

handled by saner and more impartial minds.

According to the Rev. Ben Spence and other temperance orators, the working class districts of our cities are seething with poverty, drunkenness and vice, and for this heritage of woe a few saloons are responsible. It is true that there are very many poor people in the slum districts of our great cities and there are also many rich people, who make their money in these districts and live outside of them, and who are possessed of the idea that poor people must be bad and that they themselves are only rich because they are good. Do Sir Joseph Flavelle and Mr. Rowell, to name some prominent pillars of the temperance party, wilfully close their eyes to the fact that the evils from which the people suffer are just as much economic as moral? Does not the meagre wage, which the high cost of living devours at sight, paid in so many industries, preclude the average workman from setting up at an early age a home of his own with its moralizing influences and leave him with no refuge for his evenings save bare bedrooms or the saloon? It is all very well to disclaim against the evils of drinking as a kind of devotional or ecclesiastical exercise, but it is impossible to curb the unconquerable spirit of man by nursery restrictions or measure their souls by the footrule