

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1905.

In the Temperance Field.

THE PROBLEM OF LIQUOR

A Toronto Paper Argues for Regulation and Moral Suasion.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The problem arising out of the excessive use of liquor cannot, according to the report just presented to the General Synod of the Anglican Church, be solved by drastic legislation. The Gothenburg system, from which much was expected, is said to be a failure. There is whole-sale drunkenness under the plan which gives the State control of the manufacture and sale of intoxicants. If the scheme is not satisfactory in its operations elsewhere it does not seem probable that it will work well here. The distribution of liquor by the government of any of the provinces would not be an edifying spectacle, and it is scarcely probable that it would contribute to good morals.

Apparently the dispensary system tried in certain of the European States has not worked well. At all events the statement is made on behalf of South Carolina that the sale of liquor by the State is demoralizing in its effects. It is "producing a generation of political cowards, run-suckers, drunkards and criminals." The State dispensary is alleged to be a huge political machine. They influence politics and manufacture a bad sample of humanity. It is thought that the taking over by the State of the authority to sell would limit consumption. That it should have failed in this regard, and that it should have promoted a condition the reverse of that aimed at, is disappointing. It is not safe to say that prohibition where tried has failed of its object, for controversy will at once be provoked. But the synod report ventures that opinion, and mentions Maine, with its dry laws, and its consequent demoralization, as a proof. While legislative experiments have not been successful, it appears that the attempt to substitute model liquor places for the regular saloon has its drawbacks. The other day it was announced in New York that what is called the "biabop's saloon" — a venture on the principle of the Public House Trust in England — had been forced to close for want of patronage. This enterprise was designed to become a substitute for the tavern, by selling alcoholic liquors having the smallest possible proportion of spirit in them, and by pushing the sale of soft drinks. It was a nine days' wonder, and when the curiosity had been rubbed off the place was deserted.

Philanthropic and legislative efforts to deal with the subject have not been fruitful of the results desired. In this situation it does seem that the best solution is impartial public regulation accompanied by moral suasion. There has been during the past half century a wonderful change in the drinking habits of the people. While there is too much drunkenness, the practice of excessive drinking is not nearly so common as it was, and socially the evil is frowned upon. The temperance campaigns of the early days, no doubt, helped to produce this improvement. The new generation is, happily, liberally provided with common sense, and there is reason to believe that education on right lines — example as well as precept — will give us a sober community.

Buying, possessing, accumulating — this is not wisdom. But doing this in the love of it, with no love of God paramount — doing it so that no thought of eternity and God is an intrusion — doing it so that one's life is sanctified in the process, this is wisdom. — Herrick Johnson.

Bad luck always follows the man who is continually grumbling about it.

ARRAIGNED THE BREWERS

They Are Charged With Adulterating their Liquors—Six Cases.

(Boston Transcript.)

That Dr. Charles O. Harrington of the State Board of Health has not ended his pure food crusade was made evident to five brewers who were arraigned in the supreme criminal court today on charges of adulterating their liquors. In all of the cases except those against one of the dealers the adulterating substance used was a compound of hydrofluoric acid, which was used as an antiseptic. In the case of the other dealer the adulterant was salicylic acid.

Charged with using the hydrofluoric acid in ale, the Massachusetts Breweries Company was arraigned on six counts. The distribution of liquor by the government of any of the provinces would not be an edifying spectacle, and it is scarcely probable that it would contribute to good morals.

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PROHIBITION IN NEW ZEALAND

Dr. Rutherford Says It Will Come Within Ten Years.

Dr. Rutherford, professor of physics in McGill University, who is a native of New Zealand, has just returned from a four months' trip to the Antipodes. In the course of an interview Dr. Rutherford declared that the extension of the political franchise to women had not had the disturbing effect in politics that had been predicted of it, and its effect, in so far as the cause of temperance was concerned, had been strongly felt on the side of the reformers. He believed that the next election would show a large extension of the franchise to women in New Zealand, where the people voted upon the liquor license question when they voted for the members of the legislature. If the temperance movement continued its present rate of progress the probability was that the whole country would be in ten years be a prohibition. In that case it would be an ideal place for the demonstration of the efficacy of the principle in the people who separated as they were from those of other states, would be able to give it a better trial than most countries could give.

Where there's a will there's a way for the lawyers to get some of it.

CONFECTIONERY AN INTOXICANT

The Increasing Manufacture of Sweets Containing Alcohol.

(Boston Transcript.)

Sweets in which liquors are impressed have been a puzzle to many people; they have wondered why the sugar did not dissolve. The answer, of course, is, says The Lancet, of London, England, that the liquid, whatever it may be, is kind of all saturated with sugar, so that it is incapable of taking up more sugar.

A simple solution of sugar in water for this purpose does not answer for a saturated solution of sugar is apt to crystallize, while if it is not saturated it will dissolve the sugar coating when placed in it. A most convenient vehicle for the purpose is alcohol, in which sugar is far less soluble than in water.

