

The Great Destroyer

(Conclusion of Captain Hobson's contribution.—Ed.)

The Disease Is Organic.

The investigations above show the disease to be organic and chronic. It has been running for 3,000 years; it is grafted upon the social and political life of the nations; it grips every civilized government in the world—the rulers and the ruled, the families of high degree and low degree. It is the deepest, most organic disease known to the body politic and body social, and root and source of nearly all other social and political ills.

The Treatment Must Be Organic.

For an organic disease the treatment, to be effective, must be organic. What is organic treatment? Who are the organs and tissues and cells of the body politic and body social? The people themselves. Each citizen may be regarded as a cell in the body politic. Any effective cure must reach the great multitude of individual citizens. The problem resolves itself into two parts—first, to find a treatment which, applied to the average individual citizen, will cure him; secondly, to carry this treatment down to the multitudes.

The Power of Truth.

The average man is a rational being. If undegenerated, he shares with other creatures three elemental attributes—the instinct of self preservation, the impulse to rise and better himself, the instinct to protect his progeny. Therefore, being rational, the average man can be cured by taking to him the truth that alcohol strikes at his life, stops, then reverses his evolution and blasts his progeny. The problem, therefore, is to take the great vital truths to the vast multitudes of the people. In the broadest sense, it is a question of universal education.

Abstinence in the Government.

The government should do likewise, and require total abstinence in all public servants—the federal government in its judicial, legislative and executive branches, its army and navy and civil service; the state governments, the county and municipal governments. This principle of efficiency, exacting the highest standard of service in all fields, should be arrayed against alcohol all along the line.

Home Teaching.

More systematic effort should be made to enlist the instinct of parenthood and have the teaching in the home improved; especially to check the father's shattering the teaching of the mother by a bad example of his own.

Pass the Cure Along.

In the cure of organic disease, when a cell gets cured it becomes active and passes the cure to the next. When a person has come into possession of the truth he should never lose an opening to pass it on and on, if only in the shortest, simplest form, that alcohol destroys, degenerates and blights the progeny; that the question is settled as completely as a problem in geometry.

Domain of the State.

While the various educational agencies enumerated above belong essentially to the domain of the individual, while this domain is really first in order of importance and deepest in effecting a cure, yet there is a domain of the state, and it is in this domain that the will of the people, developed in the domain of the individual, must finally express itself for execution.

People Themselves Must Control.

In this field the treatment must also be organic; that is, must rest the control in the hands of the people themselves, not simply in the hands of their representatives. It is vain to hope for a cure of this organic disease by any form of superficial treatment, such as high license and regulation, through judges, aldermen, city councilmen. The city of London inaugurated in its full development the treatment of high license in the year 1285, and for more than 600 years has applied that treatment only to become more degenerate with the passing years. For a half century the United States has been applying the same treatment only to see the consumption of alcoholic beverages per capita rise higher and

higher all the time until now it is more than fivefold higher than it was, and is still rising. It is under such superficial treatment that the nations of the past have perished. For the treatment to be effective, the people themselves must control. Not a legislature or even congress could hope for permanent results without going to the people in referendum.

The control of the people is simply an application of the principle of majority rule. The organic treatment in the domain of the state is the simplest and purest form of democracy. The people have a right to vote on such a vital question, and a majority have a right to vote. The scope of this principle must extend from the smallest political unit to the largest. If no superior law prevails, the ward or township has a perfect right to vote and decide by majority what methods or system shall prevail in its own midst.

True Local Option.

Likewise the people of the city have a right to vote and to decide by a majority what shall prevail within the city limits, and a decision of the city supersedes all decisions of wards or component subdivisions. It could be questioned whether a city council or board of aldermen has a right to impose a system upon a ward against its will, but the right of the people of the whole city by popular vote to so impose can not be questioned. Similarly the vote of the whole people of a county is legitimately competent to impose the will of the majority throughout the county. Similarly the vote of the whole people of a state is competent to impose the will of the majority throughout the state. Some legislators have undertaken to establish laws for the whole state, but only when a referendum to the people has been made has the result been fully satisfactory. Congress might pass a national prohibition law, but the results could never be permanently satisfactory, the treatment could never be definitely effective, until the people of the nation cast their vote.

Constitutional Prohibition.

That part of the law resting in the hands of the people is the real organic law of state and nation. The people only can make and unmake constitutions. Therefore the constitution of a state is the true ultimate abiding place of prohibition for the state. The constitution of the United States is the true abiding place of prohibition for the nation.

War to the Death.

In the domain of the individual and in the domain of the state, in both domains everywhere and all the time, let it never be forgotten that every inch of ground will be contested; that the struggle with the great destroyer is war; that he wages war, cruel, unrelenting, more deadly than any savage war of extermination. No nation has yet kept this destroyer in its midst and survived. America is not different from the nations of history. The records of 3,000 years leave no room for doubt. One or the other must perish. Between America and the great destroyer it is war to the death.

The Laws of War.

No great war has ever been won without following the laws of war. In applying the organic treatment, especially in the domain of the state, the struggle, to be effective, must be conducted according to those fundamental laws that give victory.

The Law of Preparation.

The first law is adequate preparation based on that principle in the universe by which effect is always proportional to cause. The foundation for war strength is men. The rank and file of the army must be recruited. To get the population to enlist, the work of education must be widespread; education as to the dangers before the nation, as to the fact that a great war is on. If men are reached by the truth, they will enlist for their country; if not enlisted they are sure to enlist with the great destroyer. Each recruit is equivalent to two soldiers in the final struggle, one added to our ranks and one taken from the ranks of the enemy.

The Public School Is the Real Recruiting Ground.

Both sides are recruiting among our masses. The ultimate issue will hinge largely upon the recruiting contest.

(Continued on Page Ten.)