

proposed plan, it is estimated that the one per cent. of wages will meet all the requirements of the fund. Should there be a surplus, the Government would be reimbursed for the expenses of handling the funds, otherwise the work would be done without cost. All available receipts are to be invested to increase the benefit fund.

It is held that such a system, carefully guarded against fraud for the benefit of the chronic idler, would at once relieve a large part of the demands for charity, would put the retired worker into a position of independence and self-respect, would remove the present social discontent from the workingman by relieving him from anxiety for his family and for himself, and at the same time spur him

by consumers of these intoxicants. The United States Government publishes each year in its annual "Statistical Abstract" the amount of liquors of all kinds, native and imported, that have been consumed during the previous fiscal year, which ends June 30. It is a simple problem then, after assigning the proper retail values to these drinks, to obtain the liquor bill of the nation. Upon the basis of the government report of the amount of liquor consumed in the United States during the year ending June 30, 1894, and the estimated retail cost per gallon by Mr. F. N. Barrett, editor of *The American Grocer*, published in this city, made for the Treasury Department in 1887, the following results are obtained:

LIQUOR BILL OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1894.

KINDS OF LIQUORS.	Gallons Consumed.	ESTIMATED RETAIL COST.		PER CAPITA.*		Internal Revenue and Customs Collected.
		Per Gal- lon.	Total.	Retail Cost.	Gallons Con- sumed.	
Distilled liquors, domestic....	490,551,052	*\$4.50	\$407,479,734	\$5.97	1,310	\$85,359,252
Distilled liquors, imported...	1,063,885	8.00	8,516,080	.12	.016	2,447,057
Fermented liquors, domestic.	1,033,378,273	*.50	516,689,136	7.57	15,135	31,414,788
Fermented liquors, imported.	2,940,949	*1.00	2,940,949	.04	.043	776,300
Wines, domestic.....	18,040,385	*2.00	36,080,770	.54	.264
Wines, imported.....	3,252,739	*4.00	13,010,936	.19	.048	3,706,387
Total	1,149,227,283		\$984,714,605	\$14.43	16,816	\$123,604,384

* Estimates of Mr. F. N. Barrett, editor of *The American Grocer*.

† The total consumption of domestic distilled liquors was 89,477,324 gallons, from which was deducted 12 per cent. for alcohol used in the arts, and to this was added 15 per cent. for the water added when sold at retail, making the 90,551,052 gallons of the table.

‡ Population officially estimated at 68,375,000.

on to better work that the benefits in the end should be the largest possible.

Our Nation's Liquor Bill.

They shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the Lord.
—Jer. xii. 13.

THE total cost to this country in crime, misery, and poverty, caused by the traffic in intoxicating liquors, is far beyond the measure of dollars and cents. Much of the indirect cost of the traffic can be but very imperfectly estimated. It is possible, however, to state with considerable precision the sum of money spent during the year

According to the above estimate it appears that during the year ending June 30, 1894, the people spent nearly one thousand million dollars for liquor, about one-eighth of which went to the Government in the form of internal revenue and customs. Counting women, babies, and all, we consumed an average of nearly seventeen gallons of liquor per capita, and squandered for it an average of nearly fourteen and one-half dollars per capita last year.

AND as a rule we gain more by being overwhelmed by a great truth than we do by ourselves overwhelming a small truth.—Parkhurst.