

# A YEAR OF PROHIBITION IN A BIG ILLINOIS TOWN

Marion E. Pew Tells How It Has Worked in Decatur—Not a Dead Town—Arrests Have Been Cut in Half—Taxation and Business Little Affected—Divorces Increase.

DECATUR, Ill., May 15.—There is a deal of "fibbing" going on these days about whether prohibition is a good thing for a town. Advocates of the saloon, driven by financial motives, and anti-saloon men, altruistic but sometimes extreme in their statements and often even fanatical, are battling in almost every state and their press bureaus are issuing enough highly-seasoned propaganda literature to wad the guns of history. Their claims are contradictory.

The situation seems to call for an impartial statement based upon actual conditions as found in a city which has been dry for at least one year.

Decatur has 32,000 people and a little of almost every kind of life known to a city. It has been dry for a year and the people have just elected a new dry mayor, whose instruction is to see to it that the local option law is rigidly enforced. The town is normally a Republican, but the new mayor is a Democrat. His Republican adversary was an avowed wet and that he has won this seems to show that Decatur likes to be dry.

There are a whole lot of local and state questions which come in to involve the situation, but the following statement of conditions in Decatur is impartially written and may be taken to reveal the approximate fact.

This is not a "dead town," financially or socially. The factories are running, every one seems to be busy and the writer does not remember of having visited a town wherein there are more pleasant people to the city block, where the people seem to be having a better time in wholesome ways (a well-groomed horse is a popular luxury) and where so few ragged people are seen.

This is a "dead town," socially. If a "sporting town" may be called a live one, it is 10 o'clock at night and the writer is looking from a hotel window down upon the main business street. It is deserted. There are no sounds there is no rivalry there or in the hotel. Some 22,000 people are somewhere; I suppose they are at home, many of them asleep. In an average of a hundred people will leave the theaters, "Ben Hur" and vaudeville are the rival attractions. The people attending the moving picture shows. The morning newspaper scheduled social, musical or religious meetings at the various churches for every night this week. The town is base ball mad.

I suppose 200 men are at their clubs. Those who drink may drink there. Members keep bottles in lockers. In one club at least, it is possible to take a warm bottle from a locker and exchange it for a cool bottle to be found in an ice box. This local option works no "hardship" on tipping club members or people who can buy booze in quantities and drink from saloons. The mail houses in Louisville, St. Louis, Chicago send spirits in, while beer, shipped in potato or flour barrels or unsuspicious boxes, comes in from nearby wet towns, such as Springfield, Bloomington and Peoria. The poor man who cannot afford to buy a bottle or a case may go without or take a trolley ride.

The train arriving here on Saturday night, 11 o'clock, is called the "booze special," because it brings into the city from Peoria, packages, boxes or barrels, unmarked and consigned to 25 to 50 Decatur citizens. These people meet the special and cart their packages home for Sunday or week-end consumption.

There are 32 "soft drink" parlors in the town, converted saloons, where pop, ginger ale and "water wagon beer" are dispensed. The latter tastes like the real thing, but it is said to contain less than one-half of 1 per cent. alcohol, the alcohol having been evaporated at the brewery. The drys object to this, because it is a malt beverage, and they have taken their case into court. There have been in a year, nearly 100 arrests for illegal selling, bootlegging (peddling from a bottle or so), selling, blind tiger, or selling soft drink parlors. The "booze" sold thus, like some that is imported, is said to be of poor quality. Jim Sheets, a farmer, drank one two-finger "smile."

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## WHEN YOU CAN'T SLEEP.

There is many a man and woman tossing night after night upon a sleepless bed. Their eyes do not close in the sweet and refreshing repose that comes to those whose heart and nerves are right. Some constitutional disturbance, worry or disease has so debilitated and irritated the nervous system, that it cannot be quieted.

Or again, you have, a sinking sensation, a feeling you are going to die; or perhaps, you wake in your sleep feeling as though you were about to choke or smother, and rest leaves you for the night. If you allow these conditions to continue for a short period even, you will begin to feel your health declining. It is the nerves and heart not acting rightly, and they can only be set right by the use of Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. They soothe inflamed nerves, refreshing sleep, not by depressing the nerves, but by restoring them to healthy action.

