

# EDUCATIONAL SERIES

## The Evils of Alcoholism

Hereinafter will be found a press dispatch from Washington, setting forth the results of the international congress held in London last July. The delegates from this country were appointed by Secretary Knox, and some twenty five governments were represented. According to the report, the delegates from all these countries concurred in a finding that alcohol is not only unnecessary to human life and comfort, but is inimical to both. The report will be interesting reading to those who are studying the temperance question:

Washington, November 7.—Alcohol and alcoholism are two of the real and substantial enemies of moral, artistic and commercial progress of the human race, according to the report of the United States delegates to the twelfth international congress on alcoholism, made public by the state department today. The delegates were appointed by Secretary Knox as one of his first official acts. The congress was held last July in London, and twenty-five governments were represented, the delegates of each concurring in the general finding that alcohol not only was unnecessary to human life and comfort but was inimical to both.

Three departments of the United States government were represented by delegates, the state, navy and the treasury. Twelve representatives went abroad, and all of them unanimously signed the report made public today, the finding of which is to condemn the drinking habit as dangerous to public health and morals and subversive of national, moral, commercial and military greatness.

According to the report, the interest shown in the congress was greater than ever before. Because of the information evolved at the congress, the delegates accepted the invitation of the queen of Holland to hold their next meeting, two years hence, at The Hague in conjunction with the conference of the committee that is working for international peace.

While the congress urged the necessity of imposing the most rigorous restrictions on the sale and traffic in alcoholic liquors, it regarded as equally important the need of educating the younger generation to a true knowledge of what alcohol is and what its effects upon the human system are. The delegates believe that the numerous recent discoveries as to the harmfulness of drunkenness and even of "moderate" drinking, also, should be set before children in order that they may see the danger of the practice. The American delegates sum up this phase of their report by saying:

"Increased teaching as to its character and influence should be provided to conserve industrial efficiency in the commercial competition of nations, as well as to promote two of the chief objections of government—the public health and morals."

The value of this method of combatting the growth of the liquor habit is emphasized in the report. While acknowledgement is made that the organization of associations of juvenile abstainers is useful, it is declared, the chief reliance should be placed on scientific temperance education in the public schools as a means of ridding the public mind of errors about the effects of alcohol and substituting the facts that science is declared to have evolved about the use of the beverage, even when taken in small doses.

In furtherance of this plan, Mrs. Edith Smith Davis of Milwaukee, Wis., superintendent of the World's and National Christian Temperance Union, and one of the American delegates, urged the necessity of getting to the root of the matter by compelling the curricula of normal schools and universities to include such education. In this way, Mrs. Davis contended, the younger generation would be assured of proper instruction on the subject.

Miss Cora F. Stoddard of Boston, another American delegate and secretary of the scientific temperance federation, also devoted to the same subject, her address which was the first paper of the congress. In it she dwelt upon the important relations of such instruction in the schools to national progress. She put forward the benefits derived by a number of countries through the adoption of such a plan as proof that it should become universal.

The United States, according to the report, made an unusually good showing in its exhibits.

Germany also was to the fore with a particularly fine collection of colored charts showing the effect of alcohol on the body, the family and upon society. Especially effective, it is said, were the stereopticon slides of the National Temperance League of Great Britain.

These stereopticon pictures, the report goes on to show, were largely reproductions of municipal posters that are being issued by the city councils of about 100 British boroughs. The posters deal in a popular way with the deleterious effect of alcohol on the human system, and are posted by order of the regular officials of towns in which the sale of intoxicants is licensed. This fact, however, does not prevent the officials from warning the public against the use of alcohol.

Following the example of Great Britain, the city and district officials of both France and Australia likewise have adopted the "public warning" method of advising the people against indulgence. The report deplors the fact that the same method has not yet found a foothold in the United States, although such a plan has been noted in certain cities, where posters inveighing against the use of alcohol have been issued by authority of the mayors.

"The relation of drunkenness to crime," was a subject that received much attention at the congress. The chief justice of England, Lord Alverstone, announced that in his belief 90 per cent of the crimes passing under his observation were due to drink.

Judge W. F. Pollard of St. Louis, Mo., who presides at the second district police court in that city, declared that of the cases passed upon by him fully 85 per cent of those convicted could charge their degradation to the use of alcohol. Lieutenant Colonel McHardy of Edinburgh, Scotland, coincided with Judge Pollard as to the percentage of crimes occurring in the former Scotch capital.

Judge Pollard won the support of the delegates from twenty-three countries for the adoption of his plan to suspend sentence in the case of every first offender who is brought into court charged with drunkenness. This involves such first offenders signing a pledge to abstain for one year. If the probationers fail to live up to their pledge they may be arrested and summarily sentenced. The knowledge that one drink may mean a prison sentence, Judge Pollard argued, kept many a man straight until he had time to collect himself. The penalty for failure to keep faith with the court was not settled, several of the delegates arguing in favor of various degrees of punishment. The principle, however, was regarded as admirable, and 400 delegates urged its adoption by the various governments of the world.

