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GET UP A CLUB

TOXICOPOLIS CITY

DESCRIBED BY DR. RICHARDSON.

The Celebrated Physician Portrays the City of Drink - Disease and Death in Toxicopolis - Terrible Ravages of Insanity - A Vivid Picture of the Results of the Liquor Traffic.

In a lengthy paper published in Loughman's Magazine, London, a remarkable picture of a city of drink is given by Benjamin Ward Richardson, M.D., F.R.S. He says:—If we were able by some magical power to go through the United Kingdom and lift out from it all the houses in which the sale of alcoholic drink is carried on, and could plant those houses on some great plain so as to bring them into one town or city, we should have before us a place of one hundred and eighty thousand habitations. If we added the population which frequents those houses in order to feed their tastes for the alcoholic drinks sold there, we should, at the least possible estimate, find a gain of two millions seven hundred thousand, making in all, as immediately related to our town, a grand total of four millions one hundred and forty thousand persons. This population would fairly represent the numbers of our people who drink so freely of alcohol as to bear traces of the bad action of alcohol on their physical and moral lives. They would form a city about the size of London, and would represent the essential element of danger which springs from the use of alcohol in our community. For the convenience of having a name by which to designate such a place we will call it "Toxicopolis." For the sake of the arguments about to be put forward we will assume, what would not be very likely in such a city, that the general sanitary arrangements are on the whole up to the average.

DISEASE AND DEATH.

The mortality of Toxicopolis is always high. If we were to put the mortality of the people of this place into a table with a hundred as the standard line of a mean mortality; if we were to put those towns in which the mortality is least marked above and those in which the mortality is most marked below the standard line, we should find Toxicopolis at the bottom of the lowest with a long break between itself and the line next unfavorable. The mortality indeed would be considerably above all the rest, although it is difficult to get, even approximately, at what it would be. It is, however, quite safe to put it on the level, or above any existing town in the world in which records of mortality are kept. It could not be less than forty in the thousand; it might probably be above that figure.

Amongst those who are stricken with disease and death in Toxicopolis are above the inhabitants of the more favored communities the sellers of the staple commodity of the place are the first to suffer. Over the most favored of other and outside communities, the death-rates of these unfortunate traders are more than double, and compare with the worst of any other class whatever in those kingdoms.

If an epidemic, a spreading communicable disease enters Toxicopolis, the conditions for the spread of the affection are concentrated there. Toxicopolis is the grand centre of diseases of an infectious character, which diseases are at one and the same time the worst and lowest signs of moral as well as of physical evil. The great sin of great cities has its grand home in Toxicopolis, and the chronic pestilence which that great sin fosters and propagates is most cultivated here. Everything that can lead to the infection by which the disease of diseases is spread—from which the lower creation, happier in this respect than man, is freed—is favored in this city of drink. Few, very few, of its inhabitants have escaped its ravages, and as one and the worst form of it plants in its victims an hereditary taint which requires at least three generations of continued chastity to wipe out—such enmity does it hold with the blood of man—the depth of the infection is beyond any description that could be chronicled now.

RAVAGES OF INSANITY.

In the community forming Toxicopolis mental aberrations and mental diseases are of common development and growth. All the mad inebriates hail from Toxicopolis, the city of inebriety. These are present in various degrees of the inebriate mania. Some of the class are uncertain of mind and vengeful and revengeful. A second class of the persons who are mentally affected by the habits current in Toxicopolis are still more violent and unmanageable. These it is unable to care by any means so long as they live in this city of destruction. They fly from one quarter to another without either knowledge or judgment. They trust everybody and they trust nobody. The power of their

will is gone, and with that all self respect, self-reliance, self-protection. If they recover from their mental derangement it is but for a season. We of the faculty of medicine now call these attacks traumatic. We say they are excited by a mental wound inflicted on a mind prepared to suffer from the previous action of alcohol upon its physical organization, the brain and its physical organization. A third class of the mentally disturbed in Toxicopolis are of a saddened or depressed nature. They live with melancholy, which they think and hope to relieve by flying to the cause of it—the staple commodity of the miserable community. In these people we have brought before us those who wilfully seek their own salvation—the suicides of the city of drink. In addition to the violent, the uncontrollable, and the melancholic representatives of Toxicopolis, there is another fraternity of actually insane, who gain their insanity from the place and its allurement. The number of those who suffer from direct insanity is not so large as is commonly supposed, but it is considerable; while those who lose their senses by the indirect causes that are at work are far more numerous.

