

GREAT BRITAIN'S WAY IS REGULATION, NOT PROHIBITION

There is no prohibition in England and, in the opinion of competent observers, there will be no prohibition in England.

Why? Because through common sense scientific regulation of the liquor traffic evils of drunkenness, extravagance and disease have been all but eliminated in a highly successful trial period of five years, but without depriving the sensible ninety-five per cent of the population of personal liberty.

You ask, What has this regulation of the liquor traffic accomplished in England?

Briefly this:—For the last five years, as a result of these restrictions, drunkenness, deaths from alcoholism and the diseases caused by drinking to excess, as well as all other evils attending the unrestrained traffic, have been enormously and astonishingly reduced. Charts upon the subject, prepared by government departments, reveal the undesirable and unfortunate phases and results of drinking, represented in directional lines, trailing away precipitately toward zero. As a rough average—the exact figures I will present later—the evils present in "wide open" England before the war have been reduced seventy-five per cent, which even the most hopeful reformers must admit is tremendous.

What, you ask, is the modus operandi of this great curative campaign?

It is the most obvious, plain plan in the world, but, like many other great and effective ideas of today, it required a world war with its necessities and dire exigencies to bring it into being. The idea long antedates 1914, but the pressure of war forced its acceptance. When contrasted with the ends this scheme attains the means seem almost ridiculously simple. I want to tell you about it.

While America is pondering just what to do about the liquor problem, and, more specifically, what to do about prohibition, it might be well to turn to England at least for reference and perhaps for advice, for a finer example of how to handle efficiently this vital question in a fashion satisfying virtually every faction could not be found.

Upon me as an American, not long in England the surface indications of the success of government regulation of the sale of liquor and official regulation of the saloon early made a profound impression. Day or night an intoxicated person in the streets of London is very rare, despite the great number of idle, undemobilized soldiers and the great temptation of soldiers and civilians alike to celebrate peace.

Even before making the casual inquiry as to the why and wherefore of war and post-war restriction I observed the "pubs" to be closed morning and afternoon—working hours—and late in the evening, when all men, working or otherwise, should be abed. It did not take long to ascertain that through the wisdom of a guiding governmental hand the sale of all liquor was restricted to the two principal eating hours, luncheon and dinner. It seemed to me to be a happy coincidence that one might purchase what drinks the government permits one to purchase only at meal time.

But it is far more than a coincidence. It is the whole secret. Drinking only at meal time is the entire backbone and structure of England's masterly method. By permitting the sale of liquor only from noon until three o'clock in the afternoon and from six to ten o'clock in the evening the Central Control Board for the Liquor Traffic has done two basic things:—

First, it has placed within these short periods a necessarily limited amount of liquor before those who want it and enjoy it, and perhaps need it, but who above all know what to do with liquor and what not to do with it.

Second, it has removed, by the three and ten o'clock bans, the opportunity to drink to excess from those who think they want more but do not need it, and who above all do not know what to do with liquor and do not know what not to do with it—but don't do it!

Following a study of the existing regulations and the statistics for the last few years I appealed to Lord D'Abernon, the directing genius of this plain but enlightened policy, for an expression of opinion as to the merits of prohibition versus regulation, also his views on the everywhere apparent success of the present English scheme and the prospects for further and future improvement.

Lord D'Abernon is chairman of the Central Control Board for the Liquor Traffic, a position which he has filled to the virtually unanimous satisfaction of officialdom and the people, with the possible and plausible exception of the reform extremists, whose idea of the millennium, it seems to me, is a sort of heavenly hell. The real proof of Lord D'Abernon's popularity is the fact that he has won and maintained the respect and admiration of practically all sides in the controversy—the working classes, who at first thought they saw their beer and other liquor being taken from them; the liquor trade, which for a time imagined its business and its great invest-

Lord D'Abernon, Who Has Made a Full and Complete Study of the Question of Drink and Its Effects, Tells Truman H. Talley Just How the All-Important Matter Must Be Settled and Can Be with Satisfaction to All—Interview of High Value to America at Present—Regulation the Keynote.

ments were going crash; officialdom, which feared its own shadow in the matter of a too drastic deprivation and what it might lead to, and lastly, the diversified elements of the great so-called middle group of enlightened, constructively thoughtful people—intellectual, clerical, professional—who have weighed and approved the logic, the science and the sense of this policy.

