



A PERFECTLY CORKING TIME!
—Washington Evening Star.

Mr. Bryan's New York Meeting

[From the New York World, May 1, 1915]

Seven hundred and fifty fewer people than Carnegie hall will seat gathered there last night to hear Secretary of State Bryan talk temperance at the second meeting of the National

Abstainers Union. The planned-for overflow meetings in Calvary Baptist church, across Fifty-seventh street, didn't have to be held.

There was, however, no lack of cordial appreciation among the 2,350 men and women, boys and girls, who waved a chautauqua salute as Mr. Bryan, wearing a wrinkled alpaca sack coat began his hour's talk. They gave generously when a collection was taken toward making the new pledge-signing movement national in its extent. Most of them, it seemed, signed the pledges that ushers distributed.

Agrees to Sign With Pledge Takers

Many more, officers of the union expect, will sign pledges during the next few days, for there was a quickening of interest when Mr. Bryan agreed to attest as witness any pledge that was submitted to him.

"I have signed with the pledge-taker," he explained, "every time I could, and I'll do it to-night, for as many as I can. But if I don't have time to do it here send your pledges to me at Washington and I'll spend Sunday signing them with you."

Secretary Bryan addressed the union's first meeting in Philadelphia on March 15. About half the 12,000 men there present signed cards at the meeting. Since that time the number has grown to nearly 25,000, and perhaps 10,000 of these sent in their cards to Washington, Major J. J. Dickinson, who accompanied Mr. Bryan from the capital last night, wouldn't even try to estimate how many times his chief has taken the pledge within the past year.

No announcement was made of the number of signers last night.

Former Representative W. S. Bennett presided at the meeting. The Right Rev. Frederick Courtney made an opening prayer, the Rev Rufus W. Miller told the plans and hopes of the

union, and the Rev. C. F. Reisner stirred the first applause by saying:

"Total abstainers are no longer fanatics. The Pennsylvania railroad is going to sweep its bar out of its station as soon as the license it now has expires."

High School Girls Cheer Him

Booker T. Washington was among those who sat on the platform, and before the meeting closed he made a little speech. Mrs. Bryan was there too, smiling in a box with Mrs. Henry L. Stimson, Mrs. M. E. Loomis, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Straus and H. Grant Straus. Excellent music was furnished by the orchestra from De Witt Clinton high school, under Joseph P. Donnelly, and another group of Clinton boys yelled "Bryan, Bryan, Bryan!" for a tiger till a crowd of girls from Wadleigh were moved to cheer also.

A surprising number of Japanese was included among the delegations from Columbia, New York university, City college, Brooklyn Polytechnic institute and Union and General Theological seminaries. Arnold A. Mowbray, chairman of the press committee, said that twenty-five "Tammany men from the Fourteenth district" were in the hall, but it wasn't possible to identify them from where the reporters sat.

A letter from Cardinal Gibbons to J. Jarden Guenther, associate secretary of the union, was read before Mr. Bryan spoke, the prelate saying:

"I feel that I must congratulate those who have the privilege to hear Mr. Bryan on this occasion. For the subject, temperance, is one in which he is deeply interested, and one in which he has good opportunity to use that charming oratorical power with which he has been gifted. I trust that he will inspire many of his audience with the love of temperance in all things."

Mr. Bryan began his address with a statement of some of the things that might be done with the \$2,500,000,000 spent annually for liquor in this country. He pictured the sum as 50 per cent greater than the value of the corn crop, and more than one-quarter as great as the annual produce of the 268,000 manufacturing establishments of the nation. Each year it would, he said, build from ocean to ocean 100 macadam roads sixteen feet wide and seven inches deep.

Would Lift the "Mud Embargo"

"The amount now spent in paying the road to perdition," he said, "would, if spent for good roads, soon lift the mud embargo from the entire country."

A hint of Mr. Bryan's political attitude toward the liquor question came when he said:

"All who labor in the cause of temperance seek to lessen the use of intoxicating liquor, some by persuading people not to drink, some by urging laws which will prevent the manufacture and sale of liquor, while still others divide their energies between the two lines of work.

"As for myself, while I have definite views as to the means that should be employed in solving the legislative problem presented by the liquor traffic, I shall confine myself tonight to the first line of argument and appeal to those present, and to those I may reach through the press, to take up their position as individuals on the side of total abstinence. Why should the individual abstain entirely from the use of intoxicating liquor as a beverage?

"First, because both experience and investigation show that no advantage of any kind, physical, mental or moral, is to be gained from the moderate, or even the occasional, use

of intoxicating liquor. This ought in itself to be sufficient.

Bad for Body, Mind, and Morals

"But the case against alcohol does not, however, rest upon negative arguments. The use of alcohol is distinctly and undeniably harmful; it impairs the strength of the body; even when taken in small quantities; it injuriously affects the mind and it undermines the morals. If, by consent, we try to protect the young man from the use of alcohol until he is twenty-one, is not the presumption strongly against the use of alcohol after one reaches maturity?"

"Drink leads to idleness. No employer cares to put business in the hands of a tippler; the man who drinks can not safely be trusted with the care of life or property. Read the advertisements in the want columns. Did you ever see one like this: 'Wanted, a good moderate drinker for a responsible position?' No saloon keeper would stand sponsor for such an advertisement, for total abstinence is a virtue even behind the bar.

"There has been a growing disposition in this country, and throughout the world, to emphasize the evils of strong drink, but even the most enthusiastic advocates of temperance have been surprised at the ghastly light the war in Europe has thrown upon the subject.

"It has been found that patriotism—patriotism, that compelling force which throughout the ages has led men to offer their lives for their countries—is no match for the appetite which alcohol cultivates in its victims. Loyalty to Bacchus, Gamberinus and Barleycorn is greater than loyalty to king, or kaiser, or czar.

"The use of drink has been found to be so destructive of efficiency that the belligerent governments, not on moral, but purely economic grounds, have been compelled to resort to restrictive measures.

"The aeroplane that drops its bomb from above, the submarine which shoots its torpedo from below are

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