

The Times

Printing House Square, E.C.

Cutting from issue dated

22. 1. 1919

TEETOTAL PROPAGANDA.

AN UNDESIRABLE CAMPAIGN. TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Conditions differ on the two sides of the Atlantic. A large majority of the people in the United States and Canada have learned that the work of life is 'as well, or better, done without the use of alcohol in any form. Taken in moderation, alcohol is among the indifferent things—with tea, coffee, and tobacco. How account, then, for the acceptance of total prohibition—to many a vexatious interference with personal liberty? Because for a large proportion it is no more vexatious than would be the prohibition of the use of snuff. Any interference with personal liberty is borne in view of the possible prevention of much crime and of much more disease caused by the use of alcohol in excess. Bishop Henson is not quite fair in the statement that American prohibition is everywhere a discredited thing. Never before has total prohibition had a chance. A movement with the support of so level-headed a man as Mr. Taft has more in it than gas and prejudice.

Under present conditions it would be most unwise to launch in this country an aggressive "Anti-Saloon" campaign, and I hope the promoters will "call it off" for a year or two, and trust meanwhile to the peaceful educational movement which is doing so much.

And many wise men doubt the wisdom of total prohibition. There are virtues not worth having, and among them is that "fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed," upon which Milton pours his scorn.

Yours, &c.,

Oxford, July 18. WILLIAM OSLER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Sir Frederick Macmillan has evidently misinterpreted my letter, and, in case I have in any way laid myself open to the charge of advocating "compulsion" instead of "persuasion," let me say quite plainly that I am all for "persuasion." I pointed out that, in my opinion, there was little "danger" of drastic remedies being accepted by the British public unless, by the neglect of more moderate measures, England were to relapse into her old evil ways. It was because I felt that Mr. Gosse underrated the menace which alcohol means to national efficiency that I ventured to intervene. It is to moderate men that I appeal to study the problems relating to the health and welfare of our people in their connexion with strong drink and to help in devising suitable remedies.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES F. HARFORD, Secretary,
C.E.T.S.

50, Marsham-street, Westminster, S.W.1.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—I express no opinion on prohibition at the moment, but the Bishop of Hereford's objection to it on the ground that the Church requires wine for the Communion is a piece of bibliolatry one did not expect from him. Does the Bishop think that the Communion is in abeyance in the bone-dry States of America? The Communion was made for man, not man for the Communion, and if the moral welfare of the race require the total abolition of wine, the Church, as the exponent of the religion of self-sacrifice, should be the first to comply. Certain theories might suffer, but religion would surely gain.

I am yours, &c.,

J. MORGAN GIBBON.

Stamford-hill Church, N.16, July 20.

July 18
1919

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(Letter to London Times, July 22, 1919, p 8,c)

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