LOSS OF VITAL POWER

The most serious failure of vital power met with in Toxicopolis is still to be told. It lies in the general weakness, and, technically expressed, the "asthenia" of the place. Under the veil of robustness, as it is called, this vital weakness, or asthenia, is revealed too often in the stranger form to the observer who knows correctly, and appreciates fully, all that is before him. The inhabitants are given to congratulate themselves that amongst them there are no miserable pale faces. Unfortunately those rufous and shining faces common to the place are even worse specimens of health than many of the paler sort. The pale face may be quite a healthy face, the red or rufous face, with the nose conspicuously tinted, is never a healthy face. The thin, spare body may be healthy, the large, fat distended body is never a healthy body.

These strong men of Toxicopolis bear strains and shocks and trials with wretched resistance. The surgeon finds them the most anxious of patients. On them he fears to operate if accident or disease calls for his simplest skill. When the wave of cold comes over the land suddenly these are the men who first fall from congestion of the lungs, bronchitis, pneumonia. When the wave of heat passes over the land these are the men who first fall from sunstroke, apoplexy and syncope, from exhaustion, shock, or over-excitement. These classes are the weak or asthenic plethoric people, who are looked upon by their friends as pictures of health.

To them must be added, as belonging to Toxicopolis, the visibly asthenic, who constitute a majority of the whole of its community.

The true Toxicopolitan, therefore, loses his vital tenacity. The loss is one of the forfeits of existence in his city, and the fact carries with it much more than at first sight appears. It indicates vital degeneration, an enfeebled heart, a weakened brain, or, as the clown says in "Twelfth Night," "a most weak part in the." The cause of the low vitality and high mortality is summed up in the enfeeblement arising from the degenerative changes on the great vital organs. The asthenic proceeds, from the heart is the primary evil, and from the heart, as from the common centre of life, extends until the general enfeeblement is complete, and a constitution of the lowest value in the scale of human existence is established.

WHERE IS DANGER?

The reader who has followed this discussion of the city called by the new name of Toxicopolis may, perchance, close the pages with a sigh of relief that there is no such place in any part of the wide world. I would that I could re-echo that sigh, and declare in conclusion that the whole description is a dream, a picture drawn from imagination. Unfortunately I can make no such statement, for, alas! in this very island, in divided parts or sections, the city exists in all its gross realities. Its separation in parts is, moreover, no amelioration of its dangers. On the contrary, its appearance in so many thousand centres adds to the mischief, draws into and involves more persons in the mischief, makes contamination more ready and easy, and renders reform infinitely more difficult than it would be if the great evil were concentrated and if its vastness were visible to every one by the side of the fields of happier contrast. I have tried to bring the parts into one, and thinking it over, ask whether such a place need to be at all in little or in great proportions? Whether for human necessities or human wants, setting aside human harmful desires, such a place as Toxicopolis is required for any sane purpose whatever? Whether for the sake of the persons who live in it and by it, for them alone and their best interests, without a thought for any one else, it were not the wisest policy to raise this city of destruction to the earth, and in Roman fashion pass the plowshare over its foundations?

TABLES TURNED.

LIQUOR DEALERS AS CONSPIRATORS

The Men Who Assaulted the Scott Act Detectives at Myrtle Committed for Trial - Evidence of Premeditated Action - Detectives Dennin and McCrea also to Stand Trial.

At the investigation into the Myrtle shooting affray at Whitby before Mayor Harper, the tables were turned on the liquor dealers who assaulted detectives Dennin and McCrea. Warrants were issued on an information charging them with conspiracy to beat, shoot, wound and maliciously injure J. S. Dennin. Constable Calvery arrested on those warrants Fred Corbyn, Thomas Trebell, and Wm. Lattimore. One man is still at large. Brown the bar-keeper who was included in the information was not arrested on account of his condition.

The prosecution against the liquor men for conspiracy was conducted by Mr. N. G. Bigelow.