Mrs. E. Nutt, St. Mary's, Ont., writes: "I can gladly recommend your Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills as I was greatly troubled with my nerves. I was so bad I could not sleep at night without the lamp burning, but after taking four boxes of the pills I became all right again."

Price, 50 cents per box; 3 boxes for \$1.25, at all dealers or The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

## BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT SATISFACTORY

Annual Report of Building Committee of Seamen's Institute

The Seamen's Institute is advancing in leaps and bounds. The report of F. W. Daniel, chairman, has been sent in, which is very satisfactory. It is as follows:

S. John, N. B., May 12, 1909.

In submitting a report from the building committee a great deal of satisfaction may be expressed for the wonderful progress in the affairs of the Seamen's Institute during the past year. When we look to the fact that it is only a year ago since ground was broken for this splendid building, we almost wonder where the means have come from which has made it possible to proceed with the work, so that the building was ready for the occupation of the society during the past winter, and now a comparatively small outfit will complete the finishing of the upper rooms. The whole expenditure on the building and lot up to date in round figures, and including the land, is \$12,072.00, deducting from this amount \$4,000 on the mortgage, we have the large sum of \$8,072 actual cash generally supplied by the citizens of Saint John and from other sources for this work. The contracts now entered upon to complete the plastering and wood-work of the upper rooms amount to \$2,300; besides these contracts, however, we will eventually need about \$700 for sundry painting, sheathing, cornice, etc. This brings our total requirements up to \$3,000, against which there is about \$800 cash on hand, so that \$2,200 will yet have to be raised. We hope to get this amount in during the coming year, and then our Saint John's Seamen's Institute will be one of the best on the continent.

Your committee in making this report also wish to express their satisfaction with the work and attitude of details given by the architect, G. Ernest Fairweather.

Respectfully submitted,  
F. W. DANIEL,  
Chairman of the Building Committee.

## New Goods at Less Than Cost

MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY

This Great Offering Consists of  
**Tweeds, Panamas, Venetians,  
Lustres, Serges, Cashmeres,  
Poplins and Self-Striped Suitings**

**25c. Yard**      **47c. Yard**

Fancy Tweeds, red, brown, navy, grey and cream; Self-Striped Lustres, black and white check and plain; Cloth Suitings suitable for ladies and children's summer wear.

Self-Striped Satin Cloth Suiting, all colors; All-Wool French Venetian. Silk Finish Poplin, 54 inch Black Panama, Navy Serge, etc.

Don't Miss This Great Money-Saving Chance  
**I. CHESTER BROWN, 32 and 36 King Sq.**

## ELEVEN GIRLS, 80 YEARS YOUNG, IN CLUB TO SPREAD SUNSHINE AS SHADES OF LIFE GATHER



MRS. SARAH GOTT, 89.      MRS. MARGARET DINSDALE, 83.

CINCINNATI, O., May 15.—Eleven Cincinnati girls have formed a Sunshine club. Nothing startling in that, say you?

But listen—All of these girls are at least 80 years old.

They are inmates of the Cincinnati Widows' and Old Men's Home. The passage of time has brought sorrow and privation to them. Checks that

once bloomed with the roses of youth now are wrinkled and wan. The tired old eyes gleam pathetically beneath the silvery hair, the feet falter, the hands tremble, the forms are weak and drawn, but the age-worn bodies bear heart that will over be young.

In the sunset of their lives, these 11 girls—they're girls in heart and spirit if not in years—would gladden the remaining days of their existence.

**Both Cleans and Sterilizes**

A better cleanser than soap—harmless alike to fabrics and hands.

**ASEPTO**

Soap Powder is a germicide as well as a superior washing compound. Every time you wash with ASEPTO you thoroughly sterilize—kill the disease germ—cleanse the skin—get rid of dirt—get better results—get your goods so for a package.

Manufactured by The Asepto Mfg. Co. St. John, N.B.

**125TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**

St. Andrew's Church will on Sunday observe its 125th anniversary and a splendid programme has been drawn up.

The services tomorrow will be at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m., and will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. Johnson, a leading divine of Montreal. At 4 p. m. a mass meeting will be held for men, when Dr. Johnson will deliver an address.

