



## A Successful Prohibition Area

Scotstoun, Glasgow.

(By Alexander Black, of Glasgow.)

The district of Scotstoun, which is fully four miles west of Glasgow, on the north side of the river Clyde, has been increasing during the past few years by leaps and bounds. The population of this suburb is now 7,000. It possesses a special interest in Temperance reformers from the fact that it is a Prohibition area.

The Scotstoun Estate, which extends to 1,000 acres and includes Scotstoun, a large portion of the burgh of Partick, and part of the west end of the City of Glasgow, has a population of 20,000. The proprietor of this estate is Mr. J. W. Gordon Oswald, a gentleman of high Christian character, who is deeply interested in the welfare of the people. Mr. Gordon Oswald has inserted a clause in all the feu charters of his estate absolutely prohibiting those who build houses on his ground from using them as public-houses or as premises for the sale of intoxicating liquors.

This perpetual Prohibitory enactment of the Laird of Scotstoun, instead of preventing the people from going to reside in the district has, on the contrary, been a special attraction, as the demand for houses is almost greater than the supply. The houses on the north side of the estate are self-contained and are built on the cottage principle, having from five to eight apartments, with ornamented front plots averaging 18 feet square, and back gardens of about 45 feet by 20 feet in extent. The houses are occupied by middle-class people, and, with few exceptions, each family own the house in which they reside.

On the south side of the estate the houses are built on the tenement or flat principle, and have from two to four apartments. These are occupied chiefly by working men who are employed in the shipbuilding yards and public works in the neighborhood.

It is interesting to note a few facts in relation to this Prohibitory area. The police officer for the district states that crime has been conspicuous by its absence. He reports that there has only been a few offences among persons who reside in the district, and these cases have been of the most trifling character. Pauperism is practically unknown, and the rents of the houses are regularly paid. The nearest public-house is half a mile distant, unfortunately too near for the good of a few of the inhabitants; but, notwithstanding this drawback, the peace and good order in the district are remarkable, compared to those places where public-houses abound.

Scotstoun Estate, with its population of 20,000 persons living under absolute Prohibition, supplies a splendid object-lesson respecting the substantial benefits enjoyed by the people in the exclusion of public-houses from residential areas.

Mr. J. Parker Smith, who owns the adjoining estate of Jordanhill, has also inserted a Prohibitory enactment in all his feu charters with respect to public-houses. This Prohibitory area, including Jordanhill, is thus one of the largest and certainly the most populous in Scotland. As an evidence that the householders are in favor of the Veto it may be stated that plebiscite was taken on October 19th, 1903, in one of the wards on the estate. The question submitted was 'Are you in favor of Local Veto?' 1,025 householders answered yes, and 53 answered no.

It is interesting to note that an increasing number of landowners throughout Scotland are enacting Prohibition on their estates in order to preserve the amenity of the district, as the presence of public-houses has a deteriorating effect not only on property but on the material, social, and

moral condition of the people. The result is that upwards of 180 parishes are now absolutely free from the pernicious influence of the public-house. The social, moral, and religious condition of the inhabitants in these places is such as to encourage the hearts of all friends of Temperance and Prohibition to labor with increased vigor and earnestness in the great cause of Temperance reform, so that the benefits enjoyed by the people in these places may at no distant date be extended all over the country.

## Uncle Mason's Toad.

Johnnie Eaton was helping the gardener, picking up stones and bits of sticks and carrying them off in his little cart, when an old toad hopped out of the bushes and sat blinking solemnly at him.

'Hallo, old fellow, where did you come from?' said Johnnie, stopping all operations to look at the intruder.

'Here's a toad, Uncle Mason,' he called to the gardener, 'shall I put him out?'

'No, no, my boy; let him be. He catches bugs and flies, and helps to keep away the insects that would spoil our plants? He never fails to get him, and the first time trying, too. Suppose we sit down on this bank for a while and watch the little fellow, and I will tell you how he made me stop using tobacco.'

'Why, Uncle Mason, how could a toad do that?' asked Johnny, with wide-open eyes.

'Well, I'll tell you. I used to smoke and chew, but I've stopped for good now, and this is how I came to do it:

'One day I came across something a great doctor had written, that there was enough nicotine in one cigarette to kill two toads. I didn't know what nicotine was, but it set me thinking, and I kept asking 'round, until I found out that it was a poison that's in all kinds of tobacco. That sounded kind o' scary, and I got out my pencil, and did a little figuring. A good-sized toad weighs about half a pound, and I weigh one hundred and sixty pounds. According to weight, it would take just one hundred and sixty cigarettes to kill me, to say nothing of chewing tobacco, and I'd get them smoked up in about a week. When I looked at it that way, I said to myself, "Mason, it's time to quit," and I did quit, then and there.

