

#### HOW?

A man is hungry, cold and without shelter. I propose to save him by giving him a fl

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note. Now he can't eat it, nor wrap it round him, or shelter beneath it. His intelligent co-operation, however, is all that is necessary to transmute the small note into food, warmth and shelter. The pound note does save him. It is cold; the man is perishing, freezing to death. I say the fire will save him. He must come to it or be brought to it; he must remain within the radius of its influence, and then he will tell those who visit him that the fire saved him.

Two men are drowning in the harbor. Life-belts are thrown to them in the confidence that they will save both of them. One grasps the belt and clinging tenaciously to it is finally saved. The other is near his belt, looks at it, understands what it is for, and drifts away from it, sinks, and is lost. The man who was rescued (i.e., saved) keeps the life-belt, and often tells his friends that "it was that belt that saved him."

#### THE SAILOR WAS SAVED.

The ship was wrecked. The lifeboat went to the rescue, and the morning paper announced that "all hands were saved." A few days after these men might have been seen, poorly clad, hungry and in need, walking the streets of the city. These are the men who had been saved. The vivid experience is by no means forgotten; they do not doubt that they were saved.

A lifeboat saved them last week, but it is a job that saves them this week. They work, eat, sleep, make friends and thank God for the job that saved them from want. The big employer who found them a job also gave them his friendship, and their minds are easy about the future. They are unconcerned about the days to come; they are saved from all fears of to-morrow, because of their influential friend and his absolute trustworthiness.

#### HOW HE SAVES.

Christ saves me as the pound note does. When I intelligently accept Him and appropriate Him to my sinful needs, Christ saves me like the fire did the freezing man, when I come to Him and remain within the shelter of His care. Christ saves me as the lifeboat did those sailors, doing for me something I could not do for myself, but refusing to do for me what I can do for myself.

## WINE AND SPIRITS GROCERS' DEFENCE ASSOCIATION.

Grocers with bulk wine and spirit licenses at their annual meeting held in the Australian Hall decided to make a big drive to secure parliamentary sanction to amend the Licensing Act this session to permit the sale of single bottles of liquor. It is known that the Minister for Justice, Mr. McKell, is not at all friendly disposed towards the proposed amendments. Mr. R. Roney, President of the Association, stated that practically every grocer with a license was now linked up with the Association, and they claimed that they paid just as much as the hotelkeepers for their licenses, which was 3 per cent., and should have the same privileges. "It may be necessary," he said, "for every suburban and country grocer to become an organiser at the election to work for candidates who would give us the right to sell liquor by the bottle."

It was stated that Mr. Lang had been approached and had asked that the whole case be submitted to him in writing, together with the facts in support of the "single bottlers" as against hotel licenses.

Officers elected by the Association are Mr. R. Roney (president), Mr. H. E. Spicer (vice-president), Mr. J. N. Ferguson (secretary), Mr. S. Fusedale (assistant secretary), Mr. P. O'Brien (treasurer), Messrs. J. Robertson, J. Monaghan and C. O'Brien, executive members.

## PROHIBITION WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

To be decided by Referendum, with bare majority, in State and Local Areas, and to operate within two years.

This page is devoted to the activities of the N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance—Edited by Henry Macourt, Publicity Officer.

### "PUBLISHED BY ARRANGEMENT."

We publish side by side a typical "Published by Arrangement" liquor propaganda article, which appeared in the "South Coast Times" of October 22, 1926, and our reply. We are glad to know that the Country Press Association has decided to compel all paid-for propaganda articles to be inserted under the heading of "Advertisement."

(Published by Arrangement.)

### WHERE LEGISLATION FAILS.

"I found Prohibition the biggest legislative farce ever thrust on a people," declared Mr. E. J. Smith in a speech to the Norwich (Eng.) Rotary Club, and reported in the "Eastern Daily Press."

"It is a canker eating into the heart of the American people. If you doubt it go and see.

"In New York I saw more drunken people on the Saturday afternoon I landed than I have seen in London in a month. Whisky, beer and wine are available to all who can afford to buy it. The prices are getting cheaper every year, because the bootlegging business is getting more thoroughly organised and greater supplies are coming through.

"I went into many highly respectable homes, and I was amazed at the knowledge imparted by Americans of both sexes in their teens how to make gin, etc. Flasks are carried by nearly everybody.

"One is given cocktails at every home you visit. In fact, one can honestly say there is no Prohibition. Highly-placed officials, as well as a large section of the Press, confidently predict a modification of the Prohibition Enforcement Act.

"One cannot develop character by legislation, but individual resistance will produce much that is ideal."

### WHERE LIES FAIL.

A member of the Smith family paints a picture of a Liquor-flooded Prohibition country that makes one wonder why the Whisky Lords and Beer Barons are spending so many million dollars to abolish a system which apparently is so good for their trade.

When a man named Smith witnesses drunkenness abounding in New York it is possible that every time he sees a mirror the same regrettable picture repeats itself, and he is able to say quite truthfully: "There's another one."

Against such an experience may be placed the findings of Professor Irvine Fisher, the noted economist of Yale. Says Professor Fisher in his great work on Prohibition: "In New York, which many account the wettest city in the United States, with a population greater than that of several States, compilations made for me by the Fingerprint Bureau, New York Magistrate's Court, show a steady and pronounced decrease in the number of single-time-offenders for drunkenness, from 20 per 10,000 population in the year 1914, to only 4 per 10,000 population in the year 1925."

Last year, according to a paper filled in Parliament, the convictions for drunkenness in N.S.W. totalled 29,000, whereas in New York City the total was less than 10,000. Yet New York has three times the population of N.S.W. If, therefore, New York is wet, N.S.W. is a deluge.

### THE FATE OF THE FIRST LIQUOR MONOPOLY.

Liquor monopoly, like slavery, did not arise out of any public necessity. Like Topsy, it just "grewed." The first liquor monopoly in England was "kicked downstairs" by James I. in response to the demand of Parliament. "The Historian's History of the World," Vol. XIX., p. 505, records the following:

"Monopolists were the first attacked with this Constitutional weapon (impeachment). One of the greatest of these, Sir Giles Mompesson, finding that the Government which had granted him his patents for gold and silver lace and for licensing inns and ale-houses would not stand up in his defence, fled beyond the seas. The Sir Giles Overreach of Massingers' 'New Way to Pay Old Debts' was Sir Giles Mompesson, and the Justice Greedy of the same popular play was Sir Francis Mitchell. The real Overreach and the real Greedy were degraded from knighthood, were fined and banished."

Nowadays, however, the real Overreach and the real Greedy of the Liquor Trade are put into the Legislature or become ornaments of what in England is sometimes called "The Beerage."

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION TO "GRIT" IS 11/-.

"Grit" subs. received to 19/11/26, and where not mentioned the amounts received are 10/- or 11/-: Mrs. S. J. Anderson, 15/11/27; B. Hook, 3/6, 20/2/27; Sister Kate, 13/-, 30/12/1927; Miss Coleman, 20/9/27; Miss L. Roberts, 3/-, 8/1/27; Mrs. W. J. Armstrong, 3/6, 7/4/27; N. C. Cossart, 45/-, 30/12/27; Charles Genat, 43/-, 30/12/27; John Lowe, 20/-, 19/9/28; D. McAlpine, 13/-, 30/12/27.

The following are paid to 30/12/26: B. S. Coughlan, 31/-; W. A. McInnes, 31/-; Mrs. Blackett, Rev. L. Peacock, 31/-; D. Davies, 31/-.

### QUEENSLAND PROHIBITION LEAGUE HOTEL.

The Queensland Prohibition League is inviting tenders for the lease of a five-story fireproof temperance hotel, to be erected at the corner of Edward and Ann streets, Brisbane. The position is ideal for such a building, adjacent to the Central Railway Station and near the centre of the city. The hotel will contain 162 public bedrooms, each of which will have running water in the room, and built in wardrobes. Every room in the building is an external room, having natural light and fresh air.

### DAFFODILS.

One of our friends will donate £5 worth of daffodil bulbs to the Alliance funds. Therefore, will anyone desiring some get in touch with us, and let us know any special ones they require. The bulbs will not be ready until early in the New Year, but it will help to have the orders as soon as possible. Particulars and prices are as follows. Those who have had similar bulbs previously speak very highly of them:

	Each.	Doz.	Per 100
Ard Righ .....	3d.	2/-	10/-
Barrii Conspicuous .....	5d.	4/-	28/-
Emperor .....	4d.	3/-	20/-
Empress .....	4d.	3/-	20/-
Figaro .....	2d.	1/-	7/-
Golden Spur .....	3d.	2/6	15/-
Hoboken (new) .....	1/6	15/-	
King Alfred .....	1/6	15/-	90/-
Mme. de Graaff .....	6d.	5/-	
Princeps .....	3d.	2/-	10/-
Sir Watkin .....	4d.	3/-	20/-
Vanilla (new) .....	1/6	15/-	
Alsace .....	3d.	2/6	
Elvira .....	4d.	3/6	
Autocrat .....	3d.	2/6	
Albatross .....	6d.	5/-	
Cardinal .....	4d.	3/6	
Diadem .....	4d.	3/6	
Glitter .....	3d.	2/6	
The Star .....	4d.	3/6	
White Queen .....	6d.	5/-	

One dozen assorted to include one each of any of the list; that is, 12 named sorts for 7/6.

Half dozen of any one variety at the dozen rate.

### SUNSHINE FAIR RECEIPTS.

The latest totals from the various stalls at the Sunshine Fair are as follows:

Anglican .....	£72 17 1½
Presbyterian .....	126 11 6
Methodist .....	171 1 3
Baptist .....	48 4 7½
Congregational .....	58 7 1
Churches of Christ .....	188 16 2
Salvation Army .....	15 19 6
Representative Women's Proh. League .....	112 18 0
Business Women's Proh. League .....	32 12 10
Alliance Staff .....	128 10 11
I.O.G.T. (Ice Cream) .....	14 12 3
Theosophists .....	2 16 3
Money Received at Door .....	18 3 9
Donations Towards Rent .....	24 5 6

Grand total ..... £1015 16 9

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## NEW SOUTH WALES PROHIBITION ALLIANCE

Headquarters: 321 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Our Objective: The Abolition of the Liquor Traffic.

