

due to the fact that money hitherto used for drink has been diverted to the purchase of the necessities and necessities of clean living. In spite of the fact that exiling vodka meant giving up an annual revenue of five hundred million dollars, Russia sent it out at the point of the bayonet. The gain has not only been in savings bank deposits, but in the increased efficiency of her people, and to-day Russia, without vodka and with the war, is better off than Russia with vodka and without the war. And so we are not surprised to find that as recently as January 4th of this year it was telegraphed through the world's press that "There are indications that the restrictions upon the sale of vodka will continue after the war. The Government are erecting a factory to utilise the enormous stocks of alcohol in the manufacture of synthetic rubber."

To-day France is rated among the greatest of the alcoholic consuming peoples. There are half a million saloons in that country; this means an average of one to every eighty inhabitants. Paris alone has thirty thousand saloons. Gustave Herve, editor of the leading revolutionary Socialist organ, and one of the leaders in the fight against alcohol, said in a recent editorial: "It is hardly worth while to save France in the trenches, if it be only that alcohol may make it a desert of a cemetery in the future." Yet since the opening of the European war last year, the military authorities began to take drastic measures for the suppression of alcohol in the Army. Surgeons and military physicians in the hospitals and army infirmaries, found that alcoholic patients were the worst cases with which they had to deal, their wounds would not heal, and their system, weakened by liquor, refused to bear the fatigue of the battlefield. This led to the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of absinthe throughout France. It will give you some idea what the consumption was to hear that stopping of the traffic meant the dropping by the Government of a revenue of over sixty millions.

General Joffre has gone further, and has forbidden the sale of all spirituous liquors in the entire war zone. From this it will be seen that the Temperance movement in France is only in its infancy, and yet when one remembers that up to the outbreak of the war the liquor interests had practically unlimited control, that no reform measures, even of the mildest type, could be passed through the Parliament, the programme of the Temperance forces, which will probably be carried through before the end of the war, makes a long step in advance.

Again quoting from the "World's Outlook," we are told that "the past fifteen years, and particularly the past five years, have witnessed a great awakening in Germany to the evils of intemperance. But she has doubled, nay, trebled, her efforts against it since the great war. At the opening

of a new Naval Academy on November 21st, 1910, the Kaiser, in a remarkable speech, said: "The next war, the next naval encounter, will require of you sound nerves: these are undermined by alcohol endangered from youth up by its use. You will see horrible devastation, and all kinds of pictures. Then the word will be strong nerves and cool heads. The nation which drinks the least alcohol will be the winner, and that, gentlemen, should be you." The Temperance party in Germany distributed this address among 164 regiments in the Army. Since then other documents of similar importance have been circulated, stating that there is no justification for calling beer "liquid bread," and that a glass of beer costing 25 pfennig has no more nourishment than a piece of cheese costing one pfennig. Five years ago the Krupps forbade the sale of beer in their steel works, and opened milk booths, but now the cause of temperance in the city of the Krupps has been further advanced by an order of the Seventeenth Army Corps at Munster forbidding the sale of whisky at bars on Sundays, Mondays, and legal holidays, and permitting it on week days only from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m., and since 1st August, 1914, it is reported that the Federal Council of Germany has granted full power to each of the States within the Confederation to handle their liquor traffic as it pleases. Said the Kaiser: "If my people stand for temperance principles, they will be raised morally." Though these same people at the present time are our cruel foes, we White Ribboners with all our hearts hope that their Army and Navy will adopt these temperance principles, and be so morally raised as to know how to treat women and little children in time of war.

It is encouraging to know that the fight against liquor in Canada is forging ahead. The Province of Ontario has over 800 municipalities; over 400 are under Local Prohibition. On 1st November, 1915, a new law came into force closing all remaining bars and saloons at 8 o'clock. This further restriction will, it is expected, speedily lead to Total Prohibition. The military laws are very strict. No soldiers are allowed to be billeted where drink is sold, none was allowed upon a recent trek of ninety miles from Niagara to Toronto. None is allowed in military mess, armoury or canteen. The shops are forbidden to sell it to men in khaki, that is, in bottles. I know a vote was to have been taken on the drink question in British Columbia in January last, but so far I failed to get the results. In Manitoba a similar measure will go to the people this month. New Brunswick has banished it from nine of its twelve counties. Nova Scotia has had no bars, except in Halifax City, for a number of years. Quebec Province has 77 per cent. of its municipalities under Prohibition, and Prince Edward Island is "dry." Let

us hope that when the next election returns come in, John Barleycorn will go out for all time.

It is good to remember that one-half of the entire population of America, numbering one hundred and ten millions of people, are now living under a No-License law. The nation is now preparing to wage one of the most progressive civil battles for freedom from the slavery of the licensed saloons; this campaign is no other than to overthrow the liquor element in the United States. The Temperance party contemplate making a nation-wide effort this year, and will seek to get elected to both the House of Representatives and to the United States Senate members who will at once pass a national law that will straightway free their land of all liquor troubles. The Scandinavians, once the hardest drinkers in the world, are turning toward Prohibition, and doing it by majority vote. Remarkable progress has been made in Norway and Sweden, and in Denmark popular votes taken from 1907 to 1913 have resulted in majorities for the abolition of the traffic.

Turning from the world progress to our own land, I must confess the condition of things is disappointing. Time was when we rejoiced to think we led the world in the fight against alcohol. Unhappily for New Zealand, we fear that day is now but a memory, and that since last election we have been merely marking time, though our own organisation has not been resting on its oars. While Parliament was in session we sent a petition to the House praying that in view of the example set by the King, alcoholic liquors should be banished from Bellamy's during the course of the war. We also petitioned the House, asking that hotel bars should be closed at 6 p.m. daily. But though the Petitions Committee reported favourably upon it, no action was taken; the National Government failed to protect their people from a traffic which is inherently vicious and evil. Our Drink Bill for 1914, published in June last, amounts to £4,246,357, which works out at an average of about £3 13s 11d per head of the population. In this connection, I cannot do better than quote from the Alliance statement: "The Minister of Defence, speaking at Wellington on May 31st, said that our last estimate of war expenditure was £300,000 a month; this equals £3,600,000 a year; our expenditure upon intoxicating drink would pay the whole of this expenditure on the war, and provide a pension of £2 per week for 6200 soldiers in addition." I think it was Mr. A. S. Adams who said "If the people could be persuaded to pass a self-denying ordinance and abstain during the war, they could devote to patriotic purposes the sum of £4,246,000 saved, and would not only not feel the expense, but would be richer at the end of the war." The money thus saved, paid into a common fund, would provide