

Rum Traffic Notes.

PUBLIC SAFETY.

When Baltimore was being fire-swept the mayor ordered the rumshops closed, in the interests of public safety. The same thing was done in St. John at the time of the great fire. It has been done in many places. It is well that sometimes the dangerous character of the abominable traffic is recognized. Why not at all times? It is never anything else but a destroyer.

THE COST OF IT.

The cost of a drink is greater than the price. It costs many a man jewels of infinite value. Manhood is laid on the counter, integrity, happiness, home, honor, and the peace of all those dependent upon him. It costs position and prosperity, character and contentment, respectability and revenue, the wreck of hope, the collapse of ambition and the dethronement of love. The blighted years of the drunkard are the fruits that hang on the boughs of the first dram.

WORSE THAN SAVAGES.

Sir George Gray, after many years of his life spent in constant contact with savages, with kaffirs and Hottentots of Africa, with Maoris in New Zealand, declared when he came home, that in a single week of Christian England and Christian London, he had seen sights more shameful than he had seen during all those years among savages who worshipped fetishes and devils. Why? Because of one thing, and one thing only—Drink!

USE AND ABUSE.

The use of liquor is declared by many people to be innocent. Its abuse, they say, is what is evil. But the trouble with the use of liquor is that it runs so easily to abuse. The abuse of reading, of conversation, of exercise, are all evils, but they are not such evils, nor are they so likely evils, as the curse of the abuse of liquor. All those who are now guilty of this abuse never intended to go so far when they began. They set out to use it in moderation. Why will young men be so foolish as to think that they can use temperately what so many stronger men have been unable to stop short of abusing intemperately?

THE CHURCH AND THE RUMSHOP.

As an instance of eternal warfare between the church and the saloon some one has discovered in the town of Paddington, England, which is blessed with 59 churches and cursed with 249 public houses, that out of the population of 142,600, 31,331 attended church on a recent Sunday and 122,175 went to the saloons. On this the *Presbyterian Standard* comments: We wonder sometimes if our preachers are quite sensible of that first law of nature, self-preservation, and are not a little too much afraid of preaching politics in preaching against the saloon.

WOULD YOU?

If every man knew that the saloon in his town would demand his boy as a condition of continued existence, there would be no difficulty in closing the saloon. Now, as a matter of fact, every father is running just that risk, a most dangerous one, with the chances pretty evenly divided. Then if they do not capture his boy, they will take some other father's boy as a victim. It is only a matter of relationship; the principle remains the same, and the man who fails to reach out his hand to save his neighbor's boy is coming far short of his duty and his privilege.

SUGGESTIVE FIGURES.

Some interesting local option statistics are to hand from Texas. There are in that state twenty-three prohibition

each. In thirty-nine prohibition counties there are only twenty-three convicts. One county, with a population of 10,277 and open saloons, has twenty-five convicts, and another, with 17,067 population and open saloons, twenty-one convicts. Collin County, with 50,000 people and no saloons, has twenty convicts, while Lamar County, with 48,000 and saloons, has ninety-six. The part of Texas without saloons has one convict in every 1,500 of population, while the saloon portion has one convict in 500. These ratios certainly did not happen by accident.

THE RUMSHOP LIZARD.

Naturalists tell of a lizard found in the Arabian deserts which strikingly resembles the sand in color. On either side of its mouth is a fold of skin of pale crimson hue. These folds can be blown out until they look like a small red flower common in the desert. Insects in quest of honey seek this flower-looking object, and are instantly destroyed.

The tactics of the lizard and the saloonist are much alike. The rumseller puts on a splendid exterior. He makes his den as attractive as possible to both young and old. No place is more brilliant than his. Light, revelry, music—all are there. "That's the place for a good time," says the young man. "Life's honey may be had there," says the old, cheating himself with the same old lie for the thousandth time. Too late both discover that this seeming splendor was but the fold on the lizard's mouth—a decoy leading to death and destruction. Seeking the sweets of life, they get instead the exceeding bitter gall of death. No man who values his place and opportunity for usefulness in the world will be trapped by the saloon lizard.