Addresses will also be given by Rev. W. P. Stackhouse and R. W. Allen in the interests of the Laymen's Missionary Movement. At all the services special music will be rendered.

It is contemplated to continue the observation of the anniversary for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Special music will be rendered each day at 2.30 and 7.45. The public are extended a cordial invitation to attend the services.

**FIVE BREAKS  
IN ONE NIGHT**

BRANTFORD, May 14.—The police made an important capture at 2.30 this morning, when a French-Canadian giving the assumed name of Joseph Smith was arrested for burglary. There were two burglaries here Tuesday night and five last night, all of which are attributed to the prisoner. Last night reports of burglaries started to come in about 11 o'clock, and from these the police were able to trace the movements of the man, a half dozen policemen being assigned to the task.

At last he was seen entering a house on Lawrence street. Constable Borthwick went in after him, grabbing the burglar in his bare feet while he was getting through a rear window.

A struggle ensued in which the officer was dragged through the window. Smith got loose, and running through the house leaped through a large window at the front doing himself considerable injury by glass. The man, who is a professional burglar, had \$65 on him and stated that he came from Montreal but for some time had been in Hamilton.

At the police court this morning Smith was charged with eight burglaries, five last night, one Wednesday night and two Tuesday night. He pleaded guilty to all and said he had been in town only three days.

## CANADIAN WATCH DOG CATCHES FRENCHMAN

Fishing Schooner Committed the Offence  
Last Year.

NORTH SYDNEY, N. S., May 14.—The revenue cutter Gladiator, Capt. Gordon, effected the seizure of the French fishing schooner, Dictator, this morning, for violation of customs regulations committed last year. Capt. Gordon saw the Dictator coming off of St. Ann's one day last summer. Upon being interrogated the master of the Dictator said he had entered at St. Ann's but it was afterwards discovered that he had not done so. Capt. French schooner ever since, but it was only this morning that he succeeded in finding her. The seized vessel is laid up here with a watchman on board and the matter reported to Ottawa.

The Newfoundland fishing schooner Cora, Capt. Lee, arrived at North Sydney on Monday. The men left the schooner to take in trawls and shortly after dawn fog came on. After searching for some time, the men were unable to locate the trawls and started to return to the schooner, which also they were unable to locate. They then set out for Seaside but encountering the fog they were unable to make any headway, and were forced to remain in their dry until noon, the next day, when they were picked up by the French fishing schooner Dictator, which brought them to this port this morning. The Cora remained off Seaside for two days in the hope of finding the men, when Capt. Lee decided to return to North Sydney.

## REV. G. A. LECK DEAD.

LONDON, N. S., May 14.—Rev. G. A. Leck, Presbyterian minister at Economy, died very suddenly last evening, apparently from heart failure, resulting from an attack of grippe. He leaves a widow and a large family. Mrs. Leck was the daughter of the late Deputy Marshal McDonald of Halifax. Rev. Mr. Leck was a native of Middle Musquodoboit. For several years he was in charge of the congregation at LeHave, where his work was very successful. Then for two years he was at Dalhousie, N. B., where the past five years he was minister at Economy.

## A GUARANTEE OF SAFETY

Most of the "soothing" syrups and powders advertised to cure the ills of babies and young children contain poisonous opiates, and an overdose of these is a most dangerous thing. They are sold under the guarantee of a government analyst that they contain no opiates or harmful drugs. They can be given with absolute safety to a new born child. They cure all those minor ailments originating in disorders of the stomach or bowels. Mrs. F. Young, River Herbert, N. S., says: "I have used Baby's Own Tablets for constipation and stomach troubles and when my baby was teething, and have found them the best medicine I know of for these troubles." Sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

## MURDERED GIRL'S FORMER FRIEND HAS DISAPPEARED

PROVIDENCE, R. I., May 14.—Upon their return from the home of Douglas, shortly before midnight, the police

Wherever men gather you will find but one opinion about the money's worth every man is sure to get when he buys a hat trademarked thus:

Style authorities design them; experts make them; smart dressers approve them. They are worth their price—and more. Find the store that sells this brand and be really well fitted.

**The Wafer-Hite**

A. A. ALLAN & CO., Limited, TORONTO  
Wholesale Distributors for Canada