

brewers would settle it by a minority.

Perhaps the clergyman, finding it difficult to follow the contradictory excerpts and essays which the compiler has tacked together to make the book, may turn to the last chapter for elucidation. "The Summing Up," the brewers call it. Here indeed is all made clear. Listen:

"Mankind in its saner, better moods, has always welcomed and blessed anything that tended to increase the general stock of cheerfulness and well-being. True, there have been periods when, possessed by a harsh religious conception, it put innocent diversion under the ban, slew or persecuted its real benefactors and preferred the house of mourning to the house of mirth. \* \* \*

"If it were necessary to plead any justification of the temperate indulgence in wine and fermented liquors—which we by no means concede—we might rest our case with this incontrovertible proposition: that no other agent in the world so effectively promotes the social virtues both in the individual and the community; no other so largely contributes to the common stock of well-being and happiness. \* \* \*

"It is commended to us by the highest warrant—by apostolic lips and by the sacred sanction of Him whose simple word changed water into wine at the feast of Cana. \* \* \*

"That there is much need for the fortifying and consoling spirit of wine what sane man will deny? The human lot has not changed essentially since these words were penned by the inspired writer:

"Man that is born of woman is few of days and full of trouble."

"He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not."

It may be possible that stubborn preachers in their "harsh religious conception" may refuse to take the word of the philanthropic brewers as to what the liquor traffic adds to the "general stock of cheerfulness and well-being." They may go to the desertion courts for their evidence. They may hear story after story from those most miserable of all miserable creatures, the drunkards' wives. They may be told of wretched lives and ruined homes, and babies starved or frozen dead. Not a day passes that some such horror is not laid at the door of the saloon.

And having heard these mere incidents in an age-long record, the clergymen may form their own ideas as to which is the house of mirth and which the house of mourning.

To the ministers of God we leave the brewers in their sacrilegious appeal to the solemn sacrament and the beautiful miracle as a defense of the American liquor traffic, linked as it is with every degradation and crime from prostitution to wholesale murder.

But we turn to the pages of the daily paper for just one instance of the house of mirth and the house of mourning. Here it is from yesterday's prints:

"Acute alcoholism," was the entry in the dispensary record of St. Joseph's hospital, Sunday, opposite the names of Margaret and Mary Ryan, 5 and 2 years old respectively.

The younger child has a fighting chance to recover from her "acute alcoholism," and the elder undoubtedly will weather her unusual condition.

The children are the daughters of Ellen Ryan, who lives at 1839 North street.

Mrs. Ryan and her husband, Michael, were put under arrest. According to the police, the Ryans say they had a "party" at their house Saturday night, and that when they woke up on Sunday morning they found

the two little girls unconscious on the floor, with an empty whisky bottle beside them.

THE "PEOPLE'S BANK"

Inspired dispatches sent out from Washington, for the avowed purpose of "educating the people" on the desirability of a huge central bank of issue, seek to reassure the populace in some very funny ways.

For example, it will be "the people's bank," we are told, for "anyone will be privileged to buy the bank stock just as he might a government bond." So is anyone privileged to buy Union Pacific stock, and United States steel corporation stock. But is the Union Pacific a railroad managed by the people for the people? Is the steel trust "a people's trust?" The stock in the central bank will be bought by those to whom its possession means most, and so who can afford to pay most for it; to-wit, the big Wall Street interests, that can well afford to invest their money without interest in return for the opportunity to control the bank.

Again, "political control of the bank is made extremely difficult by the life appointment of officers." We should think so! But it is not "political control of the bank" that is objected to. The objection, on the other hand, is to bank control of politics. And it is only required that the bank officials be appointed for life to place them, and the bank as well, securely beyond the reach of the people. Safe in their positions, with a control of the bank that only death can take from them, they may proceed to use the bank according to their own sweet wills—and the people must grin and bear it.

