

discourage as far as possible the traffic. This would secure the first object—the elimination of the money influence—and at the same time provide (so far as that is possible to-day) that the liquors consumed should be pure—a decided gain in all respects over the drugged beverages so fearfully common.

Out of the profits of this sale the Government to establish coffee houses with comfortable rooms, where men could meet to spend their evenings, smoke their pipes, discuss politics or any other subject; and where, at the same time, meals could be had at as cheap a rate as is consistent with the cost. Such houses would, we think, be supplied by our citizens with attractive literature free of cost; and might well become places where free lectures and talks would be given on subjects of vital importance to the health and happiness of our people, as well as on lighter topics of general interest.

That there are difficulties attending the plan we are well aware, but a frank and unprejudiced discussion of the question would probably tend either to the removal of these or to the suggestion of some plan which might embody the points which it is desired to attain, and eliminate the defects. The question of penalties for illicit sale would, it seems to a layman, necessitate joint Dominion and Local legislation; inasmuch as any penalty for non-payment of fines which did not involve something of the nature of hard labor on the streets would probably fail of its object.

It seems desirable to make the *purchase* of liquor from illicit sources punishable as well as the sale, and to take from the offender the privilege of refusing to tell where the illicit liquor was obtained; and at the same time to do away with the sale or whatever else it may be called of intoxicants at the rich man's club, as well as at the tavern.