

BRITISH PEOPLE DO NOT THINK PROHIBITION IS NEEDED

"AMERICA TREATS PROHIBITION AS A GREAT MORAL TRIUMPH, GREAT BRITAIN TREATS IT AS A JOKE"—DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

"If the British People Were Convinced That the Liquor Traffic Must Be Destroyed, They Would Execute It With as Little Hesitation as They Decapitated Charles I."

BRITAIN WATCHES AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

By DAVID LLOYD GEORGE.

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London, May 5.—Four years ago, the United States, by a two-thirds majority, voted prohibition of the sale of alcoholic liquors. The British House of Commons has just voted down a bill for the same purpose by a majority of 236 to 14.

America treats prohibition as one of its greatest moral triumphs. Britain treats it as a joke.

What accounts for this remarkable disparity in the attitude of two great English-speaking communities towards one of the most baffling and elusive problems civilization has to deal with? It cannot be a fundamental difference in temperament or in moral outlook. The men who engineered prohibition in America are of our own race and kind, bred in puritan traditions that came originally from our shores. If the evils of excessive drinking had been more apparent in America than in Britain I could understand the states of the union deciding to take more drastic action than has been thought necessary in our country.

But the facts are exactly the reverse. The consumption of alcohol in the United Kingdom before the war per head of population was twice that of the United States. The poverty, disease and squalor caused by alcohol were therefore much greater in Britain than in America. What, then, accounts for the readiness of America to forbid sale and the reluctance of Britain even seriously to restrict?

I would not care to dogmatize on the subject, but will hazard two or three possible explanations. I set aside the suggestion that property owners are frightened by the sequel to prohibition in Russia. I have heard it argued that the prohibition ukase of the czar was responsible for the Russian revolution. That is probably true, for people stupefied by alcohol will stand anything. The inefficiency and corruption of the czarist regime was so appalling that no sober nation could have tolerated it without rebellion for a single year, and when the fumes of vodka ceased to muddle and blind the moujik, he rebelled against the autocracy that had betrayed his country in disaster.

The Russian experiment in drink, therefore, contains no warning against prohibition except the very limited one that those who wish to misrule a country in safety must first of all drench it with alcohol.

There is, of course, the ready explanation that old countries are very conservative, and do not take kindly to change. Their joints are stiff with age, and they creep along well-worn paths slowly and painfully, but they lack the suppleness of limb that tempts younger communities to spring across untrodden country. That is the argument. I am afraid this explanation will not hold. Old countries, when thoroughly moved, can leap like a hart.

Can Renew Their Youth.

The French revolution demonstrated how vigorously one of the oldest nations of Europe could tear along unbroken tracks when impelled by a new passion. And I saw Britain spring to arms in 1914, when 6,000,000 men joined the colors without the lash of compulsion to stir their blood. England renewed her youth, and her movements had the energy, the audacity and the endurance of a people untired by a march of centuries.

The people, if stirred by a call which reaches its heart or conscience, is capable of action as bold as that which wrested Magna Charta out of a despot in the twelfth century, overthrew an ancient religion in the fifteenth century, led a king to the scaffold in the seventeenth century, or challenged the greatest military empires in the world in the sixteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

If they were convinced that the liquor traffic must be destroyed they would execute it with as little compunction or hesitation as they displayed in suppressing the mass, or in decapitating Charles the First.

At the present moment the British people are not in the least persuaded that the evils of alcohol for the minority of the population cannot be dealt with effectively without resorting to the very drastic expedient of forbidding its consumption by the majority who use it in moderation. Are they likely to be convinced? That depends on the failure or success of all other expedients to exterminate the evils of alcoholism.