Our Weapons: Education and Legislative Action.

### MAKE YOUR ANTI-LICENSE COMMITTEE PERMANENT.

Lured by the erroneous belief that they will receive compensation for all their expenditure, wise and unwise clean and unclean, an army of applicants for new licenses is pouring in a flood of petitions to the Licensing Court. They might as well realise that Prohibitionists will never consent to the payment of a single farthing of compensation for liquor licenses under any circumstances whatsoever, and hotel and brewery properties will be left on their owners' hands on the carrying of Prohibition. The compensation clauses of the Liquor Act must be repealed before Prohibitionists are likely to assent to any poll, even though the date of the next poll has been fixed by Statute. Let publicans and brewers take warning, and remember the maxim, "Caveat Emptor."

Local Anti-License Committees are springing up in almost every centre where applications for new licenses are being made. Such committees usually have their day, and cease to be. When the battle against new licenses has been fought and won the committees, as a rule, disband. We strongly urge that such committees should constitute themselves into a permanent local committee of the Alliance, with a view to—

1. Helping to carry Prohibition, or
2. Restoring the right of each electorate to Local Option.
3. Being prepared for any fresh applications for licenses that may at any time be made.

In New Zealand the Alliance has to wage no fight against new licenses, for under the N.Z. law no new licenses can be issued. In South Australia and other States there are many districts which have decided, under Local Option, that there shall be neither increase nor decrease of licenses. Here again the Temperance forces are able to spend their energies and moneys on national work for Prohibition instead of being forced, as New South Wales districts are, to dissipate their strength in resisting new licenses. The legal expenses of fighting these new licenses are a serious tax on our resources.

The politicians who, for 18 years, suspended "Local Option" and baulked the electors from voting on Prohibition on the dates legally fixed by Parliament or agreed to by a pledged majority of members, should never be forgiven by Prohibitionists. The betrayal of this great Movement constitutes one of the most shameful episodes in the history of this country, because it is a betrayal of men, women and children, who had every right to demand emancipation from this terrible bondage. Recrimination can warn us of possible pitfalls, but redress lies in vigorous action. Make your Anti-License Committees permanent, and link them to the N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance. Your committee cannot well expect help from the Alliance if it fails to become a part of the organisation. In these anti-License Committees is the nucleus of a splendid fighting force, which will secure for all time our objectives, whereas under the present law the best we can achieve must be but a temporary and expensive suspension of hostilities. However necessary it may be to resist new licenses, victory gets us no further ahead, and gives us no real immunity from further attacks. In other words, we are fighting the rich liquor forces on the ground of their

### THE CABLE MANIPULATOR AND AMERICAN ELECTIONS.

The truth about the American elections is slowly trickling through the post, but not through the press generally. The wet press of Sydney, such as the "Guardian," the "Evening News," and, we are sorry to say, the "Labor Daily," rely upon making first impressions. It is difficult to overtake a lie, especially when it is a cable lie. The report that California had voted "wet" was excusable on the first returns, but only papers like the "Herald" and "Telegraph" took the trouble to give the final Californian results, which showed a majority of 30,000 for Prohibition.

New York was cited as having voted overwhelmingly "wet." The publication of the

This Page is devoted to the activities of the Prohibition Alliance—Edited by Henry Macourt, Publicity Officer.

the councils of the nation as Wadsworth possessed.

Illinois certainly voted "wet," mainly through the Prohibitionists refusing to vote on an unconstitutional referendum, but the real test in Illinois lay in the Senate contest. Senator Smith ("dry") was returned against a pronounced "wet."

Wisconsin voted "wet," the Prohibitionists here again advising their supporters not to become parties to the attempt to nullify the Constitution.

Apparently Nevada, which has a smaller population than Tasmania, went into the "wet" list, as also did Montana; but Colorado and Missouri voted emphatically "dry."

As Missouri is the home State of "wet" Senator Read, this "dry" victory in a State dominated by the old liquor centre of St. Louis is markedly significant.

Out of forty-eight States eight only could be induced to test the popularity of the Volstead law or tried, as California did in vain, to repeal the State Liquor Enforcement Act. Of those eight, the three most important States (New York, Illinois and Wisconsin) voted "damp" on an inconclusive issue (the Prohibitionists refraining from voting), two small States voted "wet," and three important States voted "dry."

There are, however, other signs and portents. Maryland, the "wettest" State in the Union, where no State enforcement law has ever been carried, the home State of Senator Cabell Bruce, definitely defeated that pronounced "wet," Congressman Hill, in the Republican primaries, and renominated bone-dry Ovington E. Weller for the Senatorship by what the "Christian Science Monitor" calls a large majority. In the first and sixth Congressional districts, where the Prohibition issue predominated, "drys" were victorious in the Republican primaries. These results in Maryland cheered the "drys" beyond measure.

In New York State, too, in four notable up-State Congressional Republican primary contests, victory went to three "drys." New York City itself, with a population which is 76 per cent. foreign, is under the dominance of Tammany, and its 6,000,000 people control the election for the Governorship, which went for the fifth time to Governor Smith, Tammany nominee.

The primary elections, of course, merely indicate the tendencies within the Party, and may not be reflected in the final results.

The meagre news so far to hand, however, indicates that, although the Republicans lost ground, Prohibitionists retained their three-fourths majority in both Houses, for the Democratic Party, like the Republicans, contains an overwhelming majority for Volstead.

### THE ENEMY WITHIN THE GATES.

#### LIQUOR TRADE AND POLITICIANS.

(From the Brisbane "Courier.")

Maryborough, Sept. 9.

The Press Committee of the local Railwaymen's Union has just issued for publication a rather remarkable statement regarding the drift of power, in which they accuse the liquor trade of using the Labor Movement. It is stated: "The sacrifice the workers will have to make, if they wish to control the political machine, will be money. If all the workers contributed £1 per year per head for fighting funds the workers would have control. Instead of that, what do we have now? The political machine is run by publicans and money-lenders. The Licensed Victuallers' Association contributes well to the fighting funds all over Queensland, and for that it expects to have some of the spoils. Can any fair-minded worker say that the members of the L.V.A. are true Labor men? Our answer is: "No." The majority of them are voting Labor to-day—what for? Because the Labor politicians are looking after the interests of the L.V.A. No one can deny that all the L.V.A. is after is a certain thing, and we say that they will get it before many months pass by, and that is the alteration in the hours of the liquor trade."

text of the referendum showed that the electors were asked to vote for or against giving the State the power to fix the alcoholic content of beverages "which are not in effect intoxicating." The Prohibitionists refrained from voting on this unconstitutional and misleading issue, the carrying of which leads nowhere at all. The real strength of Prohibition in New York State was revealed in the defeat of "wet" Senator Wadsworth (Republican), whose platform was the rescission of the Eighteenth Amendment. The Damp Democrat elected in his stead, on a split vote, can have no such serious influence in

choosing. Shift the battle front to Local Option and State-wide Prohibition and we will then be fighting liquor on our battleground, where victory means annihilation for them.

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**PASS "GRIT" ON**

## THE DRUG PROBLEM IN AUSTRALIA.

By J.W.T., for "Grit."

There is a conservative tendency in every community to believe that by a process of isolation the social evils existing in other countries will not develop in our own. To such an extent does this affect public opinion that the existence of a palpable problem will often be denied by well-meaning people who think that a casual denial makes an evil non-existent. Such a process of reasoning is a full-blooded brother to that of the child who, displeased with the rainbow, attempts to wipe it off the sky with a slate sponge, and, unfortunately, it is too often applied to the question of the drug traffic in Australia. Mention the existence of a drug problem to the average citizen and he will smile; insist and he'll call you a crank. Nevertheless there is a drug problem in Australia co-existent with that of drink; and it is well for Prohibitionists to be fully seized with the facts, and thus anticipate the ancient battle-cry of the Wets, "Abolish drink and you get drugs." To be forced into a defensive explanation is a weakness; the best attack is to anticipate the enemy.

Now to the immediate problem. In the Commonwealth there is a growing consumption of narcotics—opium, morphia, cocaine, heroin, etc. The drug addict is a charge on the community, not only as a physically unfit, but as a person whose weakness invariably makes him not only immoral but unmoral. To suggest that the drug habit is confined to old routes is wrong. It is indulged by a growing army of young men and women, who, once having become addicted to the vice are preyed upon by the agents who unlawfully supply their needs. To such an alarming degree has the drug habit increased in Sydney that in a recent police report it was suggested that the law be amended so as to make it a punishable offence to be in possession of certain drugs. This was suggested because it was found impossible to deal with the men selling the drugs.

It is quite obvious that the drug habit, being a secret vice, is seldom flaunted before the public gaze, but in the residential quarter not a mile from where this paper is edited cocaine is almost as popular—in its consumption as whisky. I have personally seen a man take a leather wallet from his pocket and hand it round to a group of friends; the inside of the wallet was partitioned like a sovereign purse and each division held a small packet of "snow" (cocaine). Each man took a tiny packet as casually as one takes a cigar, emptied the contents on the thumb and used it as snuff. This occurred in public. Some time ago a notorious sly-grog agent in Darlinghurst was arrested; the police stated to the magistrate that the man was a dope fiend and trafficked in drugs—though too astutely to be caught. The man brazenly turned his evil reputation to a questionable advertisement by stating that he had been addicted to cocaine for a number of years without any ill-effect on his health! A weekly paper featured the case, and as the man was only fined for sly-grog selling, the whole proceedings merely resulted in a wide advertisement for the man as a dope agent.

