

they are against the use of prostitutes in saloons which they supply.

"During the period of its investigation the commission has secured definite information regarding 445 saloons in different parts of the city. The investigators have counted 929 unescorted women in these saloons, who by their actions and conversation were believed to be prostitutes. In fact, they were solicited by more than 236 women in 236 different saloons, all of whom, with the exception of 98, solicited for rooms, 'hotels,' and houses of prostitution over the saloons.

"Another feature of the saloon which is pernicious is the vaudeville shows of lewd nature conducted in the rear rooms. This is so widespread in the saloons mentioned in the class above that the public and police seem to have taken the attitude that because it exists it should be allowed to continue. Many young men, to say nothing of women, have been lured by the entertainment provided in these resorts to acts which they never contemplated when they entered the saloon for drinks only. Could the general public know the extent of the saloon's degrading influence in so many instances it would insistently demand an immediate and permanent change in the situation."

Throughout its report the commission cites instance after instance showing how the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage and immorality are closely associated.

The Chicago vice commission must be regarded as a fair and unbiased authority. It was appointed by the mayor and city council of Chicago to investigate immorality in that city, and was composed of a representative group of business and professional men of all religious beliefs, headed by Dean Walter T. Sumner.

Dr. E. O. Taylor, of Boston, in his message of science to legislatures, says:

"The principal agency by which 300,000 girls are led astray every year in this country is liquor. * * * And this statement is confirmed by the report of the legislative anti-vice committee of Wisconsin, which was filed with the secretary of state December 5, 1914. This report says: 'The greatest cause for commercialized vice is the use of intoxicating liquor.'"

Mr. Speaker, what a revelation this is. That we, the people of the United States, living in a so-called Christian, civilized country should permit such an institution as the saloon, which lures 300,000 of our young girls along the downward path of prostitution every year.

The Saloon as a Crime Breeder

Mr. Speaker, that the saloon has no rival as a crime breeder no one will deny. The chaplains of penitentiaries of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois give the following figures showing the percentage of inmates who owe their imprisonment wholly or in part to liquor:

"Ohio, 80 per cent; Indiana, 83 per cent; Illinois, 90 per cent."

Mr. Speaker, it is not necessary for me to say any more with regard to the relation of the saloon and crime, but at this time I ask permission to insert as part of my remarks a letter relating to this subject which I received some time ago from a very distinguished member of this body:

"House of Representatives of United States, Committee on Patents, Washington, D. C., December 11, 1916.

"Hon. John G. Cooper, Washington,

D. C.—My Dear Congressman: I am writing this letter at your request, stating to you the effect of intoxicating liquor as a producer of crime in so far as it has come within my personal observation.

It was my privilege to serve in the courts of the state of Mississippi during a period of about seven years in the several capacities of county attorney, district attorney, and circuit judge. The county attorney is a county prosecuting officer and assistant to the district attorney in the circuit court, the district attorney is a district prosecuting officer trying all misdemeanors and felonies in the circuit court, which has jurisdiction of all civil cases brought at law in contradistinction to equity and also plenary jurisdiction of all misdemeanors and felonies.

"It will thus be seen that my opportunities for observation were excellent.

During my service I busied myself in the effort to learn the causes of crime in my district, which I believe to be typical of the state at large. I carefully prepared my cases, as was necessary, and learned the history of the cases as thoroughly as possible.

"I found that from 85 to 95 per cent of all crimes committed in my district from murder through the entire category of crime was directly due to whisky or kindred beverages.

"In one county, the most populous of the district, I tried from 10 to 20 men for murder each year, and almost without exception I found that whisky was the cause of the homicide. In short, in one county alone, we had each year from 10 to 20 dead men, from 10 to 20 men sent to the penitentiary for life or hanged, from 10 to 20 widows, and from 10 to 20 or 30 or 40, as the case might be, orphans or half orphans thrown more or less upon the mercies of a rather thoughtless world, and all of this with its attendant sorrow, suffering, and heartbreak, with other attendant evils was due to intoxicating liquor. This in respect to murder in one county alone. In addition, there were the rapes, embezzlements, highway robberies, larcenies, assaults and batteries with intent to kill, potential murders, etc.