Lord D'Abernon's views on the relation between consumption of alcohol and national efficiency constitute the last word on the subject in England. His opinions, which he has painstakingly prepared for expression through this newspaper, should carry great weight in America, for there probably is not a man in the world who has had his experience in handling the liquor problem, nor the publicly acknowledged success at it.

The day I called upon Lord D'Abernon in his busy offices in Piccadilly I found him working over a report, all about him charts and sheets of statistics which told in concise fashion just what his "liberal" methods are daily accomplishing. Tables of tabulated sheets, walls of plottings and diagrams of percentages and drifts reminded me of Don Marlin's office in the Herald at election time, except that in this instance the lower the figures and the more precipitately downward the drifts the greater the acclaim due the man whose name, though not visible, should have been stamped on each "poll" sheet. For Lord D'Abernon is conducting one of the greatest "polls" ever undertaken—a "poll" of reform along modern, scientific, sensible lines. Lord D'Abernon's great campaign is one of inverse majorities and parallels, so to speak, for when he and his method batter those figures down to zero—and they are diminishing rapidly—the victory will be complete.

Tall, powerful, dignified, a robust picture of vigor at sixty-one, Lord D'Abernon is a man whose appearance immediately stamps him as one who practices what he preaches, a man of equal firmness in conviction and



LORD D'ABERNON
Photo by Beresford

LORD D'ABERNON ON DRINKING.

- Shorter saloon hours lessen drinking.
- Good beer is good food for workmen.
- Beverages are better food with your meals.
- Broken saloon hours prevent drunkenness.
- Light wines are better than spirits.
- Light beer is healthier than heavy beer.
- Drink that cocktail after or during dinner, not before.
- Regulation is physiological and scientific—and satisfactory.
- Regulation has achieved better results in England than prohibition in any similar period and area.
- The evils of excess drinking are disappearing in England.
- England does not want prohibition, nor will there be prohibition.

in action. His very presence speaks volumes for his views.

Lord D'Abernon was first of all interested to know the absolute "latest" from America concerning the battle over prohibition. Naturally he did not care to express an opinion as to what America should or should not do, but he is following minutely every move in the controversy. Anyway, Lord D'Abernon has some opinions concerning the pros and cons of prohibition in his own country which are strong enough and logical enough to serve almost as an opinion on the American situation.

"What actually are the chances of prohibition in England?" I asked.

"Complete prohibition does not appear to have much chance in England now," he replied. "Public opinion is in a condition of reaction, which is quite natural after the war. The public of England has behaved admirably in conforming to the severe regulations which were necessary throughout the war. They now think that with the advent of peace greater freedom should be enjoyed. I do not think any sensible persons quarrel with the people's attitude, providing the liquor business does not relapse into the atrocious conditions existing before 1914.

"These figures which I will give you show an enormous decrease not only in drunkenness but in disease connected with alcohol which has been apparent here since regulation of the liquor traffic was taken scientifically and seriously in hand.

"No such progress has been achieved in any part of the world in any like period. So far as figures are available, this improvement is better than the results obtained in any similar area under prohibition.

"Of course, extreme reformers will say these results were only possible in war time. They say that as long as you leave the liquor trade in being it will overwhelm you directly war pressure is relaxed. They contend you have to get rid of the trade either by purchaser or by prohibition before there can be any safety.

"The future, of course, will show whether this set of theories is really correct. But, personally, I believe the only right and practical solution in England is moderate and reasonable control. The temperance party has got to be temperate if it desires to achieve big results and maintain the level already achieved."

Then he showed me the most convincing statistics one could ask for. The more important one is reproduced with this article

in tabulated and chart form, but all are so important I want to refer briefly to them here.

For England and Wales convictions for drunkenness among males decreased from 153,112 in 1913 to 21,797 in 1918—85 per cent. In the same area convictions for drunkenness among females decreased from 35,765 in 1913 to 7,222 in 1918, or about 80 per cent.

Deaths from alcoholism among males in England and Wales decreased from 1,112 in 1913 to 222 in 1918, or about 80 per cent. Deaths from alcoholism among females in the same five years decreased from 719 to 74, or about 90 per cent.

