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PROGRESS OF ARBITRATION.

Secretary Hay's announcement that this government is negotiating arbitration treaties with various European powers is gratifying from several points of view; among them from this, that it shows America is inclined to "keep up with the procession." Credit has generally been given to this country for starting the arbitration movement, or at least for giving it its chief impetus, says the New York Commercial. But a good many things have happened since 1872. Other nations have taken up the beneficent principle then so notably established, and, while no other nation has probably so often or so effectively made appeal to arbitration in special cases as the United States, at least one other has shown a tendency to surpass us in the extent of its permanent arrangements for arbitration. We refer, of course, to the United Kingdom, which has recently made permanent arbitration treaties with France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden and Norway. It may be that America will presently have a longer list to its credit. If not, it will not be the fault of the administration, which has done and is doing so much for the cause of international peace based upon the only secure foundation of international justice.

Arbitration is also showing progress in character as well as in geographical extent. The scope as well as the number of treaties is increasing. There is a marked inclination to include more and more among the subjects of arbitration. Two nations Denmark and Norway, have gone to the unprecedented length of sweeping away all restriction and declaring that all disputes between them, no matter of what character or what they involve, shall be submitted to arbitration. The close relationship between those countries and their peculiar status among the powers may make such an arrangement satisfactory to them. It is doubtful if any other powers, or, at any rate, any of the great powers, will for many a year to come consent to declare all subjects arbitrable. Nevertheless, the progress of events makes steadily in that direction by removing from the field of practical or conceivable debate such subjects as are regarded as unfit for arbitration. We should not, for example, submit to foreign arbitration a question involving our territorial integrity; but every year lessens the possibility that such a question will ever be raised. We should not submit to an alien tribunal a question affecting our national honor. But the better establishment of justice among the nations decreases the possibility that such a question will be raised.

The trend is, therefore, toward the practical elimination of non-arbitral questions from the category of questions that are likely to arise, and to leave practically only such as all are agreed may properly be submitted to arbitration. The strongest advocates of arbitration and peace may in time be quite willing that questions of national integrity and honor shall be excluded from arbitration, because they will be questions that never will be raised. It would speak poorly for international law and justice if it were not making directly toward that end. There, indeed, is one great point of superior value of arbitration over war. It settles things. A war within a nation may settle something. One between two sovereign powers does not. The very next year a war may be started over the very same issue to undo the effects of the former one, just as France began planning immediately after 1871 for her "revanche" and for the reversal of the verdict of the "Terrible Year." But there is no such planning to undo the work of arbitration. The verdict of an arbitral tribunal stands. It sets a precedent by which not only the nations concerned but others are thereafter guided, and which serves to determine the settlement of subsequent disputes. It is in that sense that the progress of arbitration is most real and most substantial and is most fraught with the promise of peace and justice for the world.

THE SOUTH AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

The Saturday Evening Post entertains the opinion that the prohibition sentiment is growing in this country. It points to the progress of the prohibitory in the south, where it declares, liquor

is not permitted to be sold in many communities. The Post's article, which follows, will prove interesting reading, even to those who may differ from it in conclusion:

For a decade a remarkable change has been going on in the south. The manifestations have been local but the results bear the semblance of a great movement. After the war the south had almost as many drinking places as it had stores. Today more than one-half of the counties below Mason and Dixon's line prohibit the sale of liquor. For instance, almost sixty per cent of Texas, nearly eighty per cent of Georgia, ninety per cent of Mississippi and all of Tennessee except eight cities have voted out the saloon, while even in Kentucky forty-seven counties are under prohibition rule.

There is nothing of particular political importance in these facts, but there is in them a vast deal of social and personal significance. In literature pretending to represent the life of the south the mint julep figures as conspicuously as the genial sunshine or the climbing roses, when, as a matter of fact, ice water or lemonade might be more realistic. The southern "majah, sah!" with some of his old manner, still hangs on, but the southern man of today is quite another kind of person. This may be a loss to romance, for, even to the abstainer, there is fragrance in the mention of mint which lemonade fails to suggest, and the major with his large manner and contempt for statistics fills more of the atmosphere than the quiet, agile worker who thinks of crops, cotton mills and stock quotations instead of the lost cause and its battles.

But the same qualities of grit, endurance and fidelity and cheerfulness which made splendid records in war are bravely at work solving the problems of peace. In most cases the liquor question has been handled as a plain business proposition. The saloon bailed enterprise, reduced the labor supply, increased lawlessness and kept communities poor; worse still, it played havoc with the individual. In more than four hundred counties the good citizenship of all parties arose and banished it.

Behold the benefits! This year the south has more money than it has ever known, more money for spending; so much of it in fact that three of the great cities of the north have formed special business organizations to secure southern trade, while the cities of the west have met the competition by the most alluring inducements. But the larger gain is in the general uplift of the population. Despite the occasional outbreaks of crime—in most cases where the saloons still exist—the whole trend of the south is steadily toward wise and safe conservatism, and the evolution of southern personality is producing broad-minded Americans who live clean lives, do good work and carry no chips on their shoulders. It has been said that had it not been for whisky there would have been no civil war. Hard drinking, both north and south, inflamed the passions engendered by slavery. It follows as a most hopeful fact that in the consideration of the race question, which lingers long after the abolition of human bondage, the work of conciliation and adjustment will be done by men of temperate habits and temperate minds. In the new conditions being wrought by the south itself there must come higher character and achievement than its oldest and finest chivalry could show.

BUILD THE HOSPITAL.

The St. Mary's Hospital Association, which has for many years conducted a hospital in Astoria, has announced that it intends to build a new hospital for the accommodation of Astoria's sick, and that the public will be called upon to subscribe toward the expense.

Probably no one will dispute the statement that Astoria needs a new hospital, but there may be some who will question the advisability of having the hospital built by the St. Mary's association and conducted as a Roman Catholic institution. It is for this reason this editorial is written.

The Astorian believes that in a case such as has arisen, the people of Astoria should forget differences in religious belief and pull together for the accomplishment of a most deserving end. Peoples of all nations have, almost from time immemorial, persecuted one another on account of differences in religious belief. The early puritans, who came to America to escape persecution, turned about when other colonists arrived on the New England coast and persecuted these because of minor differences in doctrine. Persecution in olden days was a barbarous thing. Men no longer torture fellow mortals as they did, but a certain kind of persecution has continued nevertheless.

Whether or not Christ spoke with literal meaning when He said, "Upon this rock will I build my church," is of no moment to the people of Astoria when they are considering the need of a new hospital. We have every reason to believe that the proposed Catholic hospital will be run on humanitarian, non-sectarian principles. The Catholics stand ready to build a hospital; the protestants have made no move in that direction. Astoria needs one hospital, but only one. Let Catholic and protestant pull together and build the hospital.

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