

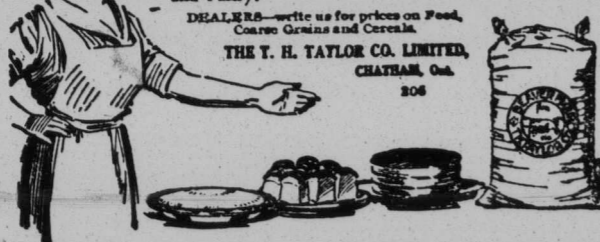
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(Formerly The Carrillo-Patterson Mfg. Co., Limited)
ST. JOHN, N.B. HALIFAX, N.S. SYDNEY, N.S. Ad. No. 1

England Free or England Sober

A strange alternative indeed, yet often on men's lips today, and forcing itself now as a proposal on which they must come to a decision!

For we are to be asked in England to follow the example of America, and to seek national sobriety by making excess absolutely impossible; that is by withdrawing from the individual citizen his right of self-government in the matter of choosing what he will drink. Sobriety is to be gained at the price of Freedom. Temperance is to be for many identified with compulsory total abstinence.

The policy of Prohibition, that is of making it illegal to manufacture, import, and sell any form of alcoholic liquor or beverage, implies a violent invasion of individual liberty as liberty has hitherto been understood in all civilized nations.

It proceeds on the assumption that such liquors are so plainly malefic in their effects that the evident interest of the community requires their total suppression.

If this assumption were securely grounded in the experience of civilized mankind, and in the deliberate verdicts of scientific men, it might seem superfluous to examine the policy of Prohibition which it sustains; but since the contrary is notoriously the case—since the use of alcoholic beverages is as old as civilized communities to-day; since the voice of medical science is so far from giving a clear verdict against the temperate use of such beverages that mainly doctors both recommend it to their own patients, and confirm their advice by their own example—it needs no argument to disallow the assumption on which the policy of Prohibition is based.

What is the implied principle? It is nothing else than the ancient fallacy that abuse cancels use. Because the evils of excessive drinking are grave and extended, it is argued, that moderate drinking should be suppressed.

But moderate drinking and excessive drinking are not kindred phenomena differing only in degree. That is the cardinal error of Prohibitionists. They describe the moderate drinker as the undeveloped form of the drunkard, whereas he belongs to another category altogether.

Tyranny on the March
The drunkard may be kept from drinking by force; and to that extent he may be called sober; but he is as destitute of self-control as ever, and will fall into some fresh excess on the first opportunity.

The moderate drinker is a self-respecting man, whose habit is a temperate use of alcohol, and he will carry that habit of moderation with him wherever he goes.

America, if Prohibition is enforced, will be no more than before, but far fuller of unrecognised drunkards—that is, of men without self-control, whose sobriety is imposed from without and has no secure roots within the man himself.

The notorious growth of the drug habit wherever the policy of Prohibition is adopted proves the moral worthlessness of enforced sobriety. It is interesting to read that the Americans are already crying out for stern action against those who use drugs.

The only security against excess which is worth having is a habit of self-control, and the formation of that habit is endangered, if not rendered impossible, by the "cotton wool" policy of Prohibition.

Prohibition implies the unrestricted right of the majority to coerce the minority. It takes for granted that there is no department of individual conduct which lies outside the majority's rightful control, no personal rights which the majority need respect, no sphere of private liberty into which the majority may not intrude.

If the principle of Prohibition be sound, it must be capable of general application. Alcohol is not the only abused article of human consumption nor the only one with respect to which its abuse stands connected with grave consequences.

The more thoroughgoing Prohibitionists have the courage of their convictions. Already extensions of their favourite method are projected.

A crusade against the use of tobacco is on the way. The vegetarians are stirring. Clothing and amusements can hardly be omitted from the care of these coercionist reformers. The censorship of plays, sumptuary laws and the venerable ecclesiastical device of an Index Expurgatorius may yet form part of the machinery of a modern democracy.

If majorities are to enjoy a more than papal infallibility, so that every

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"Fruit-a-lives" is certainly a wonder. For a year, I suffered with Rheumatism; being forced to stay in bed for five months. I tried all kinds of medicine but without getting better; and thought I would never be able to walk again.

"One day while lying in bed, I read about 'Fruit-a-lives' the great fruit medicine; and it seemed just what I needed, so I decided to try it.

The first box helped me, and I took the tablets regularly until every trace of the Rheumatism left me.

I have every confidence in 'Fruit-a-lives' and strongly recommend them to every sufferer from Rheumatism.

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thing they determine needs no other title to universal acceptance, it cannot be supported that interference with personal rights will stop short a compulsory total abstinence.

Obsta principia ("Resist the beginnings") is a sound principle for the guidance of free men when tyranny is on the march. The logic of persecution is as attractive as it is venerable but its conclusion is always the same—a vicious circle of violence and reaction, violence provoking reaction, reaction justifying violence.

