

Belleville, Pa., September 28, 1928.

SWEDEN SOLVES

DRY PROBLEM.

Experiment Most Successful in History of Whole World.

Nation Seeks to Lead, Rather Than Drive Citizens to Abstinence.

Stockholm, Sweden.—Commencing with the idea that the liquor problem and that you can't change human nature merely by passing a law, Sweden is now working out the world's most successful experiment in temperance and public morals.

I came to Sweden frankly skeptical. Sweden, I knew, have always liked their liquor. History relates that around the 1850's they were among the world's champion drinkers. Their national tipple was aquavit, as they call it, schnapps, liquid fire distilled from potatoes. They average something like 200 quarts a year of this stuff per family, which meant that the head of the house was generally a pretty hard drinker.

If the Swedes could find a way to regulate booze and become a temperate people, I thought, there is some hope for America.

Well, they've done it. They've abolished the saloon, the blind pig, the bootlegger and the moonshiner. In a few years they have cut down liquor consumption to half, lessened all kinds of crime by more than half, reduced drunkenness among the youth of the land to comparatively negligible figures, until today Sweden seems the very picture of social health and economic expansion.

The Bratt system of liquor control is what has done it. The system gets its name from Dr. Irvin Bratt, the young physician, social reformer and temperance advocate who worked it out.

The most popular drink in Sweden today is a sort of near-beer, a brew with only a trifle more alcohol in it than is to be found in ours. That is to say, about 2 per cent. It is illegal to have it run above 3.2 per cent. alcohol by weight, but the average is much lower. This beer and light wines with a small and strictly rationed amount of spirits, obtainable on a carefully worked out card system, represent the spirituous beverages of present-day Sweden.

The Bratt system was tried out tentatively in Stockholm in 1913. But, as there were no national laws to back it up, it was naturally greatly handicapped. Nevertheless, so excellent were the results of the "Stockholm experiment," as it was called, that in 1919—the year prohibition went into effect in America—the system became nation-wide.

Even then it was several years before the necessary enforcement laws could be passed. Thus, it may be said that the Swedish system has been in vogue nationally only four or five years. Yet remarkable progress in the direction of temperance law and order has been made.

The total amount of spirits consumed in all Sweden has fallen about 40 per cent. and in Stockholm about 50 per cent. Crimes of violence have fallen off from an index of 100 to 52 in the nation as a whole and to 40 here in the capital and largest city. Arrests for drunkenness have slumped from 100 to 48 for all Sweden and to 30 in Stockholm, the best results being achieved among the young folks—from 15 to 20 years of age.

These figures show a reduction from 100 to 17, no less! Sweden is not attempting to drive her citizens into sobriety. She is leading them. That seems to be the secret of the whole thing. Sweden does not make it a crime to have a limited amount of alcohol, but she does say that making a hog of one's self is a social crime punishable in various ways, from arrest and imprisonment to not being allowed to have anything more to drink.

Here you may have a little, but you may not have much, the opposite of practice in prohibition countries, where you can generally get a lot easier than you can get a little.

Today Sweden has absolute control of her drink problem, or about as absolute as it is humanly possible to control anything having to do with the masses. And so, by rationing her citizens down to a point beyond which there would be a popular demand for more, resulting in bootleggers and the vast underworld of the rum trade so notorious in our own country, she has brought the nation to such a high state of temperance and public morals as to amaze present-day Americans.—By William Philip Simms, Foreign Editor, Scripps-Howard Paper.

Air Mail Takes Jump as Rates are Reduced to 5 Cents Per Ounce.

Uncle Sam has adopted the "cut rate" method in his air mail service. The adage about the merchant who explains his wares are cheap "because he sells so many" runs true to the aerial mail business.

Under the ten-cent rate business was good but the facilities could handle considerably more poundage. Apparently Postmaster Harry S. New thought the time rate frightened the public and in August he reduced it to a nickle basis.

Business for the month exceeded all expectations, New declared. The planes carried 418,821 pounds while in July, under the ten cent rate, only 214,654 pounds were transported. The increase for August over July was 95 per cent.

The Chicago-San Francisco route continues to lead in poundage, carrying 110,065, in August and 69,951 in July. The New York-Chicago route was second with 103,304 pounds while the Salt Lake City-Los Angeles run was third with 39,781 pounds.

The Watchman gives all the news while it is news.

Motto All Right, but Staff Went Too Far

Samuel Grindstone was a hustler of the modern school. He believed in the gospel of speeding up.

Over every desk in his office he placed a large printed notice, reading: "Do It Now!"

But a week later, with tired fingers and exhausted air, he tore them all down.

