

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CLERGY OF AMERICA ON PROHIBITION.

The Catholic Prohibition Clergy League went on record in resolutions as demanding definition by Congress of intoxicating liquor, as all beverages containing any percentage of alcohol, and the election to public offices of only candidates who are total abstainers.

"We deprecate all attempts to toment lawlessness against the Prohibition amendment as alien to Catholic loyalty to constituted authority and the best traditions of the Catholic Church."

"Prohibitionists may expect encouragement from Pope Benedict XV. Of his two immediate predecessors, Leo XIII. approved the third Council of Baltimore, urging all Catholics to get out of the liquor business in the battle against alcoholism."

"Catholics will stand with their fellow-citizens, for Prohibition," said Bishop Canevin.

"The community has as much right to take the pledge as the individual."—Bishop Carroll, of Helena.

"It is unthinkable that we should ever go back to the saloon."—Archbishop Dowling.

"If I could cause the earth to open and swallow up every saloon in the world, I would feel that I was doing humanity a blessing."—Archbishop Keane.

"Regulation of the saloon is like putting the devil on his good behaviour—it has always failed to accomplish the purpose intended."—Bishop McGovern, of Cheyenne.

"The advocates of Prohibition are messengers of peace and patriotism, and are fighting a bloodless battle for humanity."—Bishop Lenihan, of Great Falls.

AUSTRALIA SPEAKS.

A Roman Catholic clergyman writes to "Grit" concerning Archbishop Redwood's manifesto re Prohibition. He asks whether the Archbishop's words were official or not, and says the answer to this question is the key to the Catholic vote. The matter turned on a single point, was the exemption of sacramental wine a stable and real exception or not? Prohibition could affect a Divine law only in a single way, mainly by prohibiting the sacrifice of the Mass. Hence on any Prohibition measure which does not imperil the Mass, the Church can have no official view. If the New Zealand

Bill genuinely safeguards the Mass, then the Archbishop's utterance was not official; it was in no sense the word of the Church, and had no weight with Catholics beyond the weight of the Archbishop as a man. If, on the other hand, the exemption of altar wine was illusory, then, without doubt, he voiced the Church, and it was the duty in conscience of every Catholic to vote against the Bill.

The letter goes on: "Catholics are not backward in desire of good government. They are not in love with booze, but they are in love with the Mass. This is the whole key to the riddle. Safeguard this, and you will find Catholics vote 'dry' at least as numerously as any other section of the community."

DRINK THE WORST ENEMY THE WORKER HAS.

Mr O. Bryant, Secretary Australasian Engineers:—

"In answer to your enquiry as to my opinion of the liquor traffic in relation to industry and democracy, I say that it is the worst enemy the worker has—even worse than the exploiter and profiteer.

"A man who wastes his energy for the sake of strong drink is an enemy not only to his family, but to his class in general. He brings his family down to the lowest ebb of drudgery, and when the time comes that it is necessary for a fight to be put up for better conditions—not only for himself, but for those who follow after him—in most cases he is found wanting.

"This is due to a muddled brain, the craving for more drink, and in most cases he is always in debt, and everyone is pushing him for money, and no one will stand by him when he wants household necessities. The consequences are that good men otherwise are often compelled to scab on their workmates."

ABOLITION OF THE DRINK TRAFFIC THE BEST THING FOR THE WORKERS.

Mr Arthur Rae, the veteran Labour leader and editor of the "Labour News":—

"In my opinion, the entire abolition of the drink traffic would be the best thing that could ever happen for the workers of Australia.

"As a Socialist, I do not believe that Prohibition would emancipate the

workers or make capitalism tolerable. What it would do is to secure clear heads, strong nerves, and immeasurably intensify the demand for better conditions.

"For that reason I believe it would be cheap to get rid of it at any price, and would favour compensation if that would bring the end quicker."

CUT IT OUT.

Mr D. McLelland, Secretary, Blacksmiths' Society of Australasia:—

"A single sentence expresses what I think about the 'drink,' that is, cut it out!—right out of the national life.

"Who would miss it? Probably the 'wowsers,' who would thereby lose his stock-in-trade, possibly the publicans and others interested in the liquor trade, but nobody else. Certainly not the union secretaries, who find that a necessity of the present time is clear and concentrated thought, resolute purpose, and patient, persevering and continual effort on the part of their members, if we in our generation are to attain to real democratic citizenship.

"Drink muddles the thought, blurs the vision, weakens the resolution, and destroys patience—man's staying power—without which we cannot hope to attain the end we desire. Therefore, on this ground alone I say, cut it out!"

PROHIBITION WOULD BENEFIT THE WORKERS

Mr R. Worrall, Secretary, Stonemasons' Union, New South Wales:—

"During my experience as a Trade Union secretary and man in the Labour movement, I have found that the unionist who is free from booze gives more attention to the finding of a solution of the industrial problems.

"Also, in case of industrial trouble the sober man is in a better position to render assistance, and is usually more amenable to Trade Union discipline.

"It seems to me that in every case the temperate man has the pull over the other fellow all the time.

"Personally, I am an abstainer, and would like to see Prohibition enacted, because I believe it would benefit the workers."—"Grit."

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Port Chalmers.