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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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PROHIBITION IN AMERICA.

Of late years there has been a marked tendency in many States of the Union to fight alcoholism with every weapon that the courts can supply, the natural consequence being that the thirsty American has developed a degree of ingenuity in dodging the law and slaking his parched throat far above that of his less hampered European contemporary. The papers have lately been full of accounts of the state of affairs now prevailing at Atlantic City, where, it appears, Governor Fort is down upon the saloon-keepers with an iron hand. It is now said to be utterly impossible to obtain an alcoholic drink at this favourite resort on Sunday, and the Governor's uncompromising attitude has engendered a good deal of hostility. In other districts, too, a wave of reaction against law-enforced prohibition is making itself felt: heated protests are raised against the over-paternalism of certain State Governments, who are accused of pandering to the demands of fanatics of the Carrie Nation stamp. No less a personage than Professor Munsterberg, of Harvard University, has joined the ranks of the anti-Prohibitionists, and, in an American magazine, lifts up his voice against what he regards as the unreasoning flood of prohibitionist sentiment that is sweeping over the United States. He says that, while prohibition does not prohibit, it does demoralise. "Judges know how rapidly the value of the oath sinks in courts where violation of the prohibition laws is a frequent charge, and how habitual perjury becomes tolerated by respected people." But the Professor goes even farther: prohibition would be, in his opinion, still more mischievous if it enforced total abstinence from alcohol. He says that sufficient use of intoxicants to secure emotional inspiration and volitional intensity, together with sufficient training in self-discipline to avoid their evils, always introduced the fullest blossoming of national greatness. This is indeed a very plausible argument, and, if it be applied exclusively to national achievements in the realm of music, art, or literature, could no doubt be supplemented with authentic evidence, since it is impossible to deny that many of the great masters whose immortal works have added immeasurably to the treasury of the world, drew their inspiration more or less directly from the flowing bowl. For several reasons it would be invidious to mention names, but the fact is, nevertheless, undisputed.

Turning to those responsible for what may perhaps be termed the material development of the world, however, the architects of our great industrial and commercial edifices, we find them to be men who, almost without exception, avoided alcohol as the plague. Genius often demands artificial stimulation, and achieves its best results while under the effect of such stimulation: the successful progress of science and industry, on the other hand, demands a consistently cool head. While admitting the ingenuity of Professor Munsterberg's contentions, therefore, we cannot follow him when he claims that if Americans were not allowed to touch intoxicants the nation would degenerate into a condition of hopeless mediocrity. But some of his remarks are worthy of serious consideration. We know today too well, he says, that physical exercise and sport is not real rest for the exhausted brain cells. The American masses work hard throughout the day. The sharp physical and mental labour, the constant hurry and drudgery produce a state of tension and irritation which demands before the night's sleep some dulling inhibition if a dangerous unrest is not to set in. He claims that this daily tension is most directly relieved by alcohol, and argues further that prohibition entails an important loss on the emotional side. "Emotional desire for a life in beauty would yield to the triviality of usefulness." He believes that zealotism in religious belief, tyranny and cruelty, sensual over-indulgence and perversion, gambling, mysticism and superstition, recklessness and adventurousness, and, above all, senseless crimes have always been the psychological means of overcoming the emptiness and monotony of an unstimulated life. They produce, just like alcohol, that partial paralysis and create intense experiences. They thus take hold of the masses, as long as the social mind is not entirely dried up, with the necessity of a psychological law. "Truly the German, the Frenchman, the Italian who enjoys

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his glass of light wine and then wanders joyfully and elated to the masterpieces of the opera, serves humanity better than the New Englander who drinks his ice-water and sits satisfied at a vaudeville show, world-far from real art. Better America inspired than America sober." He comforts himself by the belief that prohibition will fail to prohibit, and "the American nation will not ultimately become an emasculated nation of dyspeptic ice-water drinkers without inspiration or energy." It is dyspeptic enough already, and although there is plenty of energy, inspiration is not so much in evidence. The professor is no doubt honest in his arguments, though for our own part we deprecate the participation in a sordid campaign of such a high scholastic authority. The American people may be trusted to find their own level in this matter, as they have done in so many things of greater import. To argue uncompromisingly in favour of alcoholic indulgence is courageous at least, but the Professor's position as a moulder of the youthful mind is inconsistent with the attitude he has seen fit to adopt concerning a great national evil. He practically claims that a nation may rise to greatness on alcohol, and in so doing closes his eyes to the most obvious lessons of history, ancient and modern. Were it not that those who peruse his diatribe against prohibition will perceive the innate weakness of its contentions, the Professor might well have cause to rue the day when he gave his powerful support to one of the most insidious curses which afflict mankind.

