

## "Is Prohibition a Failure" Topic Discussed Before Professional Men

Excellent Address Delivered at Presbyterian Church by Rev. Charles E. Ward, Pastor of Congregational Church

"Is Prohibition a Failure" was the subject of an excellent address given at a meeting of business and professional men at the Presbyterian church this week by Rev. Charles E. Ward, new pastor of the Congregational church.

In developing his theme, Rev. Ward said:

No American who uses his intelligence believes the battle for prohibition of intoxicating liquors has been won in this country. Even the Constitution of our republic is not respected by many who claim to be "good Americans."

The eyes of the world are on America watching our experiment in prohibition. As prohibition goes in America so it will go eventually in all the world. It is defeated here no other great action will try it, if it succeeds in this country every forward looking people will eventually outlaw a traffic which has long been a curse to mankind.

We ought not to expect the Eighteenth Amendment to absolutely prohibit. We have had the law prohibiting murder for thousands of years, yet deeds of the most degenerate and lawless nature have been committed by Americans within the last twelve months. Shall we say that the law prohibiting murder is a failure and ought to be repealed or modified? The important question is: "has prohibition decreased drunkenness, reduced crime, improved living conditions and been a blessing to the home and to the masses?"

Taking up briefly the effect of prohibition on drunkenness let us confer with Judge Gemmill of the municipal court of Chicago who has made an extensive study of prison statistics for the last eight years. Judge Gemmill says: "There has been a decrease in the number of arrests for drunkenness in America of over 600,000 a year since prohibition went into effect." The judge gives the statistics of several of the larger cities to prove his statement.

Arrests for drunkenness in New York city in 1913: 22,000; in 1921: 8,169; in San Francisco in 1919 there were 17,354 arrests for drunkenness; in 1921 there were only 5,347; in Detroit in 1916 there were 17,469 and in 1921 only 7,220. But the most effective proof of the working of prohibition is to be found in its effect on those institutions operated to cure drunkenness. Before the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment there were 68 Neal institutes in America treating annually over 125,000 cases. After two years of prohibition all the Neal institutes were closed for lack of patients. There used to be 50 Keeley institutes for the "cure" of drunkenness. Most of us have heard of the "Keeley Cure." Today only 12 of the very small Keeley cures are operating! The "Inebriate Home" at Knoxville, Iowa had five great buildings to house its patients before prohibition days. But there are no inebriates now and the property has been sold to the United States government for use as a hospital and a home for disabled war veterans! Some of you may have heard of the "Washingtonian Home" in Chicago, established in 1893 for the care of inebriates. Before prohibition days it handled on the average 1500 cases a year. In 1917 it contained 995 patients. March 1, 1920 it closed its doors and has since been sold for other use. In the face of these facts can any honest investigator declare the failure of the prohibition amendment?

We hear much of the number of deaths from alcoholism today largely the victims of wood alcohol. Dr. Guilfoyle, registrar of vital statistics of New York city says that in 1916 there died in that city of alcoholic poisoning 687 and from drinking wood alcohol 2. In 1921 there died from alcoholic poisoning 119 and from drinking wood alcohol 14. Net gain for prohibition: 568; and that in a city in which little attempt

has been made to enforce prohibition.

Dr. Doane, medical director of the Philadelphia General hospital states that admissions into alcoholic wards in 1918 were 2326 in 1921 were 702

net gain for prohibition 1624

Has prohibition had any effect on crime? Of course we must state in all fairness to prohibition that many of the crimes such as banditry, burglary, theft, etc., may have no relation to drink and continue as before. Yet there are some interesting figures available on this point of crime reduction as a result of prohibition. The assistant warden of the Pittsburgh prison when interviewed on this matter two years ago said: "We have 540 cells and before prohibition we had as many as 940 prisoners, today 315 cells are empty." The state prison of Utah found its prisoners reduced from 297 in 1916 to 129 in 1921. In the famous Bridewell prison, Chicago there were in 1917-17,748 prisoners in 1921 there were only 5,653. In this Bridewell prison Chicago there were incarcerated in 1917 for wife and child abandonment 641; in 1921 for wife and child abandonment 1. Not gain for prohibition 640. A gain in this line ought especially to appeal to the women!

To quote Judge Gemmill again: "Twenty-two per cent of the falls in the United States have been without prisoners since prohibition went into effect and in 30 per cent of the falls the number of prisoners has been reduced from 15 per cent to 80 per cent."

