

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Observer

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A COSTLY LIQUOR SALE.

A Chicago jury has awarded a verdict of \$30,000 damages to a man made blind by drinking a beverage containing wood alcohol. The damages are assessed on the firm of liquor dealers that sold him the drink.

This is aid to the first case of the kind. If so, it should serve as a precedent for many more. The fine is large, but who would give his eyes for even \$30,000?

The worst phase of the whole miserable business of illicit liquor sales since the country went dry has been the using of wood alcohol instead of grain alcohol. Every intelligent person knows the difference by this time, and knows that wood alcohol is almost sure to cause partial or total blindness, and often results in death. In one case, more than 200 deaths were traced to a consignment of wood alcohol "whiskey" shipped from Boston to New York and retailed there. In that case, moreover, the only punishment the culprits suffered was a short term of imprisonment.

Most of the people who make drinks from wood alcohol may be presumed to know what they are doing. The only way to stop the evil practice, whether they know it or not, is to impose punishment or damages commensurate with the harm done, in addition to the appropriate penalty for breaking the prohibition laws.

THE GERMAN MARK SWINDLE.

A tremendous swindle in counterfeit German marks has been uncovered in Boston recently. It is said to have drawn its victims from all over the country, the heaviest losers being thousands of girl clerks and women stenographers who were led to invest their small savings in the fraudulent German money.

Whispers of fortunes to be made by investment in foreign money have been rife for the last five years, but the wise have given no heed. The opportunities for crooked work are so many, and even with honest dealing the time when foreign exchange shall have recovered its normal value is so indefinite, as to make such investments the most extreme type of gambling.

Experienced men of finance who can afford to take chances and to wait for financial plans to ripen only laugh at the idea of putting money into German marks, Russian rubles, French francs and Polish marks. They invest in American securities, or put their money into American banks with sound capital and sound government behind them. It is only the credulous and the poor, who can least afford to lose, who are tempted by these tales of getting something for practically nothing.

They have been plenty of warn- ings on the subject, but apparently there is room for more. Before putting any money into foreign exchange consult with your nearest American banker.

FORGOTTEN SAVINGS.

A list of names was printed the other day in a New York newspaper, imposing alike in number and in significance. It consisted of 25,000 dead and forgotten savings accounts in banks of New York state.

Every one of those accounts had lain dormant for at least five years. Some of them have been "dead" on the banks' books for half a century. At least one in five years publication of such accounts is required by the state banking law. The list is growing slowly and steadily.

The least of those accounts is \$5. The largest run into the tens of thousands. Altogether they amount to many millions.

All that money lies in the banks forgotten. Interest on it accumulates, but to what purpose? Neither the people who deposited it nor their relatives get any benefit out of it. Some of it will be reclaimed, but eventually most of it will doubtless be forfeited to the state. The same situation exists, on a smaller scale, in every other state.

This is a phase of the savings game that should not be overlooked. Some of the "dead" accounts have died because the depositors have simply forgotten about them. Most of them, however, are probably dead because the depositors themselves have died and left no record of them. A husband opens a savings account without telling his wife, or a wife without telling her

CHILD LABOR DAY.

Sunday, January 23, is national Child Labor Day. If men and women who know little about the child labor movement and who consider child welfare work as a form of sentimental charity—and there are still such people—will devote a small part of Child Labor Day to learning a few elementary facts about the subject, the day may mark the beginning of tremendous progress in child care.

Owen K. Lovejoy, writing in The Survey, suggests an angle from which this work in behalf of the nation's little ones might be regarded. The child is the key to the social barn door. So long as we neglect the child and devote our money, our laws and our energies to a curing fully developed social ill, we are performing the tardy act of locking the door after the initial has been suffered. Of course, here may be other things in the barn to save, but that does not negate the actual loss.

Mr. Lovejoy writes: "There is no more fundamental line of social endeavor than the child. If we can make all our children healthy, well-educated and capable, how many social ills will drop off like dew? How many lines of relief will become needless? But if we neglect the child today, how much more trouble are we storing up for ourselves in the future."

"We must remind ourselves that it is not merely immediate aid to a given child we are using, but aid to the future of the whole country through that child."

This is one important motive in child welfare work. For the utilitarian mind it may be the only motive. But for many warm-hearted workers, the love of little children and the desire to give them a fair chance at life and happiness are additional calls to service.

