

## Liquor and Labor

(By Charles Stelzle, in National Advocate.)

According to the defenders of the saloon 1,000,000 workingmen would permanently be thrown onto the labor market following the introduction of national prohibition. This argument is based entirely upon the absurd proposition that if the liquor dealers fail to get the money now spent for beer and whisky nobody else will get it. It is assumed that if a man does not spend a dollar for booze he will throw that dollar into the sewer or into some kind of a bottomless pit, instead of using it to purchase some other commodity which will do good instead of harm, which will have a permanent value and which will give the workingmen of the country more work, more wages, and greater prosperity in every way than if the same amount of money were spent for beer and whisky.

A good deal is being said about the enormous amount of capital invested in the liquor industry, and yet, according to the Statistical Abstract of the United States, for every \$1,000,000 invested in the average industry, practically four times as much raw material is required, four times as much wages is paid and four times as many workers are employed, as is the case in the liquor industry.

Let us take five leading industries in the United States and compare them with the liquor business. For every \$1,000,000 invested in each of these industries the following number of wage earners are employed: Liquor, 77; iron and steel and their products, 284; paper and printing, 367; leather and its products, 469; textiles and their finished products, 578; lumber and its manufactures, 579. These figures prove that the iron industry employs nearly four times as many, paper and printing nearly five times as many, leather six times as many, textiles seven and one-half times as many, and lumber seven and one-half times as many workers for every \$1,000,000 invested as does the liquor industry.

The figures given by the liquor interests as to the number of men who would be affected by the abolition of the liquor traffic are greatly exaggerated. The census report for 1910 tells us that in all manufacturing industries there were then employed 6,616,046 persons. The liquor industry employed 62,920, or just about one per cent of the total. But of this number only 15,000 were brewers and malsters, distillers and rectifiers. The remainder of the 62,920 were employed as engineers, carpenters, machinists, teamsters, etc.—occupations which are not at all peculiar to the liquor business. There were more teamsters employed than there were brewers and maltsters, distillers and rectifiers.

There are about 100,000 bartenders in the United States. What will become of these when the saloon is abolished? What is it that makes a successful bartender? It is his ability as a salesman, and a man who is a good bartender will make a good clerk or salesman in practically any other kind of business. Furthermore, it requires many more people to sell \$2,000,000,000 worth of bread and clothing, for example, than it does to sell liquor of the same value.

### The Brewers and the Farmers

But what about the 15,000 or so brewers and maltsters, distillers and rectifiers? They will of necessity, be compelled to adjust themselves to

changed conditions. But this does not mean that they will either go adrift or cause a panic. The constantly changing situation in the industrial world in this country often compels men to transfer from one occupation to another, many of them being required to learn entirely new trades.

As a matter of fact, however, more workingmen lose their jobs because saloons are open than would be the case were the saloons to be closed. As somebody put it, "When liquor puts a man out of a job it unfits him for another job. When no-licence puts a bartender out of a job it makes him a wealth-producing workingman instead of a wealth-destroying workingman. It is better that the bartender should lose his job and get a better one than that dozens of his patrons should lose their jobs and be unfitted for any job."

There are about 10,000,000 farmers in the United States. They constitute ten per cent of our entire population. The value of their annual products is approximately \$10,000,000,000, or \$1,000 for each farmer. The liquor industry purchases every year from the farmer about \$100,000,000 worth of produce, or just one per cent of all that the farmer produces; that is \$10 for each farmer in the United States.

The question is, what will the "poor" farmer do with his \$10 worth of produce which the liquor industry can not purchase when it is put out of business? It is absolutely certain that he will never be compelled to throw away this \$10 worth of material which is troubling the liquor men so grievously. The chances are that somebody else besides the liquor men will find use for the farmer's grain and grapes and apples and cherries. To listen to the defender of the saloon one would think that nobody likes grapes and cherries unless they come in the form of booze.

