

West. Pliny adds that no glass ever made can compare in excellence with Indian glass, a passage which is rarely quoted, yet one which plainly points to the antiquity and invention of glass in the Orient. But it was not mere-

ly in the industrial arts that India and China led the Western world; they led it in astronomy, medicine, the graphic arts, and in legislation. The earliest conception of the soul, as distinct from the body, is to be found in the Indian scriptures.

DOES PROHIBITION PAY?

With the current number of Appleton's Magazine is inaugurated a series of articles under the above caption, concerning which the editor, in his introductory note says:

In almost every consideration of what we characterize broadly as "the liquor question," the point really at issue is prohibition, whether or not that word comes to the fore. People are not discussing temperance, in the sense of moderation, on which there is no respectable difference of opinion. . . . Few now deny the wisdom of some restrictive legislation as to the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. . . . Altogether outside the common range of discussion as to the efficiency of legislation there is a question truly American and deserving of reply: Does prohibition pay?

Applying the individual test, Mr. George C. Lawrence discusses the question from the economic side. He begins his article with a reference to a notable dinner which was given twenty-two years ago to a famous physician. There were nineteen guests, all of whom applied themselves assiduously to the rare wines placed before them. The host meanwhile sat at the head of the table nibbling dry toast and sipping mineral water. "Isn't that pathetic?" said one of the guests to the famous physician. "Yes," was the cynical reply, as the medical man poised his glass in midair. "Nineteen fools and one wise man."

It appears that eighteen years later the twelve survivors of this gathering met at another dinner. Ten out of the twelve drank mineral water. For reasons of health or of business they had become convinced that liquor-drinking did not pay. In that incident, Mr. Lawrence thinks, is to be found the true explanation of the present widespread legislation against liquor-selling. "Look around among your friends and associates in business," he says, "the men you know and meet, and note the change within your own recollection." In the army at the close of the Civil War practically every officer drank; "to-day one-third are total abstainers, and drunkenness costs a man his commission."

Economic conditions—in common parlance, "It doesn't pay,"—form the great underlying factor of the anti-drink movement, which is primarily neither moral nor religious, but "a cold matter of dollars and cents." Steadily man has been forced to the conclusion that he cannot afford to drink.

The economic aspects of the anti-drink movement are many. There is the all-important one of productivity.

Man is, if you will, simply an engine, and the question of running that engine most cheaply and efficiently is the question of its highest productivity,—its greatest economic value. . . . Purchasers of labor,—whether that labor be of a sewer-digger or a Senator,—want results from the human machine. And it has been demonstrated that the human machine run on alcohol falls far behind that which is not. . . . No one has ever made a practical internal explosive engine operated by gunpowder, though many may have tried. No one has ever evolved an efficient human machine working on alcohol, although millions have tried.

In discussing the aspect of longevity, Mr. Lawrence presents some remarkable figures prepared by the eminent English actuary, Sir Victor Horsley. Where the average mortality among adult males of all classes is 1000, that of saloon-keepers is represented by 1642, and of total abstainers by 560. Out of 100,000 inhabitants at thirty years of age, only 44,000 ordinary persons reach the age of seventy years, whereas 55,000 abstainers do

so. Consequently, reckoning the population of the British Isles at 44,000,000, it is evident that if they were all abstainers the kingdom would be the gainer every year by more than 4,000,000 work-years; and, figuring the average annual earning capacity at \$500, temperance, if adopted in England for economic reasons, would increase the labor output by \$2,200,000,000 annually!

In the United States, according to life-insurance tables, the percentage of the actual death loss to the expected loss was: among abstainers, 78 to 100; among non-abstainers, 96 to 100. The increase in mortality among the Indians, when alcoholic liquors were sold to them, is a matter of common knowledge.

The economic waste of alcohol is recognized by many classes of professional men. Lawyers are no longer drinking men, as many of them were in the days of Aaron Burr and Daniel Webster. Fifty years ago many a doctor steadied his nerves for an operation with whiskey. To-day few, if any, do so. Why? Simply because it doesn't pay. With the workingman the question is still more vital. Figures show that he, too, is decreasing his consumption of drink. He has found that alcohol is not the right kind of fuel for the human machine, and that therefore it is an economic waste to use it. In many cases the use of intoxicants while on duty is prohibited. Some firms require their employees to sign the pledge.

The higher one goes in the social scale the more general is the acceptance of the fact that the use of liquor is economically wrong for the individual; and the same economic law applies to groups of individuals, the towns and cities. "This is the explanation of the national spread of prohibition which has made 55 per cent. of the country, with 33,000,000 inhabitants, 'dry territory.'"

SENATOR BURROWS ON THE NATIONAL WEALTH

Some of those who listened to Senator Burrows at the Chicago convention, saw and heard things which did not reach the eye and ear of the thoughtless throng. Senator Burrows was telling of the great productions of wealth of the past year. He specified \$4,331,000,000 in flocks and herds; \$7,412,000,000 in farm products; 420,000,000 tons of coal; \$90,000,000 of gold; 5,000,000 bales of cotton and 19,000,000 pounds of silk in manufactures; 25,178,000 tons of pig iron; and billions of dollars' worth of other products. Just then there came from a distant corner of the gallery a voice that would have paralyzed Senator Burrows had he heard it; a voice that would have stampeded the delegates had it reached them; a voice that nevertheless seemed to those with ears to hear to fill the auditorium. Alluding to this vast catalogue of wealth, that voice asked, "Who got it?" And at that instant, as if in answer, a great scroll at the rear of the platform unrolled, visible only to those who had the eyes to see, as the voice was audible only to those who had the ears to hear. The Daniel who interpreted the mystic legends on that scroll, pointing his finger the while at the delegates in the body of the hall, read these ominous words: "More millionaires than ever before. Millions of tenant farmers, and of farm owners staggering under purchase-money mortgages. Fewer home-owners. Greater need for charity to relieve the sufferings of workless workers." Luckily for Senator Burrows and his co-partisans, they neither saw the scroll nor heard the interpreter. But the scroll was there, and the voice was there, and the judgment is at hand.