"PERSONAL LIBERTY" AGAINST PROHIBITION

Liquor Men Take Up the Gage of Battle--New York Herald Comments On the Situation and Gives Interesting Facts

MONEY ENGAGED IN NATION'S LIQUOR TRADE

Amount invested in brewing and distilling in the United States	$612,571,588.09
Interal revenue receipts from taxes paid on liquor business last fiscal year	207,124,099.00
Increase in revenue receipts over previous year	16,444,651.00
Other revenue from liquor business paid to United States, city and state governments, yearly	60,875,465.00
	Barrels.
Last yearly production of malt liquors in United States	54,651,637

Herald Bureau, No. 1502 H. Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., Saturday.

It is a curious fact that two great forces should be fighting for the control of the United States, and each contending that its defeat will be coincident with the destruction of the moral fabric of the country. It is a general proposition that opposing forces hold diverging views. Great political parties are careful never to contend for the same principle, for should this be done the motive would be removed from the struggle. This is, however, the case with those who are fighting for prohibition and those who are opposing it, for it is held by those high in the councils of each force that the United States is crossing the threshold which leads to the moral depravity of the nation.

Those who oppose prohibition may be termed, in opposition to the Anti-Saloon league, which is fighting for it, the "Anti-Intolerance league." The "Anti-Intolerance league" is opposed to the restriction of personal liberty by forbidding the sale of liquor to all because the few make careless use of it. They hold that the attempt to prohibit the sale of liquor does not do away with its consumption and never will. This contention is supported by figures based upon observations and records in cities and states where prohibition has been tested. They say that just as true as man is born into the world he comes with a taste for intoxicants, and this thirst he will quench in some way and form. If liquors are not sold legally this desire prompts him to encourage their illegal sale.

The contest between prohibition and its opponents has been going against the liquor interest in the last elections, and, generally speaking, for several years. The area of "dry" states is increasing. This has aroused the "Anti-Intolerance league" to energetic efforts, and the contest is assuming new proportions. The Herald having already in its issue of Sunday, November 10, given space to a discussion of the prohibition movement, this article will attempt to present some of the arguments of those who oppose it.

Capital a Battleground.

Confident in recent victories, the prohibition interests have invalded the city of Washington and will attempt to broaden the influence of their crusade by making this a prohibition city. The fact that congress governs Washington directly has given significance to this selection of battleground and a bitter fight will be conducted at the capital during the coming session. Washington now has 521 saloons. These the prohibition element desire to eliminate. How the congressmen from all over the United States will look upon the question cannot yet be determined. Prohibition is encouraged by the fact that liquor has been eliminated from the capitol building, so far as the bar goes, but it should not forget the lockers and private cupbords which so often furnish cheer in the various committee rooms. As in the prohibition states, the abolishing of the open bar at the capitol did not do away with the use of liquor. Big bills for "contingent expenses" covering mineral waters and the famous senate "lemonade" do not cover the purchase price of drinkables which a legislator, like any other open minded, free thinking man, holds that he may purchase for his own use and with his own funds.

Senator J. Frank Allee, whose state of Delaware is about half "dry," after a visit to President Roosevelt recently said that he was going home to work for a third term and a prohibition plank in the platform of the Republican party at its next national convention. This and other straws indicate that there may be an attempt to secure a prohibition clause in the platforms of the great political parties next year. The anti-prohibition element is keenly awake to this movement and proposes to prevent the success of the plan.

A strong argument against prohibition theories is that if a man cannot purchase intoxicants he will, after exhausting every other resource, make them himself. As proof of this one has but to discuss the question with the officers charged with the enforcement of the internal revenue laws. These officials are familiar with hundreds of methods by which the small land holder in the prohibition states of the south may brew or distil a liquid which will appease his thrist for liquor, although in so doing it may very likely take his reason. And just here is one of the strongest arguments of those who oppose prohibition.

It is based on the theory that to prevent the use of liquor absolutely is an impossibility. It is then held that since it is impossible to prevent the use of intoxicants it is far better to permit its legalized use under state and city restrictions than to attempt to prevent it, and as a result send the man who will have it anyway into the dive to get it. There he will drink anything from wood alcohol to hard cider in his efforts to satisfy his craving.

Hard Cider Fallacy.

This evasion of the law by the use of the illicit still finds its semi-counterpart in New England in the hard cider, for which the section is famous. Any man with an apple orchard and a nearby cider mill, or perhaps a hand press of his own, may provide himself with an intoxicant, the telling effect of which should not be under-estimated. Cider, which is estimated to contain from 6 to 10 per cent of alcohol, is left out of the Maine prohibitory law, while beer, with about three and one-half per cent of alcohol, is placed among the drinks which the law frowns upon.

The fact that politics and prohibition are too often mixed with each other is an objection which seems to hold against this Maine law. It is not likely that the rural population of Maine woud have voted so strongly for a law which would have prevented a farmer from putting down a barrel or two of apple juice in the fall. This concession to the farmer is generally looked out for by those who frame prohibitory laws. The laws of the olden time carried this exemption to beer. There are many instances where keepers of hotels or lodging houses were required to brew beer for the entertainment of their guests, but forbidden under severe penalties to sell wine or spirits.

