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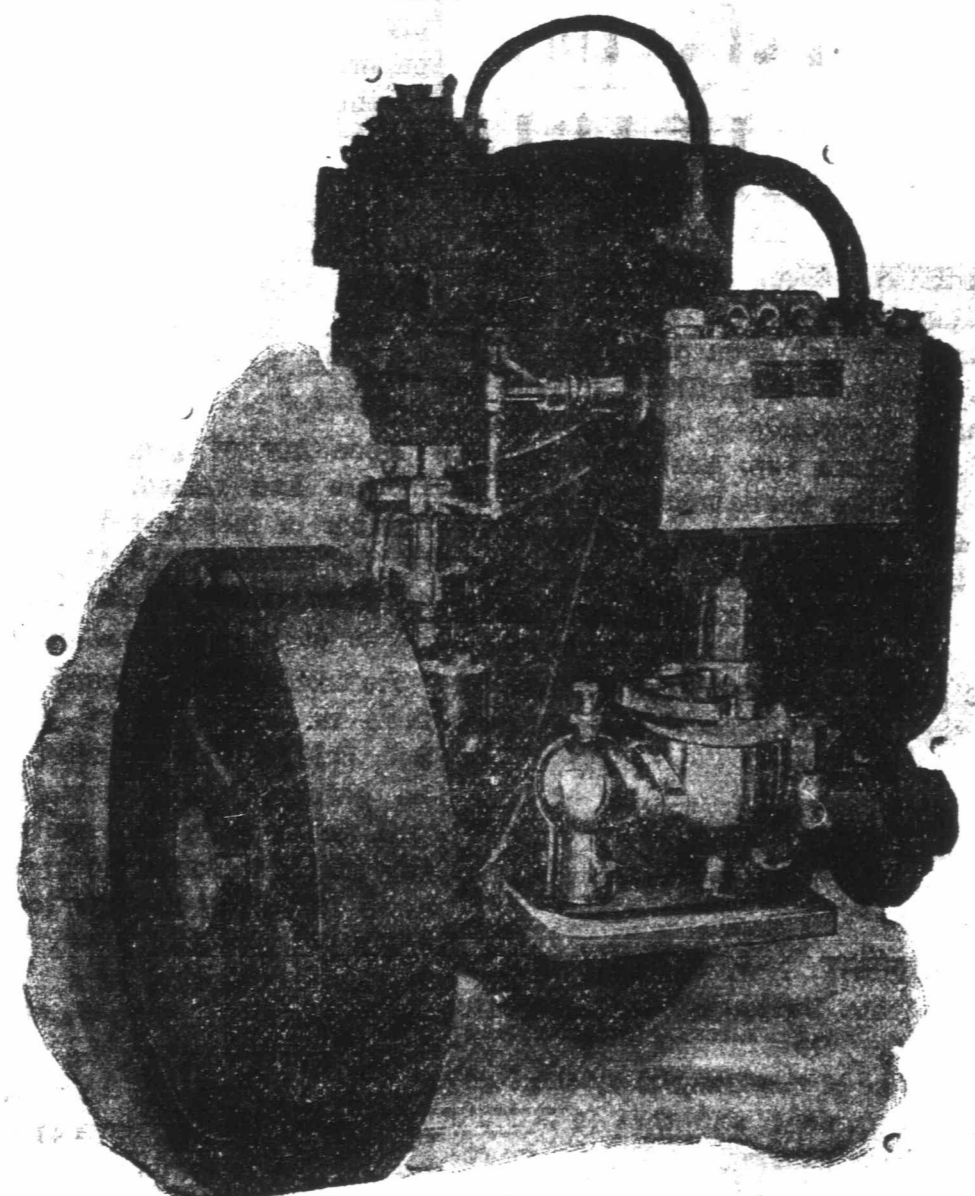
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LIQUOR TRAFFIC DOOMED

THE WORLD IS TURNING TOWARDS PROHIBITION

THE drink question has stirred Britain again and again during the War. Everybody knows that. Is it as generally known that this is part of a world-movement against Alcohol? Such a movement was well under way before the War. But, in these days of searching test and drastic change, its pace is quickened, its range widened, and month by month it wins a larger public assent. Thrift, efficiency, and the claims of national conscience are the factors conserved; hence the use of grain compelling change. Food must be conserved; hence the use of grain and potatoes in brewing and distilling is checked. Soldiers and civilians must give their best in service; therefore Drink, which depletes strength and blunts the edge of skill, comes under the ban of the State. As the tide of sorrow rises, as the sense of peril deepens, there wakens among the peoples a common protest against the carnal lust of intemperance; this moral factor impels and sustains the war of the Governments against their "internal enemy," as M. Finot has called the alcoholism of France.

Neutral Nations.

