

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

The police records of Portland, Maine, show that the arrests for drunkenness are more there in proportion to the population than in any other city in the United States.

A resort in punishing hotelkeepers and others for violation of the law that magnifies too frequently overlook is the fact that the individual who tempts another to break the law is in reality worse than the actual breaker.

Isn't it about time ice-cream Prohibition societies were formed? The other day at Chester Depot, Vt., four hundred moral reformers, who wouldn't take a "hink of beer for their lives, partook of the deadly ice-cream with the result that six of them were made ill while some of them at last accounts, were reported in a critical condition.

JOSE BURKE, 504 King Street east, Toronto, was fined five dollars the other day for selling a single cigar on Sunday, on the information of one Joseph Florence. A man who will induce another to break the law and then inform on him is the most despicable of God's creatures and should be punished in preference to his victim. The tempter is the evil one. Joseph Florence should be tarred and feathered.

A DISPATCH from Chicago, date August 16th, states that President Greenhut, of the Whiskey Trust of the United States, has ordered all the distilling companies in the trust to shut down. It is said this action is due to the sharp advance in the price of corn, and to the large amount of stock the trust has on hand. The distillers manufactured the present stock with corn that cost 24 cents a bushel. With the cereal ranging at about 60 cents whiskey cannot be made at a profit.

An order has been enacted by the city council of Charlotte, North Carolina, fixing a minor 25¢ if he is found in a saloon. This is undoubtedly a move in the right direction. In many cases saloon-keepers have been fined for selling to minors when they have no means in the world of ascertaining a customer's age. The ordinance places the responsibility where it

belongs. People who go to a place when prohibited by law are surely more entitled to punishment than those who serve them in ignorance of the real state of things.

It is, indeed, an ill-wind that blows nobody any good. Even the protracted debate of the tariff in the United States Senate has benefited some people. They are the proprietors of hotels and boarding houses in Washington. Not only are the senators and representatives and all their dependents detained in Washington, but the representatives of all the protected industries are compelled to linger around there in order to look out for their interests, and they all have to be provided with food and lodgings, of course. Hence the joy of the Washington hotel and boarding house keepers, who have an entire monopoly of the delight.

A GENTLEMAN, a druggist to wit, is now living in Toronto who is over ninety years of age. He is hale and hearty and avows his intention to live thirty years longer. He is not at present a smoker, but he has been a moderate drinker all his life and was at one time in the British army. Speaking the other day he said that his father died at 105 and that he wouldn't have succumbed then only he stayed out too late one night. These facts have been brought to mind by a despatch from Rondout, N.Y., setting forth that Hugh Frai, 101 years of age, drank too much beer on Tuesday night and was locked up. Some time ago he was arrested for drunkenness on the Bowery, New York city. He has been a steady drinker for many years. Frai says he was born in Ireland in 1793, and his friends in Ulster county, where he has lived for more than half a century, believe it. There is surely nothing very frail about a man who is capable of going on a spree at 101. But, doubtless, our temperance friends will hold the case up as one that reflects terribly on the use of beer.

INTERVIEWED by a representative of the *Westminster Gazette*, Private Rennie, the winner of the Queen's Prize at Bisley is thus described, so far as his conduct interests the trade: "In reply to questions as to his mode of life and what preparation for shooting he considered necessary, he frankly stated that he was by no means a teetotaler, was fond of his

pipe, and did not believe in any training." Another great marksman at Bisley—Mr. Walter Winans, the phenomenal revolver shot, is a total abstainer. He does not, however, believe that a man who drinks cannot shoot, but he is of opinion that his own temperament is such that if he himself drank he could not shoot so well as he does. The two cases simply illustrate, remarks the *London Licensing World*, that there is some force in the old adage, "What is one man's meat is another man's poison," and show how absurd it is for teetotal fanatics to claim that no man who drinks can be a good shot—or, in fact, good at anything.

The breweries in the United States owned by British syndicates are not in the most flourishing condition. Recently the directors of the San Francisco breweries had before them the annual report for 1893-94, when it was shown that sales had fallen off 11 per cent. and that prices had fallen 42¢ per barrel. The chairman stated that he thought the shareholders would scarcely be surprised at the state of affairs, bearing in mind the deplorable state of business in the United States generally, and more particularly in San Francisco, because the further one went West, the worse was trade. Their business had been energetically handled, and therefore they were bound to credit the loss to outside influences, and not to the effect of the inside management. They had, moreover, been unfortunate in many respects lately, as, owing to the Silver Bill, their trade with Mexico had considerably diminished, while freights had been a great deal against them and in favor of the Eastern States. Another large and unsatisfactory item was that of bad debts, which amounted to \$16,000, or \$5,000 more than the previous year. A committee was appointed to investigate the state of affairs.

EX-GOVERNOR ST. JOHN, formerly a Prohibition candidate for the United States presidency, is at the head of a new departure in life insurance in New York, which promises to afford some interesting information. It is proposed to inaugurate a total abstinence department in one of the great life insurance companies, and it is started with the supposition that enough total abstainers will insure in the company as such to form a separate and distinct class of policy holders. Every

man taking out a policy as a total abstainer will be required to pledge himself to abstain from the use of alcoholic liquors as beverages, medicinal use not being prohibited. The enterprise rests on the supposition that the rate of mortality will be smaller among total abstainers than among other policy holders. And yet it is stated that no difference will be made in the rates to total abstainers. If there is any virtue in the contention it is apparent that there should be. It is our opinion that Mr. St. John's venture, if successful, will prove nothing. In the first place he will have no guarantee that the pledge is kept; in the second, statistics already available prove that moderate drinkers are the longest-lived, and, in the third, what may be true as to one insurance company may be anything but true regarding a dozen others.

COMMENTING upon a letter written by Mr. C. W. Radcliffe Cooke, M.P., advocating the extensive use of cider, the *London Daily Telegraph* recently said: "The fanatics of abstinence must agree with Mr. Cooke's statement that for the most part their artificial thirst-quenchers are very nasty and not very wholesome. If, indeed, pure water could be obtained, all would accept the dictum of the Greek poet Pindar, that nothing could be more excellent. But where is the water that can be trusted until it has been boiled? Half the zymotic diseases which plague great populations, enter the body by means of water-drinking. And, seeking a way out of this danger, the teetotalers have created what Mr. Cooke calls many aerated abominations offensive to the self-respecting stomach and damaging to the cause of temperance. What a magnificent advance might be made by them towards a restitution of popular favor if, ceasing to mourn for the broken pledges of Sir William Harcourt and their lost Local Veto Bill, they boldly took up with Herefordshire cider and Devonshire perry, conciliating patriotism with good taste, and satisfying at once the throat and the conscience! Analytical chemists, sadly skillful, have shown by experiment that there is hardly a beverage sold under the fanciful and innocent names of teetotalism which does not contain alcohol; but, with regard to cider, even the primate kinds contain only a small percentage, and Nature has not granted internal capacity enough to the Somersetshire laboring man to get drunk upon the apple-mug."

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