Until quite recently sweets containing a liquid prepared on these lines were fairly extensively manufactured. But the sale of alcohol of a strength exceeding two per cent, is, of course, illegal, unless a license is held by the manufacturer. The responsibility to prosecution under the excise laws, and the penalties are severe. On these facts being represented to the proper quarters the sale of alcohol in this surreptitious way in England was practically stopped, and we believe that sweets with liquid contents are now made which are free from alcohol.

Evidently another vehicle has been chosen which serves the same purpose. Some recondite source, however, of the sale of alcoholic sweets is reported to have taken place recently in the form of "liqueur chocolates." The chocolates were found as such in a case in a store, varying in strength from 8.7 to 11.0 degrees. Our contemporary penman, says the Daily News, that this means degrees of proof spirit, and if so, the actual alcohol present would amount to about five per cent, by volume. But it is obvious from the calculation that it would be quite possible to obtain a toxic dose of alcohol by taking a sufficient quantity of the sweets. The practice, however, is likely to be quickly suppressed by the excise authorities, who, in jealously guarding the interests of the revenue, check at the same time the spread of what might easily be a demoralizing traffic.

A LEGAL DECISION

A State May Prohibit Absolutely or in Part, Says U. S. Supreme Court.

The supreme court of the United States, in the case of State ex rel. Lloyd vs. Dollison, that the power of a state over the liquor traffic is not absolute, but that it may be absolutely prohibitory, or prohibitory conditionally, and that the fact that a local option makes it a crime to sell liquor with in a certain territory and not in other territory does not necessarily amount to a denial to any person of the equal protection of the laws; that it is not necessarily a deprivation of liberty or property within the meaning of the constitution to the judgment of a court in the manner provided by a statute of Ohio the amount of punishment to be levied for the local selling; that the judgment of a state court will not be anticipated by the United States Supreme Court by deciding in advance of trial what persons are qualified to act as jurors, and that one who is to be tried cannot complain until he has been made to suffer, and that the Ohio local option law for the regulation of the sale of intoxicating liquors was not unconstitutional on the ground that it deprived one attempting to sell liquor within territory to which the law had been made to apply of his liberty or property without due process of law.

COMMENT ON THE "SUBWAY"

Bishop Potter Not Downcast—New York Sun is Caustic on the Subject.

(New York Times.)

The Subway Tavern, which was dedicated by Bishop Potter a year ago with prayer and hymns, has ceased to exist as a philanthropic institution. Henceforth it will be run as an ordinary grogshop. All those who bitterly denounced the Bishop for perpetrating what they chose to call this outrage of "mixing whisky and religion," are now expressing their gratification at the failure. On the other hand, says the New York Times, "many people who have considered the temperance question seriously will read with regret the news of the failure of this novel sociological experiment."

There seem to be many causes which contributed to the defeat of Bishop Potter's scheme to establish a decent and law-abiding saloon in the subway of New York. It was impossible to follow God and chase the devil," said the proprietor in venturing his idea. On the other hand, which forced him to cater to the low elements of society, or to sell drinks to anyone after his head. The proprietor found that the man who wanted a drink, while the act of quenching his thirst had to be "rubbed" by a delegation of W. C. T. U. women, or a group of sociologists, or a group of religious fanatics, who were taking in the sight in a "Seeling New York" automobile. Too much publicity, therefore, helped to "crimp" the Tavern's trade. When the novelty of it had worn off, it became a deserted hole in the ground.

Bishop Potter, however, is not downcast. He still believes that his "idea is a good one" and is reported as saying that "the sinners, or fallers of a single institution which attempted to carry out the idea does not detract from its merit." But the New York Sun thinks that the Bishop's idea is impracticable and demoralizing. "The notion that under any circumstances or without any sort of circumstances a rumshop can be made other than it is, a place in which to get a drink and wholly removed from the possibility of any religious association and influence, provoked only amusement among people accustomed to such places, however seriously it may have appeared to the fanatics of sentiment and whimsical philanthropists. If a rumshop was a religious institution the proper place for it would be in a church as a feature of evangelism."

IT WORKED BOTH WAYS

Here's another one, brought over by a visitor to the other side. A member of a workingman's home in which he saw a picture of King William facing a portrait of the Pope. He remarked the reason for this queer mixture, and found from the wife that she was a Roman Catholic, while her husband was only a Protestant, but an Orangeman to boot. "How do you get on together?" asked the astonished politician. "Very well, indeed," harrumphed the wife. "Every week, on the twelfth of July, my husband goes out with the Orange procession and comes home drunk. Then he takes a bath, and goes to bed. The next morning I get up early, before he is awake, and take down King William and pawn him and buy a new Pope with the money. Then I give the old man the ticket to get King William out."

Better a human old than a calm Christian god. Who never hath suffered a trial. — Henry Austin.

HUMORS OF HISTORY---145



Arrest of Charles I.

