

TEMPERANCE PROGRESS IN THE UNITED STATES.

In his speech on National Prohibition in the House, Congressman Webb of North Carolina gave the following review of temperance progress in the United States.

"Some notable victories have been won in congress by the temperance forces during the last few years," said he. "Here they are chronologically:

"In 1832 congress passed its first temperance law forbidding the sale of intoxicants to Indians or introducing liquor into Indian country; this law is still on our statute books.

"In 1883 the excessive use of intoxicating liquors was declared a bar to appointment in the civil service.

"In 1890 congress subjected original packages of liquor, transported into a state, to the police powers of such state. This was known as the 'Wilson act,' but it was practically emasculated by the Supreme Court.

"In 1892 the sale of intoxicants to certain natives of the islands of the Pacific coast was forbidden.

"In 1902 the sale of intoxicants was forbidden in Platt National Park.

"In 1903 Congress declared that no intoxicating liquor of any character should be sold within the limits of the Capitol building of the United States.

"In 1907 Congress forbade the sale of intoxicants liquors anywhere between the Government Hospital for the Insane and the Home for the Aged and Infirm or within a radius of one and one-half miles of the boundaries of either in the District of Columbia.

"In 1907 it was declared a crime to sell intoxicating liquors in any immigrant station.

"In 1909 interstate carriers were forbidden to collect the purchase price of liquor before or after delivery from the consignee, which killed the odious C. O.D. express business in liquor. The same act required the packages containing intoxicating liquor shipped in interstate commerce to be marked as such, and also in the same act the delivery of interstate shipments of intoxicating liquors was forbidden to anyone except to the bona-fide consignee.

OUT OF THE MAILS.

"In 1909 Congress declared intoxicating liquors non-mailable.

"In 1912 Congress forbade the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors

in Alaska under certain conditions.

"On March 1, 1913, Congress by an overwhelming vote and over the President's veto, forbade the importation of intoxicants into a state to be received, used or possessed, contrary to the laws of such states. This was the most decisive and important blow the liquor interests ever received at the hands of Congress up to that time. This is known as the Webb-Kenyon Act.

"On February 14, 1917, Congress passed the Alaskan Absolute Prohibition Law.

"On March 2, 1917, the Porto Rican Prohibition Law was passed.

"On March 3, 1917, the District of Columbia was made dry.

"On March 3, 1917, Congress forbade the sending of advertisements and letters soliciting liquor orders into states which made it unlawful to so advertise or solicit orders.

"On March 3, 1917, Congress declared that whoever shall order or cause to be shipped into a dry state intoxicating liquors except for scientific, sacramental, medicinal and mechanical purposes shall be punished. This is known as the Reed amendment and was supposed to come from the camp of the enemy for the purpose of either embarrassing the Prohibition forces in Congress or of making Prohibition so odious to dry states that they would return to the saloon. But the Prohibitionists determined "to call the bluff" and accepted the amendment. The law has worked so well that it may be classed as one of our most important pieces of legislation.

"August 10, 1917, Congress prohibited absolutely the production of distilled spirits for beverage purposes. The same act authorises the President to stop the manufacture of wine and beer and to regulate their alcoholic content. It authorised the President to commandeer all distilled spirits for redistillation in so far as may be necessary to meet the requirements of the Government in the manufacture of munitions and other military and hospital supplies or in order to dispense with the necessity of utilizing food products in the manufacture of distilled spirits."

To the above we add the following: August 1, 1917, the U.S. Senate submitted an amendment to the Federal constitution providing for National Prohibition by a vote of 65 to 20; and on the 17th of December, 1917,

the House joined with the Senate in submitting this amendment by a vote of 282 to 128.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT ECONOMY.

A Commission is sitting to consider the expenses of the Defence Department. One witness spoke of a troopship which had been fitted up for troops at a cost of over a thousand pounds. As soon as it was ready word came that it was to be used to carry stock, and it was dismantled. Does this witness think his is a solitary case? It is common talk at one of our ports that the Government could have bought the whole fleet of ships for less money than they have spent repairing and altering them. We are told by those who know that it cost as much to fit up a troopship as the ship could be bought for. While the Government finds the money nobody seems to think it necessary to spend it carefully. For instance, painters were set to work on a hospital ship, and painted the whole interior. She made one trip, then on her return wiseacres decided that the colour should be altered, and she was re-painted. On her return from a second trip the authorities decided to paint her again the original colour. The appointment of capable women to superintend camp kitchens, furnishings, and hospital and troop ships, would have secured economy, combined with efficiency. In England, America, and the Allies women are doing useful work in this direction. How slow are our Government in using its women for work.

HOW AMERICA TRAINS HER OFFICERS.

Colonel Glen, in charge of the officers' reserve training camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison, issued orders barring liquor from the camp. In regard to this order, Colonel Glen says: "Liquor is not going to handicap brains at Fort Benjamin Harrison. Every young man in this camp owes his country a solemn obligation of giving it at this time the best there is in him. He is to command men if he meets the requirements of the War Department, and, therefore, should make himself fit to command by living an exemplary life."