

"T.P." ON PROHIBITION IN AMERICA.

The "Daily Chronicle" for September 16th last contains some most interesting references to Prohibition in an article by Mr T. P. O'Connor, M.P., under the title of "American Intensity and Self-sacrifice." Alluding to a recent

BANQUET AT WASHINGTON,

Where the President and other eminent men were present, Mr O'Connor says:

"The laughter did not sound as hearty to me as American laughter usually does, for I had come a long journey, and after a long journey a Britisher looks for a little alcohol, if only to restore heat to his famished system. But at the side of each plate there stood the stern glass of uninviting ice-water. I had to put up with a cup of tea, and even that was a concession in a country where tea does not hold a high place in the estimate of the menu. But was it not an astounding spectacle to find in the political capital of that great nation, with its ruler one of the guests and a body of politicians and journalists gathered together for a jollification, that there was not a single drop of good wine or healthy whisky to be had? Washington had gone dry."

As to the general question, Mr O'Connor says:—

"The 'dry' campaign took its modern origin in

THE NEGRO OF THE SOUTH.

It was found that whilst the negro kept from whisky he was genial, docile, and very human; the bad and the excitable ones often lost their senses the moment they took whisky; and the hideous crimes, with their terrible punishment, were nearly always traceable to whisky. The movement, begun in one Southern State, spread after the strange fashion of America—where movements, especially moral movements, are as much quicker and more infectious than our as their prairie fire is to our smouldering grass—the movement spread to other Southern States, till in the end there were few Southern States that did not vote themselves dry; and when one remembers the large part the mint julep and Kentucky whisky and the moonshiners played in Southern life, the phenomenon becomes the more remarkable.

HOW PROHIBITION CAME.

"Meantime, the Prohibition Party—always a powerful and active force in American life—there have been frequently candidates for the Presidency on the Prohibition ticket—was agitating with feverish energy; you jostle in the lobbies of the Washington hotels almost every day against the lobbyist of the Prohibitionist in the one corner and the lobbyist of the liquor trade in the other. The Prohibition movement had the advantage of having amongst its most earnest advocates William Jennings Bryan—still one of the most powerful and appealing orators of his country. Two other factors were almost as important in spreading the Prohibition movement. The first was the disrepute into which everything and everybody German fell after the declaration of war; and the most powerful backing to the liquor trade—and incidentally to the German propaganda before the war—came from the big German brewers, mainly in Milwaukee. The second and even more powerful ally of Prohibition was the war itself.

"One of the reasons for extending Prohibition was

CARE FOR THE SOLDIERS.

In many, if not in all, parts of the country it was against the rule to offer a man in khaki anything to drink; just as it was wrong for him to accept it. I went one day to take lunch with my friend Winston Churchill, the novelist, at a soldiers' and sailors' club; and there I saw all these boys eating their lunches with either iced tea, iced coffee or iced water. I need scarcely say that one result of this rule, hard and stern as it was, you could see at once in the splendid physical form of these boys soon after their enlistment.

"This extraordinary docility—if that be the proper word—with which the Americans have accepted all the sacrifices and efforts imposed upon them by the war is illustrated in the interesting article from Mr Frank Dilnot, your admirable correspondent in New York, which appeared last week. He tells us that bread cards and "other means of conserving food are unknown to us." Yet more than twelve millions of families have signed pledges to observe the rules of the Food administration.

And now comes

THIS LAST BIG APPEAL

To the patriotic self-abnegation of the people. Prohibition, from being local, is carried nation-wide; no delay is allowed; no compensation is ever discussed; eighty millions sterling are lost to the revenue; no matter 'Wherefor it is so ordered,' says the 'New York Tribune.' 'It is not ever discussed. People do not want it discussed. Nobody protests.' Was there ever a more monumental sentence describing a more monumental achievement? And this is the people whom the fop Bernstorff described to the Kaiser, with his child's undeveloped brain, as a nation so selfish luxury loving, so absorbed in dollar and cents, as to be innocuous! They know better in Berlin now; but not as well as they will know by and by."

HELP LIGHTEN THE LOAD!

Help lighten the load!
Humanity stumbles ahead on its road
Urged on o'er the deserts, beset by
the good!
Men bend under burdens of hunger
and care,
And women must suffer and toil and
despair;
Yea, even the children astray in the
strife,
Are bowed by the weight till they
weary of life.
Hark! unto each soul that is hero, no
slave,
How clear sounds the call to arise and
be brave,
Help lighten the load!

Help lighten the load!
With all of the strength that the
heart can command,
With all of the power of brain and of
hand,
With wills set to sacrifice, struggle
and dare.
With love that seeks ever each burden
to share,
With unflagging endeavour that stops
not to ask
The length of the journey, the cost of
the task,
Come, sons of the kingdom! Come
children of God!
And along the dark path by the world's
anguish trod
Help lighten the load!
—Priscilla Leonard.

To-morrow you have no business with. You steal if you touch to-morrow. It is God's. Every day has it enough to keep any man occupied without concerning himself with the things beyond.