Even neutral nations have fought Drink to stop waste, and increase efficiency. In the first month of the War Switzerland prohibited the use of grain and potatoes for the making of spirits. The State Monopoly in the sale of spirits was suspended. Today, in the Swiss Army, no spirituous liquors are supplied; the sale of any alcoholic drink is forbidden to soldiers in railway refreshment rooms; and innkeepers are required to sell non-alcoholic drinks to soldiers at low prices.

Denmark also forbade the use of potatoes and various kinds of corn for the manufacture of Alcohol, and hedged round the sale of liquor with new restrictions.

Sweden, half a century ago a notoriously drunken country, has developed in recent years an aggressive Temperance policy in legislation, and now ranks among the most sober of nations. Yet, even here, when the European strife began, the State claimed new powers against Drink, the Swedish Riksdag going to the extent last March of vesting in the Government and Provincial Boards power to prohibit entirely the sale of intoxicating drinks "in time of distress and danger of war."

In the United States the Prohibition Movement has gained immensely from the European demonstration in war-time that Drink spells danger and want. Why, asks the American, consent to this waste of working-power at any time?

Enemy Countries.

Exactly what is happening in Germany we may not know, but the main facts are clear. However wild and wanton the outrages of drunken German troops in Belgium and Poland, the German genius for organization has grappled with the waste through liquor in Germany itself. To preserve barley for bread, the quantity of beer which can be brewed throughout the Empire is limited to 40 per cent. of the average output; local authorities were given power last March to limit or prohibit the sale of spirits; and in certain areas spirits must not be sold to soldiers in uniform.

Austria prohibited the malting of corn, cut down the week-day hours for the sale of drink to those between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and imposed Sunday closing on all shops where liquor only is sold.

Turkey, as a Mohammedan nation, ought to be free from intemperance. The strict rule of total abstinence from liquors has broken down in face of Western seductions. Hence the point of an Irade of the Sultan issued two months ago, making public drunkenness "a crime subject to trial and condemnation by court-martial."

ITALY.

Italy, like France, has prohibited the sale of alcohol. Liquor may now be sold to any young person under 16. In the Italian Army the same tendency is seen as in the armies of other combatant nations: spirits are prohibited; the wine-ration is reduced; in "first-aid" outfits a bottle of syrup of coffee has replaced the bottle of brandy. The "Lancet" affirms that the Alpine troops whose daring in mountain warfare the whole world knows, are "abstemious in the strictest sense," officers and men alike.

France has suppressed absinthe with a strong hand. Prohibition is no mere letter of the law. Stocks of the absinthe weed are seized and burned. A case tried in Herault in July is significant: a distiller, proved guilty of manufacturing absinthe,

was severely fined, charged quintuple excise duties, and his stock, valued at £2,000, confiscated; his total loss through lawbreaking was estimated at £2,200. In August the campaign against alcoholism reached a new stage. A Bill was read in the Chamber of Deputies aiming to end the right of "home distillation"—a root of much mischief—imposing heavier taxes on alcohol, and proposing a State Monopoly of commercial alcohol.

The story of Russia's emancipation from vodka has been told again and again. With a great price she brought her freedom, and Russian sobriety has gone far to sustain the nation and maintain the morale of her armies in the defeats which the shortage of munitions brought upon her. The prohibition of vodka has been rigidly maintained.

When some vodka drinkers turned to methylated spirits and other deadly drugs, an Order was at once issued imposing heavy penalties for illicit preparation and sale. The enormous advances in Saving Bank Deposits, as a result of the new Temperance of the people, and the gains to social order, are a notable vindication of the argument, that to depose Strong Drink is to enthrone public welfare.

Great and Greater Britain.

What Britain has attempted is well-known to British readers. Military authorities, Licensing Justices, and the new Central Control Board all armed with new legal powers, have set bounds to the drinking habit. The end of the war-time anti-liquor campaign in Britain is not yet. We may see a near approach to Prohibition on the national scale before many months.

Greater Britain has also been strongly moved. In Australia "wet" cantens are not permitted in the camps of the New Army. In South Australia 6 p.m. closing of licensed premises has been established.

In Victoria the hotels now open 5 hours later than before the War, and close at 9.30 p.m.

From the provinces of Canada a series of notable reforms is reported. Ontario has fixed 7 p.m. as the closing hour for liquor-bars, and made illegal the sale of liquor to soldiers in uniform. Manitoba has established 7 o'clock closing. In New Brunswick the hours for the opening of liquor bars are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and soldiers in uniform are not served. In Saskatchewan all private liquor bars have been abolished, the sale of liquor is restricted to State "dispensaries," and liquor is sold only in sealed packages for "off" consumption. Alberta has gone even further, and by a majority of 2 to 1 has recently declared for Prohibition.

When the whole civilized world turns against the liquor habit in war-time, it is something more than venturesome speculation to assert that, with the return of peace, a drastic overhauling of the liquor laws will mark the domestic policy of the great nations.—Henry Carter in Review of Reviews.

