

America Leading Toward "Dry" World

Science has joined hands with the church in a world-wide prohibition movement, and among thirty nations represented at the recent meeting in Washington of the International Congress against alcoholism John Barleycorn was condemned by moralist, doctor, and scientist alike. The conference, which meets every two years, is composed of scientists, and it was from the physical standpoint that the effect of alcohol was principally discussed and condemned. With sentiment unanimous that alcohol must be banned from pole to pole, the delegates generally declared that the rest of the world looked to the United States to lead in the movement. It is only another example of the authority wielded by the richest and most powerful nation in the world, says The Christian Century (Disciples), which warns us that "America has a responsibility to God in the way of world leadership which is only dimly perceived at this time, but which will grow clearer with the passing of time." Interviews and platform statements revealed, according to press dispatches, that prohibition has already gone further in many countries than the average American suspects. Scotland is now testing a form of "local option." England, it was explained, will be forced to prohibition soon as a measure for food conservation, which was one of the prime reasons for restrictions placed on the sale of alcohol during the war. In Holland some form of local option is soon to be enacted. France has banned absinthe, and temperance workers are trying to stop the manufacture and sale of all distilled liquors, and are said to be likely to succeed. In Italy plans are afoot to convert the grapes of the hillsides into food products instead of wine. There was no delegate from Germany, but a Swiss representative said that German beer has no more "kick" now than the "near" product of America. Three of the provinces of Mexico are under prohibition. Provincial legislation as practically outlawed the liquor traffic in Canada, including Newfoundland, though Canada still remains a source of supply for her southern neighbor. Uruguay has a law which provides for temperance instruction in the public schools, and in other parts of South America the labor-unions are reported to have gone over to prohibition in several instances, and in one place to have refused to unload ships which contained liquor.

The King of Denmark has signed prohibition laws for Iceland and Greenland, and offers to do the same for Denmark. The Cuban delegate said that his country had no alcoholic troubles, and, perhaps considering the fondness which some Americans display for Havana, added that Cuba had been misrepresented in this respect. Reports from Scandinavia were said to be encouraging to prohibitionists. In many areas in New Zealand, Australia, and Ceylon "no-license" has been secured by means of local veto, and "throughout India there is a general feeling that under further measures of Home Rule prohibition will be almost universal." The W. C. T. U. is doing a "very successful work" in Japan. One of the great facts which the congress revealed, says Rev. Ferdinand C. Iglehart, who reported the conference for The Christian Herald, "is that Europe is moving against alcohol from the scientific and the economic side almost entirely." It was of striking moment that—

"Men of science from some of the finest universities of Europe came with their arguments; physicians of renown told of their experiments in the laboratories and hospitals with a terrific indictment against alcohol as the murderer of mind and body. Statesmen, members of parliaments, came to tell what an enemy drink is to well-organized society, and what difficulties they meet in securing and enforcing laws against it. There was not a minister of the Gospel among the foreign delegates with perhaps one or two exceptions. In America the preacher has been the leader of the alcohol movement from the beginning. Father Mathew, the founders of the prohibition party, the organizers of the Anti-Saloon League, nearly all of them were ministers, and Frances

Willard organized the Woman's Christian Temperance Union from a religious motive, and held most of her meetings in the Christian churches.

"There was no disposition on the part of the American Christian to criticize the action of the European leaders for using the scientific and economic arguments mainly for the destruction of the liquor traffic, for God is in science and God is in economy, and we welcome our friends who assail the demand from the economic and scientific side. It must not be forgotten that the preachers and Christian people did not make much headway against alcohol till the scientists and scholars gave them the results of their experiments as weapons to be used against John Barleycorn."—Literary Digest.

NO SECRECY AS TO MANDATES

In assuming the right to place the seal of secrecy on the terms of the mandates over the former German colonies, the Council of the League invites severe criticism. Even though its powers in the matter were beyond question, the policy that it has adopted would be both unwise and inexpedient. It is a position from which it must soon realize that for urgent reasons it should retreat with the best grace possible.

In establishing the system under which mandates on behalf of the League are to be entrusted with colonies and territories that had been German possessions, certain duties are assigned to the council. There is required from the mandatory in every case an annual report, and a permanent commission is to examine the annual reports of the mandatories and advise the council on all matters relating to the observance of the mandates. But nowhere is the assembly, which includes all members of the League, foreclosed from knowledge or consideration of the terms of the mandates or their observance. That is a condition that the council by its own action has rashly undertaken to enforce at Geneva. It would seem to be clearly provided in the covenant that the assembly is to be consulted in regard to the terms of the mandates, for it is expressly laid down that "the degree of authority, control or administration to be exercised by the mandatory shall, if not previously agreed upon by the members of the League, be explicitly defined in each case by the council.

