

**THIS INHUMAN MONSTER.****DEMOCRACY FLOUTED.**

The following is from the "Diocesan Magazine" of Victoria.

"Fifteen months of war have cast a searchlight upon conditions of social life and revealed to the eyes of many, things to which they were hitherto deliberately or unconsciously blind. Among the evils of social life perhaps none has been made to stand forth in its naked ugliness more clearly than that which arises from alcoholism. The menace to body and soul from this evil is now understood by many who before would not be convinced. Its anti-national and anti-social character is made manifest. There is strong tide of fierce indignation rising against this traffic, and tens of thousands will never forget the suffering and degradation it has brought upon us in our days of peril. If only the will of the people could have its way it would tear from its tyrant throne the foul leering despot that mocks our griefs and enfeebles our patriotism. But this inhuman monster, smeared with the blood and tears of women and children, with throne reared upon the ruins of once happy homes, has its purchased minions who bludgeon or beguile victims—to prop up its tottering kingdom, that it may still enjoy its banquets of human flesh and blood.

**Enemy of the Human Race.**

"Every principle of science, reason, prudence and humanity condemns the enemy of the human race to execution and extinction; but how shall science, reason, prudence, and humanity avail against swollen profits, vested interests, political pull, and the swaggering pride of many motor-cars upon election days? Sometimes we may almost despair of it all, and feel inclined to admit that Governments that cringe and crawl before the lash of the beer and whisky magnates, and peoples who acquiesce in the same deserve the judgment of God and that judgment cannot be long delayed.

"We not only allow our own people to be devoured by this insatiable monster, but where the line of Empire marks its advance amongst the chimeras of the world we carry the cruel curse with us and bring upon them incredible misery and degradation. In vain do our noble, gallant big-hearted frontier-makers warn us that we are murdering whole races, and that

upon the appearance of the whisky bottle consumption, infantile paralysis, imbecility sweep away millions of lives. The indignant voices of these great sons of Empire must not be allowed weight in the Councils of Empire. Distillers must be provided with new markets for their wares, and what matter that a million lives be lost if in exchange a new millionaire be added to the titled nobility of England and the House of Lords be graced by the presence of another successful man of commerce. 'Yet for all these things shall the judgment of God come upon you.'

**A Slur on Democracy.**

"Or let us turn to the Honorable House of the Legislature of New South Wales. Have they not been elected for the good government of the people? Do not their hearts grieve over social evils? Surely they are the bold and valiant leaders of an enlightened and progressive democracy. Is not the Labour Party committed so far to the principle of democracy that it believes in the Initiative and Referendum? They would never dream of thwarting the will of the people at the bidding of the enemy of the people! Oh, no! Oh, No! Yet though the evil has been manifested for twelve months and every free and open conscience has condemned it we see this Government and Party, so responsive (?) to the popular will, inventing every delay to avoid dealing with this question. There is ample time for all kinds of 'silly season' twaddle, but no time for that which may arouse the ire of the 'Trade.'

"And now the public is to be further insulted. When in spite of all their intrigues a majority of the House did declare in favour of nine o'clock closing, a fresh intrigue is begun, strange things happen behind the scenes, the Caucus is engineered, and this marvellous mountain of our Parliament after twelve months of labour is to bring forth the mouse of a Ten O'Clock Closing Bill! The 'Trade' has cracked its whip. The Caucus has cracked its whip. Now must the time come for the public to take a hand in whip-cracking. Chicanery and intrigue may win the victory of a day; but as sure as day follows night the reckoning will come and the forces of light, truth and sanity will overcome the powers of evil—even if the Labour Caucus debases itself to join into alliance with them."

**SOCIAL REFORM.****ALCOHOL AND VENEREAL DISEASES.**

The question of the relation between drink and disease is not new to any of us; but we have lately had striking and repeated evidence of the close connection between alcohol and some of the most terrible scourges which afflict humanity. Before the Royal Commission on Venereal Disease which sat recently, many of our leading medical men, with expert knowledge and widest experience, have testified that the use of alcohol "multiplies the number of venereal patients, aggravates their maladies, and makes them more difficult, and in some cases almost impossible to cure."

**Sir Thomas Barlow**, President of the Royal College of Physicians, declared that alcoholism brings out the latent forms of these diseases, making their treatment much more difficult; that salvarsan, used as a remedy, is a most dangerous one for alcoholic patients, and that if you entirely stop their alcohol you often have more satisfactory results. "From first to last," said Sir Thomas Barlow, "the influence of alcohol with regard to these venereal diseases is most dangerous."

**Lieut-Col. Gibbard**, Head of the Military Hospital at Rochester Row, London, said that most of the patients admitted, if asked, that they became infected after having taken too much drink; he also expressed the opinion that increased temperance in the Army was a great cause of the reduction in venereal disease.

**Major L. W. Harrison**, Pathologist to the same hospital, attributed the decrease to the provision of occupations and amusement other than canteens, which, he said, tends to make them better soldiers.

**Sir Victor Horsley** pointed out that alcohol diminishes the power of resistance to disease in the human body, and therefore not only renders a man more liable to infection, but aggravates the disease when incurred. A total abstainer is less likely to become infected, owing to his higher power to resist.

**Mr F. W. Mott**, Pathologist to the London County Council's Asylums, stated that men so often took some drink, lost their judgment and then went astray. Alcoholism makes them more liable to disease, and much less likely to be cured.