

LIQUID BREAD

Helen B. Montgomery, in "Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle."

"I am often reminded, when I hear the plea frequently advanced for the return of light wines and beer, of an article that I read in an English paper under the caption, 'Liquid Bread.' The phrase was used in the advertisement of a well-known brewing company in England, and one day a man saw a sign over a public-house door which read: 'Good Ale is Liquid Bread.' His story follows:

"I went into the house and said, 'Get me a quart of liquid bread.'

"The landlord said, 'Ah, first-rate sign, isn't it?'

"'Yes,' said I, 'if it's true.'

"'Oh, it's true enough, my beer is all right.'

"'Well, give me a bottle to take home.' He gave me a bottle of this liquid bread. I took it to Dr. Samuelson, an analytical chemist, and I said to him, 'I want you to tell me how much bread there is in this bottle.' He smelled it and exclaimed, 'It's beer!'

"'Well,' he said, 'if you come again in a week, I'll tell you all about it.' He charged me three guineas. In a week's time I went to know all about the liquid bread. The first thing about it was that there was 93 per cent of water.

"'It's liquid, anyhow,' I said, 'we'll pass that. Now let's get onto the bread.'

"'Alcohol, 5 per cent.'

"'What's alcohol?' I asked.

"'There's a dictionary, you can hunt it up for yourself.'

"I hunted it up and found alcohol described as a 'powerful poison.'

"Then he gave me a number of small percentages of curious things, which he had put carefully down on each corner of a white piece of paper and which amounted to about a quarter of a thimbleful of dirty-looking powder. That was the bread—2 per cent.

"'And there would not be so much as that,' said Doctor Samuelson, 'if it were Bass's or Allsops'. This is bad beer.'

"This is the simple, scientific truth with regard to beer, and the case is stronger with regard to wine and spirits. There is practically no nourishment in them at all.

"I think he has a rather low percentage of alcohol in his ale, but let it go at that—the point is that ale or beer is not a food, but a powerful narcotic poison.' To hear people talk, you would think that wine and beer were harmless beverages, hardly to be called intoxicating liquors. Have people forgotten so soon that 90 per cent. of all the liquid sold over the bar before the coming of the Eighteenth Amendment was beer?

"As you begin to study into the matter you find that all the drunkenness of the ancient world was beer and wine drunkenness. It was wine that

destroyed Greece and Rome. All the horrid accounts of the drunken banquets of the Roman Emperors are written about the use of wine. The same is true of Babylon and Assyria. All these nations were destroyed not by distilled alcoholic liquors like gin and rum, whisky and brandy, but by wine and beer. For it must never be forgotten that the process of distillation was not known for a thousand years after Christ. All the drunkards of the ancient world from Father Noah down were wine or beer drunkards. How terrible was the curse of fermented liquor in this ancient world, may be seen from the fact that Buddha forbade drink to his followers in the Sixth Century B.C., and Mohammed to those who embraced his new religion in the Sixth Century of the present era.

"The liquor of Mexico and South America is fermented; so is the liquor of Japan and Siam. In all those countries there is rising a strong movement against their own form of strong drink.

"I feel that people should be informed so that they may withstand the real menace of the plea that America allow these 'innocent beverages' back again. There never was a truer word said in the Bible than that which declares, 'Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging and whoso is deceived thereby is not wise.'

Apropos of the above, one feels some wonder, not untouched by indignant horror, on learning that 39,000 tons of barley have been set aside for the brewers in Germany, according to an announcement made on January 31st in a Frankfurt dispatch.

The terrible stories of the sufferings of people in Germany due to the lack of food have moved the hearts of their late enemies to pity; and sacrifice is being asked, and even demanded, on their behalf. When it is remembered that people in England are suffering actual privation in order that the situation may be relieved, and this statement is made, the wonder is that so little is heard by way of protest.

For the assistance of any who may meet with the argument that beer provides nourishment, we republish the following extract from an Editorial in the issue of April 18th, 1942, which gives very helpful information:—

A Contrast

Barley-Malt, grains.		"Pint of Beer," grains.
210.4	Body-building material	37.6
1019.0	Energy-yielding material	343.8
27.0	Fat	0.0
184.7	Cellulose	0.0
35.7	Mineral Ash	26.6
0.0	Acids	35.8
105.2	Water	8090.0
0.0	Alcohol	328.1
Rich	Vitamins	Nil

(Verdict of Dr. C. Chapman, Chemist to Brewers' Society, in evidence before the Royal Commission—British.)

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

China

An Associated Press report from Peiping, China, on January 26th, 1946, stated that "The smell of burning opium spread over Peiping today as 950,000 ounces of the contraband narcotic (opium), worth more than 2,000,000 dollars, were publicly burned by the command of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek."

Scotland

The Shetland Islands went dry some time ago during a local option campaign, and remain dry. In a population of 26,000, there is almost no unemployment, no crime at all, and five policemen are sufficient to look after 800 square miles.

Canada

Recently editorial pages have been voicing conscientious alarm about liquor conditions in Ontario. The "Toronto Telegram" recommended that women's beverage rooms be closed at once, and forever.

The "Toronto Daily Star" headed a leading editorial: "Government Control on Trial." The opening sentence was: "The feeling that the liquor control system of Ontario is not promoting community values as it should, is becoming pronounced." The editorial went on to state: "Drunkenness on street cars has become much more prevalent." "Passengers on crowded cars, particularly women and children, should not be incommoded or endangered by intoxicated men."

Around beverage rooms, abuses are becoming more noticeable. Women's beverage rooms are becoming more and more obnoxious to the public. A reduction in the facilities for drinking brings a reduction in evils due to liquor drinking in almost the same mathematical proportion. — "The Voice," November, 1945.

Result of Season's Beach Meetings

With the meetings at Geraldton and Dongarra, the season's "Happy Hour" beach meetings of the W.A. Temperance League and Cobbers' Club came to an end. In all 51 meetings were held and there was an approximate attendance of some 4,000. Seven hundred new members joined the Cobbers' Club and were each presented with an attractive membership card. This campaign entailed several thousand miles of travel. It is the most extensive effort of the kind in the Commonwealth.

To take nourishing barley and convert it into a narcotic poison is decidedly no service to the community. But alcohol is also a racial poison. The late Dr. Saleeby, the world's greatest eugenicist, wrote: "The poisoning of the race, of the germ plasm, is the worst thing alcohol does against mankind."

The facts given below were read also at Dominion Convention, and are worth studying (Ed.).