

of India its consumption was "for purposes which have no relation to the actual presence or even fear of disease." He says, "There is a general consensus of native opinion in almost all parts of India against the habitual use of opium by the healthy and able-bodied."

As to the physical effects of the use of opium, while admitting that many official doctors denied any evil consequences from opium-eating in moderation, some even claiming it to be beneficial, Mr. Wilson urges at the same time that "many medical men and other witnesses stated that the habitual use of opium in any form for other than medical purposes is decidedly deleterious." More than this, he says:

"It is admitted on both sides that habitual consumers, who are unable to get the usual dose at the usual hour, besides suffering pain and inconvenience are, for a time, incapacitated wholly or partly for the discharge of their ordinary duties. . . . It is admitted on all hands that the opium habit obtains an imperious sway over those who become subject to it."

#### A Proposed System of Minority Representation.

*Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with thee, which frameth mischief by a law?—Ps. xciv. 20.*

THE American Proportional Representation League, which met in national convention at Saratoga, August 27, has brought about one most important result, in that, out of the multitude of plans proposed to secure some system of Proportional Representation, for the first time there has come an agreement as to the form which shall be urged as best suited to the American trend of thought in politics.

The present system of representation is believed to be not only defective but positively vicious, in that every voter belonging to a minority party in a district electing a representative is entirely without representation, while, by the use of the gerrymander in laying out representative districts, the will of the people may be thwarted. How

Proportional Representation, and in particular the Swiss system recommended by the conference, meets this defect, is shown by the following extract from an address issued by the League:

"In place of the district system, the conference of the league held in Saratoga, August 27, 1895, invites consideration of the system now in operation in several of the Swiss cantons, where the people are divided into large constituencies, each one of these electing a number of representatives by means of Proportional Representation. The entire vote in each constituency is divided by the number of members to be elected from each. This gives the quota of representation or the number of voters who are entitled to one representation. Each party then receives as many representatives as it has quotas in the vote polled. The candidates in the list of each party who receive the highest number of votes are the ones returned. Any candidate receiving an independent nomination is treated as a separate party. This conference recommends the Swiss system as applicable to all institutions and to the present Australian system of voting. It has been found practically successful after the trial of four years in Switzerland, where it has given a just system of representation and has elevated the character of legislative assemblies.

"The Swiss system secures greater liberty to the voter by allowing him to choose his candidate from all parts of a large constituency, instead of from a small one electing a single member. It requires just representation, it makes the gerrymander impossible, it lessens corruption, it greatly diminishes the number of wasted votes and the disaffection of a hopeless minority, and it secures men of greater independence and higher character for the representative body."

#### The World's Production of Beer.

*Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants . . . with drunkenness.—Jeremiah xiii. 13.*

*Gambrinus*, a beer organ published at Vienna, Austria, has been gathering statistics on the world's production of beer for 1894. Germany leads the world; her 22,833 breweries producing 1,466 million gallons of beer, or 40 gallons per capita. Next come Great Britain and Ireland, with a production of 1,394 million gallons. Then follow America with 1,324 million gallons; Austria-Hungary, 485 million gallons; Belgium, 253 million; France, 223