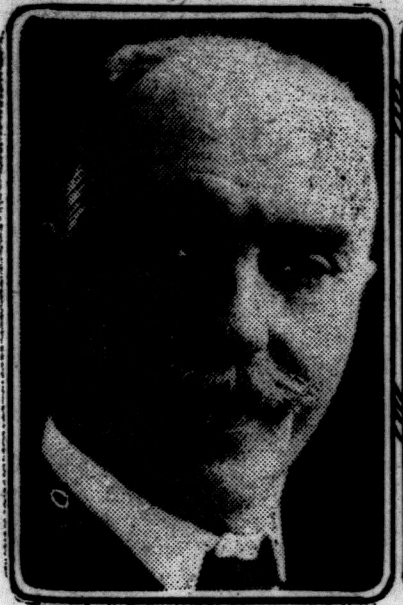
By Experiment.

That brings me to another explanation. America reached prohibition by the path of experiment. The federal system lent itself to a trial of every form of remedy, including prohibition. For well over half a century, you have had almost every form of temperance expedient ever suggested in actual working in some state or other of the American republic.

When I was a lad I heard debates and addresses in Welsh about the comparative merits of "Maine Law" and high license. High license, reduction of licenses, local option, prohibition have all been tried. They have all been in operation quite long enough to enable the American public to form a judgment on their merits.

Statistical results over long periods constitute a reliable basis for inference. American federalism furnished prohibition law. To the practical man the opportunity, and the states took full advantage of it. Hence the pro-figures in the prohibition states looked attractive from a business point of view. He hesitated, but the moral wave that swept America carried him over the bar. But without experience at his door, I doubt whether the American business man would have assented to prohibition.

The British constitution does not lend itself to these valuable experiments. Otherwise London might have tried one experiment, Lancashire an-



(Left) New Scrymgeour, the only Prohibitionist in the British House of Commons, whose bill to make



SHALL HE PRO-BOSS-US?

WAGING LIQUOR FIGHT IN BRITAIN.

Britain dry was defeated by 236 to 14 recently. (Center) A typical English poster, used by the wet



Johnson to England. (Right) Lady Astor, a sturdy opponent of the pres-

Lloyd George Explains Why Britain Is Still Wet

"Temperance reformers here are watching the progress of America's bold bid for sobriety with hopeful, if anxious, eyes and with longing hearts. What Britain does next will depend entirely on the success or failure of what America is doing now."

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"You cannot secure unanimity of action on temperance reform, even amongst the religious forces. If they were united in their demand and prepared to enforce it at elections, nothing could resist their power. Between elections they seem agreed in their policy, but no sooner does the party bugle sound than they all fall into rank in opposite armies, and the temperance banner is hurriedly packed into the cupboard for use after the polls have been declared. It is then once more brought out to wave over straightened out in the breeze, the tabernacle, and its wrinkles are I have seen the fiercest champions of local option supporting brewers at elections because they were official opponents of Irish home rule in the contest."

"I have seen the fiercest champions of local option supporting brewers at elections because they were official opponents of Irish home rule in the contest."

him. The Irish issue dominated the elections for nearly a generation. Free Trade played a great part also. If the exigencies of party conflict had permitted the same consistent propaganda work, extending over the same number of years, to be devoted to the drink problem as was given to the wrongs of Ireland or free trade, no doubt public opinion could have been educated up to the point of supporting drastic reform.

Effect of Reforms.

The war, however, enabled the Brit-

ish Government to effect reforms which have materially reduced the consumption of alcohol in this kingdom. These results have been achieved by enormous increase in taxation of alcoholic liquors and by considerable reduction in hours of sale. Taxation of beer was raised from 13,000,000 pounds sterling in 1913 to 123,000,000 pounds in 1921. Duty on spirits in 1913 yielded 22,000,000 pounds. In 1921, it gave a revenue of 71,000,000 pounds.

One of the effects has been an appreciable reduction in the alcoholic strength of the beverage sold. The hours of sale in the morning and afternoon have been curtailed appreciably. By this measure the work-ma is prevented from starting his day by drinking alcohol, and the afternoon break prevents the drinker from soddening all day.

The effect of these combined measures has been highly beneficial. The quantity of beer sold fell from 34,132,739 barrels of beer of 36 gallons at standard gravity of 1.055 in 1913 to 23,885,472 standard barrels in 1921. Spirits fell from 30,736,098 proof gallons in 1913 to 20,162,395 in 1921.