According to the Drug Act chemists are only allowed a certain amount of narcotics for dispensing purposes each year. Some chemists never use their quota from one year's end to another. But unfortunately there are others unscrupulous enough to deal in drugs. I asked a friend of mine, who is a chemist in the city, to what extent the drug habit prevailed. "I can only speak from the effects it has in business," he said. "But it is a common thing for men and women to come to my shop on the verge of

hysteria begging for a needle. Some of them are so bad that I give them a medicinal dose of their dope to steady them up, and then threaten them with the police if they come back. There's a lot of money in it if a man is low enough to come at it. You know — (a well-known chemist). He knows that I hardly ever have to use my quota, so he pests me to take out the full amount and sell it to him." "Is that often done?" I asked. "Of course it is," he replied, "only one can't say so."

Another case came under my notice. Two members of the crew of an American mail-boat smuggled whisky into San Francisco as a side-line and brought cocaine back. On one occasion they left the boat at Sydney with a suit-case. After leaving the wharf they called at a hotel close by. Going into the crowded bar they ordered drinks, and placed the suit-case at their feet. After a few drinks they decided to go, and bending down for the suit-case found that someone had taken it. The discovery made the behaviour and language of those men very primitive. When the hotel proprietor suggested ringing for the police the two men suddenly became very cool and rational, and firmly declined to have anything to do with the police. Evidently it was far better to lose their ill-gotten gains than to explain to the police that the suit-case contained a parcel of cocaine! Drug Acts are useless when the stuff is smuggled into the country and distributed through agencies which never come within the scope of the Act. It is common knowledge that opium is smuggled into Australia, notwithstanding the vigilance of the Customs officers.

Recently the Customs authorities at Adelaide suspected an Eastern steamer of having a big parcel of opium abroad; the searchers boarded the ship and did their work thoroughly; from unscrewing wall mirrors to moving forty tons of coal in the bunkers. They found everything except the opium. A member of the crew told me the stuff had safely left the ship before the searchers boarded it.

Occasionally there is a grimly humorous side to opium smuggling. A short time ago a steward, who had been on the Eastern run for a number of years, and had dealt in opium in a small way, decided to take a plunge and invest six hundred pounds in the drug. He did so, and having secured his merchandise, he made elaborate preparations to land it in Sydney. His plan worked without a hitch, and in great jubilation he took it to his Chinese customers. Imagine his chagrin and disgust when he found that the little brass tins instead of containing first-class smoking opium were filled with a treacherous mess that closely resembled opium—in appearance only!

The solution of the drug problem—like that of alcohol—rests, not in the attempted regulation of distribution, but in the total abolition of manufacture. With the exception—in the case of drugs—of that small quantity necessary for medical purposes.

In dealing with the question of the curtailment of the manufacture of drugs it is interesting to know that Great Britain is the world's largest manufacturer and monopolist of opium; and through her Crown colonies and dependencies derives an immense revenue from its sale, also from the licensing of opium dens. This phase of the question will be dealt with in succeeding articles.

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**KILLING OFF THE "IMPOSSIBLES."****A JOB FOR ALL WHO WILL WORK.**

By JOE LONGTON, for "Grit."

When a segregated district is broken up the unfortunate women usually "peg in" in the heart of the residential district where, while the fashionable back alley and back-fence broadcasters broadcast the awful gossip, they pitifully say "Where are we to go?"

When an old building is torn down the rats disperse. Any old heap of filth and garbage is home, sweet home to a rat. Not so with habitual drunkards; they neither infested the better neighborhoods nor dispersed like rats when the rat holes (bar rooms) of America closed. They drifted to the Sargasso of every city, the centre of poverty's gravity, the whirlpool where all flotsam and jetsam circles preparatory to sinking from sight in the vortex of circumstances into which they are sucked to disappear entirely. That is the reason why, when one visits the angry ulcerated spot—the slums—in large cities, a number of drunks can be seen cursing, raving and staggering while their brains breed misery and their bodies breed filth and vermin in the maelstrom of a city's thoroughfare. I speak of America.

Society and preferential environment side-track the undesirable element to where it should be "spiked." Each American city has its human junk pile full of humanity's scum too lazy and shiftless to lay down and die, or having its last flit with life and rendezvous with death by violating the ethics of common decency and getting "keyed-up" on something capable of cleaning out their "think tanks" entirely, just to convince society that the world is all wrong, and that there is a certain self-satisfaction in acting mulish with life, and welshing on life's doctrines.

That is the rank and file one observes where the unfit dovetail, drunk on one of the many brands of "Jackass," which is a blessing in disguise; a human weed exterminator that eradicates from American life the pernicious weeds that Prohibition and the best efforts of the nation wish to save by removing the cause.

These impossibles are fast killing themselves off. In the next generation America will have a splendid race to breed from. The culls "Hoganise" and cull themselves out with moonshine grog. Don't be too hard on moonshine. Everything happens for the best. It is a long lane that has not got at least

one tin can in it. Moonshine is eradicating an army of American liabilities.

San Francisco is politically putrid. It caters to its underworld. Its enormous slums contain more of the maudlin ilk than any other American city. Judge Frisco by its proud possession, the Barbary Coast. Judge California by such clean, progressive industrial cities of enlightenment such as Oakland and Los Angeles. San Francisco is "boozy," it looks "groggy." It is the human junk pile of the Pacific. At that! 95 per cent. of its old saloons are now legitimate business houses. The telephone and telegraph building, the largest in California, went up since Prohibition on the site of the old Exchange and several dirty bar rooms.

While I admit that Frisco is the wettest city in the Union per capita, there is not 5 per cent. the alcohol consumed there as before Prohibition.

"Wet" propaganda will point to the great volume of alcohol made and placed on the market in the U.S.A. for industrial purposes. Some of it does get into the hands of bootleggers, but that is doomed. The Frisco "Bulletin" said on September 3, 1926:

"Washington, September 3.—A new method of making alcohol unfit for beverage purposes, without poisoning drinkers who might buy it from bootleggers, has been discovered by Prohibition chemists, Acting Secretary Winston was told to-day by J. M. Doran, in charge of the work.

"New complex oils have been found, he said, which by their odor and other disagreeable features will make would-be imbibers immediately change their minds. The nature of the preparation was not divulged, but Doran said neither methanol nor wood alcohol was employed."

It must be remembered that since Prohibition working men and women have their autos and other labor- and time-saving necessities. More houses are built, tidiness and cleanliness is a religion; the whole nation is sprucing-up daily. A demand is in for innumerable products—even to shoe polish, a mania with Americans. All employ an increasing supply of alcohol. The alcohol issued from the commercial distilleries is used in making wealth, not murder, as was formerly.

America has laws for murder; it has plenty of murders and always will. It has a Prohibition law; it will always have violators.

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Without violators what use is law? What amount of progress would we gain? Without this rumpus over Prohibition, without the bootlegger and his victim we would still have close to 200,000 bar-rooms poisoning the nation. The moonshiner, bootlegger, and the victim they squirt their wares into are three drops in the bucket that Prohibition emptied six years ago. When the world reaches the age when there is no wrong to distinguish right, people had better be renewing the catgut in their harps and preparing for a one-way trip to the Land of Green Ginger. The iron hand of the law which the Federal Government pushes with impunity through the corrupt local political form of vigilance, which can be better described as a farce in America—and the numerous grades of booze that is killing the "gone beyond recall" habitual drunkards off—is shrinking the "wet" propagandists, propaganda and all signs of John Barleycorn into a wrinkled, shrivelled and feeble by-product of dismal life, old age and infirmity. Eventually, extinction entirely.

The world beyond the United States boundary line howl, snarl, condemn and criticise Americans, their advanced customs and the wonderful prosperous conditions that Prohibition has brought about. When I first arrived at the heyday of my supposed intelligence I once stood in Smart's doorway in Pitt-street, and as I counted my change, two "bob" (all I had in the world), I remarked to another galaxy of brains at my side as I saw a rich, intelligent woolgrower drive by in his carriage, "There's a good mug!" That's what the world beyond is saying of Uncle Sam.

In America there is a job for anyone that wants to work. The increasing cry for more schools becomes louder daily. The age has arrived when the American craves education in order to compete in this competitive age. Children must be educated. Condemnation of women's scanty attire arouses Australian visitors that see the clean, sensibly dressed girl permitting the air to reach her form, as in short skirts she goes about her business minding her own business; while the latest contribution to America's half-naked parade is Australian Beryl Mills, shortly to be seen parading her semi-nude beauty before the saucer-eyed millions of Yankee rubber necks at Atlantic City that will leave their wife's loveliness for the street when someone yells, "Here they come up our block." These specimens of depravity are out to see all they can. On this occasion Miss Mills won't wear any more glad rags than the law allows, not even 5 per cent. the amount of clothes worn by the American girl on the thoroughfares, the girl that returned Australians will say dresses in a daring and disgusting manner. It's always as well to see whether your own halo is on straight before you remark to the other fellow, "I see you've got your old man's hat on." In fairness to Miss Mills, she is lovely without a doubt, a real "hunkydora" example of feminine pulchritude. She is intelligent, a lady, a diplomat, well behaved, and very popular in America. I feel proud to rank as an Australian beside her. I have always admired a pretty woman. When I can no longer be full of such admiration I want to die.

(Continued on page 10.)

# A Personal Chat with my readers

## OUR DUTY TO THE LAW.

Civilisation is liberty protected and safeguarded by law. The lawbreaker is, therefore, an enemy, both to civilisation and the liberty it guarantees to us. There is no greater menace to-day than that which comes from the disregard of our laws. No one has ever broken all our laws; they merely break the particular law they resent, and those who steal a drink are in the same category as those who steal a motor car.

