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QUEEN'S HOTEL. Montreal, 15th January, 1906.

Messrs. the Vulcan Smoke Consumer and Fuel Economiser Co.

Gentlemen:—
We take pleasure in stating that we have equipped two of our boilers with your Patent Grate Bars, and find that they give entire satisfaction, producing complete combustion and effecting a saving of about TWENTY PER CENT. in fuel.

Yours truly,
D. RAYMOND,
Manager.

WRITE FOR PARTICULARS

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SCOTLAND ADVISED TO ADOPT NORWAY SYSTEM

Under Which "The Sobriety of Norway is as Evident as the Inebriety of Great Britain"—Under It Norway Has in Half a Century Been Transformed, Though Beer and Wine Are Still to be Restricted.

The Scottish Temperance Legislation Board has just published an important report on the liquor license laws of Norway. It is explained that in August of this year four Scottish citizens went to Norway on the invitation of the Scottish Temperance Legislation Board. The object of their mission was to study the liquor license laws of Norway, and to report thereon. Having returned from that country, they have embodied their conclusions, drawn from a very large body of evidence, in the following interim report. The complete account of their investigations will be published in due course; but, in the meantime, it was thought well that the people should be in possession of the main results of the inquiry. The names of the commissioners are John Cowan, D. L., ex-Master, Edinburgh Merchant Com any; James Seth, M. A., Professor of Moral Philosophy, University of Edinburgh; John Mann, Jr., M. A., chartered accountant, Glasgow; Hector Munro Ferguson, Assent, Novar. The report reads:

1. We beg to submit the following interim report which embodies the salient facts ascertained in our inquiry. Though we approached the subject of our investigations from somewhat different standpoints the convincing nature of the evidence led us unanimously to the following conclusions:

FROM DRUNKEN TO SOBER.
2. Within the past half century, Norway has been transformed from one of the most drunken of European nations into one of the most sober. Apart from the general advance in education, the result is due to two main causes:

(a) The growth of a strong temperance sentiment, which, while present in all sections of the community, is most powerful in its earnestness and intensity among the working classes.

(b) Progressive temperance legislation, under which the people are invested with powers of local control, with considerable latitude in the choice of means of control. The sparsely populated country districts have the power of local veto, while the towns have, in addition, the option of "management" by disinterested companies known as Samlags.

3. The effectiveness of each of these two factors in sobriety depends upon its co-operation with the other. The temperance movement would have been largely ineffective had it not been supported and aided by wise legislation; and, conversely, the power conferred by such legislation would have remained unused but for the driving force of an ever growing temperance sentiment. So far from being antagonistic forces, they aid each other. The force of temperance opinion keeps the Samlags up to a high level of efficiency; and the Samlags stand as a bulwark against reaction, in the event of a too stringent application of the law.

4. In the thinly populated country districts the epoch-making law of 1854 is still in force. Under it all houses used for the retail sale of "brandy" (the native spirit or brandy) are prohibited unless specially sanctioned by the local governing body. As a result of this indirect local veto, prohibition of brandy prevails throughout rural Norway. The results appear to be satisfactory. No one thinks of making any change.

But Norwegian prohibition must not be confounded with prohibition as prevailing in Maine and in other American States, and as advocated in Greater Britain. In Norway, prohibition does not extend to beer and wine.

MANAGEMENT OR PROHIBITION.

5. The Swedish law does not provide for local option; but after twenty-three years' experience of the system, the Norwegian Act of 1894 gave to the towns the dual option of (a) Samlag management or (b) spirit prohibition. It does not provide for a reversion to private license. Every six years, if one-twentieth part of the electors (all men and women over 25 years of age) demand a poll, a vote is taken on the above issue. A majority of all electors, not merely of those voting, is required to effect a change. These provisions are held to be in favor of the status quo.

When the local option law was passed (1894) there was a Samlag in nearly every town in Norway. By the operation of successive local option votes, twenty-seven of these towns are now under prohibition, and thirty-one under Samlag management. The latter are, with few exceptions, the larger towns. Seven were for a time under prohibition, but have since returned to the Samlag system.

6. A Samlag is a specially authorized company under government control with municipal supervision, which holds the monopoly of retail trade in spirits. Its operations are confined within the limits of the town in which it is established.

The directors receive a small honorarium for their services; and the rate of interest on shareholders' capital is 5 per cent. No difficulty is experienced in inducing prominent and reliable men to act as directors.

The law of 1871, which authorized the formation of these disinterested companies in towns, introduced into the licensing system certain important changes, which may be summarized in the following list of the aims and principles of the Samlag system:

(a) The elimination of private profit.
(b) The reduction of the number of licenses.
(c) The enforcement of the law.
(d) The destruction of the power of the spirit trade.
(e) The furtherance of all progressive measures of reform.