Detective Dennin gave the following account of the affair: "I saw Trebell first at Myrtle. He spoke to me as I walked out of the station on the platform. I was called out by Trebell and Brown, and after going outside a pistol was presented to my head and a demand made that I should go with them. George Brown presented the pistol and demanded that I should go with him. Trebell kept pushing me and saying, 'Go on.' When I got opposite the light from the station window I stopped. When I stopped Brown asked me where I had been all day. I replied that I had been in Brooklin. They asked me what I had been doing there, and I told them that they knew what I had been doing. I then tried to get back into the station. Their breath smelled badly of whisky, and I suspected trouble. Brown demanded that I should take my right hand thumb from my pants pocket. This I refused to do and said, 'I've got nothing in my pocket,' and showed them my open hand. A revolver was then placed in my hand. As I endeavored to get back again into the station, Brown said, 'No, you—, you are going with me.' I refused and made a grab for the pistol. He handed the cane he had in his hand to Trebell, and we had a skirmish for the revolver. Trebell grabbed me by the right arm and pushed me towards the building and pounded me over the head with a heavy cane. Brown was clicking off a revolver all this time on empty cells. It did not explode. I called to McCrea. It was at McCrea that he was clicking the pistol. As soon as I saw him loose with the revolver I made a second grab for it, closed my hand between the hammer and the revolver and finally succeeded in wrenching it from his hand. I then held it until I freed myself from Trebell. I got braced against the wall and threw him away. He then ran off and that was the last I saw of him then. I examined the revolver I took from Brown. It contained two or three cartridges, and another pull would have brought one under the hammer.

J. W. Maharry, hardware merchant, Port Perry, testified that Brown bought a pistol at his store the afternoon before the shooting. Thomas H. Doncaster, Brown's employer, testified that Brown volunteered to go with the crowd to Myrtle and that he advised him not to do so. Detective McCrea substantiated the evidence of Dennin. Richard Coleman thought the shots were fired by Dennin. All the liquor men were committed for trial.

The trial of the detectives was then proceeded with. The evidence showed that they had acted in self defence. As however the condition of Brown was dangerous the magistrate required them to furnish sureties that they will appear for trial at the assizes. All the prisoners procured bail. It is still considered probable that Brown will recover.

A PROHIBITION PARTY.

Feeling in New Brunswick that a New Party should be started.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Fredericton, N.B., states that the feeling amongst temperance men in that province is that "a prohibition party, if judiciously managed, would be a success from the very start, for there are men in both the old parties, dissatisfied, who would gladly unite on middle ground. Earnest temperance men have been induced to work for the old parties by promises given in confidence, and when, on the success of the party, they have ventured to ask that the promises be fulfilled, they have been told temperance is all 'hoax.' They have been given the blow square in the teeth, and

they have turned away grief stricken and ashamed. Had, ed, the temperance people have suffered themselves to be hoodwinked time and time again, because they had nothing solid to build upon. They quoted the old saying, 'Of two evils choose the least,' and the result, of course, has been each man has voted for his old party."

The following resolution was adopted by Star Council, Royal Templars, of Fredericton, N.B., at a recent meeting:—

"It having been shown that a large part of the crime committed is clearly traceable to alcoholic drink; and seeing that many of the most gifted minds have become in the past, and are becoming in the present, imbeciles through the use of alcoholic stimulants, and believing that to countenance the use of intoxicants as a beverage is a fatal to the prosperity and progress of the nation as of the individual that it is not only preposterous, but iniquitous and cruel for the State to punish crime which is the outcome of its own permits and that any government, political party, or individual, which sustains the 'rum traffic,' either by bold utterance in its favor or by neutrality, is aiding and abetting this evil.

"And whereas, neither of the so-called 'Liberal' or 'Liberal-Conservative' parties have deemed it advisable to make 'prohibition' a plank in their platforms. Therefore, Resolved, that in the opinion of this Council, immediate steps should be taken by the temperance people of our country to form a third political party, which shall have for its principal and avowed object, the abolition of the liquor traffic."

THE SUPREME COURT DECISION.

Opinions of the American Prohibition and Liquor Press.

The prohibition press of the United States are jubilant over the decision of the Supreme Court sustaining the constitutionality of prohibition. The following are a few extracts from comments upon the subject.

The Voice: "This decision is a landmark in the history of prohibition. Its value cannot be overestimated. The defeat of the liquor men is complete and overwhelming at every point. Leaders among them frankly admit to our reporters that all the prohibition victories heretofore gained, all combined, have not been so depressing or disastrous to their interests as this one.

The Home: "The supreme court decision completely demolishes the foundation of 'The Personal Liberty Society.'"

Riches: "The News: Never has the prohibition cause received such an impulse as this will give it."

The Nation: "The decision of the United States Supreme Court sustaining the validity of the prohibition laws of Kansas is of far-reaching importance."

Christian Statesman: "This is justly regarded by the friends of temperance everywhere as a glorious victory. It will carry more discouragement into the hearts of the liquor men and bring more cheer to the hearts of their opponents, than would the passage of prohibitory laws in half a dozen States."

THE LIQUOR PRESS.

Washington Sentinel: "American liberty is being buried by that political Junia the Supreme Court."

