

Three Per Cent Beer

[By Arthur Sears Henning, in Chicago Tribune.]

Washington, D. C., Nov. 26.—(Special.)—President Wilson decreed today that beer brewed henceforth in the United States shall be less intoxicating.

He approved a recommendation by Food Administrator Hoover reducing the alcoholic content of beer to 3 per cent and also reducing the amount of grain used in brewing to approximately 70 per cent of the volume now consumed.

Brew Same Volume

With the alcoholic content reduced from the present average of 4 per cent to 3 per cent it will be possible to brew the volume of beer now consumed from 70 per cent of the amount of grain now employed. Therefore, there will be no diminution in the supply of beer, but it will be less intoxicating.

While the action of the President and Mr. Hoover is primarily a measure for the conservation of cereals needed to expand the food supply, the administration takes occasion to declare itself against the prohibition of beer at this time and otherwise to announce its stand on the liquor question.

Attitude of Administration

This is the way the question appears to the administration:

Although the distilling has been suspended for the period of the war, perhaps never to be resumed, there is a two or three years' supply of whiskey, brandy, and gin in the country.

Although the President has authority to commandeer the stock of distilled liquors to turn into alcohol, the supply of industrial alcohol from other sources is ample.

Prohibition of brewing, therefore, would divert tipplers from the consumption of the less harmful beer to the more harmful whiskey, brandy, and gin.

Therefore, says the administration, advocates of temperance having the best interests of the country at heart should be in favor of continuing the brewing of beer.

Statement by Hoover

The action of the administration was announced in the following statement by Mr. Hoover:

"The President has approved the

recommendation of the food administration that the alcoholic content of beer shall be reduced in the first instance to 3 per cent maximum and that the volume of grain to be used in brewing shall be reduced to an amount approximately 70 per cent of the amount of grain formerly used, enabling the brewing of the same volume of beer.

"Further, provisions are being made to increase the maximum output of cattle feed from brewing establishments.

Liquor Supply on Hand

"The food bill provides for the prohibition of the use of foodstuffs in the product of distilled spirits for beverage purposes and the use of foodstuffs for the production of distilled drinks was stopped on Sept. 8. There is, however, in the country from two to three years' supply of whiskey, brandy and gin and other distilled liquors. The food bill provides that these liquors can be commandeered by the government if required for purposes of manufacture of alcohol for munitions.

"On the other hand, the requirements for industrial alcohol, in addition to the normal output from sawdust and other waste products is at present negligible.

"Those who wish brewing entirely suppressed should therefore bear in mind that if such a course were pursued the country would be placed on a whiskey basis entirely and the amount of alcohol consumed would most probably increase.

"The desirability of saving all the grain used in brewing from the point of view of food conservation is therefore limited by the social question involved in the exclusive use of whiskey."

The amount of food grain that will be saved by curtailing the volume of grain used in brewing has been variously estimated by the food experts. Prof. Irving Fisher says that the grain employed in brewing would make 8,000,000 loaves of bread a day. Calculated upon this basis the saving effected by Mr. Hoover's 30 per cent reduction of the volume of grain ingredient of beer would amount to 2,400,000 loaves of bread a day.

Revenue Report Figures

According to the internal revenue commissioner the alcoholic content of beer as at present brewed is 4.05 per cent for malt and corn beer, 4.15 per cent for malt and rice beer, and 4.32 per cent for all malt beer.

The internal revenue commissioner's last report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, gives the following amounts of grain used in brewing:

	Bushels
Malt	52,439,973
Corn, cereals, and grits	13,573,521
Rice	2,354,000
Rye, oats, wheat, barley	72,355
Total	68,439,849

The Hoover order thus will cause a diversion to food uses of approximately 20,500,000 bushels of grain now employed in brewing.

Drys Not Satisfied

The temperance forces are not satisfied with the administration's view of the liquor question. The Anti-Saloon league withdrew its fight for the prohibition of brewing when the food bill was in congress in order to facilitate passage of this emergency measure. The league receded at the express request of President Wilson.

The officers of the league stated, however, that their withdrawal of their contentions was purely a matter of expediency and patriotic desire to further the food conservation legislation as a war measure. They

expressly reserved the right to continue their fight for the prohibition of brewing through other measures.

This fight is to be renewed by the Anti-Saloon league, the W. C. T. U., and other temperance organizations at the approaching session of congress. The Sheppard bill to submit to the states a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquor in the United States has been passed by the senate and is pending in the house.

Round Up in House

Every ounce of influence possessed by the drys is now being exerted to round up a two-thirds majority of the house in favor of the Sheppard bill. Efforts will be made to bring up the measure in the house before the Christmas holidays. Chairman Webb of the house judiciary committee is a dry and has promised the temperance forces that his committee will facilitate action by reporting the measure to the house without delay.

The drys have seized upon the administration attitude as disclosed in the Hoover statement tonight, as an additional argument for national prohibition. They contend that national efficiency will be enhanced for the war effort by total abstinence and argue that if the administration fears the prohibition of brewing as a food conservation measure would create a nation of whiskey drinkers, the only alternative is to prohibit the consumption of alcoholic liquors altogether.

