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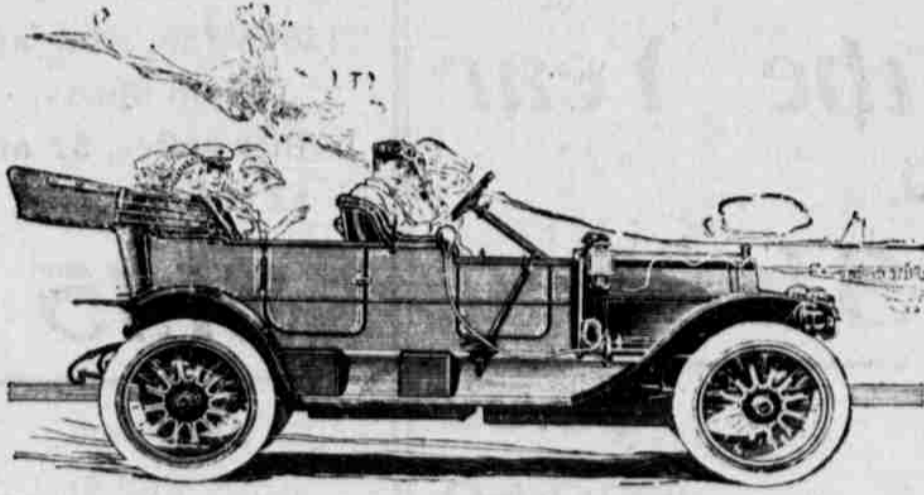
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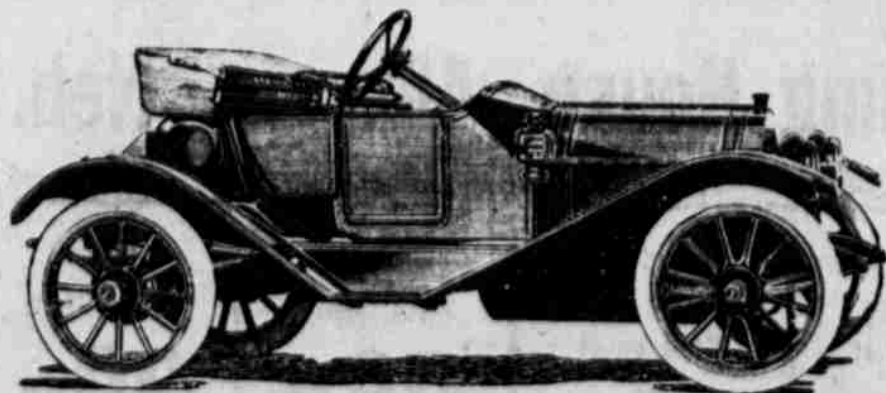
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OUR NATION'S SCHOOL OF VICE

Excerpts from Address of Well
Known Labor Leader, De-
livered in Marion,
Ohio

John F. Cunneen

The saloon is a school wherein husbands and fathers learn to be at ease about ill-clad and ill-fed wives and children, and to fling away those airy notions called honest pride and laudable ambition, for the gratification of their palates, and "feeling good" all over. It is a school wherein sons learn to despise the quiet, pure joys of home, to become vile in word, in act, in aspiration, and to fetter themselves body and soul with the drink demon's chains. It is a school wherein daughters learn the shortest way to break their parents' hearts, to think a blush a weakness, to prize drink more than decency.

The saloon is the friend of the drunkard, the gambler, the prostitute, the blasphemer, the profaner of the Sabbath, the corrupt politician, the ballot-box stuffer, the "repeater", the law breaker of every name. The saloon is, in a word, the friend of all that is evil, of naught that is good. It defiles all that it touches. It makes the good bad, and the bad worse. Like a vulture, it thrives on carrion; cholera-like, it feeds and fattens on physical and moral dirt, disease and degradation. It breaks hearts wrecks homes, infects society, betrays the state, and is the foremost agent against Church and God.

