

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC MUST GO!

In a recent sermon, Rev. Dr. DuVal, the veteran minister of Knox church, Winnipeg, dealt in trenchant terms with the demand for longer hours for bar business, claiming that the hours should be curtailed instead of lengthened. In part the Doctor said:

"Now, I believe the time has come when we have to deal seriously with some phases of our social order. . . . There is little wisdom in struggling to elevate men with one-half of our social power and with the other half constantly degrading them. There is little good in pouring water into the top of the barrel, while we are boring holes in the bottom to let it out. . . . To be blessed in our work we must feel the sense of success in it, and if the matter is not seriously inquired into, and some steps consistent with boasted enlightenment taken to correct our present ills, there is great danger of good people losing heart in fighting a losing battle. This whole question of practically legalized intoxication is stirring the heart of this continent as never before. The day is passed for talking about the degrading effect of intoxication upon the individual. The waste and wretchedness wrought by it are so great that it has passed into the realm of social and national economy. Coming up out of a past darkness, physiology, pathology and therapeutics have assigned alcoholic stimulation to the apothecary's shop, along with other toxics, and arraign a general indulgence in it, along with unguarded indulgence in other drugs, injurious to the human system."

"Now, the object of organized society is the well-being of the people. When anything, therefore, is defined to us as injurious to that well-being, and we do not remove it, we are criminal. I have thought on this matter of publicly authorized process of indulgence in intoxicating drink for over forty years, and I am more and more persuaded that whatever place you give to intoxicants that place must not include the liberty of promiscuous indulgence to create fictitious unnatural thirsts that tend to the pitiable destruction of manhood, and the entailment of wretchedness and misery upon men, women and children."

"The day will come that we will look back with horror upon our former stupidity, cruel administration of the public weal in this matter. I will not stop to talk to you of the hundreds of millions of dollars yearly wasted in Christian lands on this vice — millions more than raised for education and philanthropy—millions that might avail for the comfort of the poor, and the elevation of the masses, and yet I am told that some of our bundles of pitiable pretentiousness, who think they are statesmen, took great umbrage at one of our greatest, noblest citizens for giving an exposure of the way in which laboring men get their wages knocked out of them."

"Knock-out drops? Investigate! What legal gabble! What secret culprit will confess his crime? What maudlin victim is fit to testify; who tests the liquor and sees if it is pure? There are some honest men live who keep public houses, just as in other callings. There are some dishonest and untrue who are not over scrupulous about the good of the poor wretch who has money to offer for drink. But why so troubled about knock-out drops? Is not the whole glass of impure stuff a knock-out glass? Look at the poor stupid maudlin dirty creatures that drink it. They are knocked out of their better senses, their money, their ability to earn money. They are knocked out of their husbandhood, fatherhood, manhood; Look at out of their very humanity. Look at the crime it generates. Look into the face of that 16-year-old boy. Wherever he got his drink, whether at a blind

pig in one town or a pig with both eyes open in another, intoxication dulls the moral sense, just the same and lets loose the best in man."

"And what is the government's attitude. Well, they wish it were not so bad, because it is confusing. But they must wink a little, although the Book of Wisdom saith: 'He that winketh with the eye, causeth sorrow.' But what is a little sorrow for the other fellow compared with any political success? This is a question that must be handled carefully. Don't make too much of a show of friendships lest you alienate some good folks' votes, but wink judiciously at the boys to hold their full support. This is the nice, the princely, the polite, the diplomatic way to do it."

"And now the plea comes up to extend the time for dealing out intoxicating drinks—let us have till midnight to get in our work. A more sensible plan is to close the bar with other business houses. What will the loafers do? Go to their homes if homes they have. . . . And as for such as have no homes there is always something going on in music, games and healthful sport to entertain a man. The poor man's club, the saloon, should be looked upon as his den of degradation."

QUEEN VASHTI.

(By George W. Armstrong.)

In ancient story it is told,
A fact, though many centuries old,
Truth, strange as any fiction;
Ahasureus was the Persian King,
Right regal as the poets sing,
Unused to contradiction.

His consort was a noble Queen,
Of dignified and stately mein,
As e'er wore diadem;
She scorned to heed the King's behest,
And spurned immodesty's request,
Before assembled men.