The "Daily Telegraph," in an editorial a few days ago, made some apposite reference to our obligation not only to observe the law, but also to restrain those who are forgetful of this obligation.

Unfortunately the "Daily Telegraph" failed to practise what it proclaims at the time that Messrs. Vaughan and Stitt took upon themselves the unpleasant duty of doing what everyone but the police regarded as flagrant lawlessness.

First, the "Daily Telegraph" asserts that car stealing is difficult to check, because the penalty is inadequate; and, secondly, because the public, even when they suffer, do not assist those who are the special guardians of the law.

The Editor goes on to say:

"After having, by the aid of the law, recovered his property, he thought he owed the law no service in return, and was at liberty to make a good fellow of himself by refusing to go any further with the case. This is practising leniency at other people's expense. A criminal who steals one car and is let off by the owner will be encouraged to steal another from somebody else, in the expectation of receiving similar treatment if caught. Why thieves who confine their operations to motor cars or to any other kind of property should be specially favored passes ordinary understanding. A still more inscrutable problem is why their victims should be anxious to shield them from punishment."

All this is sound and wholesome talk, but to use this Editor's own expression "what passes ordinary understanding" is why the "Daily Telegraph" does not lend its aid to those who would insist that Six O'clock Closing should be as effectively enforced as any other law.

I again quote the words of this editorial against the very paper in which it appears:

"What they forget is that more than their own wishes or their own interests are concerned in this matter. Crime is an offence against the whole community, and all citizens are in duty bound to assist the law in suppressing it. For, by so doing, they assist in protecting themselves."

Here is a further assertion that should be blazoned on the skyline:

"Any individual evading his duty to assist the law gets his protection from the rest of the community free."

The fact, of course, is that we are all more or less cowardly, and we fear to be called "pimps," sticky-beaks," or other unpleasant terms, and the price of our cowardice is lawlessness that now threatens every safeguard of society.

Let us teach law observance as the sacred service we owe the civilisation we prize, and then law enforcement will be reasonably easy.

## THE CHURCH AND EXPLOITING WOMEN.

The "Daily Telegraph" asks with amusing indignation, "Where is the Church that it does not vigorously denounce and protest against the gutter press for exploiting indecent women and girls to boost their circulation?"

Let us look at the Monday edition of this questioning paper. Two pages are devoted to sport. It is not news, since nearly all of it was in the Saturday evening papers, and all of it was in the Sunday papers, and yet this and other great papers solemnly hash up this stale "news" and fondly think they interest their readers, and prove themselves "live" newspapers. They forget that there are some 1500 Churches in New South Wales and over 3000 services are held every Sunday. The average attendance for the day would run into 250,000 to 300,000.

These people are as interested in the perennial theme of man's hope of salvation and his obligation to God as are the hangers-on of sport in the games played on Saturday. Very seldom do the Monday papers play up to the undoubted interest of these Churchgoers, and when they do it is merely to emphasise the bizarre utterance of a freak speaker, and never to convey to the readers of their papers the reasoned and forceful teaching of the men who week in and week out for years maintain as no other public men do the interest of their hearers. It is idle to say the Churches are empty; there are far more people at Church on Sunday night than there are people in the theatres on Saturday night. The superficial forget that there are some 500 Churches in larger Sydney.

This paper is culpably ignorant about what the Churches have to say, wilfully closes its columns to the weekly message of the Church, and then because some degraded journal is scooping up its circulation by exploiting the vanity and immodesty of women, it, with sham indignation, asks what are the Churches doing.

I wonder the papers did not learn, and I even wonder more that the broadcasting companies did not profit more by the overwhelming vote given in this State and in Victoria when a great effort was made to ascertain the most popular radio item. The

# GRIT

A JOURNAL OF  
NATIONAL EFFICIENCY  
AND PROHIBITION.

"Grit, clear Grit."—A pure Americanism, standing for Pluck, or Energy, or Industry, or all three. Reference probably had to the sandstones used for grindstones—the more grit they contain the better they wear.

Editor—ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

Address: Box 390F, G.P.O., Sydney.

Office: N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance, Macdonell House, 321 Pitt-street, Sydney.

SYDNEY, THURSDAY, NOV. 25, 1926.

answer, as all my readers know, was Religion.

The papers do not meet the religious interest by merely printing a column of personal items in their Saturday issue, and the first paper to seriously and adequately report the Sunday pulpit will obtain a substantial following.

Only once in every long while does death or calamity visit your home, but almost daily your parson visits both

death and calamity. He is never free from the shadow of trouble; he is never free from the burden of responsibility—daily does he grieve over the failure to keep or to win some member of his flock.

Every congregation has gaps in it that you never see and which he can't shut his eyes to. Equally with you his days are busy, but, unlike most others, night after night he faces meetings and exacting obligations.

You struggle with your own financial problems; his are not only greater than most other people's, but in addition he is called upon to advise and assist in every conceivable kind of financial calamity. Of course, when you meet him, you expect a smile, a remembrance, and demand that he be interesting in himself, and, above all, interested in you. In twenty-four hours I have frequently had a funeral, a wedding, a baptism, addressed a public meeting, written for a paper, and faced impossible situations. But who would excuse one's depressions? Who would feel called upon to honor the tired man for his Master's sake, or plan some way to ease his unusual burdens and hearten him for his great services?

When you shake my hand, but say not a word,

I understand.

Such sympathy's rare, and my heart is stirred,

You understand.

'Tis not always words which heal our pain; When our body's bruised and our soul lies slain,

Ofttimes just a look, but the meaning's plain, We understand.

The Editor

## AMERICA'S PROHIBITION LAW.

"I am confident it will never be tampered with."—Governor of South Carolina.

**"OF MARKED BENEFIT TO WOMEN—  
CHILD PROBLEM PRACTICALLY  
ELIMINATED."**

**REMARKABLE UNANIMITY OF  
AUTHORITATIVE OPINION.**

"I do not suppose there has ever been as well organized and lavishly financed a campaign of false propaganda as the liquor interests are carrying on in this country."—The Attorney-General of Pennsylvania.

The false propaganda referred to in the extract from a letter quoted above is not confined to the territory of the United States. It spreads over the whole civilised world. It invades the press and colors the cable news of all countries. The newspapers of Australia are no more immune than those of other lands.

Conscious of this, and of its serious effect in poisoning the very sources of public opinion, the Representative Women's Prohibition League of N.S.W. determined some months ago to approach the most authoritative and unprejudiced official sources of information as to the effects of Prohibition in the United States. Accordingly, a carefully-considered questionnaire was framed and was sent by the president of the League (Madame Wolfcarius) to Governors of States, mayors, police officials and law enforcement officers throughout the Union with a request for answers to the questions submitted.

The first batch of replies has now been received, and these leave no room for doubt as to the opinion which well-nigh universally prevails amongst those best qualified to judge as to the beneficial effects of Prohibition. These replies show that there is not the slightest prospect of even a modification, let alone a repeal of the Volstead Act.

The questionnaire sent out by the League was a comprehensive one, conceived as follows:

### QUESTIONNAIRE.

1. Has Prohibition proved of any special benefit to women? (a) Has it had a marked effect on home life and social environment? (b) On the economic position of women?
2. Has Prohibition proved of benefit to children? (a) Has it decreased child delinquency? (b) Has it reduced the number of children attending your Children's Courts?
3. What is the effect of Prohibition upon business, industrial and economic progress, insurance, banking and home-owning?
4. What effect has it had upon crime, pauperism and prostitution?
5. Has it reduced the cost of public charities?
6. What is its effect upon public health, social statistics and longevity?
7. Have you any information on the alleged increase of the drug habit?
8. Do you foresee any repeal or modification of the Eighteenth Amendment?
9. What has been the effect of Prohibition upon the area of land under cultivation for grapes and the grape industry generally?
10. Is law enforcement becoming more effective?
11. Is the Prohibition Law Enforcement today as effective as Liquor Law Enforcement was during the period of full license?

Specific replies to the whole of this questionnaire have so far been received from:

1. The Attorney-General for Pennsylvania.
2. The Commissioner of Law Enforcement for New Hampshire.
3. The Prohibition Commissioner for Ohio.
4. The Attorney-General for North Dakota.

5. The State Sheriff for South Dakota.
6. The Attorney-General for Oregon.
7. The Chief of Police, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Partial replies, to some of the questions only, have been received from:

1. The Governor of South Carolina.
2. The Mayor of Boise City, Idaho.
3. The Secretary of the Child Health Association.
4. The Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, New York.

In addition, a number of other replies in acknowledgment of the questionnaire and promising information by a further mail have been received.

### THE FOUR PARTIAL REPLIES.

The four partial replies may be disposed of briefly.

That from the Governor of South Carolina is quoted in the headlines of this article. "I am confident," he says, "that the Prohibition law of America will never be tampered with. Of course, there will be certain difficulties attending its enforcement, especially in the larger centres of population, but this section of the country is dry by a large majority."

The information supplied by the Mayor of Boise City, Idaho, consists of statistical matter relating to police activities prepared for the Senate inquiry some months back. It shows that whilst the population of the city has increased since 1902 from 17,358 to some 35,000 the number of arrests for drunkenness has decreased from 1162 to 268. "The wave of crime does not exist in Idaho except as a receding wave," it is stated, "notwithstanding new laws and old laws that are more closely interpreted." The Mayor of Boise City goes on to show that the number of traffic prosecutions increased between 1910 and 1925 from 13 to 1110, and he says that "whatever lawlessness does exist is pepped up tremendously by the automobile. . . . While booze has always been an augmenter of crime, the automobile is to-day a tempter for the weak or evil-minded to go wrong."

The Child Health Association does not think that the questions submitted can be answered reliably on available data, but "opinions concerning the influence of real Prohibition on child life, on home comforts, including prevention of poverty and immorality, is undoubtedly most favorable."

