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Coffee Club vs Saloon

An experiment in the interests of temperance and morality was the Subway Tavern of New York, which was an attempt to run a respectable liquor saloon (so far as such a saloon can be made respectable) in connection with a restaurant or coffee house. As everyone knows the experiment proved a failure, and now the Subway Tavern has become a liquor saloon of the ordinary sort. An experiment of another kind, and, it is gratifying to note, with better success, is being tried in some of the towns of California. In reference to this the New York Times says:

"Some time ago the California town of San Diego started a coffee club to afford a place of entertainment and recreation where no intoxicating liquors or cigars or tobacco in any form should be sold, and the success of the enterprise has been in every way satisfactory and gratifying. A private company started the institution, and it was provided that no profits should be divided, whatever accrued being continuously capitalized with the view to establish other houses of like kind. A second one has been opened in the same city, and there are similar places in Los Angeles, Santa Clara, Petaluma and Bakersfield. They are all successful financially and socially. In Los Angeles the two clubs are visited by from a thousand to fifteen hundred persons daily. It costs about two thousand dollars to launch a club, but once going it pays its own way and prospers, becoming in time the parent of others. It is estimated that the saloon business has been cut down one-half in the towns named."

The two experiments set side by side are instructive. They seem to show clearly enough that there is small hope of making men temperate by persuading them to improve the quality and reduce the quantity of the liquor they drink. But if they can be persuaded to avoid the saloon with its liquors and all the influences associated with it the results are likely to be excellent.

The Doukhobor Problem.

Another outbreak of fanaticism among the Doukhobors, but apparently not of so violent a character as some which have preceded it, is reported from the Northwest. The problem of how to control these people and make useful and intelligent Canadian citizens out of them is somewhat perplexing. They have their virtues. They are admittedly sober, honest, cleanly and in a measure at least, industrious, and they appear to be enjoying a fair degree of prosperity. But they are subject to strange and irrational fanaticisms, and their rigid adherence to the communal system militates very strongly against their being absorbed into the common citizenship of the country. A man named Peter Verigin is a recognized leader among them. Whether his influence over them is for good more than for evil is a question in reference to which there may be different opinions. It appears to be recognized that Verigin restrains their fanatical outbreaks, but it also seems certain that his influence is strongly in favor of maintaining the communal life among them. In doing this he is promoting his own importance as the recognized leader and governor of the community. Respecting Verigin's position among the Doukhobors, the Toronto 'Globe' says he is regarded by many of his followers as even more than human. "This view," it says, "is prevalent among the women, and over them his authority is most complete. The power acquired may be surmised from the fact that if any colonist breaks away from the community his wife may be ordered home by Peter Verigin. The men return the surplus from their farming operations to a common fund, which is administered by Peter Verigin. They cultivate their land in large tracts, purchasing expensive machinery with the common fund, buy their supplies by wholesale, and have periodical distributions, the whole being in the hands of Peter Verigin, who seems to be growing in wealth with the community he leads. It would no doubt, be a great mistake to regard him as a designing and self-seeking schemer. That so many people know him well believe in him is a proof that he believes in himself. He could not deceive a whole community without deceiving himself first. No doubt he possesses that happy mental equipment which enables him to see virtue, justice, and the good of his fellows in the line of his own impulses; but while Peter Verigin may come and go, the communistic, subservient spirit that makes the Doukhobors an alien community seems likely to run

on through many generations. They will probably pass from one dynasty to another, their measure of success depending on the accidents of rivalry and choice. The settling of this colony in the Canadian West was an experiment, and as such the results should be watched with interest; but they are not sufficiently encouraging to warrant a repetition. One experience in this direction is quite sufficient. We have learned our lesson completely. It is now our duty to essay the slow task of transforming these troublesome fellow-citizens into real Canadians."

Colonel J. J. Harrison who has just returned to London, after a four months' expedition to the Congo forest, has received permission from the British Foreign Office to ship for England six of the pigmy demizens of the forest, who have accompanied him of their own free will, and with the permission of the Congo government, as far as Cairo. Naturally the adventurous explorer did not get into touch with this curious tribe without some interesting experiences which he has related as follows:

"When once I had gained their confidence they were quite friendly, and eventually six of them—four men and two women—volunteered to come with me to England. They freely conducted me to their villages, and at night time erected leafy structures, under which I slept. They are of an extremely low order of intelligence, and know absolutely nothing of what goes on around them. They seem to have no religious instincts and possess no idea of a Supreme Being. Their average height is four feet to four feet three and a half inches, and, curiously enough, as a rule, the women are taller than the men. The women have also better physical development. The men seemed to be strayed to death. A noteworthy fact was the prevalence of a terrible cough, due, perhaps, to the dampness of the atmosphere. All the pigmies suffered from this to such a degree that it was difficult to sleep at night. I had quite expected to find that serious lung trouble was prevalent, but was surprised to discover, as a result of medical examination of the pigmies who accompanied me back to Egypt, that the lungs were quite healthy.