Chicago Campaign: "It seems indeed as if every hand were lifted against the persecuted Ismael of American industries. Prohibitionists may be jubilant just now, but there is a reverse side to the shield, and it remains to be seen on whose side the laugh will come in. As a result of this decision both the Sioux City, Iowa, breweries closed their doors and ceased brewing. The Selzer brewery will move its manufacturing plant to Nebraska."

Bohemia's Wine and Spirit Canada: "The only cloud on the horizon is the action of the Supreme Court in the so-called prohibition cases."

New York Star: "It is necessary that friends of personal liberty should understand that they must look to home agitation and the action of State Legislatures for just protection of their legitimate business."

Could not Defy the Law.

A correspondent writing from Sault Ste. Marie says: "The cause of temperance has many friends in this part of Algoma district. The building of the C. P. R. to Sault Ste. Marie caused the enforcement of the Public Works Act during the past four months. Several attempts were made to defy the law but only resulted in the punishment of law breakers. The bar-leasing dodge has been tried which resulted in the lessee being fined. The lessee having escaped from the detectives is now a fugitive from justice, secluded in the woods with sleeping apartments in a straw stack near Cariboo Lake."

LIQUOR PERMITS.

THE SYSTEM IN THE TERRITORIES.

How the original intention of the Law Has Been Violated The People Want Vote on Straight Prohibition - The Hop Beer Traffic Has Been Stopped - A Temperance Awakening

MR. JOHN G. TURKIE, of Carlyle, N.W.T., who has taken the lead in temperance in the North West Council has written to the CANADA CITIZEN giving additional particulars of the workings of the Permit system. He says: "Our present law provides that no liquor can be manufactured or brought in without a permit from the Lieut. Governor, and even then it cannot be sold. When the law was made the intention was that permits would be given for mechanical and medicinal purposes. Some years ago, about 1882, permits were given to people, to get in two gallons at a time for domestic purposes. The present law is, of course, not satisfactory to the liquor party, who wish to get a license system."

It is also unsatisfactory to the temperance people, owing to the general issue of permits for this reason, viz that it renders it very difficult to convict a man for having whisky in his possession, if he has had a permit for the stub, or part he keeps is good for any time and will cover smuggled liquor. I might say the Lieut. Governor is not to blame for the issue of permits, as the Council in 1883 put on a fee of 50 cents per gal which forms part of revenue, and which in my opinion was agreeing to the general issue of permits, contrary to the spirit and intention of the N.W. Territories Act.

It was not the intention of the temperance people to bring the matter up in the N.W. Council this year, as we fully believed that the government at Ottawa would not take the responsibility of forcing a license system on us without first taking a vote of the people, which is just what we want. The matter was brought up by the late Lieut. Governor, by one of the western members, wanting the Council to recommend the Lieut. Governor to grant hotels in Calgary a license to sell liquor.

This of course, the Council would not do, as it was considered by most to be directly opposed to the N.W. Act.

Towards the end of the session a resolution was passed, asking that section 92 to 100 of the N.W. Act be repealed, and the provisions of the Canada Temperance Act be applied to the Provisional Districts of Assiniboia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, such repeal not to come in force until one month after the next meeting of the N.W. West Council. This was passed somewhat hurriedly and although some of us approved it, I am of opinion that it was not thoroughly understood by some of the members. The temperance, or the prohibition party are

NOT AT ALL SATISFIED

with the above, we do not want it. We do not wish to have the Scott Act, our present law is far ahead of the Scott Act, as now only a man recommended by a magistrate or some one of standing can get a permit. What we want is a vote of the people taken to decide whether we will have a license system of straight prohibition, and while preferring one vote for the whole territories would not object to a separate vote for each Provisional District, for if a large majority of the people of Alberta are in favor of license, it would be very difficult to enforce prohibition. Until such vote is taken we wish the present law to remain in force.

In very many parts of the country the present law is most satisfactory and is generally observed. The manufacture and importation of hop beer, containing alcohol, has been stopped, which is a good step, as in many cases it contained a large percentage of alcohol.

The temperance people are awakening to the fact, that they have work to do out here. A preliminary convention was held last month, and a prohibitory association formed. A large convention will be held in June next, and I expect we will be able to elect a majority to the next Council, provided to submit the question to the people, before any license is issued.

Social Purity Leaflets.

DRINK and vice, by Aaron M. Powell, has just been published as a four page leaflet. No. 16 of THE PHILANTHROPEAN SERIES. It presents the close relation between intoxicating liquors and social vice, and arraigns the saloon as a centre and propagandist of obscenity and impurity. It ought to be widely circulated. Price, by mail, 10 cents a dozen, 50 cents a hundred. Address, THE PHILANTHROPEAN, 2654, New York.