FOSTER'S DOLLAR INDEX

The following is Foster's Dollar Index giving each month the change in the purchasing power (expressed in cents) of the United States dollar, compiled from the world's commodity prices.

The arbitrary basis taken is the average of prices during the years 1900 to 1906 as being a period when our dollar had 100 cents in purchasing power.

Average . . . 1896 to 1898	\$1.25
Av. (base) 1900 to 1906	1.00
Av. 1914	0.82 2-10
Av. 1915	0.66 4-10
Av. 1916	0.51 4-10
Av. during Feb. 1917	0.50 3-10
Av. during March 1917	0.48 5-10
Av. during April 1917	0.47 8-10
Av. during May 1917	0.47 6-10
Av. during June 1917	0.46
Av. during July 1917	0.46 4-10
Av. during Aug. 1917	0.45 9-10
Av. during Sept. 1917	0.46

Economists probably attribute high prices to inflation, or supply and demand of money; the layman, to the supply and demand of commodities.—W. C. Foster, 214 A, Mutual Life Building, Buffalo, N. Y.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Ammunition for Final Drive on Booze. An up-to-date Arsenal for Prohibition Speakers. By Louis Albert Banks, D.D. Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York and London. Price \$1.50, net.

How to Get What You Want. By Orison Swett Marden. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, Publishers, New York. Price \$1.25, net.

Patriotic Essays. Third Edition. By Elroy Headley. Published by Elroy Headley, Newark, N. J.

Civilized Commercialism. By Ernest G. Stevens. E. P. Dutton & Co., Publishers, 681 Fifth Ave., New York. Price \$1.25, net.

Frank Boyle. Simple Annals of the Poor Amid the Maddening Crowd's Ignoble Strife. By Joseph F. Rodgers. Broadway Publishing Co., New York.

Big Business. A Book of Rejoicing. The business of Abolishing Work and Turning This World Into

a Playground. By Ralph Parlette. A Lyceum and Chautauqua lecture which grew into a book. Published by Parlette-Padget Company, 122 South Michigan Ave., Chicago. Price \$1.00, net.

The Messiah of the Cylinder. By Victor Rousseau. A. C. McClurg & Co. Publishers, Chicago, Ill. Price \$1.35.

Socialism and Feminism. With an introduction on the Climax of Civilization. By Correa Moylan Walsh. In three volumes, cloth crown 8vo. Vol. 1. The Climax of Civilization, \$1.25. Vol. 2. Socialism, \$1.50. Vol. 3. Feminism, \$2.50. The set, three volumes, \$4.50. Sturgis & Walton Company, 31-33 East 27th St., New York, publishers.

League of Nations. A Chapter in the History of the Movement. By Theodore Marburg, M. A., LL.D., formerly United States minister to Belgium. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price 50c.

The Soldiers' Diary and Note Book. Containing useful information, invaluable to the soldier at home or at the front. Thomas Y. Crowell Company, Publishers, New York.

The Top of the Wine-Jar. Being selections in prose and verse from the writings of Frederic Rowland Marvin. Sherman, French & Company, Publishers, Boston, Mass. Price \$1.50 net.

The Laws of Health and Prosperity and How to Apply Them. Twelve lessons in spiritual science with technique. By Clara Chamberlain McLean. Published by The Elizabeth Towne Co., Holyoke, Mass.

Neutrality versus Justice. An Essay on International Relations. By A. J. Jacobs. T. Fisher Unwin Ltd., Publisher, Adelphi Terrace, London, England. Cash price in Great Britain, two shillings, net.

The Oklahoma Guaranty Law

assures to you absolute safety of monies deposited with the

GUARANTY STATE BANK

This bank for ten years has rendered satisfactory service to Commoner readers scattered over thirty states.

We solicit your business, suggesting either a time deposit, or savings account, on either of which interest is

FOUR PER CENT PER ANNUM

Free booklet and copy of guaranty law furnished on request.

GUARANTY STATE BANK

MUSKOGEE OKLAHOMA
E. A. EDMONDSON,
Cashier.

FREE TO Asthma Sufferers

A New Home Cure That Anyone Can Use Without Discomfort or Loss of Time

We have a New Method that cures Asthma, and we want you to try it at our expense. No matter whether your case is of long-standing or recent development, whether it is present as occasional or chronic Asthma, you should send for a free trial of our method. No matter in what climate you live, no matter what your age or occupation, if you are troubled with asthma, our method should relieve you promptly.

We especially want to send it to those apparently hopeless cases, where all forms of inhalers, douches, opium preparations, fumes, "patent smokes," etc., have failed. We want to show everyone at our own expense that this new method is designed to end all difficult breathing, all wheezing, and all those terrible paroxysms at once and for all time.

This free offer is too important to neglect a single day. Write now and then begin the method at once. Send no money. Simply mail coupon below. Do It Today.

FREE ASTHMA COUPON

Frontier Asthma Co., Room 812S, Niagara & Hudson Sts., Buffalo, N. Y.

Send free trial of your method to:

.....
.....
.....