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BOVRIL

Talks by Tiberius.

Doctors, St. Pierre and Prohibition.

The air is filled with moans and sighs and groans. Rachel weeping for her children and will not be comforted. She has been weeping and groaning and sighing since January 1st, 1917, when the Prohibition Act came into force in Newfoundland. She will not be comforted. She is not quite a dipsomaniac, a possessor of a thirst and a lunatic thirst; but she has a thirst which is remarkable for the effect which it has upon her, anyway. Her thirst has made her do the most outlandish and outrageous things. It is a thirst for alcoholic liquors. Since she has not been able to get what she wants, she has been getting what she did not want, hoping that by some strange turn of events, she would get what she wanted. To get a taste of her favourite drink, something near akin to pure alcohol, she has bought and drunk large quantities of Vanilla Essences, High Proof Hop Beer, commonly called Moonshine. She has drunk Hair Oil and Perfume; Lavender Water and Bay Rum; Tanlac, and the forger's famous beverage, "Pop."

She has even put boot-blackening on bread and eaten it. All of which she might get a taste of the real thing. The beasts of the field could do no more; the birds would not do as much; she has made herself lawless, she has openly and shamefully violated law, that she might be comforted. Yet she is not comforted. Pity is that the law enforcers, have not sufficient public opinion behind them in their work, to put Rachel where she ought to be, where she would learn a much needed lesson; i.e., where she would learn to control her appetite and respect the law.

Rachel represents the crazy lovers of liquor who have stooped to all depths of shameful lawlessness in order to gratify a low-down craving for a liquor, which has been branded by the highest and sanest of medical and scientific authority, as a poison. There can be no other explanation of the despicable yet clever means which have been adopted by different parties to outlaw or evade, the Prohibition Act. Again I say; carry out the Act, everybody carry out the Act, from the Premier down. Let every doctor honor his profession by strictly observing the Prohibition Act, as he honors any other Act. Let the Controller be a man of strength of character, a law abiding citizen. Let the Department of Finance and Customs be honestly and fearlessly administered. And let the Chief of Police have a free hand and be supported by all lovers of law and order; and the Prohibition Act will prohibit sure thing. Rachel may weep for her quota of booze, but it is in her own interests that she get none, for she only makes herself bestial when she gets it. Her best friends would keep it from her.

THE DOCTORS.

I want to point out at least two gateways by which men and women get the stuff called booze. The first I shall mention is the Doctor. I do not blame all doctors for the shameful manner in which law has been flouted in this country, but I make the assertion without fear of any successful contradiction, that the great majority of medical men in Newfoundland have been guilty of flagrant violations of the Prohibition Act, and knowingly so, at that. There

is always a reason. There is reason in a stone someone has said, and there is reason for the attitude of the medical men. The few who are loyal to the act are men of strong character, men who regard truth and honor above rubies; men who would forfeit life rather than yield one point of their principle; men who are not tempted by offers of the dollar. They are men. The others, never mind. They are educated, but are not wise. They are intellectual, but do not know. They are called men, but act like jelly-fish. They are called Christians, but do not act Christian, for there is no canon of Bible teaching, nor is there any law of morals which would vindicate their action in relation to the violation of the Prohibition Act.

Now I have made a very strong statement, a statement, which if true, places the guilty party in a queer if not a serious position. If the statement is not true then I ought to be made to retract it. The statement, however, is deliberately made and I now want to substantiate it, and give reasons why some doctors, (why most doctors), violate the Prohibition Act and Legislation.

The first reason is:—The love of money. "The love of money is the root of all evil," quoth the good book. Perhaps I ought to be a little kindly in my criticisms of any one along the lines suggested in view of the High Cost of Living. But when the doctor accepts a five dollar fee, more or less, for making out a script for liquors for some poor fool who will not be comforted only and except by that means, he may be solving his own problem of living, but he is also making the same problem for the other fellow less easy of solution. Some doctors have grown rich on their trade in scripts; the love of money has robbed them of all sense of fair play.

The second reason is:—The love of the stuff itself. Probably if the truth were told, and nothing but the truth, it would have to be said that the desire for booze lies at the root of all the trouble in connection with the Prohibition Act. I have seen cases where the love of alcohol, or rather the craving for it, has defied all consideration of the holiest and sweetest ties of human nature. I have known of young men who with great glee and pardonable pride have led to the altar the "best girl in the world." On the wedding day they have been very sincere in their vows and promises. The wedding day has been their "doom's day, for to please their guests, the bridegrooms have taken their first glass. The craving has set in. Presto, begone fair bride and promises forsooth. I say again, the craving for the stuff (like the fiends in the lower regions), explains practically all the rest, the rest follow as effect follows cause; consequently, and so on. If the doctors have not the craving for the stuff and some of them have; they take advantage of the craving which others have, and enrich themselves thereby. Are they not equally guilty?