Cirrhosis and its decrease constitute a convincing study, but it must be remembered that it is a more insidious and more slowly moving result of drinking, which necessarily requires a greater length of time to show an improvement of comparative dimensions. Nevertheless, deaths from cirrhosis among males in England and Wales decreased from 2,215 in 1913 to 1,092 in 1918, or about 50 per cent, while deaths among females in the same period fell from 1,665 to 579, or about 65 per cent.

Attempted suicides, which are blamed by prohibitionists largely upon the use of liquor, dropped in four years in England and Wales among males from 1,458 to 483, or about 67 per cent, while among females the decrease was from 1,229 in 1913 to 537 in 1918, or more than 56 per cent.

Suffocation of infants, shown in the England and Wales table for females, fell from 1,229 in 1913 to 537 in 1918, or more than 56 per cent.

Most striking of all are the figures for delirium tremens, which only the infirmaries could accurately give. In the five year period cases of delirium tremens among males in poor law infirmaries decreased from 572 to 26, or about 95 per cent, while among females the decrease was from 214 to 6, or about 97 per cent.

The statistics for Scotland emphatically tell the same story.

"How have the statistics affected the wholesale and retail trade?" I asked.

"The brewing and distilling trade," he replied, "have never done so well before. They have found they can sell in shortened hours enough to make a profit greater than they made in the longer period of seventeen hours daily which prevailed before the war. The scientific limitation of hours for the

tem at the worst possible moment, before one has taken food. But if people insist upon their cocktail, then by all means why not take it after or even during the meal? It would be much less harmful than before, and on an empty stomach."

I think Lord D'Abernon's views on the cocktail epitomize in a way his views on the stronger drinks. He is going at this reform business in a practical way, and a way more likely to succeed without antagonizing people by drastic prohibition. He believes education and systematic warning will lessen the evils of drink, whereas sudden and complete prohibition would make countless enemies of those who, though not caring particularly for liquor, object to the principle of coercion.

Then he explained that the necessary time every one requires for eating cuts down just that much the time left for drinking, so that if one eats a normal meal and drinks a little with it there remains neither much of a desire nor much of an opportunity to indulge in only liquor.

"Is there any considerable pressure," I asked, "to return to the pre-war arrangement of longer hours and unrestricted drinking?"

"There is none whatever," he emphatically replied. "Those who enjoy drinking alcoholic beverages in moderation and those who take such drinks as a part of their food realize that restricting the sale and purchase of liquor to meal time enables the vast majority of people to obtain all they need and yet prevents those who should not have it at all times getting it. They have absolutely no fault to find. Those who sell liquor in the restricted hours, as I have said, make better money for their effort, so they have no objection."

Thus it would appear that the English method, while scrupulously trying to keep liquor from those who should not have it, and apparently succeeding in that purpose, takes into account with commendable fairness and fairness the personal liberties and likes of the overwhelmingly great majority of people upon whom such drastic remedial measures as prohibition would constitute a grave injustice.

Furthermore, the British authorities recognize in beer, for instance, a food quality which no one has had the temerity here to say is not good for the laborer, the shipbuilder and the coal miner. The study of beer and labor in England has been a

deep, thorough and convincing one, and any movement which endangers the best supply of the great working class is denounced with equal vehemence popularly and scientifically. Only a few days ago the barrelage was raised from 20,000,000 to 26,000,000 annually. True it is that it required a few scenes of disorder to lead the Food Administration to quick action, but no one seriously doubted that the increase from war time barrelage was only a matter of a few weeks.

England has her liquor troubles, despite the satisfactory general principles guiding regulation. Those troubles generally centre about adequate supply and quality. Both those subjects have been satisfactorily disposed of now, but some of the factors present in the settlements show which way the wind blows in England or the subject of liquor, and the wind blows at a stiff, almost hurricane, velocity.

The new beer is weaker than the pre-war stuff, but heavier than that brewed during the war. As with most of the other regulations on the subject, the quality of the beer was compromised. The government has sanctioned a gravity, or, as we might say in America, an alcoholic percentage, which seems to be generally satisfactory. Anyway, the sensation of tasting better beer than was had during the war has dimmed the recollection of still heavier beer in 1913, so every one is happy, and the beer is lighter and scientifically better.