We should not be misled by newspaper headlines into thinking that prohibition is causing a multitude of deaths. It is saving many times as many lives as it is costing. In 1840 when a Quaker, Robert Warner, sought life insurance in an English life insurance company the directors required him to pay 10 per cent more than the ordinary premium because, they said "he was thin and men-

tally cranked in that he repudiated the good things of God as found in alcoholic drinks!" Today most life insurance companies are chary about accepting a drinking man at any premium! In 1914 at a convention of presidents of large life insurance companies held in New York city, Mr. Arthur Hunter, chairman of the central bureau of the Medical-Actuarial mortality investigation representing 4 large companies and covering 2,000,000 individual cases over a period of 25 years, classed liquor dealers among the "most hazardous risks," and even moderate drinkers as "decidedly unsafe."

According to this investigation a total abstainer in good health at twenty years of age may expect to live to be sixty four; the moderate drinker in good health at twenty may expect to live to the age of fifty one; the hard drinker in good health at twenty may expect to live to the age of thirty five!

Has prohibition effected poverty? A survey made by the American association of social welfare work of New York city and by the Boston welfare society revealed that the number of families seeking aid as the result of the use of liquor in the home decreased 75 per cent in the years 1917-1921. This investigation was conducted in the 17 largest cities in the United States.

Let us not be misled by the stories of the press. As one newspaper editor said: "Violation of law makes news, while obedience to law is not news!" If there were more liquor consumed today than before prohibition went into effect all the liquor men in the country would be boasting for prohibition! It is the duty of every patriotic American to stand by constitutional government.

In a little village near Berlin there is an ancient graveyard, the

visiting place of many tourists. The graveyard is kept locked but on the gate is this notice: "The key to the graveyard is to be found in the tavern!" That is what the majority of Americans believe!

## DRAINAGE ASSOCIATION PLANNING ANNUAL TRIP

COOS BAY DISTRICT TO BE VISITED JUNE 4 TO 6

Sam H. Brown, of Marion County, President; Reservations Being Made

The annual field trip of the Oregon Drainage association will be held June 4-6. The trip this year will be over the Coos bay section. F. E. Price, extension specialist in soils, is planning with the help of the county agents, to make this the best trip ever held by the association.

A meeting will be called in Coquille Thursday evening, Friday will be spent in going over drainage projects in the Coquille valley bay section around Marshfield. Friday night the party will stay at Bandon. Projects will be inspected in Coos county Saturday morning and the return trip will begin at noon.

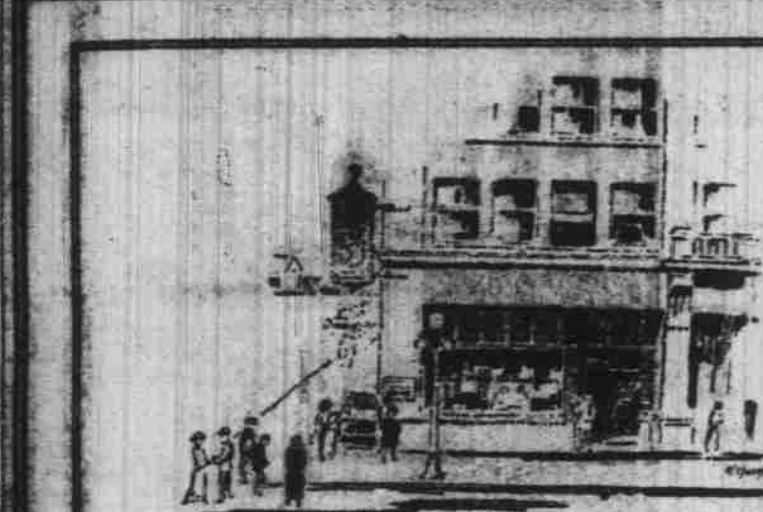
Officers of the association and others planning to make the trip are Senator Sam H. Brown, president of the association; W. L. Powers, secretary; James Kyle, president of the Oregon Irrigation congress; H. S. Rogers, reclamation engineer at the college; and R. U. Stillquist of the Oregon clay workers' association.

Persons interested in drainage who wish to make the trip are asked to communicate with W. L. Powers, secretary of the association at Corvallis.

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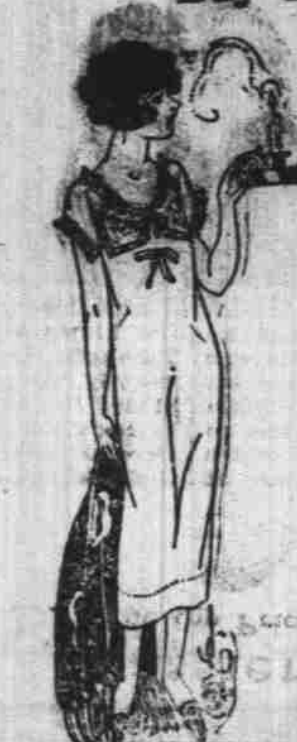
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