IN OLD KENTUCKY

A wonderful, mysterious state is Kentucky. Centuries before the Indians, it had a prehistoric race, which has left prehistoric structures. Since 1750 no Indian villages were found in the state; it was by tacit concession in the common hunting ground of tribes of the North, South and West. From the awe-inspiring solitude that reigned over its vast, uninhabited forests, the Indians gave Kentucky the title "Dark and Bloody Ground." In 1793, the first priest, ordained in the United States came to Kentucky, and became its great missionary and Vicar General—Father Badin. Before him had come, in 1787, an Irish Capuchin, Father Whelan. And more than a century before Father Whelan, 1667, the Catholic explorer, de La Salle, viewed, at the Falls of the Ohio, the site on which is now Louisville.

GERMAN DIARY TELLS OF BIG DIVINSK LOSSES

PETROGRAD, Nov. 17.—A notation was captured by the Russians south of Divinsk shows how the ranks of the Russian army have been decimated by the Russian artillery. According to the diary the company was reduced within three days from 286 men to 70.

Trenches were destroyed daily by the artillery fire, so deeply that their bodies had to be dug out, while the men along the firing line frequently were compelled to work the entire night restoring the destroyed trenches.

THE WORLD OF TOMORROW

JAPAN has consecrated her Emperor or China has decided to experiment a little longer with republican institutions, India is described as mutinying against British rule; on doubtful authority, but of discontent and ferment in India we have little reason to doubt. Asia's "teeming millions" crop up every little while in our discussions of world-politics, but it is a cold and stereotyped phrase demanded by the conventionalities of the theme. It is still true that when we speak of the world-war and of the world as it will look after the war, we think almost exclusively of the nations of the West. What will happen to seven million Belgians, what will happen to less than five million Serbs, is a more entrancing question than what the war will do for more than three hundred million people in India or nearly three hundred and fifty million in China. Where India and China are taken into account, they still figure as mere appendages to Western interests. Will Teutonic or Allied influence in China be paramount after the war? How seriously are the German threats against British rule in India to be taken? In other words, will India belong to Great Britain or will it pass under Germanic influences? We admit that Asiatic problems have been brought into closer touch with Western problems, but when we speak of the great settlement after the war, the settlement of Asia hardly enters into the reckoning except as it may enter as an incidental factor in the rearrangement of affairs in Europe.

Yet we have the example of Japan to show that Asia cannot go on indefinitely as a mere appendage of Western interests and civilization. The Emperor Yoshihito was crowned, but the Japan of Yoshihito is no longer Asiatic in the sense of being dependent on the West. In the war with Russia the Japanese nation entered into the sphere of world-interests, but only to the extent that Asia was affected. Japan to-day is fully admitted into the confraternity of European nations. She is a member of an alliance that is waging a war arising out of European conditions, and though her military operations have not extended outside the Pacific, she is in a very direct fashion contributing her share towards the "settlement" of Europe. She is supplying Russia with munitions. She is reported to be lending money to France. The mere fact that the despatch of a Japanese army to Europe is a subject of discussion shows to what extent the barriers between the West and Asia have been removed so far as Japan is concerned. In this suggestion of Japanese troops fighting the battles of the Allies in the West, there is clear proof of how completely, in her case, the traditional superiority of the West to the people of Asia has vanished. It is rather a compliment of the highest kind to Japanese resourcefulness and efficiency that statesmen should think it a comparatively simple matter for Japan to send a quarter of a million men five thousand miles away from home with the assurance of victory.

No close parallel can be drawn between Japan and India. But among the people of India there are at work the same desires that actuated the founders of the new Japan, the ambition to be treated, not as anybody's problem or "burden," but as an entity whose own interests must receive consideration independent of the effect on Western world-ownership. The case against Great Britain, as revolutionary India sees it, has recently been summed up with unmistakable vigor by a native of India. Mr. Wagle's assertions may perhaps be controverted in part. His implication that India should receive complete self-government—if not independence, then autonomy—will impress a great many people as not falling within the field of immediate practical politics. But where the writer's case does hold good is in its protest against a state of mind rather than a set of conditions: a state of mind, namely, that such concessions as are offered to the people of India must be just sufficient to hold discontent in check. The people of India are entitled to more than they can obtain through the threat of general sedition. The object of British statesmanship should not be to keep the people of India quiet, but to facilitate their education towards self-government. The white man's burden as a permanent condition for the people of India has lost validity in view of the unmistakable trend among the peoples of Asia towards ultimate self-rule. Even partial concessions work to this end. In placating Indian sentiment by the establishment of more and more universities, by the admission of natives to the Executive Council, by supplying vice, the British Government is only wider opportunities in the civil service—strengthening the educated classes in India and feeding the appetite for fuller liberties.—"The Nation"

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