The reply from the Charity Organisation Society of New York is unfavorable to Prohibition, the results of which are described by the secretary as "disastrous."

### THE SEVEN COMPLETE REPLIES.

The seven complete replies to the questionnaire are all markedly favorable to Prohibition, though in several instances attention is directed to the fact that there are no national or State statistics upon which replies on a definite statistical basis can be furnished. The replies may be summarised under various headings as follows:

#### WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

All the replies are agreed that Prohibition has improved the condition of women, improved home life and social environment, and decreased juvenile delinquency. The majority of the replies are emphatic in this respect, though it is pointed out by New Hampshire and Pennsylvania that there are no precise statistics of juvenile delinquency.

#### BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, INSURANCE, BANKING AND HOME-OWNING.

"The result of Prohibition," says Pennsylvania, "has been wonderfully good. This is the conclusion of practically every large employer of labor and so-called captains of industry as well as of the best business analysts. The enormous increase in life and industrial insurance and in savings bank

deposits reflects some of the economic progress due to Prohibition. Home-owning has been markedly aided through saving of wages and resulting purchase of homes by wage earners."

All the other replies concur in this view. New Hampshire says "bank deposits much larger." Ohio says "decidedly beneficial." South Dakota says "insurance increased 200 per cent.; 53 per cent. new homes owned by working people; savings deposits increased in like ratio."

#### CRIME, PAUPERISM AND PROSTITUTION.

All the replies are unanimous in the view that Prohibition has led to a marked reduction of crime, pauperism and prostitution, all of which, it is pointed out, "flourish under saloon conditions."

#### PUBLIC CHARITIES.

Pennsylvania says that "the cost of those charities has been greatly reduced which took care of inebriates, persons suffering from intoxication and the families of drunkards." New Hampshire has "no statistics." All the other replies are in the affirmative.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL STATISTICS, LONGEVITY.

Pennsylvania says effect of Prohibition has been excellent and will be more apparent still as years elapse. New Hampshire says "death-rate from alcoholism and cirrhosis of liver has decreased." South Dakota says: "Nothing in this country has so directly improved health particularly among women and children and contributed to the reduction of preventive diseases. Mortality rates lowered over a million."

#### DRUG HABIT.

Pennsylvania: "Prohibition in no way affects the drug habit. It does not increase nor have anything to do with increasing that habit. This is settled beyond a question in the minds of all honest experts on the use of narcotics. The liquor habit and the drug habit are absolutely different and in no way related."

New Hampshire: "We know that no person addicted to drink has turned to narcotics because of the Prohibition law."

Ohio: No information.

North Dakota: In some instances excess in use of alcoholic liquor has stimulated the drug habit.

South Dakota: A decrease rather than an increase.

Oregon: No information.

#### MODIFICATION OF LAW.

All the replies without exception are emphatic in declaring that there will be no repeal or modification of the Prohibition law, and that there is no chance of a reintroduction of light wines and beers.

#### THE GRAPE INDUSTRY.

All the replies are to the effect that Prohibition has had little or no effect on the grape-growing industry. In South Dakota the area under grape vines has increased.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Pennsylvania: "Law enforcement is slowly becoming more effective. The moment the American people wake up to how easily it can be enforced, if the President of the United States wants it enforced, they will no longer tolerate the kind of enforcement which the Federal Government has been giving them."

New Hampshire: "Becoming more effective through co-operation of Federal, State, county and town officers."

Oregon: "Yes, except as affected by politics."

All other replies in the affirmative.

The cognate question as to whether Prohibition law enforcement is as effective as was liquor law enforcement in the old days is answered in the affirmative, and in the majority of replies it is declared to be more effective.

## Killing Off the "Impossibles"—

(Continued from page 7.)

The corporeal of the whole universe where mankind predominates is in a state of revolution; it revolts against the unnatural. The advanced age demands the natural. Since Prohibition, Americans with only a taste—a sip—of the delightful refreshing prosperity that means so much comfort in a home has made more advancement in five years towards real happiness than it made in the previous one hundred. Time alone will convince the hardened sceptics. Others like myself, willing like myself to sacrifice his "boozem" friends for his country's future, can hasten the end of the cancerous condition under which Australians at present hope to compete with the new world—America. Australia—strangling under a malignant influence—must get rid of its liquor cancer. This is another age—the beginning of the political economy age.

I could never enumerate the thousands of useful, legitimate uses to which old bar-rooms have been converted since the Great Divorce. To assure Australia of the wide range of possibility that awaits its rat holes, may I mention that I have seen the following bar-rooms turned into mediums that sell products manufactured by consumers they previously robbed and whose homes and babies they impoverished. I jotted down a few to give an idea of its diversity:

The Melrose Saw Works in Melrose, the Star Restaurant, H. Shine, tailor, Ferry Bakery, Broderick and Wright's grocery in Sausalito; the All America Shoe Shop, Bloom's Piano Exchange, Richmond Furniture Co., Lober's Meat Market, Richmond Laundry, Palace Market Square Grocery, Appraisal and Sales Corporation in Richmond; the Band M. Cole Lumber Co., McIntyre's Bakery, Nichol's ice cream and a stove shop in El Cerrito; the Roller Canary College (bird shop), the Albany Hardware Store, Vincent Shoe Store, and the California Bisque Doll Co. in Albany; the Bay Pharmacy, Quackenbush's job shop, Houser's cigar store, John Corso fishing tackle, San Pablo Avenue sash and door shop, Ross Cutter's furniture, and the Golden Gate school lunch and school supply shop in Berkeley; the Emeryville Tyre Co., American Bank, Fresno Rug Co., Mercantile Trust Co. of America, Lim Long laundry, Oakland Wicker Chair Works, and Voorkee's grocery in Emeryville; Abram's tailor shop and a bank in Burlingame; two banks, the stage office and three restaurants in San Mateo; the Emmet Mercantile Co. in Belmont; the Highway Restaurant in San Carlos; the Louvre Laundry, Peninsula lunch and Dingee Par's barber shop in Redwood City; the Triumph Restaurant in Menlo Park; the University Cafe, two banks, a tailor, a hardware, a stationery and book shop in Palo Alto; a dry goods store, a tyre shop, stage office, a bank, the Santa Clara Meat Market, B. Dinacci's Varsity shoe repair parlor (I got a pair of shoes heeled here this trip; last

trip, 12 years ago, I had a drunken brawl with a couple of other luses in this same place); Mallo Shoe Store, Vargas Bros'. department store in Santa Clara.

Santa Clara Mission is one of the twenty-one Catholic Missions along El Camino Real founded by Father Junipero Serra—beautiful character. It is adjacent the Mission San Jose Guadalupe. Some splendid scholars are turned out here. It is a wonderful college now. It has the peer of weather forecasters, the "Padre of the Rains" (Father of the Rains), Father Rickard, a wonderful astronomer. He gave us the prophecy of the Santa Barbara earthquake. He forecasts months in advance. The Government is subsidising a school for him, so wonderful has been his astronomical work. Here's one Catholic community that "beats up" the bootleggers that try to use the college. One bootlegger told a brother that was beating him up that Cardinal O'Connell favored beer and wine. This pedagogue told him after he had got through with him and had him in the local jail, "that he'd like Cardinal O'Connell to know what Santa Clara thought of it."

The stable of the Eagle Brewery is a 500,000 dollar theatre; the Chester Market Quality Grocery, Chester Creamery, Moody and Eitzert Sheet Metal, the San Jose Broom Factory, Zaros' Grill, Koerber-Holtum Tobacco Factory, Princeton Cyclery, Postal, Telegraph and Commercial Cable Station, the Rucker Co., insurance and real estate, California Pacific Title Insurance Co., are in rat holes in San Jose, and part of the Tacoma Brewery is a gasoline filling station and rest room. Other bar-rooms converted are the butcher shop in Milpitas; the Modern Laundry, Nakaso Grocery, Bell Pharmacy, Kirk Restaurant, Hamburger Barbecue, Security Drug Co., John Mulvany, Realtor, Alameda Produce Market, Ansell's Meats, Gee, merchant tailor, Alameda Dairy Co., Webster-street Groceteria, and Quality Bakery in Alameda; the Rug Works, Tamalpais' Grill, Schlosser's wood and coal office in San Anselmo; the San Rafael Bakery, Peterson's Candy Store, Petaluma Stage Office, Hayden's Magazine Store, San Quentin Ferry Office, Hover's sweets, Peter Baugalupi Insurance, Reliable Renovators, Bergen's grocery, and Perry's cash grocery in San Rafael, where Billy Shannon's villa, where Fitzsimmons, Jackson et al trained looks as if it wears a death mask. The New Method Laundry, a bank, Sperry's flour in Novato; the Farmers' Meat Market, Petaluma egg storage, Italian grocery specialising in "wop" sausage, garlic, onions and cheese, Cader Bros'. hides and tallow, Army Goods Store, Sonoma County Bank, American Cafe, Vienna Bakery, and the office of Dresbach's lumber yard in Petaluma; Robt. Ross' merchandise and the National ice cream parlor in Cotati; the Associated Gasoline Station and Dairy Products Co. in Penn Grove.

I wound up this little 200 miles jaunt by looking over the City Poultry and Produce

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I recently received a letter from Mr. Harry Hoare, a realtor of Ipswich, Queensland. His slogan is, "Harry Hoare for Happy Homes." It said, "We read your wonderful articles in 'Grit'; we look for them and laugh over them. You don't expect anybody to thank you for them, do you? Oh, no! We'll catch the exhilaration, and when you're dead pay you some tribute. Long may you live to exercise the ministry of the pen."

Like the "happy home man," there are others that will catch the exhilaration. The economic viewpoint is the point upon which Australia will carry the "Battalion of Death" out of town. Besides the liquor interests that read my copy and think over it, there are to be considered the "happy home men" and their legislators. Strong as the liquor interests are in Australia, it is for Australians to decide whether they want to kill it or else let it kill itself. If Australia decides to let the cancer eat itself out, Australia will be a sorry-looking object compared to Prohibition America twenty years hence.