"A striking characteristic of the people is their extraordinary silence; they will sit for hours without uttering a word. They are nomadic, and their only wealth is in spears. The number of spears determines the number of wives these people can afford. They are practically nude. The women's only clothing is a few leaves, while the men's attire consists of a scrap of skin around the waist. Their whole personal belongings consist of a poisoned spear or two and an old clay cooking pot. The women carry their infants slung across their sides.

"They are fearless hunters, and will boldly attack an elephant by rushing up to it and planting a poisoned spear in the brute. They are also a very warlike little people, and only a short while before my arrival in the forest they had sallied out, attacked and looted a Belgian caravan and killed seventeen porters. There were no white men with the caravan, and the native soldiers bolted. They eat like animals, even gnawing the bones of their prey. When an animal is caught they cut it up, skin and all, and put it in the cooking pot. Life in the forest is dreary in the extreme. It is always twilight, the sun never penetrating through the dense foliage, and for nine months of the year it pours with rain."

British Columbia a Fruit Country

British Columbia is coming into note as a fruit-producing country. Mr. W. T. Robson, one of the party of C. P. R. officials, who recently returned from a month's trip to the West, was impressed more than anything else with the remarkable development of the fruit-growing industry in British Columbia, and especially in the fertile Okanagan valley.

"The development of the fruit-growing industry in the Okanagan valley is really marvellous," Mr. Robson is reported to have said. "The orchards look remarkably well, and for size, fairly staggered me—and I have been accustomed to orchards in the fruit districts of Ontario and the United States. In one place I saw 80,000 peach trees that had been set out this season, and this is but a sample of the great things our people in this district are doing. The peaches I saw there were excellent, and compared favorably with those of California, Oregon, or any state in America. The packing is now being well done. Ex-

perts from California have been employed to instruct the local people in the most attractive and advantageous ways of marketing the fruit.

"The market is assured. Cases shipped on the boat I travelled by bore labels showing fruit consigned to the towns and cities of the prairie and the Kootenay. The day is not far distant when the Okanagan valley will supply the peaches for all western Canada. Peachland, Lambly's Kelowna, and Summerland are all prosperous places where the fruit industry will be the paramount source of revenue to the inhabitants. Already canneries are springing up in various places to take the surplus crop."

Great Britain and Germany

The press of the two countries would appear to be responsible largely for whatever ill feeling exists between Great Britain and Germany. There is, of course, some rivalry between British and German manufacturers, but this should not provoke international animosity, and there seems to be no reason why the two peoples and their Governments should not be on the most friendly terms. This appears to be clearly recognized by the statesmen of both countries, and if there is any danger that the peace shall be broken it lies rather in popular prejudice than in the attitude of the two Governments toward each other. Prince Von Buelow, the German Chancellor, has lately been spending a holiday at Baden Baden, and has talked quite freely to French reporters. In an interview with the Chancellor, printed in the 'Temps' of Paris, he refers to the persistent prediction that war between Great Britain and Germany is inevitable, as "a piece of stupidity." "They would hurt one another too much," he says, "and they will not try the experiment." He adds: "I do not underestimate the violence of the press campaign and the nervousness of the public, but I affirm that the Governments of London and Berlin have too much regard for their responsibilities to allow themselves to be influenced by such violence. If prejudices exist between the Germans and English, they will disappear sooner or later. France can help to dissipate them by calming instead of exciting public opinion. France's example, too, proves that it is always possible to effect a reconciliation with Great Britain. The same considerations apply to Russia. Our relations with Russia are excellent, as is natural and traditional. Why should France take umbrage? Germany is not enraged at Franco-Russian relations. The double system of pacific alliances assures the equilibrium of Europe. Friendships can and must overlap these alliances. You stand well with Italy, and we with Russia. It is only necessary not to give the Franco-Italian rapprochement an anti-German character, and the Russo-German rapprochement an anti-French character. What is easier?"

Patent Medicines

The 'Montreal Witness' makes a reasonable plea for legislation regulating the composition and sale of patent medicines. The public certainly has interests in this matter which are important enough to demand protection. There is no reason why the public should be at the mercy of quacks and charlatans who by shameless and persistent lying impose upon the sick, persuading them that some worthless nostrum, of the composition of which the purchaser is kept in total ignorance, is an infallible specific for some, if not all forms of disease. "In Germany, as we understand," says the 'Witness', "no one is permitted to advertise a medicine without registering the formula and inscribing it on the packages. What honorable reason can there be for not making the same requirement in this country? It would, at the same time, of course, be an indictable offence to make the medicine false to the description. Such a system would let many a deluded mortal see that he or his family were under the guise of medicine, learning to tittle, and that the supposed good effects were simply alcoholic or opium stimulation. Legislators would also see the transparent subterfuges under which the liquor laws are evaded, and what preparations ought to be included under such laws. No doubt, alcohol is a convenient vehicle for many useful drugs, which are of a character to preclude a very free use of the alcohol, but when the drug becomes a mere excuse for the alcohol it is time that the preparation should be treated as an alcoholic beverage. The medicine industry is an enormously profitable one. Perhaps it is so in the inverse ratio to its usefulness.