Out by many by-ways go the graduates of the saloon. In the gutters they wallow; in low dens and brothels they lead living deaths; in gloomy prison cells they pine; in mad men's cages they rage; on grim scaffolds they pay the price of blood; only God's omnipotence can snatch them from the one ending of the road they have taken.

The American saloon is no respecter of nationalities, and as the people of each nationality and their descendants become Americanized they will find the American saloon their worst enemy, if they prove friends of it.

We see in our land that as the saloon flourishes drunkenness increases. As drunkenness increases, so do licentiousness and poverty, till we might say in the words of the poet, slightly changed:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening
ills a prey
Where saloons accumulate and
men decay."

Is there such a thing as a model saloon? Years ago, near where I live in Chicago, there was a man who took compassion upon the poor workmen he saw going into saloons, leaving their money and going home drunk to their families. He decided to start a model saloon, so that the poor workmen could get their drink and go home sober to their families. He had property and money to spare, and he started his model saloon. He would not sell liquor to any man who ever got drunk, would allow no minors in his saloon, and would allow no cursing or obscene language in his place. He would sell only two drinks to any one; he closed the saloon at ten o'clock at night and did not open it at all on Sunday. He kept a model saloon, but he lost money until he was forced to give it up. Some time ago the papers gave an account of a man starting a model saloon in Detroit. He was going to elevate the whole saloon business of the United States, but three months later there was an item in the papers telling how the sheriff had taken possession of the model saloon, the model saloon keeper having become bankrupt. It is a peculiar characteristic of the saloon that those who patronize it prefer the free-and-easy saloon, and the man who tries to conduct a respectable place is driven out of business by the man who has no scruples about the business. There are few independent saloon-keepers today, as saloons are more and more becoming monopolized by the trusts, and the agent who brings to the trust the greatest profits, no matter how obtained is the kind of a man they want.

We hear the liquor element crying out, "We want our personal liberty." For what does the liquor traffic want personal liberty? It kills 80,000 people in our country every year; that means 5,600,000 people in a man's lifetime of seventy years; and it wants personal liberty to continue the slaughter. The liquor traffic produces 75 per cent of our criminals, 80 per cent of our pauperism, and 50 per cent of our insanity; and

it wants personal liberty to continue to do so. It takes \$1,200,000,000 of the people's money every year, and it wants personal liberty to keep on taking it. Personal liberty should end where it becomes a menace to the community; and the liquor traffic long ago became a menace to the community and it should have no further personal liberty to destroy the people. I believe that God guides the minds and hearts of the American people and brings them safely through every crisis. I believe that the idea of this great moral revolution now spreading over the land was instilled into the minds and hearts of the people by Almighty God, that our nation might not be destroyed by the liquor traffic. The liquor traffic is changing this "land of the free and home of the brave" into "the land of the spree and home of the knave." I believe that if this nation lives the saloon must die. We are not called upon today to shoulder a gun and go forth to war to suffer the terrible privations of a soldier's life; to, perhaps, bleed or die that our country may be victorious. All that we are called upon to do is to go to the polls and cast a ballot that will save our nation. Every man who loves his country should cast the vote that will crush the saloon, the worst enemy of America.

Where does the saloon win? Go to the part of the city where Christianity is weak, morality low and where there are poor specimens of manhood and womanhood, and there we find the saloon winning, and the more degraded the people, the greater the majority the saloon rolls up. Go where Christianity is strong, where morality prevails, where there is manhood and womanhood, and there we find the saloon going down in defeat. It is a grand tribute to a people when they vote out saloons; and the greater the majority against saloons the greater the tribute to the people.

To license the liquor traffic means to surrender to an evil. No license means war against an evil. Good and brave men will not surrender to an evil.

A certain newspaper not a thousand miles from Scottsbluff advertises a horse with "three white hind feet." There is no telling what that Union Pacific railroad won't be responsible for.—Scottsbluff Herald, Jan. 12.

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