FORUM

Frank Harris Thanks His Former Patrons

Having sold my Art Store in La Grande after seventeen years in business, and upon turning it over to my successor, Mr. Harley Richardson, I desire to extend to the good people of La Grande and Union County, my appreciation of their patronage and good will, through which my efforts have been, at least in a measure, successful.

I trust that you will give to Mr. Richardson the same liberal support you have given me and am sure he will render to you the same service and courtesy that it has always been my desire to give.

I expect to remain in La Grande and hope to enjoy the same pleasant relations with you, my neighbors and friends, that existed in the past.

Sincerely yours, FRANK HARRIS.

"The Case Against Tobacco," Physician's Strong Appeal for Anti-Narcotic Campaign.

La Grande, Jan. 20, 1921. Editor Observer: Perhaps the following from a communication by Dr. John Paine Torrey of Oklahoma in "American Medicine" (N. Y.) will add strength to the campaign being locally waged by the "Mutual Improvement Associations" (M. I. A.) of the L. D. & Church whose slogan this year is: "We stand for the non-use and non-sale of Tobacco." As the author says: "Vice kills, it always has, and it always will. It should never be encouraged even in its 'petty and innocent' forms by our leaders of thought and progress."

Yours very truly, JACOB H. TRAYNER.

To the Editor of American Medicine: I would like to see American Medicine stand out boldly for a campaign of instruction of our children concerning the use of narcotics, including tea, coffee and tobacco.

YOUR DRUG STORE IS OPEN

Week Days, 7:30 a. m. until 11 p. m. Sundays, 7:30 a. m. until 11 p. m. An announcement of impudence and strictness in the interest of satisfactory drug store trading. Note carefully the hours on week days and Sundays that our store is open. Remember that behind this announcement is the unbiased and sincere desire only to serve you to your complete satisfaction. This is best performed by arranging certain hours of leisure to all of us in the store who serve you.

We're Glad to Serve You and Serve You Right.

Clerk shortage, naturally, throws more work and responsibility on the shoulders of those in actual service. Real service to you comes from intimate and personal attention to your wants, with intellect keen and nerve devoted to your benefit. Make note of the opening hours of our store, week days and Sundays, and continue your shopping to these hours. On your part shopping will become convenient, and on our part we promise you the very best service that any drug store anywhere can supply. Store open every day of the week at 7:30 a. m.

Silverthorn's FAMILY DRUG STORE

LA GRANDE, OREGON. Cooked and Baked—The M. E. Ladies Aid Society. Special Red Sale Sunday (terminating January 23, at the Home Grocery Store, from 2 to 5 p. m. 1-21-21

...which have all been proved by careful investigation, to cause serious physical harm to our boys and girls, and to lay the foundation for indulgence in more harmful drugs later in life.

Coming from your editorials, I feel sure that you agree with me in deploring the cigarette peril, and threatening our school boys.

You doubtless know that tobacco consumption has increased by leaps and bounds since 1917.

I beg you not to confuse foods and drugs as you have done in "Prohibition of Tobacco."

Narcotic drugs are all habit-forming, from tea and coffee, which are but mildly so, to tobacco, opium, cocaine and alcohol.

The great difference between foods and drugs is in this habit-forming.

We need no law to protect the public or even foolish individuals from eating articles of food which hurt them, since foods

do not blind their users by habit to a point where in dosage always increasing, as do all narcotic drugs, in virtue of their action which first stimulates and then depresses.

Depression is the factor causing a demand for restimulation so forming habit, and craving for increase in dosage.

Because some people can control themselves better than others, that furnishes no argument for condoning or containing the use of any of the narcotic drugs because they are all habit-forming and therefore interfere with the very personal liberty which anti-prohibitionists talk about so much.

I know that you certainly would not advise a brandy and tea or a coffee and cornbread diet for babies or for growing children. I believe that tea and coffee lead to the use of tobacco and tobacco leads to a craving for alcohol and alcohol to morphine and cocaine.

Foods never act in this way and cannot be justly compared with narcotics.

Again, the action of narcotics is to "soothe, reconcile and calm," the soldier, student, athlete, or artisan, is cited; and the "stress and strain" of war or the turmoil of modern business life is given as an excuse for these "innocent

...ever exhausted brain, muscle or heart. We have an endless variety of exercise, play and amusement to suit all tastes, occupations and kinds of exhaustion. Narcotics, I repeat, act more simply, but the more simple method would be to club to unconsciousness the weary toiler, that he might forget the strain and stress of life.