Furthermore, these educational dispatches tell us, the government is to guarantee the profits of this central bank, and is to deposit in it all the public funds, which now are on deposit in banks throughout the country. It is also to delegate to this bank the power to issue legal tender money when it wants to—and to retire such money when it wants to. All these favors the government, which is to say the people, bestow on the bank. But "it is not intended that the bank should support the credit of the nation. If the national government needs funds; if it spends more money than it collects by taxation, it must continue in the old way to borrow money from the world at large by the sale of bonds." The government, in other words, is to confer princely favors, unlimited power, upon the bank. But the bank is to give the government, in return—exactly nothing!

And the benefit? Who would profit? The educational dispatches say: "The single purpose of the bank would be to safeguard the business interests of the people in their private relations. If there were need for more money for business purposes, the bank would supply it by notes, and if there were a plethora in dull times these notes would be withdrawn rapidly."

There you have it. The single purpose of the bank is to increase or decrease the circulating medium, rapidly or instantly, at any time, according as "business" might require.

Whose business? Who would be the judges of its needs?

The bank officials, appointed for life, would be the judges! Theirs would be the irresponsible power to say when "the common good" requires an inflation of the currency, decreasing prices, and when a deflation, increasing prices! Theirs would be the irresponsible power to raise or lower the rate of discount, making money "tight" or "easy," brisk or dull, in every section of the country,

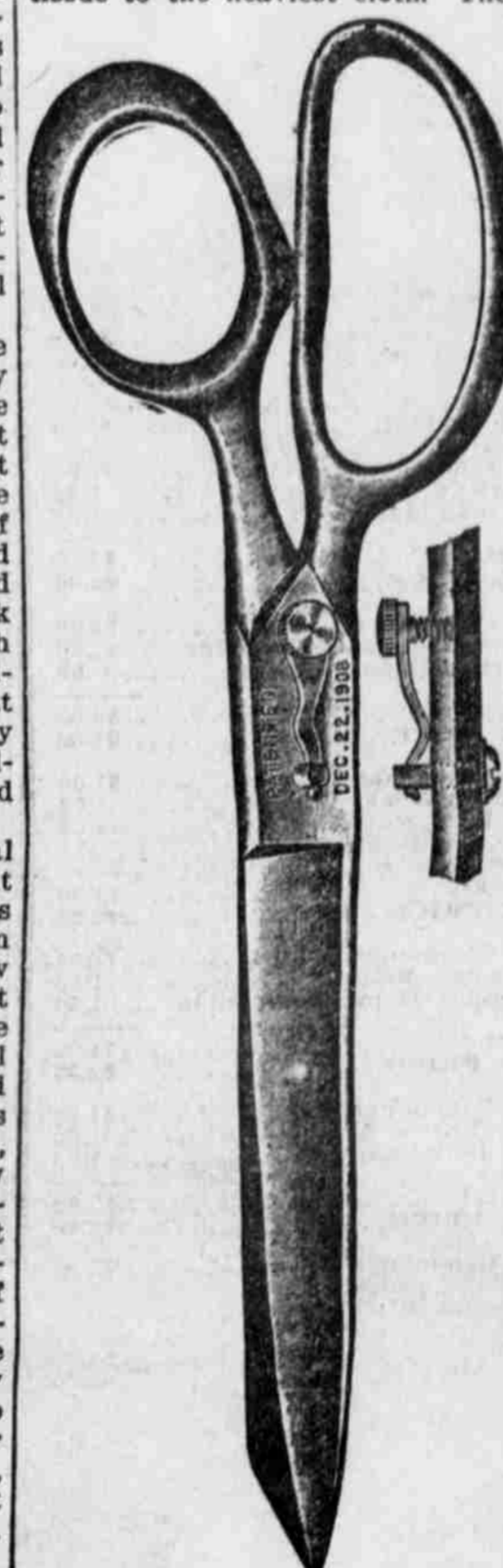
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within twenty-four hours of the time they reached their decision! It will take a vast deal of "education," we think, to induce the American people to consent to this program. President Taft and his trusty lieutenant, Senator Aldrich, will have to make more than one tour each to establish its popularity. But it is the program. It is a part, and the most important part, of the Taft policy. It embodies the chief reward of merit that the American people are to receive for having elected Mr. Taft president.—Omaha World-Herald.