The King in wrath uncrowned his Queen,
Divorced, and sent her forth I ween,
From Shushan's princely halls;
Divorced, but not disgraced that day,
Queen Vashti held more queenly sway,
True virtue never falls.

Queen Vashti, glory and renown,
Virtue and honor are thy crown,
Sweet modesty and grace;
For though thy crown of worldly state
Be lost, as ancient books relate,
None can thy deeds deface.

Thy noble conduct as a star,
Brighter than constellations are,
Thy deeds of good report;
A lustre bright and fair and clear,
In contrast with the darkened sphere,
Proud Ahasureus' court.

Right worthy Queen of royal blood,
In history's page Vashti the Good,
Imperial in they fall;
Better to fall in virtue's name,
Than wear a crown enshrined in shame,
Such honors but enthrall.
London, Ontario.

The return of railway statistics for the year ending 30th June, prepared by Mr. J. Lambert Payne, comptroller of railway statistics, shows that there are now 22,452 miles of railway in operation in the Dominion, an increase of 1,099 in the year. The mileage of double track was increased from 734 to 1,076 miles. The number of miles actually under construction is estimated at 3,000. Ontario has the largest railway mileage, total length 7,639; Quebec is second with 3,516; then Manitoba, 3,074; Saskatchewan, 2,025; British Columbia, 1,685; New Brunswick, 1,503; Nova Scotia, 1,329; Alberta, 1,233; Prince Edward Island, 267; Yukon, 97. Canada is declared to stand first among the nations in transportation facilities in proportion to her population.

RUSSIA'S TRIBULATIONS.

There is hardly a year but some portion of Russia is smitten with famine. Indeed a scarcity of food, more or less serious, seems to be well nigh perpetual in one part or another of the Czar's wide domain. In twelve provinces starving people are to-day crying for food. An appropriation of \$7,500,000 for their relief has been voted by the Russian Parliament, which action comprises the entire legislative product of the first six weeks of the Third Duma, barring a few local bills. A large part of the money voted is to be distributed through the Zemstovos and other organizations. This course is adopted because the centralization of relief work such as prevailed in 1900 showed the danger of abuses. The Russian Empire seems to have no end of tribulation, some of which is self-procured. Of course, it is in the power of no government to prevent the scourge of famine when crops fail through drought; but any government can prevent the curse of drunkenness if it will. By this great evil Russia is cursed to-day as never before, and it only has itself to blame for it. Since the year 1894, there has been in operation in Russia a system of government monopoly of the liquor traffic. The manufacture, distribution and sale of liquors are controlled as a branch of the civil administration. The design of the system was to regulate and restrict the consumption of intoxicants, and so minimize the disorders and evils which result from their use. The following informs us of the workings of this system:

The correspondent of The London Globe, writing from St. Petersburg, tells of the enormous consumption of liquors in late years. There has been more than 50 per cent. increase in the last five or six years. In 1901 the quantity consumed was 160,900,000 gallons; last year it was 277,550,000 gallons. So disastrous is the effect that Russian villages, which were never very enlightened or prosperous, are now dying from drunkenness. From many of these villages, he says, the thoughtful people, deeply concerned for the welfare of their communities, have petitioned the government to close the drink shops before it is too late. But their prayers are denied. The Finance Minister, in his latest circular, declares against lessening the number of drink shops, and declines to make any restrictions. Instead, he declares that it is "necessary to increase the number of places for the sale of drink, and that no restrictions should be placed on fresh dramshops being opened in towns and villages." The government wants the revenue derived from the traffic, and therefore, encourages it, at no matter what cost of poverty, and distress and death to the people. The revenue from this source has about doubled in the last ten years. There has, also been a like enormous increase in drunkenness and degradation and crimes of every kind. If the facts were not abundant and notorious, it would be inconceivable that any government, even that of Russia, would pursue a policy so utterly heartless and wicked, and economically so absolutely ruinous. The very life forces of the nation are being destroyed for revenue.

New York Observer: In the great sea the big fishes live off the smaller ones, and there seems to be hardly a fish so small but that he can find some lesser form of life than himself on which to feed. It is too generally so in human life — the bigger fellows devour the smaller. Merciless competition is the devil's law of trade—a law only too faithfully obeyed by multitudes. There is a legitimate competition, but that which throttles industry, whenever such industry represents the enterprise of others, is under the condemnation of God.