GENERAL NEWS.

NEWS FROM ENGLAND.

ENGINEERING DISPUTE SETTLED.

London, September 21.

The dispute in the engineering trades on the north-east coast which had been going on for some time has now been settled by the acceptance on the part of the majority of the men of the terms lately agreed to by their leaders.

UNSUCCESSFUL TRIAL OF AN AEROPLANE.

London, September 21.

It is reported that a secret trial of a military aeroplane lately made at Farnborough was unsuccessful; that the machine rose, but fell again and remained caught in underwood, important parts of it being smashed.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE FOREIGN CRIMINAL ELEMENT IN NEW YORK.

(From our own correspondent.)

General Bingham, the head of the New York police, endeavours, in a long article published in the *North American Review*, to show that foreign countries "dump" their criminals in the United States. He therefore emphatically demands an organized secret service and a considerably increased stringency in the immigration laws. Attempts have often been made to prove that the foreign element is far more numerous represented than the native American in the criminal classes of New York, although statistics are not wanting that seem to prove the contrary. Efforts to increase the stringency of the immigration laws, on the plea of preventing an increase in the number of criminals, are therefore denounced by the friends of free immigration as the outcome of native narrow-mindedness. The Chief of the New York police adduces in his article an abundance of sensational material culled from official returns and census reports. He asserts that 85 per cent. of the population of New York were either born abroad or are the offspring of foreign parents. The Jewish population General Bingham estimates at a million, or one quarter of the whole number of inhabitants in New York, and avers that the police returns show that half the crimes in the city are committed by Jews.

Besides the Jews, the foreign population of New York consists of: Italians, 500,000; Hungarians, 150,000; Austrians, 100,000; Germans, 150,000; Bohemians, 75,000; Polish Christians, 60,000; Slovenes, 40,000; Greeks, 50,000; Armenians and Syrians, 25,000; Swiss, 12,000 to 15,000; French and Belgians, 15,000; Dutch, 12,000; Irish, 35,000; Balkan States, natives of, 4,000; a few thousand Christian Russians; and "natives of all the countries of the world in greater or lesser numbers."

"Such immigration," writes the head of the New York police, "not only brings us all the criminal types—the Armenian Hunchakist, the Neapolitan Camorra, the Sicilian Mafia, the Chinese Tong, and similar outlaws—but also foreigners who carry on the horrible "white slave" trade that floods our streets with foreign prostitutes."

Indian criminals, General Bingham says, are chiefly robbers, incendiaries, pickpockets, and street-thieves. Next to the Jews, in point of numbers on the roll of criminals, come the Italians, who form 20 per cent. of the whole. The remaining 30 per cent. of adult criminals comprise in about equal proportions the other foreigners and native Americans. Chinatown, the Chinese quarter of New York, General Bingham describes as a veritable plague spot. The number of anarchists in the United States is put at 1,000. The General's revelations have aroused great indignation among the Jews, and his statements are characterised as in part quite unfounded, partly exaggerated, and wholly the outcome of native prejudice. The head of the police is to be compelled to produce incontestable evidence of the truth of his statements, or to make a public recantation of them.

A MILLIONAIRE'S ERRORS OF JUDGMENT.

(From our New York correspondent.)

An insight into the financial dealings of an American Croesus is afforded by the official valuation for the purpose of legacy duty of the estate of the late Mr. Russell Sage. According to that official report, dozens of well-known banking firms in Wall Street were indebted to the deceased at the time of his death in sums varying from 30,000 to 500,000 dollars. Altogether Mr. Russell Sage had lent 21,000,000 dollars in Wall Street up to the day he died. Part of his estate consists of railway and other shares and bonds. But even such a financial genius as he could make mistakes. In the course of business, although few could have known Wall Street affairs so well as he, he bought a great number of securities which the official report now sets down as having a merely nominal value. The total value of the estate for legacy duty is 64,000,000 dollars. The debts of the deceased are returned at 37,862 dollars, and the cost of his funeral at 3,784 dollars.

(Continued on page 2.)