"Hello," said a friend, dashing in and seeing the ceremony of destruction. "What's up? Doesn't hustling pay? Going back to the old leisurely methods?"

"Yes, I am," snorted Grindstone. "Hustling doesn't pay. I gave ten cents each for these notices, thinking they'd spur my staff to hard work."

"Well, the net result is that they've all acted on the motto. The chief cashier has bolted with the contents of the safe, my typist has eloped with my youngest son, four juniors came in yesterday to ask for a raise, and the office boy got a better job and has gone off to it."

Someone Else Would Wear Nether Garment

The heupeecked man came into a department store, majestically led by his wife. Their errand, if you want to use the plural form instead of the feminine singular, was to buy Mr. Heupeeck a suit of clothes.

About 118 different suits of clothes were taken off the racks, and the coats, at least, tried on Heupeeck. He said not a word and although his legs got trembly and wobbled, when he looked at his spouse out of the corner of his eye he saw he must stand up under the ordeal until unconsciousness gave him rest and relief.

The clothing salesman was getting more frazzled and worn down than any of the three. He had a boiler-factory perspiration and his temper was beginning to say, "I don't want to be good much longer."

So finally he blurted out to Hen-Heupeeck, "Say, friend, why don't you buy this suit. You can wear the coat if it, anyhow?"—Exchange.

Wise Man Wasn't Talking

"Sleep," said the pessimist, "is but a forestage of death—that divine nap-time for which we poor mortals yearn."

"Sleep," said the chemist, "is caused by such an accumulation of toxins that all organic activity must be suspended or minimized pending their elimination through chemical change."

"Sleep!" said the poet, fervently. "Ah, poppy and mandragora and all the drowsy sirrups—"

"Sleep," said the business man, "it can get a good solid eight hours of it, makes me show up at the old desk feeling like a—fighting cock!"

"Sleep," said the philosopher, "is a phenomenon which—"

The wise man sat in the corner and said nothing. He was taking a little nap.

Fish Easily Gathered In

It may be a slander that the ostrich buries its head in the sand when frightened, but a correspondent of the Sydney Bulletin swears there is a fish that does that and more. The black-spotted sea perch, *Lutjanus fulviflamma*, when approached stands on its head and wags his tail so violently that he is driven clear out of sight into the sand. The Australian fishermen, however, just wade in and mark the spot with a piece of white shell where each fish has buried himself and then make the rounds with a long sharp spear, jabbing the sand around each sign post, quickly gathering them in.

The Doctor's Ruse

The doctor of a lunatic asylum was in the bathroom one day watching a number of his patients, when one of them called out suddenly: "Let's duck the doctor!"

Seeing his danger, the doctor, with great promptitude, said: "All right, boys, but suppose, now, you give the doctor a cheer before ducking him."

This reasonable proposition was at once acceded to, and a ringing cheer resounded through the building, which at once brought the keepers, as the doctor expected, and he was saved.—Yorkshire Post.

When Washington Relaxed

Irving says that Washington on rare occasions was "surprised into hearty fits of laughter." One such instance occurred at the return of peace, when he was sailing in a boat on the Hudson, and was so overcome by the drollery of a story told by Major Fairlie of New York that he fell back in the boat in a paroxysm of laughter.

"In that fit of laughter," remarks Irving, "it was sagely presumed that he threw off the burthen of cares which had been weighing down his spirits throughout the war."—Gas Logic.

Blame the Women!

"Poor George!"

"What's his latest hard luck?"

"After saving tobacco coupons for seven years he figured that in a couple more years he'd have enough to get a fishing rod he coveted."

"What happened?"

"His wife and daughter started smoking, and in three months they all had enough coupons—"

"To get the fishing rod?"

"No; to get a hand-carved license burner."

NOTED CLERIC FLAYS BIGOTRY

Or. Henry Van Dyke Declares Defeat of Smith Would Be "National Calamity."

ASSAILS SECRET PROPAGANDA

Warning American voters that sinister and secret forces are threatening the very foundation upon which our Government is built, Dr. Henry Van Dyke, eminent educator, Presbyterian clergyman, author and diplomat has issued, from his home at Seal Harbor, Me., a ringing appeal for religious tolerance.

Dr. Van Dyke who holds degrees from Princeton, Harvard, Yale, Pennsylvania University, Union College and Oxford University is perhaps one of the best-known of living writers and clergymen. In a formal statement, he said:

"At the present moment there is on foot in these United States a widespread cabal to keep one of the candidates for the Presidency from election because he is a member of the Catholic Church. The other candidate has handsomely disavowed any personal share in the sentiments or arguments which characterize this 'cabal. This is much to his credit."

