

NUMBER OF LICENSES SHOULD BE INCREASED.

The number of licenses issued eighteen years ago in this city has not been increased, although the city has increased in population three times over, the natural result being a strong monopoly in the liquor traffic.

The present number of hotels is entirely inadequate for our rapidly growing city, both as to bar accommodation and in number of rooms for transient and regular boarders.

The argument for a further reduction means intensifying the present monopoly, and while our temperance friends claim a reduction will stop any excessive drinking, and therefore raise the moral standing, the above unions claim that the campaign for reducing the licenses (if successful) will only aggravate any excessive drinking that may exist. We submit that by cutting off thirty-five licenses you only force a greater number into the bars of the remaining hotels, making a greater congestion, making it possible for a man to meet a larger number of his friends; natural result, a larger number of treats will follow. Now, if the number of hotel licenses is increased and spread over a larger district, it means that those desiring to drink beer or liquor will be enabled to do so in a more natural way.

The present monopoly would be made less, and a smaller number of men would gather in individual bars, thereby making it most improbable that excessive drinking would obtain. We find that the workingman, when he is in the business centre of the city on Saturday afternoon, meets a very large number of his friends, who have been drawn there by the great tendency of centralizing the hotel business, and as the people realize that no hotel exists near their place of residence, they continue to patronize the bars down town much longer than they first intended, and some cases of excessive drinking naturally follow.

Many of the temperance reformers (so called) would make you believe that they are in agony of mind because the workingman is in the habit of using liquor, which they cite as the cause of his poor financial condition.

Many of the same (would be) reformers, upon investigation, would be found to be those employers who are always opposed to their employes getting living wages.

They are opposed to you spending money on liquor, tobacco, cigars, buying an extra suit of clothes, or anything else which in their opinion uses up the larger portion of the very princely wages (I) paid to you, as they are then afraid you will point out that more wages is required to enable you and your family to live. In their opinion they have the only right to live, and those who are telling hard ought to be content with an existence. If you spend money on any pleasure you are robbing your family is their argument. I desire to say that the workers are now discerning this very prevalent form of "cant" and "hypocrisy" on the part of many would-be moral reformers.

Let me say again that if our moral reformers would put their shoulders to the movement to reduce working hours and elevate the wages, so that many comforts would be possible in the homes of the workers, then they would make impossible any excessive drinking that may exist. Usually the man who works the longest hours is induced by his physical exhaustion to use a larger quantity of liquor.

The trade unions are doing a greater work to stop excessive drinking than any society or philanthropic organization. The laws of trades unions tend to restrain any of its members from the excessive use of liquor. The trade union fights for a higher standard of living, better sanitary conditions, more comforts for the home, the abolition of child-labor and the sweat-shop, and urges development along moral lines.

If our moral reformers, including the preachers, would only realize the great struggle the masses are engaged in, and come to our assistance, then they would not be wondering why so many of the workers refrain from attending church, when so many of our bitter opponents are the main pillars in most of the churches.

Shortly before the death of the great temperance leader, Miss Frances Willard, in speaking of the progress of temperance in the slums of all large cities, both in Europe and America, expressed herself as follows: That she had at last concluded that the only way to advance the work of temperance, where excessive drinking existed, was to interest yourself in the poverty of the poor, and try and improve their material standing by helping them to improve their conditions of work. Then you can get them to listen about being temperate. Poverty is not the result of drinking, but an excessive use of liquor is a result of abject poverty.

The working man and the business man should unite to vote against any proposed reduction in number of hotel licenses, as instead of improving the situation (from a moral standpoint), the reverse would happen if a reduction by-law was carried.

D. W. Kennedy.

A distinguished and learned contem porary has figured it out that hunger is caused by the contraction of the muscularis of either the pylorus, the stomach, the duodenum, or of all together. This will bring comfort to the heart of many a bobo who has often wondered what caused him to yank up his belt a couple of notches.

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UNIONS HELP THE HOME

(By Geo. W. Perkins.)

Trade unions have done more to improve the home life and social and material well-being of women than any other agency or institution. As the husband or father's day's work is shortened, the wife's labors are correspondingly reduced and brought into a shorter compass.

Women are benefited more, if that is possible, by the good results of trade unions than the men, hence should do their part in building up and fostering the trades union movement. A certain well-known writer now in the employ of the United States Government, recently brought out the interesting fact that the number of marriages fell off greatly during the periods of industrial activity. This all proves that the more the men earn the greater the number of marriages. It must be a dull mind indeed which cannot understand that the more the men receive in wages the more they will have to spend upon the family in making life worth living, the home more cheerful. The more time the man will spend in it and away from the saloon and other places where he should not be.

The only way for man and woman to get better wages is through the trades union system of organization. Trades unionists who receive fair wages are enabled to furnish better homes. Better homes make better women. Better women make the whole world better. The unionist can afford to and does send his children to school longer. Well educated children make better citizens. The world has been made better by the trades union movement. It is the duty of every woman to do all that she can to assist the workers to organize, whether they be male or female. Every woman who works in any gainful occupation should be a member of the union of her craft. In doing so she is first helping herself—morally, materially and intellectually; second, doing her share to make the world better in every way and life more attractive and the better worth living.

Every time a woman does something to encourage the use of union labels she is working directly in her own interests. Every time she does anything to strengthen the trades union movement she strengthens and fortifies her own position for better social and economic surroundings.

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