Now as to the statement itself. To substantiate my first, I will make more.

(a) It must be understood that the law only allows alcoholic liquors for medicinal, sacramental or mechanical reasons:

(b) It must be admitted, (prima facie) only sick men or persons need medicine. "They that are well need not a physician." (c) A doctor, of all men, knows when a man is sick, but it is common knowledge that doctors have given scripts for alcoholic liquors in medicinal quantities when they knew that the men were not sick. Can anybody worm out of that inconsistency? Can anyone explain away that knowing breach of a well known law?

(d) Doctors are supplied with books and literature with which they are supposed to keep in touch with the Controller's Department to which they are also supposed to make a periodical report. A member of the Medical Fraternity told me not long ago that doctors sometimes exceed the number of scripts allowed by law; often exceed the quantity allowed by law for each script; and never make the report called for by the law.

Some day soon, if necessary, I will come back to the subject of the doctor in relation to the Prohibition Act. I will now pass on to tell a tale about St. Pierre.

A TALE OF ST. PIERRE.

Perhaps I have spelt my word wrongly. It should be "fall" and not "tale." Perhaps it is both. On the French island there is not any Prohibition Law. On the island of Newfoundland, there is. It is not a great distance from the latter to the former place. It commonly occurs that men cover the distance in small boats. That is the "fall."

I want to draw the attention of the Department of Customs and of Justice to the fact that hundreds of gallons of alcoholic liquors have been smuggled into Newfoundland from St. Pierre. A great deal of it, since January 1st, 1917.

If detectives were told off to watch St. Mary's Bay, and points therein; and also to watch Holyrood, and points thereabout; and also many of the automobiles which make day and night runs between the bottom of Conception Bay and St. John's; they would find another wide gateway by which, the liquor crazed, lawless, patriotic gents and ladies get their booze. They will also find another reason why the Prohibition Act does not prohibit.

Permit a repetition. "Carry out the Prohibition Act, from the Premier down. Let every doctor honor his profession by strictly observing the Prohibition Act. Let the Controller be a man of strength of character, a law abiding citizen. Let the Department of Finance and Customs be honestly and fearlessly administered. Let the Police Force have a free hand and be supported by all lovers of law and order; and the Prohibition Act will prohibit."

Prohibition Not Popular.

Exodus From the United States—No Life Because of Dry Regulations.

A vivid description of America under prohibition was given to a press representative by a gentleman holding an influential position in a prominent New York banking firm, who has just arrived in London from the States.

"There is no life in the restaurants in America now," he said. "All the joyousness and sparkle have departed, and the people sit round the tables for meals as seriously as if they were performing a religious rite. How different from the restaurants in London, where all is gaiety and effervescence, and where the 'joie de vivre' has not been crushed by flat-footed fanaticism!"

"The parrot-cry of the 'Pussyfoot' party has always been that prohibition leads to an increased output in the factories; but if the exodus from the States continues at its present rate the ranks of the workers will soon be seriously depleted."

"It is certain that there is a great amount of grumbling and discontent among the work people which never existed before, and large numbers are leaving America for Canada, Cuba, and Britain."

"There never has been such a demand for passports in the whole history of the country. All the foreign element is leaving New York."

"Deep and universal is the resentment against the present state of the law among all classes of the community. If you want to see an example of the people's eagerness to enjoy an innocent glass of wine or spirits you have only to board an outward-bound liner at New York."

"No alcoholic liquors may be sold at the bars on board until the vessel is three miles out from harbour, but long before that time there may be seen a continuous queue of thirsty passengers extending far up the deck, all patiently awaiting the lifting of the hated embargo."

Home Manufacture of Spirits.
"Of course, prohibition led immediately to the manufacture of beer, wine and spirits in the people's own homes on the sly, and the papers published recipes, telling housewives how to concoct drinks, until the authorities stopped it. The demand for brown sugar and raisins was enormous, and whisky, of course, can also be made from potatoes."

"An army of revenue officers had to

Mrs. McDonald of Cape Breton Gives Testimony.

