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Some Evil Consequences of Prohibition

BY R. McL. ENMAN

ARTICLE THREE

Contrary to opinions advanced by most Prohibition orators, one of the most disastrous effects of Prohibition in the United States has been the evils it has wrought on the health of the people.

Arthur Brisbane, the world's highest paid editorial writer, whose "Today" columns in the Hearst newspapers are famous all over the United States and Canada and read by a larger number of persons than is the work of any other individual writer in the world, says: "There is as much whiskey drinking in America as ever. The difference is that it is bad whiskey and is killing men faster."

Insanity Increases.

According to Clemens Horst, a California newspaper man, whose bias or personal opinion does not overthrow his reason, the official government reports prove the following results since national prohibition took effect in 1919: "Arrests for intoxication, that were guaranteed to end with Prohibition, have increased in the United States from 1919 to 1924 by 111 per cent.

"Dealing particularly with results in California, the above official reports prove that:

Boosts Insanity and Juvenile Crime

"In 1925 the increase over 1919 in total commitments to California's State penitentiaries was 57 per cent., to its insane asylums 23 per cent., and to its home for feeble minded, 94 per cent.

"During the same period juvenile commitments made a still worse showing. Their increases were: To California's State penitentiaries, 92 per cent., to its insane asylums, 102 per cent., and to its home for feeble minded, 93 per cent.

"The particular seriousness of the increase in juvenile insane commitments is that most of them became insane from social diseases. This has resulted largely from prohibition's innovation of the juvenile hip flask, which in the closed and parked automobile, complete dens, more vile than any pre-prohibition dive or brothel.

"The only comfort that California can find in its terrible increase in State penitentiary commitments is that the average for the whole United States is higher than for California, and that the commitments in a number of States are far in excess of the national average. For instance, these increases in 1925 over 1919 were 99 per cent. in Iowa, 106 in Indiana, 188 in Utah and 338 per cent. in Michigan. It is significant that all these States had prohibition several years earlier than California.

Home Life is Degrading

"That conditions as to home life are getting worse is shown by the 102 per cent. increase in divorces in 1924 over 1918, the last year before 1920 for which the official statistics are available.

"Increases in population, no matter how extravagantly they may be estimated, cannot account for more than a small percentage of the increase in crime, insanity and divorce.

Enormous Increase in Deaths

Following is an account of the increases and decreases of deaths in five years of evolution, comparing 1915 with 1919, and five years of devolution, comparing 1920 with 1924, as secured by the Justice Magazine of Springfield, Mass., by sources other than wet or dry organizations:

Deaths from Alcoholism—Comparing 1915 with 1919, decrease of 1,608; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 2,248.

Deaths from Cirrhosis of Liver—Comparing 1915 with 1919, decrease of 1,735; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 2,248.

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1924, increase of 1,103.

Deaths from Suicide—Comparing 1915 with 1919, decrease of 5,300; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 2,000.

Deaths from Softening of Brain—Comparing 1915 with 1919, decrease of 2,500; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 1,400.

Deaths from Syphilis—Comparing 1915 with 1919, decrease of 2,500; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 1,500.

Deaths from Nephritis and also Bright's Disease—Comparing 1915 with 1919, decrease of 17,000; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 300.

Deaths from Appendicitis and Typhilitis—Comparing 1915 with 1919, decrease of 700; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 1,500.

Deaths from Organic Heart Disease—Comparing 1915 with 1919, decrease of 16,500; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 36,500.

Deaths from Cancer—Comparing 1915 with 1919, decrease of 900; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 1,400.

Deaths from Homicide—Comparing 1915 with 1919, increase of 500; comparing 1920 with 1924, increase of 1,400.

Tremendous Decline in Births—Comparing 1915 with 1919, the number of births in the United States increased 597,134, while comparing 1920 with 1924 the number of births decreased 313,362, and that in spite of a large increase in population.

How Prohibition Murders.

E. C. Yellowley, federal prohibition director for the Chicago district, announced last September that:

"People are consuming dynamite highballs, which come in bottles with fancy labels, and these are leading to insanity, blindness and death," the prohibition director said.

"The cheap moonshine, handled by the smaller bootlegger, is less dangerous than the so-called genuine liquor. People might as well mix ether with ginger ale and call it rye, rum, whisky or any other name the bootleggers call their stuff."

Yellowley ordered samples analyzed from a large liquor haul. When analyzed, the liquors labeled "Bacardi Rum," "Scotch Whisky," "Canadian Rye," and "Old Kentucky Bourbon," were found to contain quantities of the following:

- "Pyritine wood alcohol.
- "Benzol.
- "Kerosene.
- "Nitro-benzo.
- "Pine oil.
- "Ether.
- "Orto-nitro toluol."

Yellowley referred to the toll of the nation's deaths attributed to liquor.

"In most cases where the deaths are attributed to acute alcoholism, it's nothing more than a case of poisoning," he declared.

Insanity Doubles.

Following is a press despatch from Albany, N. Y., under date of April 24, 1926:

"Dr. Horatio N. Pollock, director of the State Hospital Commission's Bureau of Statistics, added a contribution to the prohibition discussion today with the announcement that alcohol was the causative factor in 7.5 per cent. of first admissions to the state hospital in the year ended last June. The percentage, Dr. Pollock pointed out in a statement, is nearly double the percentage of similar cases in 1919, the year before the prohibition law became operative, when it was 4 per cent."

Increase in Poison Liquor Deaths.

The United Press, a news-gathering organization of an unbiased nature, has collected the following facts and figures:

"Poison liquor and alcoholism took a toll of 1517 lives during 1925, according to figures received from 25 leading cities in the country.