Five thousand babies were smothered by drunken mothers in Great Britain last year, and not a single one in America. Australia has the Prohibition bug buzzing around its ears, and I don't mean maybe when I say that the "Battalion of Death" knows it, and that it observes the handwriting on the wall.

I looked at a cablegram handed me by a leading American editor recently. It mentioned a rebuke Prime Minister Bruce handed certain remnants of Australian journalism over a recent oil incident involving Australian welfare. He asked, "Have you a press in Australia willing to sell Australia for a can of oil with a spud stuck on the spout?"

I replied, "We have certain of our press that would sell Australia for a pint of beer."



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All boys and girls between the age of seven and seventeen are invited to join the family of Uncle B. Write only on one side of the paper. Send the date of your birthday. There is no fee to pay. If you do not write for three months you are a "scallywag."

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### A SPLENDID COVENANT.

Twenty students of the University of Nebraska have drawn up and signed the following splendid covenant.

Will you, my young friends, copy it out, date it and sign it and place it in your Bible?

"I will live my life under God for others rather than for myself; for the advancement of the kingdom of God rather than my personal success. I will not drift into my life work, but I will do the utmost by prayer, investigation, meditation, and service to discover that form and place of life work in which I can become of the largest use to the Kingdom of God. As I find it, I will follow it under the leadership of Jesus Christ, wheresoever it take me, cost what it may."

UNCLE B.

### OUR LETTER BAG.

#### A NEW NI.

May Shoemark, Cranebrook, Penrith, writes: I would like to join your family. My birthday is on March 12. I am seven years of age. We have a lot of little chicks; some of them are black, some are white, and some are grey. I am in the third class at Cranebrook Public School. I have a sister, Dorothy; she is five years of age. We go to Castlereagh Church.

(Dear May,—Welcome to my family. I am always pleased when my Ne's and Ni's start writing when they are seven, for we then have a long time ahead of us in which to get acquainted. I hope some day Dorothy will join my family also.—Uncle B.)

#### A NEW CAR.

Ethel Gardner, Comboyne, writes: I know I am on the black list again; I get there every time without ever meaning it. I went up for the Q.C. exam. last Monday, so I hope I pass. It will be my eleventh birthday to-morrow. There are about fifty pupils attending our school now. Dad and my brother Gordon went to Sydney in September and bought a car; then they went down to Burrawang in it and down to Nowra and Kiama, back to Sydney, and then up home; they had travelled about 850 miles in it when they got home. It is very dry weather, and there is plenty of dust on the

roads. The cut worms and grubs are very bad on the young plants this year; they have eaten young corn as well, even onion plants; if it rained a lot perhaps it would destroy them. We have twenty-three cows to milk now; my cow is very quiet; my sister has a very quiet one too; they will let us put our arms around their necks.

(Dear Ethel,—That new car will be a great pleasure-giver, I am sure. They are wonderful things, and yet they are the most costly and dangerous things ever made available to ordinary people. Still they are going to be a factor in bringing Prohibition, because everyone will demand protection from the drinking driver or pedestrian.—Uncle B.)

#### THAT PRACTICE.

Gladys Gardner, Comboyne, writes: It is time I wrote to you again. I don't have very much time to write as I have to help work at home when I am not at school, and I have to practice on the piano for about half an hour every day. It is just over a year since I started going to school. I am in second class. We have two trees of loquats ripe now, but they are very sour.

(Dear Gladys,—So you have to practice on the piano half an hour a day! I wonder if that half-hour seems the longest in the day? If your musical progress is slow in spite of half an hour a day, how will you learn to pray on three minutes a day? Stick to practice; all good things need to be practised.—Uncle B.)

#### PERHAPS A CARPENTER.

Horace —, 53 Arcadia-street, Penshurst, writes: I hope you are well. We went to Lane Cove last Saturday on the boat. It was a lovely trip. We had plenty of ice on the boat. We saw plenty of drunks coming home. One nearly fell on me; a man was holding him up. My two brothers and myself went outside on top. It was real hot outside. Yesterday I was doing some planing. I planed a bit of wood for the verandah blind. I like planing wood.

(Dear Horace,—I wonder will you be a carpenter? I love wood, the smell of it, the feel of it, the beautiful grain and the way it can be polished, and to make it into nice things is a fine occupation. It is a pity the drunks are allowed to spoil other people's pleasure, isn't it?—Uncle B.)

#### A TRIP TO SYDNEY.

Daisy Penny, Public School, Tareutta, writes: I think it is time I sent you a line. We are having beautiful weather now; all the wild flowers are out and are so pretty. One kind is like an enormous violet, but it hasn't any scent. I had a trip to Sydney the last school holidays. I stopped at Hurstville with my auntie. The Church of Eng-

land here is having a bazaar on Friday and Saturday. The Bishop is coming from Goulburn on Wednesday to take the confirmation service. There are quite a number of candidates being confirmed. The rector gives us religious instruction every week, which is very nice. We are practising for a concert at school just now, and hope our efforts won't be in vain. We are hoping to have it the week before the Christmas holidays. I went for the High School exam. last Friday week. Several of my school mates also went. Of course, naturally we all hope for a pass, but of course if we don't—well, we don't. The creek has gone down quite a lot, and so some have started swimming. Today my cousin and I had a paddle as we were going for a walk, and so I think I will go for a swim.

(Dear Daisy,—There are two ways of being a scallywag—one is don't write for three months; the other way is to take a trip to Sydney and never call and see me. Some of my Ne's and Ni's are therefore double-dyed scallywags.—Uncle B.)

#### A NEW NI.

Beryl Passlow, Linburn, via Mudgee, writes: I would like to become one of your "Grit" Ni's. I am going to join "Grit," in which I will put my letters every week, if I don't forget it. I have a lovely garden. We are going to play tennis to-morrow; we are going to town in the morning. On Sunday we are going to pick wild flowers, such as flannel flowers and boronia. I like reading the boys and girls' letters, also yours when you answer them. I am learning music. I am only ten years and five months old; I am a very big girl for my age. I am in fourth class at school. We are going to Adelong to see my grandma and grandpa for the Xmas holidays. Every second year we go to Barham to see my grandma's place, and there we see all our uncles and aunties, also cousins. We will have a great time eating fruit at both places, because both the places have orchards. I have a little sister; she is two years and six months old; her name is Nancy. We have three in our family. My birthday is on King's Birthday, June 3.

(Dear Beryl,—I am glad to welcome you to my family and hope you will often write. Tell us all about Linburn. I expect many of your "cousins" never heard of such a place. How did you first come to take "Grit?"—Uncle B.)

(Continued on next page.)

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### Seven to Seventeen— POOR OLD HARE.

Ian McIntyre, Sedgemoor, Mt. Tyson, Q., writes: This is the first time I have written to you, and I hope to write often and not be a scallywag. My birthday is on July 22, and I am 7½ years old. One day as my father and I were riding down the paddock we came to a hollow piece of bark in which lay a hare sleeping. My father quickly took up a stick and knocked it on the head, and tied it on to his saddle. We then went on our way home, and gave the hare to the dog. The dog buried it for two days, then dug it out and ate it. This is all the news to-day, Uncle. I hope I can become one of your many Ne's.

(Dear Ian,—That is a sad story of the hare. It does not do to sleep when your enemies are about, does it? I suppose it added the flavor to bury it for two days. I have been told that a hare should be hung until it drops and then cooked; for my part the dog could have it then.—Uncle B.)

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"Furthermore, the growing patronage and support of our universities are simply staggering.

"Prohibition has not annihilated crime; but it has reduced the calendars of our inferior criminal law courts. If the Prohibition law is inadequately enforced in New York City, the same thing can be said of all our laws."

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## PLAYS EARLY.

She: "He sure can tickle the ivories."

Her: "But I thought he lost both arms in the war."

She: "He did, but he plays by ear."

## A LINE THAT MOVES.

"Customers push my goods for me," said the manufacturer.

"What line are you in, anyway?" asked the hardware jobber.

"Baby carriages," was the reply.

## A NICE DISTINCTION.

Sam: "Do yuh refuse to pay me dat two dollahs I lent you?"

Rastus: "Oh, no, sah. Ah don't refuse, Ah jes' refrains."

## DOWN BUT NOT OUT.

"I shouldn't have eaten that mission steak,"

Said the cannibal with a frown,

"For oft have I heard of the old proverb—

"You can't keep a good man down."

"My car resembles yours in a way," murmured the owner of the fliv to the owner of the super-six.

"How so?"

"Well, it has four wheels."

## AN EXACTING PATRON.

"Why do you object to my show?" asked the burlesque manager.

"The girls don't wear enough clothes."

"They wear quite as many as you see on the streets."

"That's the point. Why should I pay money simply to see the same thing over again?"

## WHAT WILLIE SAW.

"Mama, I saw a girl fall down this morning and break her leg."

"Don't say leg, Willie, you should say limb."

"If you had seen it, mama, you would have said it was a tree."

Sparks—If you know who stole your car, why don't you go get it back?

Larks—I'm waiting for him to paint it.

To the long list of famous "last words" I can now add another: "Watch me pass this chap in front."

An American writer foresees the time when women will no longer wear skirts. At any rate it is universally believed that they will wear them no longer.

## THAT HELPS.

She (to her intended): Mother's on our side, darling. She says you can't possibly be as brainless as you look.

Among the things that come to him who waits are sarcastic remarks from the traffic cop.

The camel can go  
Eight days without drinking;  
And, say the wets,  
Look at the shape he's in.

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Mistress—

Mary, your kitchen  
is a picture!

However do you  
get everything so  
spotlessly clean  
& bright?

