

THE FRENCH LAW.

An Interesting Synopsis by a Celebrated English Writer.

We don't mean by this the outlandish schemes in vogue in Denmark or Sweden, of which one of our bishops is so strongly in-morored, nor the more distasteful ideas of Canada and the United States with which our English system is proposed to be inoculated, or rather poisoned. By no means. We allude to something nearer home, at any rate no further than that which exists on the other side of the English Channel. We have from time to time heard much of the general temperance prevalent in France. That being so, there can be no possible harm in ascertaining in what respect our system differs from that across the silver stream. Possibly we may learn something from it, either in the spirit or in the letter. The French licensing system is one practically of FINE TRADE.

In England we reverse this order: we have free trade in everything but drink. The French cannot at all reconcile this with the general current of our national freedom and liberty. In France, where the sale of drink is accompanied by the sale of soul, or is supplied to lodgers, no license is necessary. But where drink alone is sold the prefectural license or permission is necessary. The decree is that no cafe, wine shop, or other place where drink is sold on the premises is to be opened without the previous license of the authorities. These do not concern themselves, as we do, with the local wants of a district. They consider that the applicant is the best judge of the necessity, otherwise he could not sink his capital in an undertaking that was not likely to succeed. Some years ago a committee of the House of Commons reported in favor of throwing the whole trade open with a maximum license duty of £30. Parliament, however, did not sanction this. The Licensing Justices of Liverpool did for a few years try the experiment of granting licenses to all respectable applicants, and it was not attended by any evil result.

THE PREMISES ELIGIBLE

for a license are only those which are of easy access for police supervision, and the applicant must furnish guarantees for his orderly conduct of his house. His personal character and antecedents are as minutely inquired into as with us, and they must be equally satisfactory. The supervision and control of licensed houses in France are in no respect inquisitorial. There is no police register of licenses kept, nor any record of the names and private histories of the traders, and no minute particulars of their establishments. The cost of a license is merely nominal, only some eighteen-pence. A patente, the equivalent of our license duty, ranges from only £2 to £6 per annum. The facility with which licenses are obtained prevents any considerable increase in the relative value of public houses.

REPRESSION OF DRUNKENNESS.

This is closely attended to; great pains is taken to inform the public of the penal consequences of the offence. For instance, a printed broad sheet containing the police regulations, the repression of drunkenness and the correction of the abuse of intoxicating liquor must be prominently displayed in the principal drinking room of every house in which stimulants are sold. For the first offence of public drunkenness the penalty ranges between one and five francs. A repetition of the offence within twelve months is punishable by imprisonment for a period ranging between six days and one month, with a fine of 16 to 300 francs, with power

to double the heavier fine in cases of subsequent conviction. Besides the above, a second conviction for drunkenness subjects the offender to the deprivation of his civil rights—that is to say, to vote at an election, to be elected on a jury, or in any kindred function, or to be employed in the administration, or to carry a gun—for two years.

THE PUBLICAN

who sells to a drunken person, or receiving such into his house, or selling to persons under sixteen, exposes himself to a fine of five francs, with increased punishment for repetition, such as the closure of his home for a term not exceeding a month, and prohibition from selling drink for consumption on the premises.

CLOSING HOURS.

These are not fixed by rigid limits, but regulated solely by local requirements, and the particular character of the business. Some houses are closed at midnight; others are allowed to be open till one or half-past, and these hours may be extended on application and the statement of a special necessity. Any infringement of this law is punishable by fine or the temporary closing of the premises.

GAMING.

The French law prohibits gambling—that is games of hazard, or playing for heavy stakes on licensed premises. When an offence of this kind is proved, the house may be instantly closed. But billiards, cards and other pastimes are allowed.

ADULTERATION.

The mode of proceeding for this offence is somewhat similar to our own; but there is no law regulating the price and quality of the articles sold. The publican has full liberty to reduce at his discretion the strength of the spirits he sells by the addition of water. The only legal restriction imposed upon him is that his manipulation shall not be detrimental to the public health. With Laurence Sterne we can say, "They order this matter better in France."

MEASURES.

The sale by standard measure, based on the metrical system, must be used for the sale of liquor, except when the sale is by the bottle or the glass, when the quantity is optional and arbitrary as between the seller and the consumer.

We have long thought that it would be desirable to procure information as to the licensing system prevalent in all those countries in Europe with which we have diplomatic relations. There would be no great difficulty in obtaining answers to the subject. At present the proposal is to follow the example of two only, viz., America and Scandinavia. The former is a new country. The latter may be said to be not much more than half civilized. If we must borrow, why go so far a-field? Surely we can find better manners and more polish in some of the older and more civilized countries of our hemisphere. Why not go to them?

BREWERS' GRAINS.

Make Excellent Feed if Properly Procured and Fed.

DELYN BROS., creamery butter manufacturers, Woodworth, Wis., write Prof. Henry, of the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, as follows:

"A number of our patrons are beginning to feed brewers' grains, which cost something less than 84 per ton. What effect will they have on the milk, and will the feeding injure the bulk?"

To this the professor replies as follows:

"In the process of making beer from malt, the malt extract is soaked out of the malted barley grains, leaving each grain a watery shell. Below I give the digestible constituents of brewers' grains containing water, dried brewers' grains and Indian corn for comparison. Digestible constituents in 100 pounds:

	Carboly-	Fat.
	Prots. 2	strates.
Brewers' grain	16.2	9.5
Dried brewers' grains	35.5	5.3
Indian corn	7.1	62.7

"The fresh brewers' grain are three-quarters water. Considering this it will be seen that their nutritive constituents run very high.

"Properly fed, brewers' grain are all right for dairy cows. Improperly fed they are exceedingly unsatisfactory. These grains loaded with water are often bought at a very low price in comparison with hay and with other grains. Because of their abundance and low price, improvident dairymen feed them to excess, withholding the proper amount of other grain and sufficient coarse fodder to properly go with them. Thus the cow is improperly fed. In the second place the grains must be received fresh from the brewery daily to be in proper condition for feeding. It is easier to get them 'once in a while,' and in such cases they are sometimes putrid and in very bad condition for feeding. In the third place, this wet feed being given in the barn, the water from the grains drains off through the floor-boards and lodges about the feed mangers and under the floors of the barn, where putrefaction sets up, filling the barn with bad odors. The germs from the decaying grains, as mentioned in the last two cases, get into the milk and cause improper souring and other troubles. Fed when fresh, in reasonable quantity, along with some other grain and a liberal supply of good hay or corn stalks, with everything kept clean, brewers' grain are a splendid cow feed. They can be fed in this way and should never be wasted.

"I advise this company to make its patrons sign a contract that they will feed fresh grains only, in reasonable quantity, exercising the greatest precaution as to proper cleanliness and wholesomeness of the feed. If the patrons will not comply with such rules, I should object to the fresh grains being fed. "Our most enterprising brewers now have arrangements for drying these grains, getting rid of all the superfluous moisture and making the grain as dry as bran. As shown in the analysis for dried brewers' grains such is very rich feed, richer than bran and very satisfactory."

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It will bring you comfort and ease
It will save your clothes and hands
It does not require washing powders

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Potassium Sulphite

The Best Known Preservative in Use.

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