PROHIBITION FACTS.

The prohibition states are continually being vilified by the liquor and the liquor subsidized press, and the facts ought to be given the wider publicity. Kansas, like Maine, has a settled policy of prohibition and it is based both on principle and experience. The *Independent* thus sums up the facts in that state: "Prohibition by constitutional amendment has been in force, more or less, in Kansas, for twenty-one years, which is time enough to test its value. The statistics which have been gathered are full of interest. In five of the 105 counties the prohibitory law is not enforced. These five counties have 17 per cent. of the population and furnish over 30 per cent. of the crime. The population in these twenty-one years has increased from 996,616 to 1,470,495 while the number of prisoners has decreased from 917 to 788. That prohibition is generally enforced appears in the fact that the United States collects in Kansas only \$7,700 for each 100,000 inhabitants, while in Nebraska, not a prohibition state, it collects \$252,000. In the last ten years Kansas has gained three cities of over 10,000 inhabitants, while Nebraska has lost three. Kansas while purely an agricultural state, is one of the most prosperous in the Union and can afford to spend two million dollars annually on her schools. She saves it in beer and whiskey."

A MEAN DEFENCE.

Again and again it is stated that prohibition does not prohibit, that it is impossible to stop the traffic, that men will have liquor and men will sell it—which is simply another way of stating that the men engaged in the liquor business care nothing for law, defy authority, and propose to set at naught the government which protects them, and to which they, as good citizens, are bound to submit.

No other class of law-breakers, so far

counties that have no convicts in the as we are aware, take this position. The thief does not publish a paper to show that it is impossible to execute the laws against stealing; he does not insist that he shall be licensed to steal because if he is not licensed he will steal anyway. No editors take it upon them to say that it is impossible to enforce the laws prohibiting murder, and therefore it is better to regulate and control crimes which cannot be suppressed. Nor do we find any newspaper organ advocating the licensing of horse thieves on the ground that it is impossible to prevent horse stealing, and therefore it is better to have the money that the licensing will bring, and have the practice regulated, than it is to have horse-stealing go on without any restraint whatever.

These illustrations simply show the absurdity of the rumsellers' pleas. The man who stands up and says you cannot execute a constitutional law, thereby proclaims himself a defiant law-breaker; and the men who urge and echo these pleas show that they themselves are disposed to abet crime and encourage criminals.

THE CIGARETTE POISON.

How deadly a poison the nicotine of the cigarette is, is thus described by Dr. J. J. Kellogg, of Battle Creek, Mich., as the results of experiments recently made by him: "A few months ago I had all the nicotine removed from a cigarette, making a solution out of it. I injected half the quantity into a frog, with the effect that the frog died almost instantly. The rest was administered to another frog with like effect. Both frogs were full grown and of average size. The conclusion is evident that a single cigarette contains poison enough to kill two frogs. A boy who smokes twenty cigarettes a day has inhaled enough poison to kill forty frogs. Why does the poison not kill the boy? It does kill him. If not immediately, he will die sooner or later of weak heart, Bright's disease, or some other malady which scientific physicians everywhere now recognize as the natural results of chronic nicotine poisoning." Is it not an appalling sight to see so many young men, many of them mere lads, deliberately and persistently inhaling imbecility, disease and death by smoking cigarettes. Commenting upon Dr. Kellogg's startling statement, a writer in the *Herald and Presbyterian* says: "Just think of it, parents, teachers, and all who are interested in the rising generation. Do we want those who are to succeed us as citizens of this great nation to be mental and moral imbeciles? If not, we must not only use our personal influence to save the young men from forming this deadly habit, but must insist upon legislation to prevent it. The man who will poison all his neighbors' boys, if he can, in order to make a little money, deserves not only social ostracism, but fine and imprisonment."

MANCHURIA.—The importance of the prize for which Russia is now contending in the Far East, may be judged from the fact that Manchuria, which corresponds in latitude to Manitoba, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Nebraska, has an area of 362,310 square miles. In the northern part of the province are thousands of square miles of rich wheat land entirely untouched. Manchuria has a possible wheat area as great as that of the United States.

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