

THE GERMAN TIP.

Germany is the land of tipping. The tip may not be large, but a tip of some sort is universally expected, and the wise traveller will accommodate himself to the habits of the country by tipping little and often. That the tipping system is organised is shown by an incident at Hamburg recently.

There is a regular scale of charges there for the station porters who carry travellers' baggage from the train to the cab or automobile as the case may be. If the traveller gives more than the scale the porter is bound to hand the extra tip over to a common fund. It has been found, however, that in busy times the porter's attention is too much occupied with his work to allow of his complying with the regulation, and the result has been that the company lately dismissed a dozen porters for "dishonesty."

BEER FOR NO.

Peter Farquhar, licensee of the Newmarket Hotel, pleaded guilty in the Police Court, before Mr. E. C. Cutten, S.M., to having failed to keep a book to enter all orders for liquor for delivery into a no-license district; and, further, with selling a jar of beer to Robert Mulgrove, after being notified that such liquor was to be taken into a no-license area, and failing to furnish a written statement thereof to the clerk of the S.M. Court.

Mr. J. R. Reed, who appeared for defendant, said that his client knew nothing of the transaction, as his barman had served Mulgrove. The barman had done all he considered necessary. A label was placed on the jar of beer, and endorsed, "This package contains alcoholic liquor," but the barman failed to take the purchaser's name and address in writing. Defendant had not instructed his barman in the technicalities of the law, through not himself having a knowledge of the precise requirements.

His Worship remarked that the prosecution was a somewhat peculiar one, and the first of its kind, but it seemed the circumstances were very innocent. Mulgrove, who was also charged with taking liquor into a no-license district without notifying the consignee of his name and address, had also apparently acted in ignorance of the law. A nominal fine of 10s, and costs 7s, was inflicted in each case.

THE BACKWASH IN AMERICA.

PROHIBITION'S LOVELY BLACK EYES.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

There is a shine in the tents of the Prohibition Kedar, and lamentations and explanations are being poured forth in the Press and on the platform. Has not Alabama, after a little experience of the sweet savour of Prohibition, rejected it as part of its State constitution, to the no small dismay of the Prohibition party, who counted upon a decisive victory in that State? But the best laid schemes of mice and men "gang aft agley," and Alabama retains its freedom to vote out Prohibition at the first suitable opportunity.

Georgia is another Prohibition State of which we often hear upon the platforms of teetotalism. Over indulgence in alcoholic drink is on the increase in that State, as will be seen from the following figures:—1908, 2,650 cases; 1909, 3,451 cases; increase, 801 cases.

Theoretically, drunkenness should not exist in the State of Georgia, but it is evident that, as in Maine, it is not only in existence, but is steadily increasing.

One of the greatest blows which the "no-license" party in the United States has received came from Massachusetts. The other week four large centres of population in that State went back from "dry" to "wet," one of them—Worcester, a city of 130,000 inhabitants—returning to license by a very substantial majority. Only the other day Boston, the ancient capital of Massachusetts, continued its license system by an enormously increased majority. Last year the majority in favour of license was reduced to about 2,000, but this year it jumped at one bound to 27,122. One really wonders what the "no-license" party have to offer in the way of explaining this increased majority. Boston is by no means a flighty community, it has a solid, substantial, and business-like people, who can assess the true value of the professions of teetotalism, and evidently they do not place much confidence in that party. Maine is such a huge Prohibition farce that even its advocates fight shy

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of references to that at one time always abounding example of beneficial (?) Prohibitory legislation. In a recent issue of The Licensing World an illuminating exposition of the negative effects of Prohibition in Maine were given, and to this might be added the following suggestive little comparison. Portland, Maine, is a seaport very similar in population and general conditions to Halifax in Canada. The former is under "no-license" while the latter is a "license" city, and the following are the criminal statistics of both cities for 1908:—

Portland, Halifax.	
Arrests for drunkenness	1,678 841
Arrests for drunkenness and disturbance	371 —
Total arrests	4,461 2,090

It is not necessary to comment upon these figures. Nothing could more clearly show the failure of Prohibition to prohibit, either in Maine or anywhere else.

From a close and impartial study of all the circumstances, the writer formed the conclusion that the falling-off in the consumption of alcoholic liquors in both the United States and Canada in 1908 and the first part of 1909 was due to economic rather than moral causes. This view is confirmed by the revenue returns of the present year. In the United States for the three months from July to September, 1909, the increased duty on spirits collected by the Internal Revenue amounted to 1,791,272 dollars, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. In the case of malt liquors, the increase for the five months July to November over the previous year totalled 777,658 barrels.

It is amusing to note the change which has come over the tune played by the "no-license" party. Last year there might have been heard triumphant anthems of rejoicing over the manner in which the works of Prohibition were shown in the pulling down of the United States' revenue from alcoholic liquors. This year, when the figures are the other way about, with a wider area under Prohibition than ever, the tumult and the shouting have given place to a severe silence on the part of the Prohibition party. So authoritative and impartial an authority as "Bradstreets," of New York, only the other week pointed out that the reviving rate of consumption of alcoholic liquors was symptomatic of increased material prosperity, and not the result of Prohibition. In the face of such weighty and unbiased testimony the erstwhile vapouring of the anti-liquor party dissolves into thin air.