7. In embodying these principles in their law, the Norwegians were following the example, but avoiding the serious defects, of the Swedish law. The Swedes began by applying the profits to the reduction of the municipal rates. The Norwegians provide for the application of the profits to non-rate-aided objects mainly—thus:

Per Cent.
(a) To the state, originally 25 per cent., now raised to 65
(b) To the municipality, in lieu of larger license duties now abolished 15
(c) To objects of public utility, not being chargeable on any rates, but operating as counter attractions, to the public house, in towns 10
in surrounding country districts 10

10. The problem of temperance still faces the reformer in Norway. Drunkenness from the excessive consumption of beer, and it must always be remembered that the Samlag does not yet control the sale of beer—still accounts for a large

Avoid Appendicitis

It is caused by the clogging of the bowels and intestines. Keep the digestion active, the stomach right, the bowels healthy and open with

Beecham's Pills

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number of arrests. For many years the sale of spirits was looked upon as the root of the evil; now it is found that the sale of beer is also a responsible factor. The Samlag has entirely extinguished the political power of the distiller, and so has removed a serious menace to the public life of Norway; but that power has grown up in the hands of the brewers, just because the retail sale of beer is still under private control; and until the growing interest of the brewer and his dependents is uprooted, the problem will remain. The beneficial influence of the retail seller on the wide circle of his customers; most of whom are electors, has been entirely removed from the spirit trade, while it remains and grows in the beer trade.

At the request of the Temperance party, power to establish Beer Samlags was accorded by the Norwegian Parliament. Beginnings have been made in this direction; but as any merchant may sell beer, the Beer Samlags have no monopoly, and therefore no control. It is generally expected that the present Norwegian Government will deal with the question; probably in the first instance by imposing a relatively high license duty on beer shops, thereby abolishing many of the least desirable.

10. We have not burdened this Interim Report with statistics, as their preparation would have caused considerable delay in the publication of this statement; and we wish to leave citizens to know at once what the Norwegians think of their own system. Every fact stated, every opinion quoted, and every impression given will find ample corroboration in the full Report, which will be published in due course.

Our own impression gathered from a close study of the principle and practice of the Liquor License Laws of Norway, from personal investigation of the premises of Samlags, and of every quarter of several towns, is that the towns of Norway and the towns of Great Britain cannot be compared. They can only be contrasted. The sobriety of Norway is as evident as the inebriety of Great Britain. We met no one who wore the aspect of an habitual drunkard; we searched the streets for drunken men, and even in the largest towns found but few, and these not disorderly; and we saw no drunken women.

If we add to this the striking testimony of the Norwegian people themselves—many of them far-seeing and statesman-like reformers, unwavering by passion and prejudice, convinced by study and long experience, that their controlling system is good—must we have the right to plead with our fellow-citizens to make trial of a similar system, with the necessary adaptation to the conditions of Scotland. (Signed) John Cowan, James Seth, John Mann, Jr., Hector Munro Ferguson.

J. A. MAGILTON DIED ON MONDAY

He Was Very Prominent in Masonic Circles and a Generally Respected Citizen.

The death of Joseph A. Magilton occurred at his residence 28 Adelaide street, at 9 p. m. on Monday last. The sad intelligence was very generally known throughout the city yesterday and occasioned universal regret and wide spread sympathy for his family. A resident in St. John all his life and holding the position of auditor to the city and the municipality, few men were better known than the late Mr. Magilton. Of a kindly, genial disposition he will be widely missed by a large circle of friends.

For many years Mr. Magilton had been a very active Free Mason. He was P. M. of Hibernia Lodge and also held the position of secretary to the lodge for a number of years. Until the time that New Brunswick Royal Arch Chapter amalgamated with Carleton Royal Arch Chapter he was secretary to the former for many years and was also secretary of the Encampment of St. John K. T. He also was a member of the Royal Arcanum, but held no rank.

Previous to 1891, the late Mr. Magilton was connected with the dry goods business holding for a long period the position of auditor of the firm of B. & L. & Venning, in the building now occupied by Henderson & Hunt, at the corner of King and Germain streets. On the failure of this firm Mr. Magilton commenced a wholesale dry goods business as J. A. Magilton & Co., but this not proving successful he opened a well known citizen yesterday part of the building and let a portion of his premises as rooms for the Conservative party. Following this, and having a thorough knowledge of accounts and auditing, he was appointed co-auditor for the city with Richard Whiteside. On Mr. Whiteside's retiring he became associated with I. Olive. He retained the position until his death. Mr. Magilton's connection with the municipality began in 1901 on his succeeding Mr. Whiteside as auditor and he was reappointed for each year afterwards.

Besides his public work Mr. Magilton did bookkeeping and auditing for a number of city firms and acted as broker in numerous stock and share transactions. In business the late Mr. Magilton was considered highly capable. He was known everywhere in the city and had a kindly and cheerful word for all who knew him. The words of a well known citizen yesterday: "I can hardly believe that Joe Magilton is gone," will find a general echo among the citizens of St. John.

He was taken ill on the evening of Tuesday Dec. 18, less than a week before his death, and gradually grew weaker from it, it is said, inability to take nourishment. The late Mr. Magilton was a native of this city and married Miss Morgan, sister of Conductor William Morgan, of the I. O. O. F., and Archibald Morgan in the postal service. Besides his wife, one daughter survives him. His eldest daughter who showed great promise as a singer, died some years ago. The funeral will take place tomorrow and will be attended by members of the Masonic body. The members of the council and municipality of the city and county of St. John will also be present.

David Russell, who spent Christmas with his father, John Russell, Sr., returned to Montreal last night.

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