If the object aimed at is to make England sober in the American sense, that is, unable to get any alcoholic liquor to drink, it may well be the case that Prohibition, if Englishmen can be brought to accept it, may be the right method. But if we would aim rather at building up a strong self-respecting type of Englishman, then we shall not have recourse to that method.

Like most sharp-cut antitheses, that which opposes "England free" to "England sober" is a mixture of truth and error. The last lies in the suggestion that the two qualities can ever really be severed. Freedom apart from sobriety would be a hollow pretence. Sobriety without freedom is a contradiction in terms. Freedom is only then fully possessed when sobriety has become the habit of life, and sobriety is only a genuinely moral condition when it has been freely chosen.

The great Churchman who joined the antithesis, and whose name is now inseparably linked with it, was him self careful to guard his words. As he used them they are wholly true, and cannot be improved upon:

"If I must take my choice whether England 'should be free or sober, I declare, strange as 'such a declaration may sound, coming from one of 'my profession, that I should say it 'would be better that England should 'be free than that England should be 'compulsorily sober. I would distinctly prefer freedom to sobriety, be 'cause with freedom we might in the end attain sobriety; but in the other 'alternative we should eventually lose 'both freedom and sobriety."

Archbishop Magee did not state the whole which is why the policy of coercion would entail Prohibition can not be reconciled with the tradition of Christianity, or with the teaching and example of Christ. Accordingly the Churchmen must not be restive under a law which seems to challenge their most sacred convictions.

How can that be properly prohibited as antioceal which was not only

HEALTHFUL ADVICE

During the aftermath of influenza or any other prostrating illness, the logical tonic is

SCOTT'S EMULSION

which enriches the blood and strengthens the whole body, via nourishment. If you would recover from influenza, try Scott's.

allowed by the Lord but was deliberately entrenched by His command in the religious use of His Church?

Illiterate believers think they can avoid this intolerable paradox by supposing that the wine mentioned in the Gospels was unfermented, but such a way of escape is not open to educated men. Nor is it possible to argue that the original institution of the Eucharist may fairly be revised in reference to the knowledge and experience of the modern world; for the doctrines of the Prohibitionists do not command the general acceptance of modern statesmen and scientists; and the reverence of believers must needs be offended at the suggestion of short sightedness or error in Him; Whom they worship as Divine.

But few things could be more cruelly harmful to the State than that the law should become unpalatable in the eyes of those religious people who are its natural supporters.

The Test of Experience

That "you cannot make men sober by Act of Parliament" is quite as true to-day as it was before the war. You can associate sobriety with oppression, and thus give a spurious legitimacy to excess.

Even if the unsoundness of its principle did not disqualify it for our acceptance, Prohibition is of all policies that which most needs to be tested by experience. As an emergency measure, indeed, it has many recommendations, for all its results are obtained at once; but as a settled policy it is open to the gravest objection.

Tabulate results for the first five years, and the effect of Prohibition seems amazing indeed. Wait a generation, if the impatience of the community will permit, so protracted a trial, and you will find many of the old mischiefs have come back in worse forms, and some new ones have been created.

Let the American experiment be well tested before it is proposed for the adoption of Englishmen. For the present we shall be wise to give more attention to the known consequences of the smaller experiments already made than to the bold assurances of those who have carried through the larger project.

We may do this with the more confidence since we have every reason for knowing that drunkenness is decreasing; and that along the line of social reform, on which we have en-

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During the war, acid imitations were sold as Aspirin in pill boxes and various other containers. The "Bayer Cross" is your only way of knowing that you are getting genuine Aspirin, proved safe by millions for Headache, Neuralgia, Colds, Rheumatism, Lumbago, Neuritis, and for Pain generally.

Handy tin boxes of 12 tablets—also larger sized "Bayer" packages can be had at drug stores.

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tered, the final victory over this obstinate evil is assured.

H. H. HERFORD

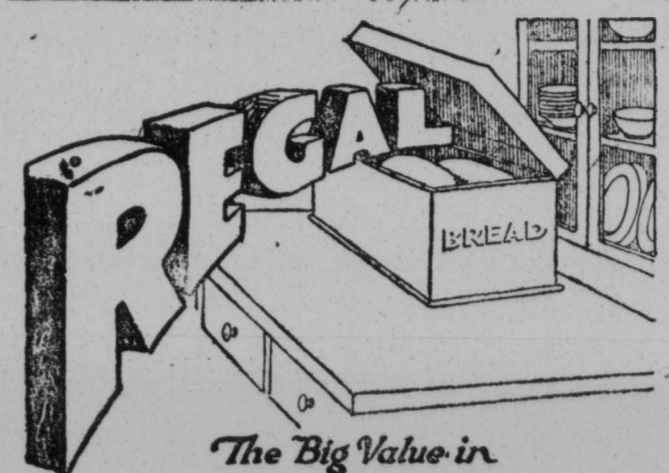
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