

STRINGENT LIQUOR LEGISLATION IN AUSTRIA.

A report from Mr. Phipps, of the Embassy at Vienna, just issued by the Foreign Office, discusses a bill for the regulation of the liquor traffic in Austria recently presented by the Government to Parliament. "It is intended to combat the social effects of drunkenness, a vice which has made great progress during recent years in Austria." The statistics cited at the Vienna Hygienic Congress "also afforded proof of the salutary effects of the legal restriction imposed on alcoholism." Fifty years ago in Sweden the average consumption of alcoholic drinks was 51 litres per head per annum; now, owing to legislation, it is only 8 litres per head. In Norway a reduction of from 16 litres to 3½ litres per head has been effected, while in the Netherlands the number of brandy shops has been reduced from 49,000 in 1881 to 27,975 in 1885. By the new Austrian *projet de loi* licences are required for trade in liquors in less quantities than five litres; no other trade can be carried on where liquor is sold, not even that in estables, except

in hotels, dining-rooms, &c. "This stipulation is regarded as of exceptional importance, inasmuch as shops in small localities are frequented by all classes, and women and children who would be ashamed to visit or frequent public-houses, acquire in them a taste for strong liquors." The number of public houses is restricted to one for every 500 inhabitants; communes with less than a population of 500 cannot have more than one public-house. Shops where spirituous liquors are sold must be closed from 5 in the afternoon of the day preceding Sundays or feast days until 5 a. m. of the next succeeding working day. This does not affect dining-rooms, coffee-houses, &c. "Debts incurred for liquor in quantities of five litres and under are not recoverable at law if the debtor can be proved not to have paid a similar debt previously. All mortgage or guarantee bonds or promises given for such claims are null and void. Persons convicted three times of drunkenness may be prohibited by the local authorities from visiting any public house in his neighbourhood for a year.

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By order, A. GOBEIL, Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, 21st Feb., 1888.

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Tenders will not be considered unless made on the form supplied and signed with the actual signatures of tenderers.

An accepted bank cheque, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works equal to five per cent of amount of tender, must accompany each tender. The cheque will be forfeited if the party declines the contract, or fails to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order, A. GOBEIL, Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
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