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MORE WAGES; LESS WORK.

In his presidential address before the British ship-owners association, the president of the association uttered some statements worthy of perusal. Among other things, he said that the new and barbarous method of sea warfare, as practised by the enemy, had played a certain amount of havoc, but he should think there would be no more interesting and marvellous revelation when the war was over than the history of the methods by which this menace had been coped with. Though the losses to allied shipping during the last two or three months had been serious there was nothing alarming in the situation. Serious as it was, the losses which were being inflicted were a very small percentage of the total arrivals and sailings.

On the question of tonnage supply they all recognized that the admiralty must have the first call upon shipbuilders and engineers, but if admiralty and commercial work had been properly and discretely distributed things would not have been in the unsatisfactory condition which they were today. There was not only scarcity of material, but scarcity of men, and there was no use disguising the fact that the amount of work put in week by week was much less than it ought to be. The amount of tonnage likely to be turned out this year would be very considerable, though far short of what it ought to be. Scarcely less important than shipbuilding was the work of repairing "lame ducks." The men were making enormous wages and giving less and less work in return.

As to the loading and discharging of ships, the position was very much better, but there was still room for improvement, especially in some of the allied ports. There was now much less cause for complaint against the admiralty in respect of its management of requisitioned ships, but under state control it was futile to expect that the same efficient use could be got out of shipping as if the management were entirely in the shipowners' hands. They had hailed with satisfaction the vigor with which the admiralty were now having merchant ships armed. They had been begging for guns for more than a year, as they believed this to be one of the best preventatives of U-boat attack.

FOOD V. INTOXICANTS.

The London Spectator is another instance of a change of heart, though the change is not wholly

completed. Here are its latest views:

"We have come to the conclusion, and we believe it is a conclusion which must be reached by any man who looks the matter squarely in the face, that the nation simply cannot afford to go on manufacturing and drinking intoxicants while it is engaged in the effort to beat the Germans. The prime fact is that intoxicants are made out of food, and we must use every ounce of food for nourishment. Next we want our ships and our railways for war purposes. Therefore they must not be used to carry intoxicants. Lastly, we want every available man for war purposes, and for growing food. Therefore we must not employ them in manufacturing, transporting, and selling intoxicants. Here is the Speculator policy in a sentence: Prohibition during the war; the elimination of private profit after the war. No one who is both sane and honest can describe that as the policy of the teetotal fanatic. In peace we shall no more grudge the moderate drinker his glass than the moderate smoker his pipe or his cigar."

A SOMEWHAT DENSE DEAN.

At the meeting of the convocation of Canterbury the lower house passed a resolution, by 57 votes to 6, in favor of the state purchase of the liquor traffic. The Dean of Lincoln said it was mere dust in their eyes to suggest that at present the state did not take a real part in the trade, but only restricted it by taxation. "As a matter of fact," he said, "we license it, we tax it, we derive a very large income from it, and I contend that we do indirectly take part in the prohibition during the war and for six months afterwards was carried with one dissentient—the Dean of Canterbury. He protested against it because if carried into effect it would involve the abolition of the rum ration, which, he said, would be a very serious thing for the house to recommend. He thought that to a large number of people the use of alcohol was not a luxury but a necessity."

AN EXAMPLE IN DISCIPLINE.

In a libel action in which two society ladies are mainly concerned, a jurymen had a conversation with a witness during the luncheon interval. He was reprimanded by the Lord Chief Justice, and ordered to leave the box, and the case was continued with eleven jurors only.