

and wearisome dissertation upon this important subject, but I trust some of the facts I have been endeavoring to bring to your attention may not be without some value to you.

FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The retiring president of the Rotary club, at the meeting of that useful body Friday night, suggested that the club provide a medal or a token of some description to be conferred annually upon that Rotarian who during the year had rendered to his city the most distinguished service.

This suggestion is a wise one and if carried out would establish a mark of distinction which any Rotarian could well seek to attain.

The requirements of urban existence and the realization that the security and the happiness of the individual depend in large measure upon unselfish service by the citizenship as a whole, furnish opportunity for distinguished achievements on behalf of humanity and for the welfare of the community which individual men and women today are accepting with pleasure, and with little thought of pecuniary gain or personal popularity.

There are many offices which the political machinery of the average municipality can not discharge, whatever the municipality of the future, in its ideal conception, may be able to accomplish. The municipality, acting through its constituted authorities, can levy taxes for the support of schools, hospitals, parks, playgrounds and all public facilities and conveniences, but unless there is back of these official transactions a public sentiment expressed through the intelligent and energetic co-operation of men and women who are animated by other than purely selfish motives, little will be accomplished that will make the city a better place in which to live and in which to rear and educate one's children.

One can not fail to note with pride the progress which Lexington is making in all phases of its municipal life. There is a growing popular interest in better city government, in higher education, in the welfare of child life, in the sick and inefficient, and in advanced morality.

While this is the direct result of the changing mental and moral attitude of the individual citizen, the sum of which is manifested by the things already done, those who watch the progress of the community know pretty well the names of the men and the women who have contributed more or less freely of their time and of the means to hasten these improvements. Their light can not be hidden. Just as no man, however clever at concealment, can live a double life and forever deceive his neighbors with regard to his true character, so the good man and useful citizen will soon be recognized by his fellows and his unselfish labors and wise benefactions gratefully remembered.

Why should not the distinction of eminent public service be coveted by a member of the Rotary club, or by any citizen, and why should we not erect some monuments to the generosity and the industry of our useful private citizens while they are still among us and able to enjoy these evidences of the gratitude of their fellowmen?

The Rotary club will do well to follow the advice of its retiring president.—Lexington, Ky., Leader.

PROFITS AND PATRIOTISM

The remarkable clarity with which President Wilson is able to state a proposition—an ability that is the envy of most professional writers—is again evident in his discussion of profits and patriotism. The President was moved to make this statement of his opinion and position by the fact that congress, presumably under the usual pressure, has not shown any disposition to levy upon excess profits, the profits that are the inevitable result of war conditions in a country, the tax that the occasion and the cause warrant. It is a primary proposition of national ethics that no man can take advantage of war in his country to pile up large profits and at the same time lay claim to being a patriot. When a nation is at war three natural divisions follow. One part of the nation is sent to the trenches and upon the high seas to do the fighting. Another part remains at home and busies itself in the actual production of necessities. The third part busies itself with providing the facilities by which the nation's resources are

massed to meet the emergency. It is most iniquitable that this group shall be permitted to go unrestrained in its pursuit of profit, while the others must forego the opportunity if they are patriots to participate in this prosperity. Profits are the inducements that get men to enter business, and we must concede to them the rewards to which they are entitled. The necessity of a limitation upon them during wartime is, however, so necessary that it needs no argument. The President has presented the argument and the fact so forcibly that we need add little to what he has said. It is actual treason to the nation if one class so conducts itself that it is made more difficult for the others to cheerfully and properly perform their tasks.—Lincoln, Neb., Daily News.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC

[From The Chicago Tribune.]

If the secret records of the brewing and distilling industries were ever brought to light they would tell a story of social and political corruption unequalled in the annals of our history. If the veritable narrative of the American saloon were ever written, it would make the decadence of Rome look like an age of pristine purity in comparison.

Whiskey, wine, and beer never caused half as much injury to society as the manufacturers and purveyors of these beverages. If these men have not made a practice of committing murder and arson it is because these crimes did not seem immediately profitable. The liquor business has been the faithful ally of every vicious element in American life; it has protected criminals, it has fostered the social evil, and it has bribed politicians, juries, and legislatures.

The inherent corruption has extended even to the so-called decent saloons. There are few that do not serve adulterated products, and it is an unusual proprietor that is not more pleased when his patrons are getting drunk than when they keep sober. Philip drunk stays longer and spends more money than Philip sober. That is one reason the saloon would rather sell ardent spirits than beer; they are more intoxicating.