"But unfortunately he can not, or at least he does not, restrain and check the pernicious activity of his supporters, who are convinced that the end of a victory for their party justifies any means which they employ to secure it."

"Hence, if their candidate should be elected, he would owe his election in part to the religious prejudice and anti-Catholic enmity which the cabalists have stirred up and marshalled to the polls. This would be a misfortune for him, and a calamity for our country as the home and citadel of religious liberty."

Most Important Issue

"The mere prospect of such a calamity ought to move the hearts of true Americans and honest Christians with dismay, and awaken their minds to serious thought and earnest action in defense of that real freedom of conscience which is the hard-won crowning glory of America and the dearest jewel of Christianity."

"That seems to me far and away the most important question before the country today—a question not to be answered by heated appeals to partisan allegiance,—a question not raised, thank God, by either of the honorable candidates for the Presidency, but a burning question thrust upon the conscience of every American voter by the overt fulminations and covert whisperings of those who seek to defeat one of the candidates because he is a Catholic."

"My Protestantism is obedient to film who said, 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.' My Protestantism, which is hereditary from the school of William of Orange, tells me that 'conscience is God's province.' My Americanism, which is a stout growth of eight native-born generations, tells me that to vote against a man because of his church-membership is to be untrue to the central faith of the Republic."

"Freedom of conscience is the greatest thing at stake in this campaign. Hundreds of thousands of voters fall to realize it."

It is time to blow a trumpet to awaken the sleepers. The Palladium of the Republic is attacked by secret and open foes. It is in danger, trembling in its marble hall. The spiritual call to arms goes out to every man and woman. Defend the religious Liberty of America!"

BLAINE ADVISES BOLT

Republican Senator in Wisconsin Declares Voters Must End Corruption; Says Friends Are for Smith.

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Republican leaders, disheartened by the tremendous reaction to the recent speech of United States Senator John J. Blaine, in which he bitterly criticized the last two Republican administrations and lauded Governor Smith, have practically given up all hope of swinging Wisconsin to Hoover.

Senator Blaine, a former Governor of Wisconsin, and one of the State's popular Republican leaders, declared in an address at Burlington:

"I have no doubt that my friends and supporters are going to vote for Governor Smith. We must condemn Republican silence on the scandals of the Harding Administration as an accessory after the fact. The thing to do is to end corruption by voting for Governor Smith."

CALIFORNIA WOMAN ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE

SAN MATEO, Cal.—Mrs. Cecilia C. Casserly of San Mateo, a candidate for Congress in this District, has been appointed to the Women's Advisory Committee of the Democratic National Committee.

RAIL HEAD ON COMMITTEE

CHICAGO.—W. G. Bied, President of the Chicago and Alton Railroad, has been appointed financial director for Illinois for the Democratic National Campaign Committee.

Peculiar Way Deadly Curare Poison Works

"Curare is the deadly poison that tips the arrows of the South American Indians," the explorer said. "A pinprick from one of their tiny and slow-moving blow-pipe arrows tipped with curare will kill a peccary, a jaguar or a man."

"On the Amazon one day my Tucanos killed a monkey. The piece of monkey that was served to me afterward happened to contain the wound. There it was, the ragged curare-filled wound made by the blow-pipe arrow. I cut that bit away, you bet, but a Tucano snatched it up, swallowed it and laughed in my face."

"How is it, I asked him, 'that you can eat without harm the poison-laden flesh of the birds and animals that you kill with your curare-tipped arrows?'"

"For answer—and a very good answer it seemed to me—the Tucano took a pinch of curare from his pouch; enough to kill a dozen persons; and rolling it into a ball he swallowed it down with his monkey meat and manioc."

"Then I understood. Curare is a poison that must be injected directly into the blood. It can be eaten and digested with impunity."—Springfield Union.

Many References to Cucumber in History

All the world seems to have a "hankering" for cucumbers. About 10,000 carloads are shipped to market annually. This is in addition to those grown in greenhouses and small truck patches and marketed locally, also those grown for home consumption.

There are historical references to the cucumber 8,000 years before Christ. It is generally supposed to be a native of India, and was taken to China in 98 B. C. Cucumbers were known to the ancient Greeks and Romans. Pliny mentions their forced culture. They were grown by Columbus in Haiti in 1492. There is a record of their production by the Indians in the sections now occupied by Montreal, Canada, and by Indians in Florida. Capt. John Smith speaks of growing them in Virginia. Rev. Francis Higginson tells of seeing them in Massachusetts in 1629.—Peter R. Sterling in Natural Republic Magazine.

Lucky Child

Some people are born lucky, even in small things. The child had asked for money for gum.

"No," said mother.

"For candy, then?"

