

The Cost of Rum to The Nation Estimated To Be \$2,678,504,864

It is figured That There Are 5,000,000 Idlers As a Result of The Prevention of Production of Wealth.

Of Those Whose Lives Are Shortened Through The Habit of Drink The Number is 60,000 Every Year.

COST OF RUM TO THE NATION.

By JAMES B. DUNN, Secretary National Temperance Society, New York.

To give the exact total money cost of the drink traffic to the nation is a very difficult if not an impossible thing, so many are the elements which enter into its consideration. All that we can do is to enumerate some of the most important of these. The direct cost is appalling.

Jails, Asylums, Alshouses.—The following is the expenditure, state and local, largely due to the drink traffic (1899): Judiciary, \$18,721,383; penal and reformatory, \$9,226,995; police, \$22,394,376; charitable, \$39,958,816. Total, \$91,841,480.

Of this amount it is safe to say that at least 75 per cent is due to drink, making the figures at this source of \$68,881,110. But this is only the cost of the state or local governments for the courts, of police, jails, poorhouses and other methods of caring for the criminals and paupers, and does not include the private losses due to these causes. These may be safely estimated at as much more, another \$68,881,110, making the cost of poverty and crime \$137,762,220.

Loss of Labor.—The nation loses a great deal because of the prevention of the production of wealth on account of persons being in jails, hospitals, asylums, or in any way idle through intemperance as hard drinkers. It is estimated that this number is over 5,000,000, and as the average yearly wages are \$554, this would show a loss of \$1,770,000,000, but we are safe in placing the figures at one-half this sum, \$885,000,000.

Then there is the loss of others' labors occasioned by these hard drinkers; as not infrequently the working of a gang of men in a factory is interfered with by the absence of one or more through drink. We put this at one-fourth, \$221,250,000, making a total of \$1,106,250,000.

Shortened Lives.—It is estimated that 100,000 die every year the victims of strong drink. But put the number at 60,000. Each such death robs the nation of at least an average of seven years of labor, some English parliamentary reports say ten. Put the number at seven. This would make a loss of \$147,000,000.

Misdirected Work.—There is the loss which the nation suffers by having about 1,000,000 men engaged in making and selling intoxicating liquors, not actually adding anything to the wealth of the country, but creating conditions which increase public burdens. If rightly employed these men would add to the country's wealth \$351,000,000.

A Summary.—We do not overlook in this connection that a proportion of the national, state and municipal revenues is derived from the liquor traffic. This is what the liquor traffic pays for the privileges granted it. It is right that this amount (which will be found below) should be set over against the items of loss and the various expenditures caused by the traffic.

Direct and indirect cost of the liquor traffic:

Amount paid for liquors by consumers	\$1,000,000,000
Value of grain, etc., destroyed	33,497,644
Cost of crime, insanity, pauperism, etc., chargeable to the liquor traffic	137,762,220
Loss of productive labor	1,106,250,000
Shortened lives	147,000,000
Misdirected work	351,000,000
Total	\$2,678,504,864
Revenue from liquor traffic (1899):	
Internal revenue	\$107,695,910
Customs	9,518,081
State and local revenues	24,786,496
	\$142,000,487
Net loss	\$2,536,504,377

In the foregoing tables the items charged to the liquor traffic, except the official figures, are moderate estimates, and many things which might properly be included are omitted, because of the difficulty of putting them into dollars and cents. One can scarcely grasp the awful significance of the above figures!

There are at present approximately 200,000 saloons in the United States costing the people a total of at least \$2,536,504,377, each year as shown above. Each saloon, therefore, in an average community costs the people of that community over \$12,000 annually.

COST TO ONE STATE.

By HENRY H. FAXON, Quincy, Mass.

Under the authority of an act passed by the Massachusetts legislature, the bureau of statistics of labor engaged in a thorough investigation of the relation of the liquor traffic to pauper-

ism, crime and insanity. The collection of information occupied twelve months. The official report of this bureau contains facts which the most ardent temperance advocate has not asserted concerning the saloon's relation to industrial prosperity. The investigation has been conducted with entire impartiality, neither theory nor bias having place in this work.

