

PLATFORM POINTERS

FACTS FOR PROHIBITIONISTS.

There are two or three facts that Prohibitionists ought to have always ready, like a cowboy's revolver, to fire back, promptly and effectively, in reply to this noisy but harmless old squib.

The first is: There is no Prohibition state, city or town in the country where conditions with regard to the drink evil and its results, even though the law is not as well enforced as it might be and should be, are not better than they ever were under any form of "regulation."

The second is: There is no state, city, or town in the country, from Sitka to Atlanta, where Prohibition has been repealed and any form of "regulation" substituted for it without a large increase in drunkenness and other evils of drink.

The third is that, just as faithless and corrupt old party politicians in office in Prohibition states and cities prostitute themselves and their offices for political favour and bribes of the liquor power, so, all over the country, whenever, under low license, high license, or state control statutes exist for the "regulation" of the liquor traffic, the same shameful and shameless official prostitution takes place, and regulation of the drink traffic doesn't regulate anywhere; until regulation has become the most colossal failure and the most monumental fraud of all the failures and frauds of our governmental system.—Selected.

LIQUID BREAD.

I remember once seeing over the door of a public house in Liverpool, "Good ale is liquid bread." I went into the house, and said, "Give me a quart of liquid bread."

The landlord said, "Ah! first rate sign, isn't it?"

"Yes," said I, "if it's true."

"Oh, it's true enough; my beer is all right."

"Well, give me a bottle to take home." He gave me a bottle of this liquid bread. I took it to an analytical chemist, and said to him, "I want you to tell me how much bread there is in this bottle."

He smelled it, and said, "It's beer."

"No, no," said I, "it's liquid bread."

"Well," he said, "if you will come again in a week, I'll tell you all about it." In a week's time, I went to learn all about the liquid bread. The first thing about it was that 93 per cent. of it was water.

"It's liquid, anyhow," I said: "we'll pass that. Now let us get on to the bread."

"Alcohol, five per cent."

"What's alcohol?" I said.

"There's the dictionary!—you can hunt it up for yourself."

I hunted it up and found alcohol described as a "powerful narcotic poison." "Well," I thought, "this is the queerest description of bread I ever read in my life."

Then he gave me a number of small percentages of curious things, which he had carefully put down on a piece of paper, and which amounted to about a thimbleful of dirty-looking powder. That was the bread—two per cent.

"And there would not be so much as that," said the chemist, "if it were good beer. This is bad beer."

"So the better the beer, the less bread there is in it!"

"Certainly. It is the business of the brewer to get the bread out of it, not put bread into it."

This is the simple scientific truth with regard to beer, and the case is stronger with regard to wine and spirits. There is practically no nourishment at all in them.—W. S. Caine.

THE VOICE OF SCIENCE.

I. WHAT IS A FOOD?

(1.) H. A. Hammarsten, professor of physiological chemistry in Upsala, University of Sweden says: "Those bodies are designated as food which have no injurious action upon the organism, and which replace those constituents of the body that have been consumed in the exchange of material (metabolism) or that can prevent or diminish the consumption of such constituents."

(2.) Dr. Gould, compiler of the Medical Dictionary, defines food as "Anything

used for the nourishment of or formation of tissue," and defines nourishment as "Anything that enters into the formation of living tissue."

(3.) W. H. Howell, as editor of the American Text Book of Physiology and professor of physiology in John Hopkins University, defines food thus: "What we eat and drink for the purpose of nourishing the body constitutes our food. . . . The food is utilized to repair the wastes of the body, i.e., the destruction of the body material which goes on at all times. . . . And in addition it serves as the source of heat, mechanical work and other forms of energy liberated in the body."

II. IS ALCOHOL A FOOD?

(1.) Robert Koppe, M.D., in an address before the International Medical Congress, in Moscow, in 1897 said: "The opinion that alcohol would be a useful source of heat energy in the human organism in consequence of its combustibility is not scientifically justified. The consideration alone that a substance will burn in our body in no wise justifies its dietetic use as a source of heat energy. Morphine, as is well known, burns in our bodies into oxyd morphin. Happily, however, it has not yet occurred to any one to proclaim morphine for this reason, a proper source of energy for the human organism, as is unfortunately done in the case of ethyl alcohol."

(2.) Prof. H. W. Conn, of Wesleyan University says: "A physicist could experiment with gun powder and prove that it is easily oxidized and gives rise to a large amount of heat and energy. From this it might be argued that gun powder is a most useful kind of fuel for cooking stoves. Such a conclusion would be hardly less logical than the conclusions that have been drawn from these experiments with alcohol, and which regard it as a useful food for the body. Gun powder is a most unsafe fuel because of its secondary effects, and in the same way the food value of alcohol cannot be determined by its power of being oxidized, but must include the consideration of its secondary effects as well."

(3.) H. F. Hewes, M.D., of Harvard, says of Professor Atwater's experiments: "These experiments merely show that the body can derive some energy from alcohol. This does not in itself entitle alcohol to be placed among the food substances in the hygienic sense of the term, which is the sense in which the schools and people in general use the term, food. If it did, such a violent poison as muscarine, the active principle of the poisonous plants of the mushroom family would have to be classed with the foods, since it also is oxidized in the body with liberation of its continued energy."—Union Signal.

TEMPERANCE SOLDIERS.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Mr. Weir asked a question as to the provision made for the necessities of temperance men at the front. Mr Powell-Williams replied: "The Secretary of State has no doubt that Lord Roberts makes every arrangement possible for the Temperance men among the troops." In answer to an inquiry on the same subject made privately by Sir Wilfrid Lawson some time ago, the following letter was received by him:—"War Office, March 5th, 1900. Dear Sir Wilfrid,—You will be glad that I am able to tell you that the only beverages supplied at the public expense to the troops for daily consumption are tea, coffee, and cocoa. (Occasionally, at the discretion of the General commanding or medical officers, lime juice is issued, or a small ration of rum added. The provision of all other beverages, whether alcoholic or non alcoholic, is managed by the regimental institutes under the control of commanding officers, and we have no reason to suppose that the wants of abstainers in South Africa are less assiduously cared for than at home. . . . One must bear in mind that whilst in standing camps aerated waters can always be manufactured and produced, it is impossible to take them on rapid marches over broken country, owing to their weight and the liability of the bottles to get broken. You will, however, be re-assured to learn that tea, coffee, and cocoa are invariably taken, even when beer and other alcoholic drinks are not—Yours very truly, (Signed) J. Powell-Williams."—Alliance News.

A GREAT OFFER.

READ CAREFULLY.

You need this paper. You will need it more and more as the prohibition fight gets hotter and hotter, and the 100,000 voters begin to get in their work. Read carefully what is said about it in column headed "Important" on page 2.

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