"No," said mother, "I shall not give you any money today to spend on such things." And she went on brushing the grown-up daughter's spring coat which was hanging on the line. She quickly turned a pocket inside out—and then dumped a package of gum and a fudge bar.

"O-o-o!" said the child in delight —and with one pounce she scooped up gum and candy. "And you can keep your old money!"

"It seems absolutely impossible to discipline some children," murmured mother. "for the gods are always on their side."—Springfield Union.

Sat Right Down

Patrons of a local theater, seated behind a young woman who mislaid her purse one evening, missed a part of the photography, because the woman stood up to conduct her search for the lost article, but then enjoyed a little unintentional comedy which other patrons missed.

It was during a court scene put on by the Vitaphone, and the court was hearing parties in a separate support action. Those seated behind the young woman searching for her property were getting fidgety when the judge rapped his gavel, and ordered, "Order in the court, sit down!"

The woman was so surprised that she sank back into her seat, and there she discovered the missing purse, where it had fallen.—Springfield Union.

Fought Slaveholding

The antislavery agitation commenced in the United States at a very early period of its history. The National Antislavery association was formed in 1833. In 1831 William Lloyd Garrison founded the Liberator, a weekly periodical which continued its publication until 1863, and which was devoted entirely to the propagation of antislavery sentiment. Associated with Mr. Garrison previous to the Civil war were such men as Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, Gerritt Smith, and a woman, Lucretia Mott.

Giraffe a Tight Fit

The entire staff of Harvard university paused in its duties for four hours while professors, instructors and ordinary help gave advice on the problem of getting a giraffe, 15 feet and 6 inches tall, into the institution via a door that was only 6 feet high and 4 feet wide. The giraffe, being dead and stuffed, could give no assistance by bending his neck. After many maneuvers failed he was placed on his side and sea-sawed in with the aid of 18 stout dead-gawm beaters

Specialized Farming

"The only thing that Jim Jenks, the laziest farmer in twelve counties, ever raises," sez his neighbor Nat Nolan "is a hue and cry when advised to go to work."—Farm and Fireside.

NOVEMBER BALLOT WILL BE BLANKET SIZED.

The voter will take a ballot twenty-four inches wide by forty-four inches long into the booth with him on November 6. This is 385 square inches larger than two pages of the Watchman.

It will be the largest ballot in the history of the State and has been made so large by the fourteen constitutional amendments to be voted on by the electorate this year. Seven parties will be represented with presidential tickets and in addition to the long lists of presidential electors and the amendments are listed the names of candidates for State-wide offices and Congress and the Legislature.

The first sample ballot was printed last Tuesday at the instance of George D. Thorn, chief of the State Bureau of elections, and will be sent to the County Commissioners of all parties as a guide.

Foot Ball at State Begins Tomorrow.

Lebanon Valley and Penn State football teams will open their respective schedules tomorrow at State College when the Annville eleven meets the State College on the latter's home field. Penn State was victorious last year, winning 27 to 0.

Both teams are handicapped to some extent by loss of veterans. Charlie Gelbert, Lebanon Valley's noted athlete for four years, was lost from this year's squad with several others, while Penn State has lost valuable players, notably Captain Roepke, Lungren, Mahoney and Lesko.

The Lions have conducted pre-season training since Labor Day, devoting two practices a day to football until registration started September 17. Coach Hugo Bezdek has offered no predictions as to the outcome of Saturday's encounter.

Among the men Bezdek will have at hand to use against Lebanon Valley are Delp, Stahley, Edwards and Kaplan, ends; Ricker, Shawley, Pearce, Zeising and Zorella, tackles; Panacion, Martin, Wells and Duvall, guards. Centers available are McDrews, Eschbach and Parana. Backfield men who have been playing on the A squad during most of the training period are Miller and French, quarterbacks; Wolff, Dietrich, Evans and Weber, halfbacks; and Hamas and Collins, fullbacks.

Captain Donn Greshields, who was taken ill shortly before the opening of college, is not expected to be active in football workouts until next month.

Reduce Death Toll Of Infant Diseases.

Dr. Emyln Jones chief of the bureau of vital statistics, reports that there were 2234 deaths in Pennsylvania last year from diarrhea and enteritis in children under two years of age. It was pointed out that this is equivalent to a rate of only twenty-three per 100,000 population, which is considerably less than that in most sections of the country.

The report said that the heaviest infant mortality in Pennsylvania is in January, February and March, although the death rates for diarrhea and enteritis are greatest, under two years, in August, September and October.

Concluding his report Dr. Jones said: "In this State the death rate from diarrheal diseases has been reduced so low that it is no longer chief determining factor in the infant mortality rate as it was years ago."

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