On the question of barrelage the delay in increasing it brought forth several untoward incidents. Despite the short hours many "pubs" used up their beer supplies long before closing time. Such tactics did not suit some of the laboring and manufacturing centres, so there resulted a series of "over-the-bar" episodes, in which men leaped the mahogany furniture and confiscated whatever seemed fit to drink. It is remarked that it requires at least three readings in the House of Commons to get action on government business, but that three requests in the House are not nearly so effective as jumping over the bar and getting what you desire. After the press reported several such incidents Messrs. Clynes and Roberts, of the Food Administration, favored the House and the nation with the announcement of the barrelage increase. So the beer flows and contentment reigns.

Frankly, England fears to take away the workingman's beer, a wholesome fear that other nations may learn to respect before this prohibition issue is settled.

England has no fault to find with the character and intent of the principles upon which the restrictions are based, but it does not at all times like the way the legislative branch of the government puts those principles into effect. When you hear of an issue in England over liquor you can safely put it down as an argument over degrees of interpretation of the general method, not over the scheme itself.

In conclusion I would like to present an extract from an editorial in the Times which succinctly summarizes what Lord D'Abernon and his cohorts are trying to do, and also expresses that great newspaper's frank commendation of the man and his work:—

"The principles of Lord D'Abernon's decrees, which have undoubtedly turned up national efficiency in these years of crisis, would appear to be these:—

"First—To encourage the taste for the less alcoholic drinks, for light beers in preference to the heavy and for light wines over spirituous drinks.

"Second—To discourage drinking except at meals or in connection with some legitimate social occasion.

"Third—To rob drinking of its grossness by associating it as far as possible with rational pleasures and relaxations.

"These principles will take us a very long way if they are carried out in a liberal and enlightened fashion."

Antiquated Transports.

The buffalo of the East, while a domestic animal, is used in transport service equally with the familiar ox, from which he is easily distinguishable by his low set, down curving horns and muzzle carried almost straight forward.

People who are obliged to travel by buffalo cart are deserving of sympathy, for the buffalo is the slowest of all draught beasts. It is his great strength that gives him the advantage over the ox. The load that a single yoke of buffaloes will pull is astonishing. In India buffaloes will pull the kind of load which is assigned to drayhorses here, ordinary horse work, except passenger traffic, being performed by the humped oxen, known elsewhere as bullocks.

India, indeed, is the native home of the buffalo, and it still exists there as a wild animal. Very wild indeed it is, too, and an old bull is very apt to attack unprovoked, contrary to the usual custom of almost all wild animals. Even his tame descendants retain plenty of spirit. It is said that when in a herd they do not fear the tiger, and a recognized method of getting "stripes" to bolt when he has taken to cover is to drive in a herd of buffaloes to rout him out, which they will do to a certainty if they get on his scent.

Even tame buffaloes can make themselves very unpleasant to people they do not know, and they are not at all safe for a Westerner to approach in India, but, and here appears the most attractive side of their character, they display toward their owners a faithfulness one usually associates rather with dogs than with cattle.

The true Indian buffalo is to a great extent an aquatic animal and when off duty likes nothing so much as to lie up to its ears in water, but, like the duck, it can if necessary resign itself to existence without a bath. That an animal so nearly naked of protecting hair as that of Eastern Europe is a remarkable fact of acclimatization.

Its presence in Italy is less surprising, but even there its introduction seems to be merely of medieval date. Scientifically, the tame buffalo is of interest as having, like the ass, varied so little from the wild type.

DRINK FIGURES THAT TELL THE TALE.

ENGLAND AND WALES (MALES).						
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Convictions for Drunkenness	153,112	146,517	102,600	62,946	34,103	21,797
Deaths from Alcoholism	1,112	1,136	867	620	353	222
Deaths from Cirrhosis	2,215	2,226	2,107	1,823	1,475	1,092
Attempted Suicides	1,458	1,336	792	509	483	Available
Control Board, Years	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Cases of Delirium Tremens in Poor Law Infirmaries	572	457	233	123	26	Available
ENGLAND AND WALES (FEMALES).						
	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.
Convictions for Drunkenness	35,765	37,311	33,211	21,245	12,307	7,222
Deaths from Alcoholism	719	680	584	333	222	74
Deaths from Cirrhosis	1,665	1,773	1,525	1,163	808	579
Attempted Suicides	968	1,049	816	436	452	Available
Suffocation of Infants	1,226	1,233	1,021	744	704	557
Control Board, Years	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Cases of Delirium Tremens in Poor Law Infirmaries	214	239	123	45	6	Available