Says Tanlac Proved Its Worth By Restoring Her to Splendid Health.

The remarkable results being obtained by the use of Tanlac is further evidence in the case of Mrs. D. A. McDonald, of Reserve, Cape Breton. While speaking of her experience with the medicine which has been so beneficial to her, Mrs. McDonald said: "If I hadn't been for Tanlac I believe I should have had to give up entirely, on account of being troubled with the worst kind of indigestion. I couldn't eat a thing but what was would form and bleed me up so badly that I had to loosen my clothes. The distress caused by this indigestion was specially bad at night and often I had to get up and pace the floor before I could get any relief. I used to have violent headaches that kept me in bed for days at a time and drove me almost frantic with pain. My nerves got so bad that the least little thing upset me and I couldn't bear to have anything around me. I couldn't sleep at night and by mid-day would be completely done up."

"I had tried so many medicines without getting any relief, that when a friend advised me to try Tanlac I thought it would be like all the rest. Still, I gave it a trial and I hadn't got through the second bottle before I began to improve, and by the time I had finished the fourth, I was as well as could be. I can now eat anything I want to and am never troubled with gas or indigestion. I am no longer troubled with shortness of breath or palpitation of the heart. Headaches are a thing of the past, and my nerves are as steady as a clock. I sleep as soundly as a child every night and get up in the morning feeling so fresh and strong that my work is no trouble to me at all. Tanlac is certainly wonderful, and after what it has done for me I am glad of the chance to recommend it."

Tanlac is sold in St. John's by M. Connors; by Reg. Sullivan, Pouch Cove; Sound Island Store, Sound Island; Dennis F. Fyfe, Avonlea; J. J. O'Brien, Cape Broyle;—adv.

be appointed to search houses, in which illicit stills were suspected and to examine any persons under suspicion of carrying spirits out of doors.

"As I had a flask of whisky in my hip pocket, they could actually seize my trousers, as that inoffensive garment would be the 'carrier' in the eyes of the law."

"If you walk down the street with a jug of ink in your hand a Revenue officer can stop and ask you what it contains."

"On the financial side of the question, the loss to the revenue from the sale of liquor amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars a year. A very large sum is now needed for the salaries of the Revenue officers and for the guarding of liquor in the bonded 'warehouses' reserved for medical purposes."

"A serious loss of revenue is incurred through the disappearance of the American tourist, who used to spend his money in holiday time in his own country. Now he goes to Canada and the West Indies; Cuba and Havana are specially favourite resorts, and in the later place the authorities spent between ten and fifteen million dollars on casinos, swell hotels, and restaurants, expecting to get it back by the tourists from the States last winter, and they did!"

"Another phase of the Prohibition question is the undoubted fact that since it came into force the use of narcotics has developed enormously."

—Dundee Evening Telegraph.

Fancy Lenine Working.

May Day was observed in Soviet Russia as "a day of general work." So general, indeed, was the observance that even "the personnel of the soviets took upon themselves some task." Nicholas Lenine, for instance, devoted himself to assisting some workmen at the Kremlin, and "was seen carrying heavy loads." It all sounds excellent, but it is not quite easy to appreciate the point of view. Why was it necessary for Mr. Lenine to abandon, for the time being, his duties as Premier and carry "heavy loads" in order to comply with the demand for general work?—Christian Science Monitor.

It is estimated that the eyes of an expert pianist absorb 1,500 notes and his fingers execute 2,000 movements every minute. At this rate he ought to strike 1,000,000 notes in a little over eleven hours.

EE SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE EE



THE DOCTOR: "My real and faithful friend, Give him a Steedman's Powder and he will soon be all right!"

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Capt. Marryat Out of Print.

It was indeed a serious state of things which was unfolded to the Library Association in England, recently, by Mr. L. Stanley Jast of the Manchester public libraries. It appears that many famous children's books are actually out of print, and that the libraries are experiencing

great difficulty in completing their shelves. Much of Harrison Ainsworth, and the whole of Jules Verne—imagine it!—the sea stories of W. H. G. Kingston, several tales by Captain Marryat and Ballantyne are practically unobtainable save through the second-hand dealer. And so Mr. Jast proposes that the council of the Library Association shall negotiate with publishers for the reprint of these books, guaranteeing such pub-

lisher as may undertake the work a large enough sale to the public libraries to pay the expenses and provide the necessary profit. It is certainly a scheme worthy of all consideration, for something must be done about it. Captain Marryat out of print! and Jules Verne!

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