"Whisky is the greatest crime producer, in my opinion.

"If we could get rid of whisky in Mississippi we would rid ourselves of from 85 to 95 per cent of our criminal-expense account, of our criminal population, of our inmates of penal institutions, and of the suffering and sorrow that crime brings not alone to the criminal but also to the innocent.

"Mississippi is a prohibition state, but I am thoroughly convinced that we can not be dry until our neighboring states also prohibit the sale of liquor.

"If you think that this letter can be of use to you in the great and worthy work that you are doing for prohibition, you are at liberty to use it whenever or wherever you like.

"Sincerely, yours,
"WEBB VENABLE."

Economic Benefits of Prohibition

Mr. Speaker, the supporters of the liquor traffic are working overtime in trying to leave the impression in the minds of the voters that prohibition is a deplorable thing for any community to adopt. They are forever making the assertion that wherever prohibition has been adopted the result has been a general business depression in all lines

of commercial activity; that prohibition has the result of throwing thousands of people out of work, and that there would be hundreds of vacant store buildings in our large cities, and that there would be more liquor sold and drunk, there would be more crimes committed, and more arrests for drunkenness under prohibition than under license.

Now, no one can blame the liquor people for making these assertions, for today they are fighting for the very existence of their business; but let us be fair and examine the facts. Let us call all the witness and examine the testimony. The defendant in this case is prohibition and the prosecutor is the liquor traffic.

The supporters of the liquor traffic, and most of the witnesses on this side are people who are financially interested in the business, say that prohibition tends to retard the development of the community from the social, moral, industrial, and business standpoint.

A good indication as to what prohibition will do is what it has done in the cities, counties, and states where it has been tried. So in order to be fair and give prohibition an impartial trial we should listen to the testimony of the people who live in districts where prohibition of the liquor traffic has been in force, and not listen to the testimony of paid hirelings of the liquor interests, some of whom have never been within thousands of miles of the prohibition territory that they are so eager to condemn.

Some Wet Evidence

A few days ago I read an article in one of the Washington daily papers which was given to the press by a Col. J. A. Ownbey, in which he states:

"Prohibition has been in force just about a year in Colorado. Denver, the metropolis of the state, has suffered perhaps more than any other city. This year, I believe, is the first year in the history of the city that the population has failed to show an increase; instead the number of inhabitants has decreased 15,000 to 20,000.

"The value of property has de-

precalated to a great extent, wages have been reduced, and it is next to impossible to sell real estate. The big hotels that once did a record business now are barely able to pay expenses. Moreover prohibition has driven fully 80 per cent of the coal miners out of the state. Mine owners have the greatest difficulty getting men to work. Prohibition might be all right in theory, but not in practice, and while the state of Colorado is dry, it is easy for those who want it to get their liquor by sending across the state line into Wyoming or New Mexico. Cheyenne, Wyo., and Raton, N. Mex., are doing a big business in the sale of liquors, one firm in Cheyenne having receipts of \$1,500 a day for liquor that goes into Colorado."

You will notice in one place or Mr. Ownbey's statement he says that prohibition has driven thousands of workmen out of Colorado because they could not get their liquor, and then a little later on he makes the statement that anyone who wants liquor in Colorado can get it without any trouble.

Evidence in Rebuttal

But, Mr. Speaker, let us call in citizens of Colorado and Denver of recognized position and credibility and hear what they have to say. It is a pretty good idea if you want to find out what are the popular issues that take well with the people of the states to watch the platforms of the political parties. The party leaders always try and insert in their state platforms the issues which are most popular with the people. In 1916 for the first time in the history of Colorado the democratic and republican party platforms indorsed prohibition. Why? Because they knew that the people of Colorado were overwhelmingly in favor of prohibition in their state.

My friends, let us get to the truth about this matter, and let the people of Colorado and Denver speak for themselves. Their opinion is reflected in the votes on prohibition since the year 1910, at which time the city of Denver voted wet by 17,000, in 1912, by 22,000, in 1914 by 8,500, in 1915 for a so-called

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