Yes, ma'am, it do  
look nice but it's  
very little trouble  
when you use  
PEARSON'S  
SAND SOAP



Now let's all sing the cat song—"A cat his nine lives, but a frog croaks every night!"

Tourist, in western town: "I suppose hundreds of men died here with their boots on in the old days?"

Old Timer: "There's just as many now, but instead of six-shooters it's six-cylinders that get 'em. Our traffic's awful busy!"

## NOTHING DOING.

"The girls I met at the seaside were nothing but dressed-up dolls."

"Yet I'll wager they didn't squeak for 'Papa' or 'Mamma' when they were squeezed."

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## DAILY INSPIRATION.

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### SUNDAY.

"Ye have not passed this way heretofore."  
—Josh., 3, 4.  
"Ye shall henceforth return no more that way."—Deut., 17, 16.

The first of these texts is often taken as the subject for a New Year's meditation; but it is true of each day which opens up before us. Every day is a new year's day in a sense. Every day we may say to our souls, "Ye have not passed this way heretofore." And at the close of each day, "Ye shall henceforth return no more that way." Like the Israelites we are travelling on to another country. The Egypt of sin lies behind us. Each day, each month, each year, we are passing the milestones of life. As the day dawns we rise to the same old duties perhaps, the same old round of cares, yet each day has its own special duties, its own special opportunities, which will not occur again. No two days are exactly alike. Yet for each day the strength is promised. "As thy days so shall thy strength be." To-day needs special strength which is not given beforehand. The Israelites were only allowed to gather sufficient manna for one day. So we are taught by Jesus Himself: "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." Bear to-morrow's cares and you will find them too heavy for you. No man has ever sunk beneath to-day's weight. Live this day as though it were your last, for it will never return again.

### MONDAY.

"Give us this day our daily bread."  
I take an unknown path to-day  
I have not trod before,  
And I shall never pass this way  
Again for evermore.  
I know not what the day may bring  
Of pleasant glad surprise,  
Nor if keen Disappointment's sting  
Shall dim with tears mine eyes.  
Some friend to-day perchance I'll meet  
I have not met before,  
And some to-day whom I shall greet  
I'll see again no more.  
O let me then to-day be kind  
And give a word of cheer  
To all I meet, and leave behind  
Nought but sweet memories here.

### TUESDAY.

"Great peace have they that love Thy law, nothing shall offend them."—Ps. 119, 65.  
There are some who call themselves Christians who cannot possibly love God's law, for they are always taking offence, generally where none is intended. God's law is the law of love, that love which "thinketh no evil," is "not provoked," suffereth long, and is kind. He who thinks no evil, but always kind thoughts, and puts the best construction on everything, is never offended. How can one be offended when all one's thoughts of others are kindly? The offence begins in one's own mind, and is generated by self-love, and too big an estimation of one's self. "Nothing shall offend them. Jesus never took offence. Had he been like some who profess to follow Him when He found His disciples asleep after asking them to watch with Him, He would have said, "A lot you care for Me; I'll have no more to do with you. If you can't be with Me in My hour of need, what use is your friendship." But no, He excuses their frailty—not one word of reproach, only tender consideration for their weakness; never a thought for Himself. Oh, for more of this selfless love. "Let this mind be in you, you which was also in Christ Jesus." "Great peace have they

that love Thy law, nothing shall offend them." Remember that next time you have a grievance against anyone, and your peace will never be disturbed.

### WEDNESDAY.

"Yielding pacifieth great offences."—Eccles. 10, 4.

Never stoop to take offence.  
It will show your better sense  
If the wrong should offered be  
You refuse the gift to see.  
If the wrong was not extended,  
Vainly is your wrath expended.  
If your ire was really sought,  
Let foes have their pains for nought.  
Fill your soul with kindly love,  
Nought shall then your anger move.  
Better bear a passing wrong  
Than defend your rights too long.  
Pity him who works the ill,  
Learn to suffer and be still.  
Only pride doth take offence—  
Pride, and want of common sense.  
—From "Love."

### THURSDAY.

"Be courteous."—1 Pet., 3, 5.  
Courtesy is one of the graces relegated to the "Victorian age." A young man when spoken to about his lack of it the other day said it had gone out of fashion. Perhaps there is some excuse for this attitude of the young men of to-day when women dress in such a manner as to lessen all respect by decent men, and act in as immodest manner as they dress. When a woman takes out a powder puff in the street or tram and to flour her face like a Christmas pudding decorated for Christmas, is it any wonder that a man ceases to treat woman with even decent respect? He classes them all alike, and indeed, there are so few exceptions to the disgusting practices of to-day that man is likely to revert to the old order of savages in his treatment of women. Certainly women are now reverting to that state of barbarism. This text, however, is a command to Christians: "Be pitiful, be courteous." And indeed it is pitiful to see women act in such manner, in order to attract the attention of the opposite sex, and to be like other women. Let us pity such when we cannot respect, and be courteous to all, even to the painted woman who seeks to hide the defects of nature by making greater ones. "Be courteous." This command is needed by even Christians to-day. There is an independence about Australians which tends to make them throw off all of what they consider unnecessary politeness, a delay in answering letters, a reluctance to thanking anyone for a favor, a certain brusqueness of manner which was not found in the gentlemen of the old country, and was the mark of an uneducated man.

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### FRIDAY.

"Love doth not behave itself unseemly."—1 Cor., 13, 4.

Ne'er forget to thank a friend.  
For the aid his hand doth lend.  
Love to bitter hate may turn  
If that love we slight or spurn.  
Words cost little, but they may  
Brighten all another's way,  
Or withheld may wound a heart  
With a never healing smart.  
Many a woman toils all day  
For the loved one far away,  
Thinking of his glad return  
How her heart with hope will burn,  
And she waits for one kind word.  
But, alas, none such is heard,  
And the heart grows cold again  
Struggling with its hidden pain.  
But the cause he never dreams,  
Wonders why so cold she seems.  
—From "Love."

### SATURDAY.

"Give none offence in anything."—2 Cor., 6, 3.

The Christian should not only refuse to take offence, but he should as far as possible live peaceably with all men, and avoid treading on touchy people's corns. Of course, as St. James says, "In many things we offend all," or we all offend at times unintentionally some disagreeable person. But we should avoid all real causes of offence. We must not hurt our weak brother, and though at times he may seem very unreasonable and exacting, let us bear patiently with him. Very often you think a person is offended with you; he may have passed you by without speaking, or appeared to avoid you, when all the time he was absorbed in some secret trouble of his own, and so not have noticed you. You were the last person in his thought, when you thought he was brooding over something you had said or done. His health may have caused his distraught manner; he may and probably was suffering some pain he did not wish to speak of. Think less of self, and more of others, and much unnecessary misunderstanding will be avoided.

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## Irving Fisher Uses Wet Data on Wettest U.S. City to Show Prohibition Really Prohibits.

(Concluded from last issue.)

Accompanying these statements Professor Fisher presents charts and exhibits to give a corrected picture of the statistics of arrests for drunkenness in their relation to the changed habits of the American people, as based on the figures of Mr. Shirk's report for 350 cities and corrected for the factors of increased population, and increased police severity in making arrests; also, specimen testimony from police heads to the effect that the Moderation League figures were unverifiable, and alleging increased severity of arrests for drunkenness during the prohibition period.

Leaving Mr. Shirk entirely, and substituting for his statistics those of Robert A. Corradini, statistician of the World League Against Alcoholism, Professor Fisher then uses the verified totals of arrests for drunkenness gathered from the police departments in 626 cities and towns of the United States. From these figures he concludes:

"What is not debatable is:

"That there has been a very substantial reduction in arrests for drunkenness and a still greater reduction in drinking.

"Emory R. Buckner, United States District Attorney in New York, presented estimates at the sub-committee hearings in Washington, purporting to show that the diversion of industrial alcohol probably reached 60,000,000 gallons a year. This was unexpected, and, of course, was good news' for the press.

"Dr. J. M. Doren, Chief Chemist of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and in charge of the department dealing with this phase of the situation, presented a most excellent and elaborate analysis of Buckner's erroneous reasoning, and also a study showing the diversion of industrial alcohol for beverage purposes to be between ten and fifteen million gallons a year, and probably between 13 and 14 million, or only 8 to 9 per cent. of the pre-war consumption of beverage alcohol.

"It also must be remembered that not all of the alcohol diverted is consumed. Between one and two million gallons have been recaptured and confiscated. Leakage, breakage and evaporation will account for almost as much more. The result is that probably illegal consumption of alcohol from diverted industrial alcohol is less than 8 per cent. of pre-Prohibition legal consumption, and therefore still less than 8 per cent. of the total pre-Prohibition consumption, legal and illegal.

"To this must, of course, be added the alcohol smuggled into the country and distilled or brewed absolutely, but all experts agree that all put together, they constitute a minor part of illegal liquor, far less than that from diversion of industrial alcohol, that is, far less than 8 per cent. of pre-Prohibition consumption.

"After an examination of all the data, I have estimated that the flow of alcohol down human throats in the United States is at present certainly less than 16 per cent., probably less than 10 per cent., and possibly less than 5 per cent. of pre-Prohibition consumption.

"An entirely independent estimate has been made by Corradini. This is based on the assumption that the samples seized by the Treasury Department represent a true cross section of the liquor on the market, of which the legal portion is known.

"This calculation has not yet been published; but all experts who have seen it can find no serious flaw in it, except the possibility that the samples seized are not representative. Corradini's result indicates

that the total consumption is less than 3 per cent. of pre-Prohibition consumption.

"It seems safe to conclude that the total consumption to-day is probably not over one-tenth of pre-Prohibition consumption."

"I shall take up these nine points in their order. As to the first point, that is, the seriousness of the present situation, I have nothing to add to what the Moderation League presented in its summing up before the Senate Sub-Committee on the judiciary, together with such facts as were brought before the Sub-Committee as to defects in law enforcement. These were presented by Federal District Attorney Emory R. Buckner, Senator William C. Bruce of Maryland, Senator Edge of New Jersey, and others. When referred to, these facts will not be scouted.