It is by no means an occasion for merely strict or literal interpretation of the phrasing of the covenant. In any event, the territories administered by mandatories are held in trust under the League, and the council is merely the agent of the League. It not only exceeds its powers in its rule of secrecy, but, aside from encroaching upon the prerogatives of the assembly, representing all the members of the League, it subjects itself to suspicion by its decree of secrecy.

The assembly is wholly right in demanding information as to the terms of the mandates.—New York World.

RELIGION DECLARED BASIS OF BUSINESS

Three thousand persons, the large majority of whom were men, last night crowded into the Metropolitan Opera House to hear Roger W. Babson, noted statistician and business expert, tell them just how to make good in their various lines of work.

Instead of the clear-cut, concise business tenets of the accepted school that they expected to have served them, those present heard an earnest, heart-to-heart talk that bordered closely on a sermon, with religion as its fundamental basis. But, judging by the number of notebooks and busily writing pencils to be seen among the audience, Mr. Babson's hearers were just as well pleased as if they had received what they expected.

According to statistics, Mr. Babson declared more than 80 per cent of all the men who go into business ultimately fail.

"My study of the matter," he added, "leads me to believe that the fundamental reason for this is because of their lack of religion. There are six essentials to business success—industry, integrity, intelligence, initiative, intensity and inspiration—and these can be developed and retained only by the religious man.

"The great need of the hour is not more steamships or schools or banks, but more religion in men who are willing to march onward as 'Christian soldiers marching to war.'"

At a luncheon at the Bellevue-Stratford, Mr. Babson told members of the City Club, the Building Trades Employers' association, the Philadelphia Association of Credit Men and the Sales Managers' Association that business can

best be brought back to normal by the aid of a financial wringer.

"Conditions in business can be returned to normal within three years," he said, "if the water is put through a wringer and allowed to dry out in natural manner. It probably will be the mission of the Republican party now in power to apply the wringer."

Some forecasts made by Mr. Babson were:

"There will be marked declines in coal, iron and building materials.

"Money rates will be lower next year.

"Bonds can be safely bought now as a profitable investment.

"Unskilled labor will soon be getting \$3 or \$4 instead of \$5.

"Natural deflation will mean a Democratic victory in 1924.

"All factors point to prosperity in 1921, while all markets point to depression.—Philadelphia Inquirer, Dec. 1920.

HARDING HAS WORLD UNION PLAN

Following is copyrighted staff correspondence by Clinton W. Gilbert to the Philadelphia Public Ledger, from Marion, Ohio, under date of December 18:

"President-elect Harding has his own plan for the association of nations and the conferences here consist of his submitting this plan to his visitors, listening to their criticism and suggestions and winning their approval if possible. This he made clear in his talk with the newspaper correspondents yesterday afternoon.

"The Harding plan is a little more favorable to the pro-leaguers than to the bitter-enders. This was apparent from the President-elect's remark when, after he had said that Colonel William Jennings Bryan had, on his visit here yesterday, approved it, some one reminded him that Senator Fall, who is an irreconcilable, had also approved it. Mr. Harding responded: 'Colonel Bryan would naturally be more favorable to my proposal than would Senator Fall.'

"Mr. Bryan is a strong pro-leaguer. He made his position clear earlier in the day when he said that he had originally advocated the acceptance of the league covenant without reservations, although he had been from the first opposed to Article X. He did so, he declared, because he believed that the most important thing to do was to enter the league. Changes in the covenant could be made afterward. Then it became apparent that the Senate would not accept the covenant without reservations. He made his Jackson Day plea that President Wilson should yield and agree with the Senate upon reservations."

AS A TALE THAT IS TOLD

Soon the "investigation" of the Shipping Board scandal will be hushed up and forgotten. Other sensational episodes will be crowded upon the boards to take the attention of the people, and only here and there will any one hear the stories of the way the "patriots" conducted the confidence game during the "Great War."

But before the reports are quite gone from the columns of the daily papers everybody should be given the privilege of reading another of Arthur Brisbane's inimitable comments upon the merry tale. Clip it from the paper today and keep it for your children to read the next fine war is called "to make the world safe for democracy." He says:

"When a thing is ABSOLUTELY complete you have to admire, although you may not approve. The rattlesnake needs to bite only once. The scorpion allows her young to feed on her living body. The tarantula stings the big bumble bee right back of the brain, paralyzing that large bee forever. The basilisk could kill you with a look. They are all wonderfully thorough. But basilisk, tarantula, scorpion and rattlesnake would all take off their hats, if they wore hats, to the grafting profiteers that stung Uncle Sam in the war."

For instance: An iron hinge was lacking on a door leading to the cooking department of a ship at Norfolk. The hinge was bought for eighty-three cents.

A blacksmith screwed it in place. An assistant blacksmith helped him. A master mechanic supervised the job. The Shipping Board received and paid a bill for "materials and labor" of \$161. William R. Morton, investigator, testifies to this. Take off your hat to this war profiteer; he is the champion stinger.—Miami, Fla., Metropolis.