

find that such is not the case. The manufacture, sale, and consumption of alcoholic liquors in the United States steadily increases, not only in toto, but per capita. We have little idea of the colossal proportions of this trade. The cost of intoxicants to the country is equal to the value of all foods that come upon the market; it is three times the cost of bread, twice that of wearing apparel, four times that of boots and shoes. In sixteen years it amounts to four times the value of the national debt in 1880, and one and one-half times the cost of the rebellion to both North and South. If, once in eleven years, a fire were to consume all the products of the nation, both manufactured and agricultural, it would do no more than is done by the dead waste of drinking spirituous liquors. As one computes the bloody statistics of alcohol and its effects, he is as one counting the sands by the ocean of despair.

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This question is one of the most vital public import. Beside it all matters of mere governmental expediency sink into insignificance. A United States senator calculated the expense of saloons to the nation at \$15 per capita; the revenue from them at \$1.69 per capita—\$13 clean loss. How long shall we keep at this fool's arithmetic? The drink question is pivotal in national revenue. It is also a prime factor in the labor question. We are told that \$250,000 a day pass over the mahogany counters of the New York saloons, of which \$50,000 is easily from wage-workers—\$18,000,000 a year robbed from the cottages of the poor by the Croker-Platt partisan machine in its noble effort to uphold personal liberty. We cannot wonder at strikes; but we wonder why the laborer does not rise to strike the saloon.

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Not only is there more liquor consumed, but the quality as steadily deteriorates. More of it and worse. Sixty years ago, whiskey at 25 cents a gallon was pure; to-day, at \$3 to \$16 a gallon, it contains fusel oil and other poisons enough to kill a steer. The harder the hand of license presses, the greater the temptation to adulterate the drinks. The intoxicants of former time were as spring water compared to the infuriating cup of the modern saloon. As the quality of the liquor is debased, the character of the public house has sunk with it. The saloon has come to be the storm-center of all that is hostile to good citizenship and clean manhood. It is the nest of crime, the clubroom of the boodler, the rendezvous of thieves, the spider-web of harlots, the incubator of riot, the snake which, warmed in the bosom of liberty, is sinking its fangs into that vital virtue which alone makes liberty live. Sixty thousand corpses corded up annually by the dragon, to say nothing of the innumerable broken hearts and blighted hopes. Yet truculent statesmen, burning to fight Spain, may not whisper against it.

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The saloon is the most menacing figure in our political horizon. It does not hesitate to commit

any crime against law or conscience to gain its end. It knows no party, but seeks to make all parties its agents and to hold the balance of power. It beholds the rising sentiment of all good men against it and with the pertinacity of selfishness evenly pursues its own way. Well-meaning persons have tried to regulate it by license, and it has thrived under the restriction. States have raised up constitutional bulwarks against it, and it has spent countless thousands of dollars to destroy them. Laws have banished it; it bids them insolent defiance. All the courts, to the supreme national court, have pronounced against it; it has stopped at no evasion or chicane to defeat the verdict. The saloon stands as our political Satan, the incarnation of everything inimical to good government, the aggravating ingredient of every other national danger. — *Dr. Frank Crane in Men.*

Facts Worth Using.

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THE amount of liquor consumed annually in Canada aggregates 21,676,749 gallons. The direct cost to the consumers of this strong drink is \$39,879,854.

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IN 1874, Hon. G. W. Ross estimated the annual loss of life in Canada through the liquor traffic at 4000. In 1885, Hon. Geo. E. Foster, in a speech in Parliament, took 3000 deaths per year as the number which might safely be set down as due to this cause.

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SIR WILLIAM DAWSON, LL.D., of Montreal, says: "I have had occasion to institute inquiries in regard to the pauperism of Montreal. I can confidently say that nearly all the want and destitution prevailing in this city is directly or indirectly attributable to the liquor traffic, and if the liquor traffic could be abolished entirely there would be far less burdens cast on the benevolent societies and benevolent individuals of the city."

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THE great cause of social crime is drink. When I hear of a family broken up and ask the cause—drink. If I go to the gallows and ask the victim the cause, the answer is drink. Then I ask myself in perfect wonderment, why do not men put a stop to this thing?—*Archbishop Ireland.*

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AFTER local prohibition had been in effect in Atlanta, Ga., for a year, the *Constitution* said: "Fifteen new stores containing house-furnishing goods have been started since Prohibition went into effect. These are doing well. More furniture has been sold to mechanics and laboring men in the last twelve months than in any twelve months during the history of the city. The manufacturing establishments of the city have received new life. A glass factory has been built. A cotton seed oil mill is being built, worth \$125,000. All improvement companies with a basis in real estate have seen their stock doubled in value since the election on Prohibition."