

was expended. They proceeded to "treat" all-comers. Anyone who refused to drink with them was counted an enemy, with the result that friends were numerous, and often a few days saw the credit disappear. A week in the hospital set conditions right, and the reveler returned to his camp to once more establish a credit.

The writer has had considerable experience with such men, and can say that most of them are possessed of good and even noble characteristics. They are grateful for kindness shown them when in trouble, and honest in meeting liabilities that they contract.

The above is a sad picture, and some drastic action is needed to make such conditions impossible. What that action should be is a matter of much difference of opinion. The advocates of total prohibition are numerous; it seems certain that their numbers are increasing, and that in time a law will be passed which will meet their views. Let us trust that the effect of this law will be beneficent; but it is to be feared that our temperance friends have not carefully studied, nor do they seem to appreciate, the characteristics of our Western people, who believe in moral suasion but hold to be unsound the doctrine of coercion on questions which are not in themselves evil. At the present time, and in the present spirit of the West, the writer is convinced that compulsion by means of legislation is dangerous to the well-being of the country. Only time and education will effect the desired end.

All honest men admire persons with will-power sufficient to refuse alcoholic beverages, but it is unjust to condemn those persons who, constitutionally or otherwise, are unable to take this high plane. Such views are injurious to a great cause; for opposition is engendered where otherwise support would be forthcoming.

The results of intemperance rank amongst the greatest evils known. The question, then, should be studied from a practical and scientific standpoint, and not from a sentimental or religious one.

The chronic drunkard freely admits his action to be degrading and disgraceful, and in most cases makes an honest effort to reform—and generally fails. Why is this? It is