The Civil War which followed as the result of Charles's attempt to usurp the supreme power proved disastrous to his cause. The Puritans, or Roundheads, as they were called, soon had matters all their own way, and Charles was arrested at Holby House by one Cornet Joyce. After being lodged, practically a prisoner, in various houses, he was tried on a charge of high treason in Westminster Hall, condemned to death, and executed 30 Jan. 1649.

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The Inches of Eminent Men

In a discussion of the Napoleonic idea that the greatest men of the world have been small in stature the Strand Magazine this month publishes some interesting figures regarding the height of the leading men of the day. An examination of the figures given will show that the character would lead to the conclusion that, as a matter of fact, height and brains stand in no relation whatever to each other.

In the line of European sovereigns we find the King of Italy the smallest, standing a trifle over 5 feet; Gen. Baden-Powell, 5 feet 2 inches; Lord Wolsey, 5 feet 7; and Lord Roberts, a little man, 5 feet 6 inches. Lord Kitchener, the greatest of electrical scientists, is 5 feet 7 inches; Marconi, 5 feet 9; Lord Ray is 6 feet 2, and Sir Oliver Lodge 6 feet 3. Most of the best known English writers are men under average height. Sir Conan Doyle is a six-footer, and Anthony Hope measures 5 feet 10 inches.

Turning from the modern leaders in every branch of life the investigator finds a long list of all men who achieved great distinction in the past—George Washington, 6 feet 3 inches; George Borrow, 6 feet 2 inches; Sir Walter Raleigh, 6 feet 5 inches; R. B. Barton, 6 feet; Obollet, 6 feet; Wall Whitman, 6 feet; Lord Brougham, 6 feet 2 inches; Sir Walter Raleigh, 6 feet 5 inches; P. Richter, Sheridan, Puvion de Chavannes, Corot, Delacroix, Lessing, Turgenev, Poussin, Handel, James, Thomson, A. de Masset, Sterne, Schiller, Romilly, Smollett, Molke, Mirabeau, Lamartine, Gounod and Millet—all tall men.

An interesting fact pointed out, and well substantiated by history, is the difficulty of judging the height by mere observation. Testimony varies regarding the size of many great men. Middle height is peculiarly misleading. The writer in this case cites several instances of this. Resett's brother describes him as of "rather low middle stature;" another man says he was "of full middle height;" and a third "rather over middle height." Really he was 5 feet 7½ inches, or full middle height. Those who know Edward VII. simply from his picture would judge him a short, stout man. As a fact his height is above the height of the average Englishman. The Anthropometric committee of the British association has figured the mean height of the people of Great Britain at 5 feet 7½ inches. The King's height is 5 feet 10 inches over this.

THERE WAS A REASON

(Scottish American.)
They were sitting by the fire one stormy night. The husband was reading extracts from the newspaper, while his wife sewed. "There has just died in Leicester," he read, "a man who may be considered a model husband. During his fifty-three years of married life he never spent an evening out of the house." "Look at that, now!" exclaimed the lady. "Nothing could tempt him away from his fireside at night. He was never detained late at the office; he never had an important engagement at eight o'clock. He didn't go to clubs; he— " "Never spent an evening out of the house," continued her husband. "He was paralyzed."



WORK FOR EVERYBODY

(Congregationalist and Christian World.)
The world today is sensitive to the sympathetic touch of any one who wants to guide it toward higher moral levels. In whatever direction we turn our eyes we may see nations and races ready to be helped or ready to help others. In every country our fellow-citizens are at work to hold forth Christian ideals and to bring the whole world to accept the leadership of Christ; and all parts of the world are brought into such close relations that what influences one part affects the whole. We who believe that through prayer we work with God, who hear the call to love what we want to establish His kingdom, should also strive to fulfill ourselves as to what is needed in all these lands surely do not lack opportunity to make our own contribution largely. It seems a wonderful thing that one man, President Roosevelt, should act effectively to end a terrible war, and to win the applause of the world for securing a peace in which all the world rejoices. But how many unnamed men and women have labored and are laboring to make that act possible, and to make that peace lasting! In there any one anywhere who cannot have a share in this world work?

CHURCH AND COLLEGE

(From the Congregationalist and Christian World.)
This month will witness the departure of many young men and women from church circles to begin their college career. No part of the church life should be more fruitful than its cooperation with educational institutions to exalt their spiritual life and increase their influence. Let the church by frequent reference in speech and prayer keep in mind where these youthful representatives are and what they are doing. Why does not the pastor in public petition name the schools and colleges where the absent ones are passing to represent it in larger fields? And why should not the particular churches be mentioned in groups of students assembled for worship and religious conference? Closer fraternity between church and college would promote the spiritual welfare of both institutions.

Which would you rather lose, Jack—me or my money?
"Oh—O, Jack!"
"But I would. Because, don't you see, dear, if I lost you I could have the money to get a large reward for your recovery, and for my next game."
"Oh—O, Jack!"—Judge.

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