

produced by war conditions, let us hope they have voted it out never to return any more. Quebec (the tenth province) is committed in great measure to Prohibition under local option auspices, and Temperance organisations are lending all efforts to bring the province into line. The facts of two years' prohibition in Russia are so astonishing that it does not surprise us to know that permanent prohibition of all alcohol is expected to become law any day. Ten million pounds was the yearly revenue derived by that nation from the liquor before the sale of it was forbidden. And now the test of Russian prosperity is in the State Savings Banks, for 7000 new banks are being opened to take the people's money. The favourable effects of Temperance, greater working capacity, increased savings, and the decrease of crime, are a guarantee that the heavy loss to the Treasury will soon be made good. No wonder Arthur Mee, in the London "Chronicle," said: "The blood thrills in an Englishman to think what might be, if the courage of Petrograd had been found in Westminster."

Soon after the war opened France prohibited the sale of absinthe entirely, and stopped the sale of spirits to soldiers, women, and young people. Now the Government have requisitioned all stocks of alcohol above 100 kilolitres, which is tantamount to the early closing down of all factories engaged in the manufacture of liquors and spirits. Italy has temporarily stopped the sale of all spirits, and has reduced the allowance of wine to her soldiers. Rumania, on declaring war, forbade the sale of alcohol under the severest penalties. Newfoundland's battle for freedom was victorious.

Prohibition makes great headway in the United States of America. More than five-sixths of the territory in the whole of Alaska to-day is dry, or about to become dry. More than one-half the nation is now under State Prohibition. The new Prohibition States are Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, Florida, and Columbia, in themselves constituting about one-tenth of the national area. This means that approximately thirty million persons will be living in Prohibition States in America.

Detroit, with about 500,000 inhabitants, goes under Prohibition Government. The district of Columbia includes the city of Washington, the capital of the United States, and the centre of the whole machinery of the United States Government, and as these large districts go dry we have good reasons to rejoice in the prospect of realising the motto of our fellow-workers in America, "A saloonless nation by 1920." A wonderful incentive to the goal is the fact that 800 daily papers, with a circulation of 5,500,000, have declined liquor advertisements. In New South Wales the referendum taken in June gave a tremendous majority for 6 o'clock closing, that surpassed all estimates. Indeed, there are many that declare that temporary prohibition would

have been carried with an equally sweeping majority. Victoria and Western Australia have reduced the hours for the sale of liquor; South Australia and Tasmania have also declared that liquor bars must close at 6 o'clock. And the reports that reach us of the conditions since the hours of curtailment are most satisfactory. Less drunkenness, less crime, and a growing spirit of content and appreciation of the change.

While New Zealand is doing nobly in sending so large a proportion of her sons to take part in the Empire's struggle for liberty and truth, she is doing shamefully in the matter of domestic reform. Of all the countries quoted, we have done the least. Our annual expenditure on intoxicating liquors, taking war-time figures, exceed four million sterling, equal to the upkeep of our Expeditionary Forces. If only half this sum was saved during these times of stress, surely it would be worth while. The first petition we presented to Parliament praying for 6 o'clock closing contained 60,000 names, the second 100,000 names, and yet the Parliament refused the request. This year the New Zealand Alliance is preparing a third petition, which they intend presenting next session. Let us hope that when the Prime Minister and Sir Joseph Ward return from England they will be prepared to act, and that immediately, in the curtailment, if not the prohibition, of the traffic during war time. While deploring the attitude of the Parliament with our petitions, we are grateful for even small considerations. The police returns for the year show that since September, when the anti-shouting legislation came into operation, there has been a distinct falling off in arrests for drunkenness. We never know when the tide may turn; it may be at its ebb now. Let us be prepared, by constant watchful service, to see it coming in full, sweeping away prejudices, breaking down obstacles, cleansing the Parliament, the Church, and the whole Dominion from the evil influences of the Drunk demon, and freeing us once and for all from the evil effects of the licensed bar. The whole industrial world has discovered that total abstinence must safeguard the soldier, the sailor, the aviator, the autoist, the engineer, and the crew of the submarine. Scientists are disclaiming liquor as a food or medicine, and the leaders of our forces on land and sea freely admit that it cuts through the efficiency of the nation, weakens our fighting forces, and must lengthen the war. It hinders the Army. It is the cause of grave delay with munitions; it keeps thousands of men from war work every day, and makes good workmen second-rate. It hampers the Navy, delays transports, slows down repairs, and congests the docks. It threatens our mercantile marine; it has absorbed during the war between 60 and 70 million cubic feet of space, and it retards the building of ships to replace our losses. It destroys our finance, it shatters our

moral strength, and because it does these things, is a bigger enemy to our nation than all the allied forces against it. And so leading citizens in all parts of the Kingdom, including representatives of the Order of Merit, the Privy Council, Parliament, the Army and Navy, Universities, the Royal Society, shipping companies, and many others, have allied themselves with us. Surely, with united effort, we may soon hope to see the bright dawn of a sober world.

Women's Work.

Though this great war has brought untold suffering to women of all nations, it has been the means of freeing her capabilities and demonstrating her power to such an extent that a well-known engineer in London recently said: "That it was his firm conviction that, given two more years of war, she could build a battleship from keel to aerial." This statement the "London Daily Telegraph" believes is not exaggerated in view of the skill, energy, and persistence that the women show in their engineering occupations. Nearly three-quarters of a million of women have taken the place of men in the industries of Great Britain, and the substitution is proceeding at such a rapid rate that, if the war continues a few months longer, the figure is almost certain to reach the million mark. Dr. C. Allison, Minister of Munitions, said that "Women had played a splendid part in the war," and commended them for their great sacrifice and readiness to risk their lives. So wide is the scope of industries now undertaken by women that a book has been published by the Imperial War Office, called "Women's War Work," giving a record of what British women have done in maintaining the industries and export trade of the United Kingdom during the war period, and the book is intended not only as a proof that women have shown themselves capable of successfully replacing the stronger sex in practically every branch of industry, but also as a tribute to their effective contribution to the service of the Empire in this hour of need. The number of women employed in attending the sick and wounded is now about 27,000 greater than before the war. There are in London now five hospitals entirely officered by women, and women doctors are running a military hospital for wounded soldiers. They are doing men's work in tanning, leather working, sawmilling, wood working, glass, china, earthenware, and rubber. Even in building, mining, and quarrying women are replacing men in small numbers, but in large numbers they are working at the cotton and food trades, grain milling, sugar refining, etc. They are engaged on the railways in almost every capacity. In agriculture, at fruit packing, and harvesting. In clerical work the most striking new development is the introduction of women clerks into banks and financial houses. Everywhere women are largely employed in the tramway departments; while municipal employ-