There was considerable debate on the effects of the use of small quantities of alcohol. Certain of the delegates, according to the report, insisted that the use of alcohol, in whatever quantity, was of the greatest danger to the human. Others contended that experiments showed conclusively no harm resulted. No conclusion was reached, the latter class maintaining that further experimentation should be undertaken before any decision was reached.

While the congress took no action looking to international organization for work, the meeting resulted in the organization of two new auxiliaries. One is the International Prohibition Federation, which proposed to wage an educational campaign among adults, and the International Abstaining Teachers' Union, a society composed of teachers in the public schools and universities who will pledge themselves to promote the temperance education of youth.

The United States delegates signing the report to Secretary of State Knox are: Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, Washington, superintendent of the international reform bureau; Cora Frances Stoddard Benton, secretary of the Scientific Temperance Federation; Martha M. Allen, Marcellus, N. Y., superintendent medical temperance department of the W. C. T. U.; Marie C. Bohn, lecturer for permanent committee on temperance of the Presbyterian church of the United States; George F. Cottrill, Seattle, Washington, national grand chief of the Good Templars; Dr. T. D. Crothers, Hartford, Conn., secretary Society for the Study of Alcohol and Narcotics; Edith Smith Davis, Milwaukee, Wis., superintendent Scientific Temperance Instruction So-

ciety of W. C. T. U.; Dr. Roid Hunt of the United States marine hospital and public health service; G. Rowland Munroe, Newark, N. J., of the New Jersey anti-saloon league; Surgeon F. L. Pleadwell, U. S. N.; Judge W. F. Pollard of St. Louis, Mo.; Charles Scanlon, Pittsburg, secretary permanent committee on temperance of the Presbyterian church of the United States.

### A TEXAS PROTECTIONIST

The following letter is self explanatory:  
Lincoln, Neb., November 5, 1909.—Mr. John H. Kirby, Kirby Lumber Co., Dallas, Texas.  
Dear Sir: I have your second letter on my return to the city. I said in my first letter all that needed to be said, and gave your denial as wide publicity as I could.

Answering your inquiry as to the name of the person who called you a protectionist, I beg to say that I do not remember from whom the information was received. But it is not necessary that I should quote him as authority since your second letter gives sufficient evidence of your being a believer in the doctrine of protection. The language which you employ is the same that is employed by those who openly defend the protective system. You insist that you favor a tariff for revenue only, but add that you are opposed to the doctrine of free raw material and add, "Especially is this unfair under present industrial conditions in this country, created by the long continued policy of PROTECTION." You argue that since we have a "long continued policy of PROTECTION" we must PROTECT the producers of raw material, and you evidently include the producers of lumber among these. If that is not PROTECTION, what is it? The Dallas Times-Herald uses a part of your argument in one of its editorials and concludes: "The man who tolls and sweats under Old Glory is entitled to some PROTECTION—since PROTECTION is the fixed policy of the federal government." You will see that you and the Times-Herald are in perfect accord on this subject, but it confesses that it favors PROTECTION while you desire tariff for revenue only. Protection is just as objectionable when called a "revenue tariff" as when it stalks forth under its own name.

I am glad that you wrote your second letter; I am encouraging expressions from those who advocate a tax on raw material, for no one can write much, or talk long, in favor of a tax on raw material without convicting himself of being a protectionist. If the lumber tax does not make lumber dearer to the consumers, it can not benefit the producers of lumber; if it does benefit the producers of lumber, it is at the expense of the consumers of lumber. It is immaterial which position you take.

To relieve your fear that free lumber will reduce the revenue and compel increased taxation on other goods, I beg to bring to your attention a fact which protectionists purposely overlook, namely, that those who advocate free raw material also demand SUCH A REDUCTION IN MANUFACTURED GOODS—duties in many cases prohibitory—THAT MORE REVENUE WILL BE COLLECTED THAN NOW while prices will be lower to consumers.

Your letters have contained a great deal of immaterial matter as to the management of your company's business. As I am not informed as to the amount of cash actually invested, as to the salaries paid to the officials, as to wages received by your employes as compared with wages received by those engaged in unprotected industries, etc., I am not prepared to discuss the matter or pass judgment on the methods employed by you or your company. I do know, however, that the tariff which you think it would be "unfair" to remove because of the "long continued policy of protection" can not help those who ask it without putting an unfair burden on the consumers.

Very truly yours,  
W. J. BRYAN.

### HISTORIC BIBLES OF AMERICA

Rev. John Wright, D. D. LL. D., author of "Early Prayer Books of America," and "Early Bibles of America," has just published (Thomas Wittaker, Publisher, Bible House, New York) a new book entitled "Historic Bibles in America." The contents show that the author has been very diligent in his search for Bibles of historic interest. The Bibles owned by the presidents and other men in public life, Bibles which became prominent in the confederate states, Bibles owned by churches, educators, historians, scientists, and other persons, are described and located. It will interest those who have made a study of rare books.