

If the state wishes to diminish the use, it must destroy the public places where the citizen is tempted to use alcoholic liquors.

In the Ohio campaign, a leading political speaker said in a public speech : " There is no harm in a glass of beer *per se*." The next night a gentleman asked me if there was, and I, using the answer of my friend Geo. W. Bain, said : "*per se* means by itself. Certainly there is no harm in a glass of beer by itself. Place a glass of beer on a shelf and let it remain there and it is *per se*, and will harm no one ; but if you take it from the shelf and turn it inside a man, then it is no longer *per se*." The Prohibitionists agree with the judge. He says : " There is no harm in a glass of beer *per se*." We believe the same thing, and are trying to keep the accursed thing *per se*, and out of the stomachs of men.

To do this work the state is asked to use no new power, simply, to extend the police power of the state over poisoned drinks as it now does over poisoned foods. This power is the power which the state has to protect its own political health. In our government, all power not expressly delegated to the general government, is reserved to the states, and this police power is one of the reserved powers. In its exercise the state should be governed by its own nature and functions. The state is a political body. The power it exercises is inherent in the people who compose it, and is by them delegated to the state for it to use for the public good. The power of the state to accomplish the object that necessitates its existence, depends upon its own health. The state must be healthy as a whole, and this can only be, when its members (counties, towns, villages and cities) are healthy. The tendency of vice and crime is to congregate. " Birds of a feather flock together." The tendency of society, then, is for bad centres to become worse, and good centres better. But the state is a whole, and disease in one part means bad health in other parts of the political organism. A man can not be healthy who has a fever sore on the skin, an ulcer on the arm, and a cancer on the face ; neither can a state be healthy with the political ulcers caused by the liquor traffic located on its joints, the great cities. The political health of the state can only be maintained by bringing the vital power of the whole state to bear on the diseased centres. This leads us to the objection to one method of state dealing with the liquor traffic, viz : the delegation to towns, cities and counties of the state power to prohibit the traffic, known as " local option." Counties, towns and cities are not independent political organisms, but simply members.