We have been speaking of the "decent" saloon; the other variety is almost unspeakable. The smallest count in the indictment against the evil bar room is its persistent evasion of the law. We are not surprised to read that numerous Cook county roadhouses are operating without licenses, that they keep open on Sunday, or that they seem to exercise a mysterious control over public officials. Yet these are only minor offenses in the calendar of saloon iniquities.

The brewers have at times tried, or said they would try, to clean up the saloon business. The head of a great St. Louis brewery often told his conferees that it was the brewers' only salvation. The theory was accepted, but the practice was always to expend every energy to sell one more keg of beer, even if it had to be sold to bootleggers and resort keepers.

It is for these reasons that the prohibition movement has gained such strength. The demand for the abolition of the liquor traffic is the expression of a ripening conviction that it is conducted by nefarious means for nefarious ends.

"After us the deluge," seems to have been the philosophy of the liquor men—but now the deluge seems to be on the point of breaking

The prohibition bill that was passed by the Wisconsin legislature was vetoed by Governor Phillips on the ground that it would confiscate the big brewing concerns located in Milwaukee. The men responsible for the passage of the bill say that the governor is a candidate for United States senator. It sounds reasonable.

Congress is apparently having a very difficult time of it determining how to apportion the burden of the war cost. Yet it ought not to require any high degree of statesmanship to figure that the men who profit most by the fact that we are in war should pay the most of its cost, while those who profit not at all should be burdened as little as possible.

If those who would be hard hit by a large surtax upon incomes desire to escape the agony of having to pay them perhaps they might be able to effect an exchange of some sort with those who are not threatened with any visit from the income tax collector.

WHAT LIQUOR COSTS

[By Senator William E. Borah.]

Sir, another item: Last year the liquor bill of the United States amounted to \$2,438,037,985. Our Liberty Loan completed for the present at \$2,000,000,000; our Red Cross subscription. So we have at this time represented in the Liberty Loan and the Red Cross subscription \$2,100,000,000, and we have in the other column, representing the amount expended for liquor in a single year, \$2,438,037,985. View this question from any standpoint — from the standpoint of revenue, from the standpoint of food conservation, from the standpoint of human energy and human efficiency, from the standpoint of good citizenship, from the standpoint of success in the war—and the appeal comes to us here, representing this entire nation now, at this time in connection with this question, to put our seal of disapproval upon the liquor traffic in its entirety.

PEACE THROUGH WAR

Mr. Bryan shows, by his adaptation to the war, an admirable capacity for living in the world. The only way out of the war, he tells a Kentucky audience, is "through it." Mr. Bryan has coined an epigram which should be helpful to such pacifists as have had difficulty to adjust themselves to the state of war in which their country is involved. Mr. Bryan went the whole length in opposing the war. He did not think that war could cure war. But as between his own country warring and Germany warring he is for his own country. He takes circumstances as they are and makes the best of them. The work of the pacifist now is not to hinder a war not now to be prevented. That merely furnishes advantage to our opponent in war. His present part is to try to steer a successful war to the port of peace. Mr. Bryan is sanely taking his part.—Lincoln (Neb.) State Journal.

FIRST "BONE-DRY" COMMENCEMENT

A Cambridge, Mass., dispatch, dated June 21, says: War-shattered and time-honored customs caused commencement day at Harvard university today to be transformed into a memorable patriotic occasion. More than 1,200 degrees were awarded graduates of the college and Harvard graduate schools, many of whom were absent on war duty.

It was the first "bone-dry" commencement in the history of the university. In an effort to help along the war prohibition movement the Harvard Alumni Association had requested that soft drinks alone be served at the various class reunions, and there was general compliance.

DRINK CONTAINING ALCOHOL IS LIQUOR

A Washington dispatch of June 19 says: Any drink containing alcohol was defined by the postoffice department today as intoxicating liquor within the meaning of the law forbidding mailing of liquor advertisements into dry territory after July 1. Myth, wood and denatured alcohol are excepted. The department ruled also that the prohibition against advertisements applies to liquor for scientific, sacramental, medicinal and mechanical purposes.

Hawaii is the latest land to offer the ballot to women. Which reminds us that if anybody has bet that the greatest democracy in the world, the United States of America, would be the last country to enfranchise women, his chances of winning the wager are getting better all the time.

Some of the swaggering swashbucklers who desire inserted in prison every man who is not willing or anxious to be as noisy in displaying his patriotism as they are seem to have secured their standards of conduct from close friends of the kaiser. A united nation behind the President is impossible as long as these run at large through the newspapers.

The patriotism of none of the railroads has risen to the height of developing a system of rates that will locate factories and mills in the same section of the country where the raw material is produced. Yet here is an economy that would make all others look like extravagances in comparison.