If the 100,000,000 people in this country were each to increase their purchasing power by so much as a two-cent postage stamp per week, it would amount to about \$100,000,000 per year—the sum of the liquor men's purchases from the farmer. There is no need to worry about the farmer. Anyway, he's voting out the saloon every time he gets a chance, fully realizing the force of whatever there may be in the argument of the liquor men as far as he is concerned.

### "MAY GOD AID RUSSIA," SAYS CZAR IN ABDICATING THRONE

A Petrograd cablegram, via London, dated March 17, says: The following is the text of the imperial manifesto in which the Russian emperor announced his abdication and that of his son:

"We, Nicholas II, by the grace of God emperor of all the Russias, czar of Poland, and grand duke of Finland, etc., make known to all our faithful subjects: In the day of the great struggle against a foreign foe who has been striving for three years to enslave our country, God has wished to send Russia a new and painful trial. Interior troubles threaten to have a fatal repercussion on the final outcome of the war. The destinies of Russia, the honor of our dear fatherland, require that the war be prosecuted at all cost to a victorious end. The cruel enemy is making his last effort and the moment is near when our valiant

army, in concert with those of our glorious allies, will definitely chastise the foe.

"In these decisive days in the life of Russia, we believe our people should have the closest union and organization of all their forces for the realization of speedy victory. For this reason, in accordance with the Duma of the empire, we have considered it desirable to abdicate the throne of Russia and lay aside our supreme power. Not wishing to be separated from our love in the son we leave our heritage to our brother, the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, blessing his advent to the throne of Russia. We hand over the government to our brother in full union with the representatives of the nation who are seated in the executive chambers taking this step with an inviolable oath in the name of our well beloved country. We call on all faithful sons of the fatherland to fulfill their sacred patriotic duty in this painful moment of national trial and to aid our brother and the representatives of the nation in bringing Russia into the path of prosperity and glory. May God aid Russia."

### BEAUTIFUL WATER

(By Geo. K. Edwards, McLeansboro, Ill.)

Water is ever changing; it is the "poetry of motion." It hastens to the sea, but the sea can not retain it; it floats in the clouds and falls to the earth again in refreshing showers. To him that hath eyes and ears, it speaks a various language. It patters on the roof; it bubbles in the spring; it gushes in the streamlet; it splashes in the pool; it sings in the mountain brook; it dances in the cascades; it laughs in the cataract; it ripples in the lake; it weeps in the storm; surges in the sea, and roars in the ocean. It has been the world's music since the dawn of creation, and will be until the end of time on the earth.

In the geysers it seethes, boils, hisses, spouts, and plays all sorts of

whimsical tricks. In the glaciers, icebergs and snowy peaks of the mountains it is wondrously beautiful. It haloes the moon; it paints the hues of the rainbow and the sunsets, and forms the beauties of the mystic cloud-land. With the frost crystals it draws fantastic pictures on the window panes, and its frozen dew-drops sparkle like diamonds in the light of the early morning. Aided by the south-wind and the sunshine, it makes the grass to grow, and flowers to bloom, the trees to bud and bear fruit. With the north wind it covers the trees with silvery coats of ice; and with the snow crystals it weaves old mother earth a new white dress, in which she appears pure and innocent, (although she has drunk the blood of many of her sons in battle;) and it furnishes skating and sleighing for those who delight in out-door recreations.

As it gracefully flows along the river to the sea, it furnishes power which is utilized in promoting our commercial enterprises; when heated into steam, it turns the wheels that move the world along in its mad rush for wealth; and it is (of itself) the great broad highway upon which the world's traffic is transported.

Pure, cold, clear, sparkling, crystal water! It relieves pain; it quenches the fevered thirst; it is life-giving, without it nothing could live; it is the emblem of purity, it cleanses the world. Study it to be wise, drink it to be strong, sing its praises to be free from rum's awful curse.

Water contains no poison that intoxicates the brain and causes delirium. It never drives women and children homeless and friendless into the streets. Our prisons are not filled with its victims; it doesn't rob the nation of its manhood; it does not "regulate" our elections by fraud; neither does it cost the American people two thousand million dollars every year. It is one of God's free gifts. It was "Adam's ale"; let it be our drink, for the Lord made nothing better.

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