Saloons and Drunkenness.—One interesting branch of the bureau's investigation related to the arrests for drunkenness and for other crimes in license and no-license cities and towns. Of the 353 cities and towns of the state, there were fifty-three which were under the license policy during the year, and 260 which were under no-license, while there were forty which, owing to a change of policy, were partly under license and partly under no-license. This first group contained one-half of the total population of the state. The license cities and towns showed 36.2 arrests for drunkenness to every 1,000 of the population; the no-license communities showed 9.94 such arrests to every 1,000 of the population. Arrests for offenses other than drunkenness were 22.34 to each 1,000 of population in the license cities and towns; in the no-license cities and towns they were 10.26 to every 1,000 of the population. In Haverhill the average number of arrests for drunkenness per month under license was 81.63, under no-license 26.50; in Lynn, under license, 315; under no-license, 117.63; in Medford, under license, 20.12, under no-license, 13.25; in Pittsfield, under license, 93.25, under no-license, 36.75; and in Salem, under license, 140.50, under no-license, 29.63.

Saloons and Paupers.—Examining the statistics of paupers, where the entire number covered all the persons found in the state institutions during twelve consecutive months, we find that excluding minors, about seventy-five persons in every 100 among the paupers of the state were addicted to the use of liquor, and three-fourths of those used all kinds or at least two kinds of liquor. Nearly one-half of the paupers had one or both parents intemperate. About thirty-nine in every 100 attributed their pauperism to their own intemperate habits, and about five in every hundred attributed their pauperism to the intemperance of parents.

Saloons and Crime.—When we reach the statistics of crime, we find a still more direct connection between the use of liquor and the burdens which rest upon society. To begin with, out of all convictions for crime during the year under review, about sixty-six in every 100 were for drunkenness. In nearly eighty-two cases in every 100 the offender was under the influence of liquor at the time that the offense was committed. In more than eighty-four cases in every 100, the intemperate habits of the offender led to a condition which induced the crime. Disregarding the convictions directly for drunkenness, it appears that intemperance was responsible for more than one-half of the remaining cases of crime. Finally, excluding minors, the tables show that of every 100 persons convicted of crime during the year, 56.44 per cent were addicted to the use of liquor.

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COST TO A COMMUNITY.

Cambridge, Mass., said to be the largest city in the world without saloons, has added to her taxable property several millions each year. She takes the ground that she cannot have the more than \$80,000 that license would bring her as a city, and also that the \$200,000 increase in tax valuation under no-license. So in ten years of no-license the city grew in population, in number of new houses built, in savings bank deposits, in value of street improvements, more than twice as fast as in the ten preceding years of license in spite of the fact that four of the no-license years were 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, during which time the worst financial panic of the century was raging. Besides this, while there had been an actual decrease in property values in the ten years of license amounting to \$2,190,783, there was an actual increase during the ten years of no-license amounting to \$23,702,930 in spite of the panic of '93. While there was a loss in saloon license therefore of \$81,000 a year, there was a gain in tax income of \$257,900 a year, owing not to an increase in taxes, but increase in taxable values. The rate of taxes in fact decreased from \$1.64 to \$1.57 on \$100.

Experiences like this in hundreds and thousands of other towns and cities might easily be recited. The fact is (perhaps quite contrary to popular impression), that the saloon is already banished from more than half of the area of the United States. In state where the traffic is outlawed: Alabama fifty out of sixty-six counties. Arkansas fifty out of seventy-five counties. California 175 towns and cities. Colorado fifty towns and cities. Connecticut seventy-five out of 125 towns. Delaware half the state. Florida thirty out of forty-five counties. Georgia all of the state, except four cities. Illinois 650 towns and cities. Indiana 140 towns. Iowa all of the state, except twenty-five cities. Kentucky ninety out of 119 counties. Louisiana twenty out of fifty-nine counties. Maryland fifteen out of twenty-four counties. Massachusetts 125 out of 175 towns. Michigan 400 towns and cities. Mississippi seventy-one out of seventy-five counties. Missouri eighty-four out of 115 counties. Nebraska 250 towns and cities. New Jersey 200 towns and cities. New York 70 towns and cities.

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