

PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 28, 1907

THE WORLD'S WAR ON DRUNKENNESS

Public Sentiment and New Laws Decrease Abuse of Stimulants

ALL over the civilized world the new century is witnessing an aggressive, and, in many places, a fruitful, war on drunkenness—on the abuse, more than on the use, of intoxicating liquors.

Discussions of temperance and local option measures have enlivened sessions of the Legislatures of a number of American States during the last winter.

Delaware, after a bitter fight, passed a bill submitting the matter of prohibition to vote of the people at next fall's election. By a narrow margin a similar measure failed in Pennsylvania.

After an exciting primary, Knoxville, Tenn., asked the Legislature of that State to grant the city a new charter which, among other things, will insure the city prohibition. In support of the movement there against liquor sales, it was pointed out that savings banks deposits have largely increased of late years in Southern towns where the sentiment for temperance in drink has prevailed.

Insurance societies are fighting the liquor habit in Germany; reformers in Denmark have greatly reduced drunkenness by en-

"THE WAGES"
After
Jacobin's
Group

was a year ago, judging from the decrease in the number of reported crimes of all sorts. Why? Without doubt, the war on vice which has lately been waged in the Lake City has had much to do with it.

The war was unique in that public officials and private citizens joined forces to wage it.

Chicago last year increased its police force to almost twice its former size, by adding 1200 men—this in order to hold in check some haunts of vice as disreputable liquor and opium dives—and passed a high-license act which, while not aimed at or affecting seriously the reputable saloons, was destined to drive out of business some 1000 of the noxious class of tradesmen.

Through the Law and Order League the citizens did their share in declaring for a safer, saner, more law-abiding city. Funds were raised, there were parades, lectures, street exhortation services, union prayer meetings in halls and churches; pledges were signed by wholesale.

Between the two forces, Chicago has experienced little less than a social regeneration. She has not yet reached the stage where it might be said that she is living the simple life, but she has improved mightily.

To lift the unfortunate from vice by withholding from them the means of harmful gratification—this is Chicago's idea, and it has worked well.

To raise vice victims to a higher level by educating and treating them away from harmful impulses—this is the idea of another city, Cleveland, Ohio, and it has worked still better.

"Applied humanity" is what "Tom" Johnson, Mayor of Cleveland, characterizes this system, which has outgrown the stage of experiment. Not common drunkards alone, but slaves to more deadly narcotics, are here reclaimed; a majority of them are made vice-proof for the future.

CLEVELAND'S ADVANCE

Cleveland has never been referred to as the wickedest or one of the wickedest cities in the world. Still she has had her share of crime. And her corrective methods didn't always tend to diminish crime. The order was to sentence a drink-ruined wretch to the workhouse; and he usually emerged with his thirst for intoxicants and crime unimpaired.

It is different now. There's a man in Cleveland named Cooley whose opinion on the curing of drunkards and drug fiends of one sort or another so impressed Mayor Johnson that he was given a chance to put them into practice.

Now, after the Magistrate has said his say, an unfortunate awakes to find himself not in a damp, stuffy, unhealthy jail cell, but on a large farm, whose walls are the horizon, whose only apparent restraint lies in one's desire to stay there.

In other words, it is nature's tonic. No other drink cure, say the Cleveland

same, the result—the defeat of overindulgence—is being gradually accomplished in different parts of the country. Everywhere seems to be manifest, in the higher planes of social development, that selfsame aspiration to master the appetite.

No one has heard Delaware spoken of as an intemperate State. Yet her people have been fanned by the reform wave. Recently citizens of various sections of the State proclaimed that there was too much drinking—that the man who could "take a glass and let it alone" was becoming scarcer.

So the Legislature in March passed a bill which will permit the local districts of the State next November to decide for themselves, at the polls, whether the manufacture or sale of liquors within their borders shall be allowed.

Pennsylvania's Legislature considered a local option measure at its last session, but did not pass it.

PROHIBITION INCREASES SAVINGS

In a majority of States such a law is in effect, but it would perhaps be difficult to show by statistics just what its effect on the temperance question has been.

