

## Y Column

### ALCOHOL CONTRA MUNDUM.

A suggestion for a "Y" demonstration. The music is only suggested, and any other suitable pieces may be substituted.

*Dominions and Allies are grouped on the stage. All are appropriately dressed, and carry their national colours. All sing "Britannia, the Pride of the Ocean," as curtain rises, while Britannia enters and takes up a central position on the stage.*

**Britannia:** Daughters and Allies, greetings to you all. Together we faced a common danger, and wrested victory from overwhelming odds. Without our terrible handicap we could have faced Germany's hordes with calm confidence; handicapped by strong drink, we came perilously near defeat. Strong drink hindered the production of munitions; it lessened the efficiency of soldiers and civilians alike; it clouded the brain of the officer, and weakened the physique of the private. It cast men into hospital who should have been in the trenches, until of my own forces 45 per cent. were unfit to take the field by reason of preventable diseases. Strong drink threatens our very national existence, and we all had to deal more or less drastically with this traitor within ere we could conquer the foe without. Now we are no longer threatened by the German invader, shall we allow our life-blood to be sucked by this infamous traffic? Strong drink attacks life in its earliest stages, and robs the child of its right to be well born. Its wreckage crowds our gaols and mental hospitals, and from the cradle to the grave it is a menace and a handicap to anyone who uses it. Friends and Children, shall we not join in a bloodless war against strong drink until, for our nation's salvation, we drive it, an outlaw from our Planet? Columbia, my eldest daughter, driven in your youth from my household; but returning in your vigorous womanhood to help in my hour of need. What have you to say?

*As United States of America advances all sing "Battle Hymn of Republic."*

**U.S.A.:** Long ago some of my States outlawed strong drink, and from these States which were dry my

finest soldiers came. Secretary Daniels made Army and Navy dry, to their great benefit. Dry Seattle broke the record for ship-building. Wherever drink went out efficiency increased, so my States have confirmed the amendment to the Constitution, and the success of Prohibition in individual States has caused a nation to adopt it. My United States have outlawed the drink traffic.

#### Solo:

("Tune, "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp.")  
We advance in arts of war, but in things of moral worth  
Every Christian mind is more disposed to think.  
And as sure as God has said, "Evil shall be rooted up,"  
Britain's sons shall see the overthrow of drink.

#### Chorus (All):

When you see the Temperance Army,  
Know the time is drawing near,  
For we're at it every day  
And we never mean to stay,  
Till the great and glorious victory shall appear.

**Britannia:** Now, my Lady of the Snows, fair Canada, you and your sister Columbia own a continent between you, so how fares your part in this great contest?

**Canada:** Forced by the stern logic of facts, I made my camps dry. Mothers petitioned for their sons to have dry camps abroad. My whole Dominion is dry for the period of demobilisation, and I intend to keep it dry.

#### Chorus:

For we're at it every day,  
And we never mean to stay—  
Till the great and glorious victory shall appear.

**Britannia:** Belgium, my brave ally, in the hour of your peril did you find strong drink a blessing or curse?

**Belgium:** When the Hun swept down upon me with rage in his heart, that rage was inflamed to madness by the strong drink found in such abundance in my cellars, and my daughters drank to its dregs the cup of suffering. I am with you in this fight.

#### Chorus:

"The Marseillaise."

*While singing, France advances.*

**France:** I too can speak of how this foe thrusts its sword into the very vitals of a nation. I set up a commission of experts, whose verdict was:

"The chief cause of race decay is alcohol." Absinthe I barred during war, and restricted sale of other spirits. By posters and other means I am teaching my people that "Drink is as much your enemy as Germany."

#### Solo:

Cheer, boys, cheer! The nation is awaking,  
Thousands rise to snap the tyrant's chain,  
Brave, true hearts the tempter's cup forsaking,  
Fighting for truth they will conquer yet again.  
Through the land let freemen assemble,  
Soldiers brave, devoted to our cause;  
Foes of truth, before our arms shall tremble,  
And proudly the nation enjoy the temperance laws.

#### Chorus:

Cheer, boys, cheer! our cause is great and glorious,  
Spread it wide, our world to restore;  
Cheer, boys, cheer! for truth shall be victorious,  
Firm to the Pledge let us labour evermore.

**Britannia:** Thank you, La Belle France. What say my other Allies?

**Japan:** When Russia and I fought to a finish her vodka-weakened soldiers fell before my sober, brown warriors like sheaves before the scythe. I proved then how quickly wounds heal when the blood is untainted by alcohol.

*Russian National Anthem as Russia approaches.*

**Russia:** Learning the bitter truth and lesson from the former war, I banished vodka ere I marched against the Hun. It paid financially, and in spite of the war my finances improved. How it paid in efficiency my brave Allies know; know the story of my long retreat. How a sober Army retreated for months, and remained an Army, and not a mob. Now my land is a welter of bloodshed, and anarchy and vodka is restored to power. Success to your crusade, and may you help me to become a sober nation once again!

**Roumania:** My patriotic statesmen closed the wineshops, though they owned the vineyards. My help is yours in this fight.

**Italy:** The wine of my country is dear to the palate of my people, but dearer far is the welfare and efficiency of our nation. We have restricted, we have regulated this traffic to no purpose, and we now join you to fight it to the death.