

STATEMENTS HEARD AND NOTED AT THE WORLD CONVENTION IN U.S.A.

By Mrs. Hugh Kasper

Congressman Joseph R. Bryson, of South Carolina, sent greetings, and as he was not able to be present, his secretary read his speech. He declared that one third of the nation's territory is now dry by Local Option. He said that in 20,469 localities in which election on the prohibition of liquor was taken the "drys" had won in 12,519. "The dry area," the representative said, "contains a population of 30 million persons." The "Gallup Public Opinion" poll indicated that 33% of the people of the U.S.A. favour prohibition. His opinion was that the sale of liquor should be prohibited by Constitutional laws. He finished by saying, "We have practically succeeded in banning opium from the entire world. I am hopeful of the day when the same can be said for the alcoholic beverage traffic."

Clinton H. Howard, Washington, D.C., Superintendent of the National Reform Bureau, took for his subject, "What's the matter with Prohibition?" He said, "We talk about the habit, and ignore the traffic; we talk about alcoholic addiction instead of alcohol extinction; and we have substituted the word 'sick' for 'sin.' In past years," he continued, "there were more than a score of prohibition members in Congress. Now Senator Arthur Capper is sole advocate in the Senate, while the Rev. Joseph Bryson conducted a lone fight for war-time prohibition in the House. Mr. Capper is a representative for Kansas, who 'wrote' Prohibition in 1880. While a few counties have been lax, in most of them the laws have been well enforced. The Noble experiment has been tried for more than two-thirds of a century, and has been proved a great success. There is little drunkenness in the State, little crime, little poverty; the percentage of illness is among the lowest; the per capita of wealth is near the highest of any State. In culture, in prosperity, and in freedom from political scandal, Kansas far outshines her wet neighbours."

Mr. Howard finished this address by saying: "The matter with Prohibition is that the Church, Protestant and Catholic, is slipping; the top Generals of the Army of the Lord are compromising with evil." He said "The Ten Commandments have been nullified through the centuries. They have never been repealed; and the nations that have disregarded them have perished from the face of the earth. And there is not one of those Ten Commandments that the liquor traffic does not break in every saloon and liquor outlet in this land."

Mrs. D. Leigh Colvin, National President of the U.S.A. W.C.T.U.

IS SMOKING BAD FOR US OR NOT?

By Our London Science Correspondent

Tobacco, cigarettes, and smoking are big topics today. Smoking has been banned in Brisbane cinemas—restriction enforced for fire-preventative measures that affects those who are fortunate enough to get anything to smoke at all.

Now what is the medical truth about smoking? Is it bad for us or not?

A serious charge is made in the Journal of Pharmacology. Nicotine, according to three research workers, seems to have a bad effect on fertility.

Rats injected with nicotine failed to have litters far more frequently than control rats, and those that did breed had far smaller litters.

Now nicotine has far less effect on rats generally than on man, so that it is quite possible that the decline of human fertility is partly caused by increased smoking.

Professor Raymond Pearl found from a study of over 6,000 men that the percentage of non-smokers, moderate smokers, and heavy smokers living to be 70 years old was 45.9, 41.4, and 30.4 respectively. No doctor has yet given a satisfactory reason why this should be.

On the other hand, tobacco is very useful, as most of us know, against metaphorical "cold feet," but that is a mental effect rather than a physical one.

Experiments show that tobacco-smoking lowers the temperature of hands and feet by tightening up the

says: "Women are staying out of bars in increasing numbers. The number of women drinkers in public places has declined on an average of one-third throughout the country since the start of the war." She said that, during the war, half to more than two-thirds of the midnight patrons in most saloons were women; but many of the men back from the war front have insisted that their wives stay out of bars.

Miss Dorothy Staunton, England, Editor English "W.R." said: "Current suggestions to nationalise the liquor industries of Great Britain and Canada were branded as illogical, anti-social, and a threat to Temperance." She read a report by H. Cecil Heath, London barrister, which contended that making the liquor business a part of government would solve no existing problems, while creating new ones. Nothing can justify the purchase by the State of a business which, when run by private individuals, has carried the moral reprobation of the community.

(More of these statements will be published later.)

blood-vessels and reducing the amount of blood flowing through them.

Tobacco-smoking raises the level of sugar in the blood. This is exactly what some people need, and exactly what others must avoid.

It would appear that on this count smoking would benefit some people and hurt others. The smoking of dirty pipes has been claimed as one cause of cancer of the tongue.

In all it cannot be said that there is very strong evidence that tobacco is a menace to health, but, as the British Medical Journal frankly points out, no smoker has been able to prove that it ever does anyone any good.

But it is the psychological side of smoking that is probably more important. Smoking is a habit which grows on us. We usually claim to smoke because it is soothing to the nerves.

Now there is no physical way in which smoking can be said to soothe the nervous system. Probably, if everybody chewed straws it would have as useful an effect.

The chief effect of smoking is precisely the same as that of thumb-sucking; it is the adult way of soothing any anxiety or disappointment or worry. It is an organized and costly form of nervous fidgeting.

In women it is usually an assertion of equality, or evidence to whom it may concern of nonchalance or emancipation.

By helping us in our anxious moments it performs a very useful social service, and if we all had to stop smoking suddenly there would be an increase of bad tempers, of nervous breakdowns, even perhaps of petty crime.

All this has nothing to do with the nicotine content; it is purely psychological. It makes no difference whether you inhale or not.

The psychological effect at the present moment of the tobacco shortage is one of elation when you manage to get an extra ounce.

Wherever I go I find self-appointed heroes; people who are feeling an added pride in themselves for the way in which they are exercising self-control.

But this thumbs-up stage will give way to a thumbs-in stage sooner or later.

If it is not actually thumbs it may be chewing gum, or snuff, or straws, or nail-biting, or nervous drumming on the table, or new brands of swear words, or a revolution.

Some of those are cheaper than tobacco, none needs dollars.

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