The practice of prohibiting the sale of liquors to the Indians in early days rarely included wine and never malt liquors, and in an ancient Massachusetts statute it is laid down as being uncharitable to deprive "these savage creatures of any comfort which God allowed." Many colonial laws set forth that it was the object in drawing them to encourage brewing and thereby combat inebriety. The first excise system was repealed in 1802 and reintroduced during the second war with Great Britain to be again repealed in 1817. With the abolition of the federal excise system at this time rural distillation sprang up with great vigor. Following it came that which is known as the "era of free rum," resulting in the second popular temperance movement of 1820. This marked the origin of the "pledge." This crusade was largely directed against the use of spirits.

Money in the Business.

The total amount of money invested in the brewing and distilling business in the United States, according to the latest available figures, is $612,571,558. This is distributed in 44 states and territories. The ten states most heavily interested are: New York, $122,099,441; Pennsylvania, $79,953,276; Wisconsin, $66,-267,276; Illinois, $57,984,469; Missouri, $44,269,886; Ohio, $41,180,-527; Kentucky, $24,674,667; New Jersey, $30,525,727; Massacnusetts, $23, 894,040, and Minnesota, $14,-862,300.

Surprise will be expressed by those who do not follow closely the work of the internal revenue division of the treasury at the increase in internal revenue taxes on spirits distilled from grain in the face of the success of the prohibition movement. The taxes collected on this form of liquor during the last fiscal year amounted to the enormous sum of $147,556,281.56, which was an increase over the previous year of $12,-550,177.35. During the same period the taxes on fermented liquors, chiefly beer, were $59,567,818.18, and in this case there was an increase of $3, 925,959.62.

The last available figures show, in addition to the above, these revenues to the government and the several states in which these liquor interests are located.

MARKET REPORTS

SALEM MARKET.

Local Wholesale Market.

Eggs—22½c.
Butter—37½c; butter fat, 37½c.
Hens—10c; mixed chickens, 9½c.
Local wheat—85c.
Oats—35c.
Barley—$24@$25.
Flour—Hard wheat, $5.00; valley, $4.00.
Hay—Cheat, $13; clover, $10 per ton; timothy, $13@$15.
Onions—2¼c lb.
Hops—Old,1½@2½c; new, 3½@7½c.
Chitim bark—4½@5c.

Retail Market.

Oats—White, $28 per ton.
Wheat—$1.00.
Rolled barley—$30.
Eggs—30c.
Butter—Country, 30@35c; creamery, 40c.
Flour—Valley, $1.20 per sack; hard wheat, $1.40@$1.50.
Bran—85c per sack; $26.50 per ton; shorts, $1.15 per sack.
Hay—Timothy, 85@90c per cwt; cheat, 90c; clover, 75s per cwt; shorts, $1.15 per sack.

Livestock.

Hogs—Fat, $5.00.
Stock hogs—$4.00.
Cows—Top, $2.75; fair, $2@$2.50
Steers—Tops, $3.50; fair, $2.75@$3.00.

Tropical Fruits.

Bananas—$6.
Oranges—$2.25.
Lemons—$3.50@4.50.
Veal—Dressed, 5@7c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Club, 82c; valley, 82c; blue stem, 84c.
Millstuff—Bran, $24.
Hay—Timothy, valley, $17@$18; alfalfa, $12@$13.
Vetch—$8.50.
Poultry — Hens, 11½@12½c; ducks, 16@17c; pigeons, old, $1 per doz.

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The Military Club; principal office Cottage Grove, Oregon; incorporators, Alfred S. Powel, Lester C. Hutchinson and Linley P. Bennett.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Silverton, Oregon; principal office, Silverton, Oregon; incorporators, F. M. Brooks, A. S. Thompson, E. Rupe, Ed R. Adams and Joseph Dunnells.

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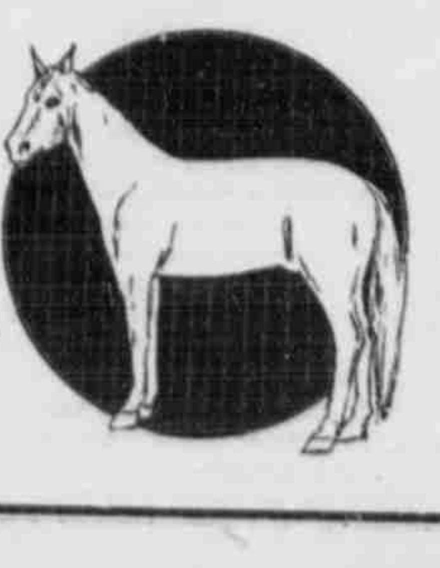

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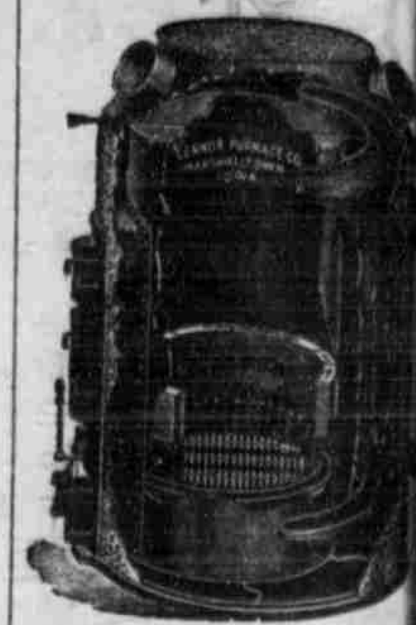

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