'Of course, I knew there were men that used tobacco, and yet lived to be older than I was, and I'd used it a good many years myself, and hadn't died yet. But then I thought, "maybe there are toads that it takes more to kill than it does others, and anyhow it isn't safe to take chances with that sort of thing."

'Then I got to wondering whether a toad that was stuffed half-full of tobacco poison would be much use in killing flies and I said:

"Mason, that's just what's been the matter with you. When you went to school you were always at the foot of the class. You weren't quick at seeing things, or hearing what was said, and you didn't seem to be more than half awake any of the time. The boys that didn't smoke could run faster and play better and they were always ahead of you."

'After I left school, it was just the same. The other boys got good places to work, and I didn't get much of anything, and when I did, I couldn't keep up with the other men. It was tobacco that did it all. Now I've stopped, I can see better and hear better and work better. I've got this good job, and I'm doing well at it, and it's all on account of a toad, so you see I'm fond of the creatures and like to see them around.'

Uncle Mason hobbled off to work again, and Johnnie went, too, but he smiled at the toad under the bushes and decided he would never begin the use of tobacco.—Selected.

The statement is made that the opening of so many tea-shops in and around the City of London has diminished the business of public-houses. The caterers say that more cups of tea than glasses of beer were sold at the Crystal Palace on Easter Monday, which has never hitherto been the case on a Bank Holiday.

## Concealing Whiskey's Work.

It is well known that very many calamities for which liquor is really responsible are attributed to other causes in the published accounts. The Pittsburg 'Despatch,' in a recent article, exposes the various explanations which are commonly given in this connection. The 'Despatch' says:—

'Apoplexy, heart disease, gastritis, and pneumonia frequently appear on the death certificates sent to the Allegheny county morgue, but were the truth told, these deaths, in hundreds of cases, each year have been superinduced by alcohol.

'The mortuary records of the county during the past few years show that there has been a remarkably large number of sudden deaths for which habitual intoxication was the primary or direct cause. Fatalities and tragedies in many cases may be attributed to the use of alcoholic drinks, and in nine cases out of every ten the persons who have committed suicide during the past decade in and about Pittsburg were driven insane or rendered destitute and despondent by drink's curse.

'Death due to pneumonia is the cause often ascribed by physicians for the death of their patients. In order that the friends of the dead be not subjected to humiliation, the words "superinduced by acute alcoholism" are frequently omitted from the certificate which is sent to the coroner.

'Pneumonia claims perhaps the larger share of drunkards. While under the influence of drink men subject themselves to exposure. While on a prolonged debauch they are careless about their dress, and have no regard for the condition of the weather, with the result that they contract severe colds, while their system is not in condition to fortify them against illness, and death follows.

'The old stereotyped phrase, "killed by a train," is used hundreds of times in a year by the Pittsburg newspapers, and it is brought into daily use as a result of drunkenness. Investigation into the death of most persons killed while walking the railroad tracks has proved that the victims were under the influence of liquor.

'Records of the local hospitals show that seventy per cent. of the victims of accidents placed under their care are due to intoxication, and in ninety out of every one hundred cases brought to the hospitals in patrol waggons, Demon Alcohol has figured prominently.

'If any man or body of men in Pittsburg thinks he is fully alive to the deplorable conditions that have been wrought by alcohol and its kindred destroyers of life, homes, and happiness, he is wrong.

'The whiskey bottle is in evidence in most of the hovels in the districts inhabited by the families who are frequent applicants for aid at the office of the Department of Charities and Correction.'

'The liquor laws in Allegheny County are as stringent as in any other place in the United States, but, notwithstanding this, toppers are multiplying, our prisons are filling up, and records of charitable institutions show that intemperance is flourishing, and nothing is being accomplished toward curing the drunkard.'—'The Pioneer.'

## The Famous Wrestlers and Alcohol.

Two of the most famous wrestlers have been giving their testimony about food and drink. Georges Hackenschmidt says:—'I am convinced that it is not desirable in the search for health and strength to lay down too strict limitations in the matter of diet. Thus it is well to eat what tempts the appetite, for a meal which is distasteful rarely has a beneficial effect. But, as regards drink, there is one law of the Medes and Persian order which must on no account be broken—never drink spirits. Alcohol, from the standpoint of strength, is the germ of death.' His opponent, Alimed Madrili, says:—'Good health is Nature's greatest gift, and you can become strong and healthy if you will bear in mind these few rules. Firstly, eat plain food, and avoid alcoholic liquors.'—'League Journal.'