These figures represent a remarkable and almost sensational reduction in the quantity of alcohol consumed by the population. Convictions for drunkenness fell from 188,877 in 1913 to 77,789 in 1921. Deaths from alcoholic diseases were more than halved during the same period. This is the most distinct advance in the direction of effective temperance reform hitherto taken by the British Parliament, and an effect striking in its encouragement.

Nation Is Relaxing.

It would be a serious national misfortune if the admirable results at-

All the Theatres

ALLEN'S

TODAY—"Lost and Found," with House Peters.
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY—"A tale of adventure on the high seas," "Down to the Sea in Ships."
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY—"The English production," "Dick Turpin's Ride to York."

GRAND

TODAY—Harold Lloyd in "Safety Last."
ALL NEXT WEEK—D. W. Griffith's mystery, "One Exciting Night," with a cast of Griffith players.

LOEW'S

TODAY—Gloria Swanson in "Prodigal Daughters," Vaudeville.
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY—Harry Carey in "Crashin' Thru," Vaudeville.
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY—"Warner Bros' production," "Brass," Vaudeville.

MAJESTIC

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY—Marie Gladke Players present "The Price She Paid."

PATRICIA

TODAY—"Hunting Big Game in Africa With Gun and Camera."
MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY—"The Power of a Lie," story by Johann Bojer, Vaudeville.
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY—"The Kentucky Derby," featuring Reginald Denny, Vaudeville.

CHILD HURT IN CRASH REVEALS NO CHANGE

Baby of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Remains in Serious Condition.

There is no change in the condition of Leonard Pierce, the 6-months-old child, who was rushed to Victoria Hospital last night following an automobile crash on the Lambeth Highway last yesterday afternoon. Hospital authorities stated this morning. The baby, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Pierce, of Avonmore, was thrown from his father's car when it collided with another machine near the Base Line intersection. When the child was brought to the hospital physicians thought that he had possibly suffered a fractured skull, but his condition cannot yet be determined. He is being attended by Dr. Hadley Williams.

EXPECT ROBERT COOK TO GET ACCLAMATION

No Change in Political Situation at North Hastings Is Looked For.

Special to The Advertiser. Belleville, May 5.—There is no change in the political situation of North Hastings, as was anticipated from the first. The present member, Robert Cooke, will no doubt receive an acclamation for the coming election. It is stated from authoritative sources that the Liberals will place no candidate in the field. It is not likely that U. F. O. forces will contest this riding either.

East Hastings.—In this riding if there is to be a fight to take the seat, away from the U. F. O., it will fall to the part of the Conservatives to take action. The Liberals, according to information received from their side here, will not be represented by a candidate.

West Hastings.—Forces behind W. H. Ireland, Conservative member, and Col. O'Flynn, Liberal candidate, are organized, and at present are working up plans for the coming campaign. Little has been done so far, but the battle promises to wax hot shortly.

Prince Edward.—U. F. O. Liberals and Conservatives will be in the field. Nothing further on this at present.

PERSONALS

Fifty tables were arranged at the euehre given last evening in Alma Block by the patrol team of Ruth Chapter, E. S. S. Proceeds from the affair are to be used towards uniforms for the team. The hostesses who assisted in welcoming the guests were: Mesdames M. Malone, H. Stein, W. Routledge, C. Dewar, W. Bowman, G. Spicknell, William Clarke, Otto Thies, M. Roddick, B. E. R. Thomas, J. Southcott, F. Ferguson, Lorne Dann, J. C. Doidge, Ella Henderson, Bert Logan, W. R. Thomas and Misses H. Taylor, Carrie Boss, and Gladys Routledge.

Miss Elwood, of St. Thomas, former graduate of Miss Tonley Thomas, will be her guest at the recital hour, Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, and will give a reading from the "Taj Mahal" for the students of the dramatic chorus.

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