Only sidelights of a local nature on this matter are available. For instance, the statement has been made unofficially that in those local option States in the Southern cotton belt, where thousands of municipalities have voted against the sale of drink, savings banks deposits have largely increased.

Largely to the attitude of employers on the question, too, may the decrease in excessive drinking be attributed.

There are few concerns employing large forces of men—especially where safety of lives depends upon clear brain and ready action of employees—which do not enforce some rule against the employment of intemperates. One may drink when off duty if he will; concerning that, the railroads and shops do not profess to have control. But such enterprises do usually say that no employee shall drink while on duty.

Railroads even hire men known as "spotters" to watch employees in this respect. In some instances men armed with snapshot cameras are hired to secure photographic evidence of violations of the anti-drinking rule, and such pictures often mean a man's dismissal.

With the railroads, as with insurance companies which refuse to issue policies to heavy drinkers, it is a matter of business and sentiment; but the effect is to foster moderation. Large manufacturing enterprises, shipyards and other concerns where great numbers of men are employed are becoming more pronounced and stringent in regulations aimed against the drink habit.

There are States which, through their Legislatures, have placed themselves on record as believing that high license—in some instances combined with local option—has the effect of reducing abuse of the drinking privilege.

It has been stated, for instance, that such legislation has, in Ohio, driven out of business 2800 saloons, and in Illinois at least a thousand.

Evidently, the effect is on the small dealer. Without doubt, many reputable dealers suffer. But the sponsors of high license legislation usually maintain that the most injurious class of drinking places—the dives—are more apt to be run by men able to pay a small license than a large one—in other words, that high license diminishes the class of dealers which the self-respecting hotel men are always opposed to.

couraging the use of beverages containing a small percentage of alcohol.

Beer and whisky are being superseded by tea in England; Ireland is consuming less of the brew; in France the government and people have been aroused to a determined fight against the deadly absinthe.

And so the war of sentiment of the new century goes. It is directed against the abuse of stimulants and intoxicants; it is aiming to bring men to a plane of safe and sane moderation.

Here's to your health and your family; may you live long and prosper.—Rip Van Winkle.

ALMOST since the world was born, probably, convivial spirits have pledged each other's health with spirituous liquors after the manner of poor Rip.

Somehow, to do so with plain water has never been taken half so seriously.

But the time seems actually at hand when the long-used "Here's to you" is on the wane; at least, so far as public drinking is concerned, State laws and city ordinances are doing more than ever before to curtail general abuse of the time-honored privilege to drink when, where and as much as one might wish.

It is not so very long since Chicago was quite generally referred to as the "wickedest city in America." In a single year there had been 122 murders there; in the first two months of 1906 there were 22 murders, 840 burglaries and 216 robberies.

How much of this unexampled condition might be traceable to excessive drinking or use of drugs of one kind or another, it would be impossible to say. Still there were those who laid the blame at the door of the "dope" dens and low-grade drinking place, and who pointed to the fact that 70,000 persons in Chicago were known to be victims of the cocaine habit.

Chicago isn't such a wicked place now as it

authorities, has ever been half so effective.

In operation less than two years, the "Cooley idea" has proved that the power of the bottle is not omnipotent, even in the worst cases that come up before a Police Magistrate. The dockets show constantly decreasing drunk lists.

Out on the 1700-acre farm, Cooley tells the men: "If you feel the desire for strong drink overcoming you, just tell me, and we'll see whether there isn't some way to get around it." But he says the strange thing about it is that the men seem satisfied; that after the farm work is done at night they smoke, play pinocle, tell yarns, and are contented.

So, although the methods are not always the

Chicago, at least, professes to have proved that the divekeepers are the ones affected, and that, therefore, at least in that city, high license has operated to promote temperance.

In arranging official control over the liquor business, even those States and territories in which the principle of local option, or community control, prevails, differ in their method of applying restrictive measures, especially as to the cost of license.

Georgia, for instance, imposes a tax of \$200 upon saloons in the counties, and of \$1000 upon those in the city of Atlanta.

In Arizona the most that is paid for a li-

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE PAGE)

LA PAYE