Yet still this fearful and wonderful party pursues its ill-starred way. Doubtless it will continue to do so while there are fanatics ready and willing to put up the money necessary to pay the salaries of the army of officials who make a fat and easy living off harassing the liquor trade. It is part of the writer's duty to go through the "films" of "the Associated Prohibition Press" of Chicago, as well as "The American issue," the organ of the Anti-Saloon League, regularly. It is a well-known statement that there are plenty of gullible people in this world, and there must be before they can swallow the stuff which is published in these prints. The distressing thing about them is the manner in which religion, in the true sense of the term, is injured by the mixture of hypocritical cant and humbug which may be found all through the pages of both publications. How ministers of the Gospel can lend themselves to such specious devices almost passes understanding. If they only knew they are being made the tools of designing men, who find "booming" the Prohibition party easier work than honest—if mayhap

harder—labour. It is reported that Mr. Bryan is to make Prohibition a plank in his next Presidential platform, and if this is the case no greater proof of the decadence of a really great man could be adduced. No wonder the Democratic party threaten to repudiate him, and even the Prohibition party is not likely to take him to its palpitating bosom.

Truly the ways of the Anti-Liquor party in the United States are wonderful, and their frantic endeavours to prove that black is white only inspire ridicule. Sane, sober men have found out the hollowness of the professions of Prohibition, and the "wave"—of which we heard so much last year, and which was to sweep the whole of the North American Continent—is now receding and threatens to engulf the Prohibitionists themselves. The U.K. Alliance is an ostensibly respectable body (its members are fond, anyhow, of asseverating their claim to smug respectability), but association with the American Prohibition party shows that necessity makes people acquainted with strange bedfellows. Let the Trade in England rub the fallacies of Prohibition as exemplified in America into their antagonists at every possible opportunity. The latter cannot gainsay actual facts, and these are entirely against Prohibition.

POLICE DEPARTMENTAL REPORT.

SLY-GROG SELLING.

According to the report of the Police Department presented to Parliament last week, the criminal statistics show an aggregate net increase of 420 on the figures of the previous year, the proportion of offences to the population being 2.32 per cent, as against 2.33 the previous year. Cases of drunkenness increased by 314, burglary by 112, deserting wives and families by 108, vagrancy by 131, disorderly and riotous conduct by 102, sly grog-selling by 76, failing to support relations by 56, obscene language by 30, assaults by 127, forgery and uttering by 51.

The number of all offences reported was 23,930, including: Auckland 6,063, Wellington 5,508, Christchurch 3,652, and Dunedin 2,116.

In regard to drunkenness, it is reported that 40.89 per cent. of the males and 73.78 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 7.45 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents in the Dominion.

The number of persons charged with drunkenness at the principal districts were: Auckland, 2,100 males, 80 females; Wellington, 2,639 males, 254 females; Christchurch, 1,522 males, 145 females; Dunedin, 744 males, 69 females.

Figures for Sunday drunkenness at the four centres were: Auckland and suburbs, 23 males; Wellington and suburbs, 32 males, 6 females; Christchurch and suburbs, 19 males, 3 females; Dunedin and suburbs, 9 males, 3 females.

The number of prosecutions (213) against hotelkeepers during the year shows an increase of 36, as compared with the previous year. In the various districts they were: Auckland, 49 prosecutions and 12 convictions; Thames, 8 and 5; Napier, 13 and 9; Wanganui, 19 and 9; Wellington, 28 and 17; Greymouth, 55 and 36; Dunedin, 16 and 8; Invercargill, 1 and nil.

There were 235 prosecutions for sly-grog selling, resulting in 154 convictions, against 158, and 127 convictions during the preceding year. The fines imposed totalled £2,358, and the direct cost to the Dominion in detecting and prosecuting sly grog-sellers was £1,090.

THE TRADE OVERSEAS.

King George ascends the Throne at a time when the whole Empire is prospering. From East, West, North and South come reports of expansion of trade, and our own Board of Trade Returns for the past month show that the exports increased by £6,333,000, the imports by £10,381,000, and the re-shipments by £3,227,000. Once more it becomes our duty to see how far the licensed trade has shared in this improvement, and it is extremely satisfactory to find that both brewers and distillers have done remarkably well. Compared with the corresponding month of last year the former are £60,000 to the good and the latter £83,000. If this improvement continues it will go far to make up much of the loss sustained by the decreased consumption of spirits and beer in the old country brought about largely by oppressive and revengeful legislation. The wine merchants have had a fairly good month, but their business is bound to receive a severe check by the long period of Court mourning and the consequent abandonment of many fashionable and festive functions.—L.V. Gazette (London) for May.

BRITISH AND IRISH SPIRITS.

British and Irish distillers must just now be finding Canada a country worth cultivating. For years past, says the London L.V. Gazette, Australia has been our best customer for whisky, and last April took 179,527 gallons valued at £60,158, but the Canadians came along boldly and ordered 141,629 gallons of the value of £62,663. In April, 1909, the shipments to Canada amounted to only 83,648 gallons valued at £34,355, so that the trade has nearly doubled and evidently in the higher-priced article judging from the comparison with Australia. On the other hand, the trade with the United States has fallen from 96,268 gallons, valued at £48,348, to 87,133 of the value of £43.

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