

THE ADVOCATE

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Comment.

We congratulate our able contemporary the *Fair Play* of Chicago, upon the completion of its fifth year of existence. *Fair Play* being conducted on the principles signified in its title deserves to go on and prosper, and we trust that it will.

It is stated that Manitoba Prohibitionists are not pleased at the treatment they have received at the hands of the Dominion and Provincial Governments, particularly the latter, and are now engaged organizing a separate political party.

The *Boston Pilot* compares the editor of the *Wine and Spirit Gazette* to the bull that tackled the bee-motive, and it opines that he will find very few allies within or without the church in his foolish attempt to belittle the courageous archbishop of New York.

On another page we give many expressions of opinion on Monsignor Satolli's decree. We have refrained from quoting any trade journals, because naturally they in the aggregate would be pretty well all of the one way of thinking. We also quote the view of a number of the Roman Catholic clergy.

The Catholic Total Abstinence Society of America was in session at St. Paul, Minn., last week, and it entirely disregarded St. Paul's advice to Timothy to take a little wine for the stomach's sake. But the members of the society attended church and took a little of the same for their consciences' sake, thus atoning for their neglect of the scriptural injunction in the other case.

GOFFERSON TILLMAN, of South Carolina, not only resigned his dispensary saloons on August 1st, but he gave notice to all hotel-keepers to close down their bars within fifteen days. It is said that the other will be totally disregarded and that Governor Tillman will himself be yanked before the courts for disregarding the decision of the State Supreme Court that his dispensary law was unconstitutional.

Some time ago we mentioned the fact that Mr. W. W. Bushman, of the *Traveller*, Hamilton, intended to publish in serial form a book entitled "Men of the Movement." We hadn't seen any-

thing more than the bare announcement then. We have now seen the first of the seven numbers that the work is to comprise, and we should think it would command a ready sale among the followers of the "Men of the Movement."

A MOVEMENT is on foot at Montreal among the hotel men to organize themselves into a society similar to the Dominion Alliance, their object being to fight the latter on its own grounds. It is argued that at present the Alliance has paid officials who are ever on the aggressive, who are ever prepared to fight liquor men, and that the latter being entirely without such organization are often beaten. This is a common-sense view of the situation.

Those people who have reviled the Dominion Government for appointing a commission to inquire into the liquor trade will be interested in knowing that the U. S. Senate has passed the following: "The Commission of Labor is authorized to investigate the alcoholic liquor traffic, its relations to revenue and taxation, and its general economic, criminal, moral, and scientific aspects in connection with pauperism, crime, social vice, and the public health and general welfare of the people."

AN American hotel proprietor, Mr. Charles Coen, proposes to make an artificial island in the Atlantic ten miles off the coast of Long Island, in order to build a summer hotel on it, thus securing sanitary conditions, and avoiding the mosquitoes. The spot is marked with a flag carrying a white flag with a red star. The water is 70 feet deep there, and the foundations are to be made by sinking sixty iron caissons, each 15 feet in diameter. The spot is beyond the jurisdiction of any nation, and the owner will have to pay neither rent nor taxes, and can make his own laws. The island is to be called Atlantis, and it is estimated, will cost a million dollars.

The licensing laws are very strict in Western Australia. The penalty for serving a drink on Sunday is £50. An hotel-keeper at Perth was recently mulcted in the sum of £150 for illegally refreshing a party of three on the Sabbath, the court refusing to regard the three drinks as constituting a single offence. Another singular feature of the licensing law in Western Australia is that

the licensee must not absent himself from his house for more than 28 days in the year, except by special permission of the stipendiary magistrate, a restriction on personal liberty, that has long been the source of much irritation and indignation to the trade.

THE *Times* is anxious to find out how the decisions of the License Commissioners regarding the decapitated license holders could have been improved on. One important improvement would have been to announce the names of the victims three months ago instead of keeping them dangling like Mahomet's coffin between earth and heaven until the last moment, almost, for reasons that were apparently of a purely political complexion.—*Herald*. Our contemporary says correctly. Those who have had their living taken away should have been given the usual three months' notice and not have first been deluded with vain hopes and then suddenly decapitated. In fact, when there is to be a wholesale lopping off of licenses, and holders are to be sacrificed on the mere whim of a council, and not to be closed down because of any offence on their own parts, a year's notice would be all too little to give. It is terribly hard and unjust for a man to spend his life perhaps in building up a business and then, by the wave of a hand, to have it taken away from him. Aldermen and others in their anxiety to curry favor with the temperance crowd are too apt to forget that license-holders are men, and are liable to be heads of families the same as others, and that for them to be thrown on the world all of an instant, losing at the same time probably everything they own, is quite as great a hardship as it would be to throw out any of our big wholesale merchants or bank managers. In fact, comparing the resources of the latter class with the resources of the former, it is an even greater and severer hardship.

The beer boycott in Germany does not appear to flourish. A correspondent writing from Berlin under date of July 28th says: "The Social Democrats in Brunswick, who, for some time past, have been waging a war against several of the breweries in that town, finding that a partial boycott has not answered their expectations, have now decided to boycott all the breweries in the same way as has been done in Berlin, in the hope of thus being able to force the breweries to

come to terms. Judging by accounts from various sources the general boycott in Berlin is proving as ineffective as the original boycott levied against the seven breweries which incurred the displeasure of the Socialists in the first instance. The attendance of the public at beer houses and restaurants supplying boycotted beer is reported to be the same as if not greater than, in ordinary times. On the other hand, the number of hall-proprietors who have refused their establishments for Socialist meetings in consequence of the boycott increases from day to day. Another measure has, moreover, now been taken against the Social Democrats consisting in the rejection of the *Forward* newspaper at public houses. Thus 101 restaurant keepers at Rixdorf, a suburb of Berlin, have unanimously resolved to stop taking in that paper."

LIKE all measures intended to improve upon the regular channels of trade the Gothenburg system threatens to become a thing of shreds and patches by reason of many changes and so-called amendments. One of the arguments of the people who believe in the honesty and purity of nothing has been that as the profits derived by the Gothenburg plan are largely applied to purposes which would otherwise be destroyed by taxes, there must be, and often has been, a tendency on the part of local governments to encourage the sale of liquor in order to increase the profits, which would lessen the taxation. Through the changes made by the Norwegian legislature only 15 per cent. of the profits will now go to the town or city treasury, 20 per cent. to the company, for distribution among temperance and other charitable institutions, after providing the legal rate of interest on the capital, while the balance—that is, 65 per cent.—will be paid over to the state for the formation of a special fund. It is not yet determined how this fund shall be employed, but it is generally understood that it will be ultimately devoted to the creation of a system of old age pensions—that is, each citizen in Norway who arrives at a certain age, say 65, will be entitled, if he cares to advance the claim, to a moderate pension to support him during the remainder of his life. It is really very hard to see where this method is any improvement upon the licensing system. The old-age pension scheme could be just as easily formed out of the money paid for licenses as out of the profit derived from the sale.

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