### SAYS MODERATION LEAGUE EXAGGERATES.

"We turn here to the second point. What the public most lacks is sufficiently striking evidence that an exaggerated impression has been created as to the alleged failure of Prohibition. Some people now imagine that we actually have more drinking, drunkenness, crime, vice, corruption and disrespect for law than before Prohibition. These people have certainly been misled, and I have carefully ascertained in what manner they and the eminent members of the Moderation League have been misled. It is unfortunate that the League's members failed to consult a professor of mathematical statistics before lending the prestige of their names to the figures of Mr. Shirk.

"Stanley Shirk, Research Director of the Moderation League, is a lawyer who evidently needs statistical training. The chief exhibit of his report, as sponsored by the Moderation League, charts the arrests for drunkenness in 350 cities and towns of the United States from 1914 to 1924, inclusive. The curve of Mr. Shirk's chart covers the period of the licensed saloon from 1914 to 1916, inclusive, of wartime restrictions of alcoholic beverages from 1917 to 1919, inclusive, and, under the National Prohibition Law, of the first five full years of its application.

"Among all of his exhibits and charts, Mr. Shirk had failed to separate the records of first convictions for drunkenness from those of confirmed drunkards—old rounders and 'repeaters' who may be expected to persist in their potations under any and all difficulties until they sink into pauperdom and death. These habits will get bootleg liquor anyhow, if it can be got at all."

Professor Lisher attacks the accuracy of Mr. Shirk's charts and trustworthiness of the original data on which they are based, as follows:

"The intensely poisonous qualities of bootleg liquor, as attested at the Washington hearings by Assistant Secretary Lincoln C. Andrews, in charge of Federal Prohibition Enforcement, by Senator James A. Reed of Missouri, and generally by the wet witnesses, must result in a greater proportion of cases of intoxication to the total number of drinkers than in the pre-Prohibition period. I understand that the ratio of toxicity of bootleg liquors to that of medicinal liquors dispensed by Government permit is being worked out by Professor A. O. Gettler, of Bellevue Hospital, New York City, under the auspices of the Federal Prohibition authorities. Pending publication of this ratio, I am credibly informed that a very conservative reckoning would set the poisonous effects of bootleg beverages as

compared with medicinal liquors at 10 to 1; that is, it requires only a tenth as much of bootleg liquor as of pre-Prohibition liquor to produce a given degree of drunkenness. The reason, of course, is that bootleg liquor is so concentrated and almost invariably contains other and more deadly poisons than more ethyl alcohol. It would seem to follow that the drinker of bootleg liquor, blissfully unaware of its composition, drinks much more poison than he realises. 'Temperance' is all but impossible and drunkenness all but inevitable. If, say, out of a given number of drinkers twice as many now get drunk on bootleg liquor as used to on pre-Prohibition liquor, we should expect twice as many arrests as formerly, even if the number of drinkers were the same. Put it another way, even if the number of drinkers were reduced one-half by Prohibition, the number of arrests for drunkenness would remain the same.

### MORE DRINKERS ARRESTED.

"The same tendency (for a greater number of arrests out of a given number of drinkers) is evidently brought about by the well-known fact that Prohibition has been more effective in suppressing the drinking of beer than of whisky. Other things equal, more arrests must result from the stronger drinks. We know that in spite of this shift, relatively, from beer to 'whisky,' there has been a great reduction in the number of arrests for drunkenness. It follows, therefore, since the arrests to-day represent a larger fraction of the drinkers, that there has been a still greater reduction in drinking.

"Manifestly, then, Mr. Shirk's conclusions as to the actual number of drinkers per arrest for drunkenness must be radically altered by this factor of tenfold toxicity.

"Finally, I have special evidence as regards the accuracy of Mr. Shirk's original data. Aside from the figures of 300 cities and towns which he accepts from the World League Against Alcoholism, he has gathered independently records of arrests in 157 more cities, some 50 of which are mingled with the original 300 in this chart, and all of them in subsidiary charts. When I caused inquiries to be sent to the police departments of these 157 extra cities and towns as to the accuracy of Mr. Shirk's figures, in a large percentage of cases the police heads declared them to be inaccurate and unverifiable.

Professor Fisher declares, further, that these conclusions are borne out by studies of arrests for drunkenness and allied crimes and misdemeanors in the group of States formerly wet before National Prohibition, in the States that already were dry, and in typical wet States and cities. He criticises the minor exhibits presented at Washington by the Moderation League, and makes an extended analysis of the statistics of mortality and disease caused by alcoholism, alleging substantial gains in health and longevity since the advent of Prohibition. On the economic side, he repeats the estimate of 6,000,000,000 dollars annual gain from Prohibition in the United States—"without counting any savings in the cost of jails, almshouses, asylums, etc.; or any economic savings from reducing the death rate." He adds: "If Prohibition enforcement cost us even 1,000,000,000 dollars a year, it would be well while purely as an economic investment."

### BEER, LIGHT WINE INTOXICATING.

Referring to the dry issue in the congressional campaign this fall and in the referendums in New York and other States, Professor Fisher cites expert legal and medical testimony to the effect that 2.75 per cent. beer is intoxicating, with this conclusion: "We conclude that 'modification' really means evasion or nullifications, that so-called 'light' wines, and even beer, are in-

(Continued on next page.)

### Irvine Fisher Uses Wet Data—

toxicating both medically and legally, and cannot be legally admitted under the eighteenth amendment.

"On the face of it, the plan for a referendum in New York State this fall (and the corresponding proposals in other States) represents an honest attempt to ascertain public sentiment on Prohibition. Why should not the people have the chance to vote on the question? Why any opposition to the idea?"

"But a closer examination shows that the question is not as simple as it seems.

"First, if the idea of a referendum is sound, how does it happen that the question of Prohibition alone should be so submitted? Would it be proper, for instance, for New York State to submit to a popular referendum the question as to woman's suffrage as provided for by the nineteenth amendment, the suggestion being that each State is to interpret that amendment as it sees fit? Would it be proper?"

"Evidently such referenda would really represent an effort to nullify the Federal Constitution. The Civil War was fought to prevent such a degree of States' rights. The fifteenth amendment has been largely (and unwarrantably) nullified, but not by such presumptuous methods. We cannot, in decency, to-day ask our national Government to abdicate and let New York set a limit of 5 per cent. or 10 per cent. on alcoholic beverages while the rest of the country has one-half of one per cent. New York has more representation in Congress than any other State, and has a perfect right to elect if it wishes such representatives as will try to modify the Volstead Act. But it has no right to ask the nation to nullify that Act within the borders of New York.

"The straightforward, honest way would be to propose repealing the eighteenth amendment. It is just because they know this cannot be done that the proponents of a referendum want to make faces at the Constitution for propaganda purposes only.

"In short, the truth is these referenda are nullifying, futile, disrespectful of the Constitution, unrepresentative and insincere."

\* \* \*

### FIGURES SHOW N.Y. DRINKING REDUCED STEADILY SINCE 1914.

Careful analysis of figures on arrests in New York, "which many account the wettest city in the United States," offer no justification for the claim that youthful drinking is increasing, but instead show that first offenders are diminishing, Irving Fisher says in his new book, in which he asks:

"But what about the first convictions of offenders—mostly young offenders—in the years of war-time restriction and national Prohibition? Do the court records show that they have increased or diminished?"

"I am indebted to Karl G. Karston, one of the best American statistical authorities, for suggesting a very simple test as to the effectiveness of Prohibition. In New York, which many account the wettest city in the United States, with a population greater than that of several States, computations made for me from data of the fingerprint bureau, New York City Magistrate's Court, show a steady and pronounced decrease in the number of single-time offenders for drunkenness, from 20 per 10,000 population for the year 1914, to only four per 10,000 population for the year 1915.

"They show that for the year 1916 the number of single-time offenders per 10,000 population of New York City was 15. Then war-time restrictions came. The number of single-time offenders fell to 11 per 10,000 population in 1917 to six in 1918, and to five in 1919. In 1920, the first year of national

Prohibition, the single-time offenders were five per 10,000 population; in 1921, six; in 1922, seven; in 1923, six; in 1924, five, and in 1925, as already stated, they fell below four per 10,000 population.

"The confirmed drunkard is a focus of infection, spreading the drink habit. Yet every repeater in the record of arrests for drunkenness is revealed during this period as a steadily weakening factor of such infection up to 1925, the last year available.

"In 1914 the number of single-time offenders was 10,393, in a population of 5,110,000; in 1917, the population had grown to 5,400,000, yet the number of single-time offenders fell to 5894, while the actual number of repeated convictions of confirmed drunkards in those two periods was 6689 and 7166 respectively.

"Out of every 100 convictions for drunkenness in the year 1919, 55 were of single-time offenders and 45 of repeaters, but in 1923, out of 100 convictions only 39 were of single-time offenders, while 61 were of recidivists, that is, repeaters.

"In 1925 there were only 35 convictions of single-time offenders, to 65 of repeaters, and the number of convictions of single-time offenders dropped absolutely from 7836 in 1916, with a total population of 5,300,000, to but 2379 in a total population of 6,252,000. In this period, the total of repeaters also fell absolutely, namely, from 8519 in 1916, to 4437 in 1925!"

"If, under the severe tests obtained in New York, we find no justification for the loud claim that drunkenness in general, youthful drunkenness, and female drunkenness are increasing, but instead find that first offenders or first convictions of old offenders diminished, from 1917 to 1925, by more than one-fourth—the main contention of the wets collapses at the start.

"The startling fact stands out, of primary importance, that, even in New York, Prohibition has succeeded in weakening, if not breaking, the chain of tradition by which the alcohol habit has, for ages, been handed down from each generation to the next."

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