

TOBACCO.

Curious facts in regard to the use of tobacco seem to be as much in evidence these days as they were when the weed was first introduced into England from Virginia 315 years ago. At the Rock River Conference of the Methodist Church, which was held in Chicago some time ago, every one of the ten aspirants to the ministry who were ordained as elders by Bishop Warren, was required to pledge himself against tobacco. War is waged against tobacco as one of the great evils of self-indulgence by the law-making and executive bodies of the Methodist Church, and, indeed, by those of many other denominations; yet many of the older and more successful of the ministers smoke openly and above board, gaining inspiration as do poets and artists from the habit, and vowing that a good cigar is neither more or less than a luxury to one who can afford it.

Bishop John H. Vincent made a vigorous attack on cigarettes in the course of a recent address at Topeka, Kas. He classed the cigarette habit along with the gum-chewing and soda fountain habits—all trivial things in themselves, as he said, yet a miserable waste of money, a yielding to temptation and a surrender of self-control, which in later years makes slaves of our boys and girls.

The General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, which met in Omaha, reaffirmed a resolution directing that "no minister shall engage in home missionary work as a beneficiary of home mission funds; that no one shall be employed by the General Assembly or Board

of Home Missions in an administrative or clerical capacity who is to be paid for his services from funds contributed for home missions, who is addicted to the use of tobacco in any form." This resolution is in accordance with the action of that religious body in 1870, when it was voted that "the use of tobacco is demoralizing in its tendency and should be discountenanced by all who profess the Christian name," and in 1879, when it was resolved that "no student addicted to the use of tobacco in any form shall be granted aid by the board."

At a session of the Young People's Christian Union, held in Christian Union, held in Chicago, a resolution was carried requiring the members to pledge themselves to give up the habit of using tobacco if they had already contracted it. The Union was almost disrupted because the young women were allowed to vote on this question. But the young women had their say and tobacco was declared tabooed in every shape and form.

Now, how different all this prohibitive talk sounds from the calm philosophy of the great Prince Bismarck, who passed away after having enjoyed his pipe in war and peace up to the age of 83. In his table talk Bismarck is represented as saying: "When you enter on a discussion which may lead to vehement remarks you should smoke. * * * With regard to the mental condition, it does not deprive us of our intellectual capacity, but it produces a state of kindly repose. * * * The eye is occupied, the organ of smell is gratified—one is happy. In this state one is very disposed to make concessions, and our business—that of diplomat-



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