"This represents an increase of more than 400 over the figures of the previous year, which were obtained in practically the same cities.

"New York heads the list with 478 fatalities, the count for the first 11 months. The toll for 1924 was 513 for the entire year, and adds credence to the statements of surgeons attached to the Bellevue Hospital here that fewer cases of poisoned liquor victims are being handled there because of the better grade of liquor being sold.

"Next on the list is Chicago with 234 victims of alcoholism, most of which were attributed to poison liquor. Last year the mid-west metropolis turned in a count of 152.

"Pittsburgh was third in line with 140 deaths, with Detroit running a close fourth with 137 casualties, as compared with 108 in 1924.

"In Philadelphia 112 died of alcoholism, an increase of 17 over the previous year, while Cleveland turned



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3 "Poker Hands" in each 35¢ package

ed in a count of 118, an increase of 28.

"In Dallas, Tex., where drinking is confined largely to corn liquor, no fatalities were reported, although 5 died of alcoholism there in the preceding year.

"A loss of 21 in 1925 and 36 in 1924 was set by the record. Buffalo, N.Y., reported 67 dead, while St. Louis had 29. There were no poisoned liquor victims in San Francisco during the year, but 17 went to their graves via the alcoholic route. Three victims were reported in Tampa, two in Tacoma, Wash., 20 in Boston; 24 in Kansas City, and 8 in Denver."

Former "Dry's" Views.

Until a year or two ago there was no more fervent 100 per cent. prohibitionist daily newspaper in the United States than the Detroit Free Press, than which there is no more reliable nor more carefully edited paper. The following editorial from a recent issue of that journal will lead to the conclusion that temperance conditions in the United States must have come to a terrible pass when an editor who is prohibitionist at heart could not get such plain and simple facts without getting cold feet:

"The latest statistical report on deaths from alcoholism made by the Metropolitan Life Insurance company is a devastating comment on contentions by Professor Irving Fisher and others that the dry law has brought about a decrease of drunkenness in this country, or that conditions generally are improving. A survey made by the company covering the first nine months of the current year shows that deaths from the use of intoxicants has increased 14 per cent. among policyholders, the total fatalities from the use of intoxicants being 433, or 2.3 per hundred thousand last year. The company's

report says also that cirrhosis of the liver, closely associated with alcoholism, accounted for 863 deaths in that same period, which was a falling off of one-tenth of one per cent. from 1925, but a considerable increase over 1924.

"These statistics, which may be considered absolutely authentic, give poor comfort to those who contend that the dry law is diminishing the ravages caused by strong drink, and is therefore a success, because while they enforced only sketchers, it is accomplishing a good work if the progress backward among insurance policyholders, representing a relatively substantial and conservative class in the country, is proceeding rapidly, what would statistics on the deaths from alcoholism among all the people of the nation show, if they could be obtained?"

"Professor Walter F. Willcox, who specializes in economics and statistics at Cornell, gives a little hint of what might be found in one important field at least, when he says, 'The average age of persons dying from alcoholism in the four-fifths of the United States for which we have information decreased by more than six months between 1916 and 1923. In the same period, the average age of all persons dying above the age of 15 increased by a year and a half. From the fact that the average age of deaths due to alcoholism is falling while that from all other causes of death combined is rising, I infer that probably excessive indulgence in alcohol is becoming more common rather than less among young adults.'

"The professor's inference seems reasonable. Death in the garb of the bootlegger is not only picking them off faster and faster; it is picking them off younger and younger."

Numerous opinions, both medical and laymen's, could be quoted, in addition to those cited above. However, let the above suffice since more than the allotted space already is taken by this article.

Nations Join In Kiwanis Night

MEMPHIS, Tenn. June 6.—An international observance of gratitude for the peaceful relationship and understanding that has existed between Canada and the United States for more than a century was expressed here tonight by 5000 Kiwanians and visitors from both countries attending the "all Kiwanis Night" programme of the organization's 11th convention, and by 100,000 other members of Kiwanis clubs in cities scattered over the North American continent.

While in the Memphis auditorium at 8 o'clock visitors paid their homage, members of 1600 clubs from Sydney, N.S. to Edmonton, Alberta, and from Miami, Florida to Brownville, Tex. met simultaneously at the convention hour for an identical observance.

The president of Kiwanis International, Ralph A. Amerman, of Scranton, Pa., presided at the ceremony. "Such an expression as we give here and over the continent at this moment carries with it the hope that we as citizens and Ki-

wanians will do everything in our power to fulfill the duties of citizenship," Mr. Amerman stated.

"Business sessions of the convention continue tomorrow with committee reports and conferences on various club administrative problems. Tuesday night Kiwanians from the 29 districts, which divide the continent in geographical divisions, each presided over by a governor, will hold their annual district dinners though enforced only sketchers. A reception and ball in honor of the president, one of the features of the convention, will also be held.

CROSS ROADS

Standing of Cross Roads School for the month of May.

Mabel MacDonald Teacher.

Grade VIII—No exams.

Grade VII—1. Marion Good, 85%; 2. Elva Jenkins, 82%; 3. Lloyd Balderston, 80%.

Grade VI—1. Mildred Farquharson, 82%; 2. Guy Kennedy, 84%; 3. Katie Molyneux, 80%.

Grade IV—1. Mary Jenkins, 86%; 2. Margaret Farquharson, 83%.

Grade II—1. Claudine Brown, Edgar MacCallum and Wallace MacKinnon (equal) 94%; 2. Keith Kennedy, 93%; 3. Isabel MacKinnon and Rea Molyneux 91%.

Grade I—1. Claude Wood, Marguerite Ernsworth, Mabel MacDonald Teacher.

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