

ita says: "In our countries on the Plata the anti-alcohol campaign has not yet been organized, although it is needed. The reason the evil is ignored is because no one has studied it in the light of social science, with statistics at hand. God grant that there may be a cry of alarm and opportunity for

study and local investigations that will reveal to society the magnitude of the peril."

The Hygienic Section of the Scientific Congress recently held in Santiago, Chili, voted for a law demanding that anti-alcoholic instruction be made obligatory.

The Economics of the Drink Question

The following series of articles is intended to show to some extent how the liquor traffic affects Canada financially. It is well known that the drink habit and the drink traffic, working together, are responsible for much waste of wealth, and this waste not only involves the impoverishment of the liquor consumers, but the impoverishment of the country as a whole.

When attention is called to the great expenditure on strong drink it is sometimes said in reply that this amount of money is not destroyed, that it remains and circulates, and, therefore, if some are made poorer by the expenditure, others are made richer and the aggregate wealth of the community is not lessened.

It takes no deep knowledge of economics to demolish this absurdity. The liquor consumers have tolled for the production of the wealth which their money represents, or someone else has tolled for them. If they pay that money for clothing, food purposes, fuel or other necessities or luxuries, they receive value for their toll. The producers of these articles have the money, the purchasers have the goods, and the community possesses the wealth represented by both, or double the amount which the purchasers have invested.

If, on the other hand, the money is spent in drinking, while the liquor

vendors may have the amount of money named, the liquor consumers have absolutely nothing to show for their investment, and there is in the possession of consumers and dealers on the whole only one-half the wealth that existed when the money was otherwise invested.

What applies to the country at large applies also to a municipality. The money spent at the bar by the people of a municipality leaves the local community that much poorer. Money cannot be spent on strong drink without being as really wasted, as absolutely destroyed as if that amount of money or goods were hurled in the bottom of the sea, or as if the money were spent in purchasing articles of value and committing them to the flames.

The actual spending of money in intoxicating liquor is not the only waste of wealth chargeable to the drink system. There is serious loss of wealth production through idleness of men who are out of employment because of the drinking habits of themselves or others. There is serious loss through the curtailment of the lives of citizens who, had they lived, might have been factors in the country's wealth production. There is loss through the practical destruction, in liquor manufacture, of large quantities