The Queenstown News.

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

M. W. AKER, Proprietor.

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Saturday, November 28, 1925

Christmas is not too far away to begin planning for it, aptly observe the Annapolis Evening Capital. Many of the churches have already begun to lay plans for the proper observance of Christ's natal day. There is so much about Christmas coming up with thoughts of it that, if one were to write, he easily could cover many pages and scarcely know it—and yet, half of this sweetest story would remain untold.

What a happy thing it would be this year to pick out somebody you know who ordinarily will not have a happy Christmas—somebody, whose life is not all "roses and sunshine," somebody whose story has been written with the pen rust of disappointment and despairing difficulties; somebody, whose soul has been pinched and his heart choked by the circumstances of fate, over which he or she had no control, but who remains firm in the conviction that there still is a Santa Claus, even though Santa disappeared out of his or her life in childhood forever.

Think a little and you will see in your mind this man or woman or mayhap a child. On every side they will be found. If you knew the inside story of that man or that woman you do not like because of "something or other," perhaps if you would draw a little closer and raise the curtain of their lives, you would stand backin amazement and then wonder why you had disliked them without knowing why. Perhaps—but, why go on?

Let us begin now to think of some one to make happy this Christmas—some onewho is undoubtedly overlooked in the mad glad rush. Perhaps this some one may be rich or well to-do financially; it does not matter whether rich or poor, make it a point this year to remember some of these unfortunate, unhappy victims, around whose lives fate seem to have hung a fall.

Statistics on the results of prohibition are often dismissed with scant consideration because wet and dry spokesmen rarely accept the figures of the other side. There are, nevertheless, occassionally given out statements which, though they may be disputed or denounced by the more violent advocates of the other side, do carry weight with that very large number of people who can consider this issue without flying into a passion over it.

The recent report of the Federation of Churches made serious impression upon the nation because it sought to discuss the situation dispassionately.

The report just made public by the Moderation League, Inc., will doubtless come in for wholesale attack by a certain class of prohibition advocates. But the conclusions of a survey signed by men of the high character of Dr. William H. Welch, Lewellys E. Barker, President Newton Carlton of the Western Union, the president of the board of trustees of Columaia University, the president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, and others equally well known, are entitled to and will receive the the attention of the country.

Next to the admittedly bad influence of the saloon, perhaps themost forceful and persuasive argument presented in behalf of prohibition wae the record of dry States before adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment, the few arrests made in them for drunkenness and the general good order maintained. It is trus that the statisticts given in proof of this contention were by no means unanswerable—they were often subjected to attack—but by and larger the public accepted the casemade out for the dry States. The survey of the Moderation League, Inc., now seeks to show that in States which were formerly dry, aswell as in those formerly wet, there has been a startling increase in drunkenness between the years 1919, the last wet year, and 1924. Number of arrests has increased in wet States to about the prewar figure. Allowance should however, be made for increase population. In dry States conditions are worse. In both, increase in arrests for drunkenness has been so marked in the past three years as to convince the League that the bone dry law is responsible for it. When this increase runs to such figures as 364 per cent. in Boston, 500 per cent. in Atlanta, and range in number of other cities from 244 per cent. in Providence to 916 per cent. in Minneapolis, it presents a problem that cannot be brushed aside by calling the Moderation League an "imported wetCanadian organization."

A striking feature of the survey and one which agrees with current report and current observation is the great increase pointed out in drunkenness among automobile drivers and among children. In both cases the increase is the natural and invitable consequence of an effort to enforce a sumptuary law to which there was and is widespread and formidable objection. The amount of liquor consumed has undoubtedly decreased, but that the habit of drinking has spread among classeswhich in the old days largely abstained from it is indisputable. Explanation of drinking among automobilists is due, of course, to the fact that the bottle is nowcarried about to a far greater extent than was the custom before prohibition.

The value of impartial, statistical studies of the whole question is sometimes denied because it is asserted that the Eighteenth Amendment can never be repealed. But many supporters of prohibition concede that modification is a possibility, even a probability, in the event that the people of the country become convinced that bone dryness is an impossible goal and that conditions under the stringency of present laws threaten evils which ca[illegible]ted.

There [illegible] settlement of this issue without the help of statistics compiled by organizations whose standing and character give to their data and their conclusions standing and weight with people who want to knowthe truth as to the working of prohibition laws.—Baltimore Sun.

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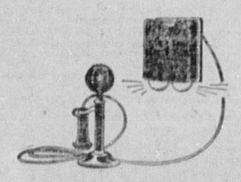

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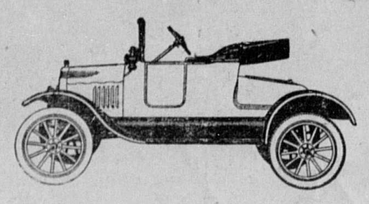

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