Doublets an effective method, but hard on the liver. So with narcotics, effectively, but hard on the other physically, mentally and morally.

Because these drugs when long continued, all the laws of nature, which foods, recreation and play, build up and regenerate and put the man in condition to do this work better on the morrow.

No substitutes for tobacco? Why! there are no end of games and diversions out and in door sport, suited to all varieties of needs and tastes, for the sedentary and the active, for the music and reading, for those who like them.

I have very rarely seen strenuous work, when mixed with enough play and when unimpeded by vice or narcotics, do anybody harm. It is the way we were made to live, and so keep away disease. Right living is no hindrance to fun and joy, if it does not make life "unbearable," but more full and enjoyable. Life is never so joyous, full free and abounding as it is in a man or

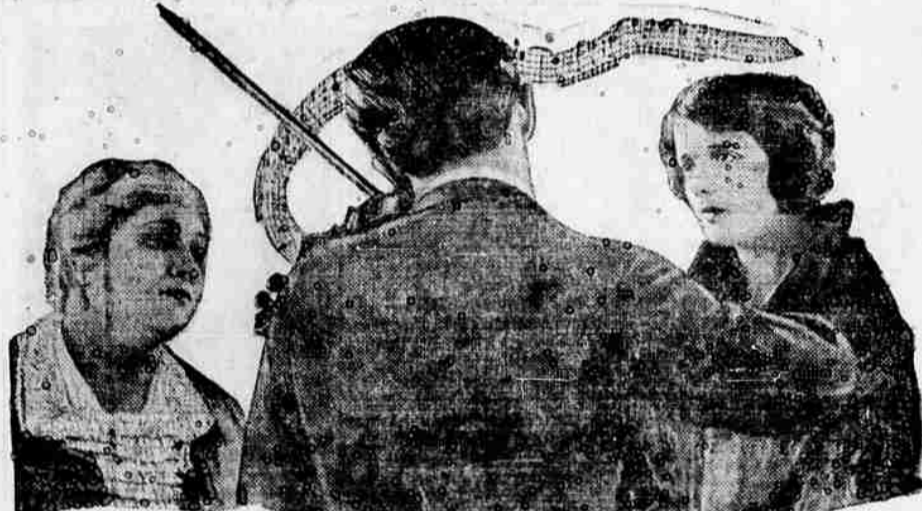
...woman who is living right and obeying nature's laws. Let us teach this to our children, and let us work for "pure living" rather than scoff at it. Virtue is not enhanced by an admixture of "petty vice," neither will virtue ever lead to the generation of the race. It is the soul that sinneth that shall surely die; we have the Almighty's word for it, while all history as well as every doctor's daily experience proves it true. Vice kills it always, and it always will. It should never be encouraged even in its "petty and innocent" forms by our leaders of thought and progress.

I challenge the experiment you quote, claiming increased production of an English factory after a three-hour smoke each day, and I will put up against it, a host of careful scientific experiments by able observers, to prove that which you yourself admitted in a former editorial, namely that tobacco lowers efficiency in the athlete, the soldier and artisan.

Men like Ford, Carnegie, Edison and Wanamaker, and many other large employers of labor, have found it to be true. Tobacco tends to laziness, selfishness and lack of ambition. I call upon all good men, who have the problems of humanity at heart, to unite in a campaign of no narcotics for our boys and girls. Won't American Medicine help?

SHERRY'S

Sunday Monday



Cosmopolitan Productions "HUMORESQUE"

A PHOTOPLAY featuring Alma Rubens A Paramount Artcraft Picture

The photoplay you've longed to see, With heart appeal that lifts and cheers And makes of life a harmony: That's "Humoresque."

The night before he had been the great musician, playing to rapturous thousands. Now he was just a plain old mother's "baby," playing to her and the girl he loved. Perhaps he should play no more—perhaps not see them again.

So he played "Humoresque"—that laugh on life, with a tear behind it—and was gone! Where? Why?

A story that blends the sly and the serene, the fun and the music, the sorrow and smiles of life is a happy melody silently played on the screen.

Silverthorn's FAMILY DRUG STORE LA GRANDE, OREGON.