

PROHIBITION STANDS MORALLY RIGHT AND ECONOMICALLY WISE.

(By Guy Hayler, President, World
Prohibition Federation.)

Fifteen propositions for the repeal or nullification of the Eighteenth Amendment have gone into the waste paper basket, because the Senate Judiciary Sub-Committee declares in its report that Prohibition is morally right and economically wise. So ends another defeat for the **Wets** of the world.

The findings were attested to by four of the five members of the sub-Committee: Rice W. Means (R), Senator for Colorado, Chairman of the group; Guy D. Goff (R), Senator from West Virginia; John W. Harreld (R), Senator from Oklahoma, and Thomas J. Walsh (D), Senator from Montana.

Senator James Reed (D), who hails from Missouri, was the only member of the Committee who did not sign the report, and the absence of his name was to be expected, as he is known as a **Wet**, and had acted in a partizan spirit throughout the inquiry.

The complete report of the Committee declared:—

"The Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States was ratified according to a proclamation of the Secretary of State, January 29th, 1919. We believe this amendment to be morally right and economically wise. So long as this Amendment is a part of our fundamental law, it is the duty of all officers, legislative, executive and judicial, to aid in its enforcement. The advocates of modification of the present Prohibition laws propose to weaken the same. They seek directly or indirectly to authorize the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages. This is contrary to the spirit and intent of the Eighteenth Amendment. The Constitution is a grant of powers. Those powers are limited and such limits are not to be transcended. A national referendum is not provided for, and it is our belief that it was not the intention of the framers of the Constitution, that a national referendum would ever be attempted. No laws have been enacted which provide a machinery for the holding of such a referendum."

The Report, with the evidence taken before the Committee runs into 1,660 pages and reveals the not surprising fact that the bulk of the witnesses and written or printed evidence came from cities like Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, where law enforcement would naturally be a difficult matter. The **Dry** forces with minor exceptions were represented, as Dr. Charles Scanlon points out, by men and women of distinction, character and ability, who were acquainted with the facts and gave them in such volume and with such conclusiveness that the Hearing will afford fresh material for years to come.

The Columbus "Ohio State Journal" says, "The **wet** advocates in Congress have lost their fight. Their proposal for a referendum on the Volstead Law and all their proposals for the modification of that law have died in the Senate to which they were referred. It was a foregone conclusion. The Committee has a **dry** majority, and both Houses of Congress, as at present constituted, are overwhelmingly **dry**."

"The satisfaction of the **Drys** with the result requires no explanation," says the "Literary Digest." The **Wets** profess themselves contended with a defeat in that they secured from a "notably dry Senate such a hearing as was given" as the **wet** daily, "Springfield Union" puts it.

The Liquor men are making their last-stand efforts in the United States to bring back alcohol. They have ceased to defend or justify the Liquor Traffic, nor can they get anyone to defend it on its merits. The present tactics is to defy the law, to encourage others to defy it in the hope—and a forelorn hope if the United States is to govern itself democratically—that the Federal Government will surrender. But there is great power on the side of those forces which seek to uphold laws that are morally right and economically wise, and the faith recognising that cannot fail.

AN INCREASING CALL.

Our name, Women's Christian Temperance Union, emphasises our energy in the work we find near to our hands, the Temperance work to which we apply ourselves unceasingly. But as

Christians we cannot believe ourselves justified in neglecting ills other than one prominent. There are hungry to feed, weak to strengthen, blind to lead, and we cannot afford to neglect a growing evil that increases the number of those in need.

Even in churches the first steps to what is often referred to as our "national vice of gambling" is encouraged frequently. It sounds to many honest and well-meaning people simply absurd to term little raffles, etc., where children are urged to spend sixpences, as encouragements and first steps in gambling. But the principle is the same in every kind of gambling. These beginnings the more tempting because conducted by people beyond criticism for their personal goodness, are very attractive beginnings to the growing vicious habit of trying to get something for nothing, or for very little.

A step very close, which those who approve of the one cannot reasonably condemn, so that it is very respectable in its patronage, is advertised so industriously that it is pushed against **every-one**, everywhere, in daily papers and shop windows. That is the Art Union.

If it did no other harm, this practice would be dangerous in its steady encouragement of dislike and contempt for steady work. "You may win a fortune any day, just by risking a trifle. No effort needed, only trust in luck. Someone is sure to win, why should it not be you?" Just the encouragement young people need to help them put their backs and brains into making themselves good honest workers for the country's benefit, as well as their own, this kind of thing, isn't it? Repeated so persuasively everywhere, seen every day, it cannot fail of effect. Very few of us are born to love plodding, very few so fond of reasoning that we always try to apply it.

As members of the Union, we all need to work promptly and steadily if we are to make headway against the evil that is consistently gaining ground. We need not only to refrain from touching pitch ourselves, but to teach our children to abstain from any touch, however slight. If we do not bother to teach them now, be sure our opponent will think them worth endless trouble. We can see proof of that any day. And surely we know well enough, by our personal experience, how quickly weeds spring where good plants are not tended.

KATHERINE MERCER.