PLANS FOR DRY NEW YORK

Saloon-Substitutes for City's Ten Thousand Drinking Places Doomed to be Liquorless On and After July 1

What will New York do to replace the saloon?

Many organizations and individuals are trying to answer that question. As yet little of a definite nature has been done. The fact is that nobody appears yet to have visualized just what New York City will be like without its ten thousand places where liquor is sold. Saloons have been so much a part of the metropolis, either as to something to use, desensitize, or simply ignore, that their imminent disappearance from our street corners has rather a destructive than a constructive effect on a New Yorker's thoughts; he is more likely to think of the things that are doomed to vanish rather than of that which may spring up in its place.

Despite this belligerent, however, regarding the most drastic change ever decreed here, there are some who look upon its effects from the constructive point of view, and are already busy figuring out what can be created to replace the saloon that will salvage from its shipwreck the good elements and make their survival conceal the absence of liquor dispensing in such a way that the substitute need not be a case of "Hamlet" without Hamlet.

The Salvation Army, for one, is getting ready to enter the field. It will run substitutes for saloons, which, it is hoped, will preserve the opportunities for sociability and innocent forms of recreation presented by the saloon, as we have always known it, without the aid of the cup that cheers and likewise inebriates. The Salvation Army chiefs are believers in what they term "the psychology of the brass rail." They feel that it would be short-sighted to sweep away the general makeup of the saloon along with the bartender and his "What's yours?". So there is already one Salvation Army "bar," with a genuine brass rail and everything in the way of drinks except alcoholic ones. And there is a representative looking up suitable opportunities for the investment of Salvation Army money in the leading cities of former saloons that seem suitable for transformation into sociability—and—

no, soft drink saloons.

Owing to the fact that every Salvation Army soldier is that stand was pressed into service for the great home fund drive which closed a few days ago not as much could be done toward the acquisition of these derelict saloons as the army's leaders desired. But when the drive is over, they not only have the time, but plenty of money to invest in the new venture.

The Salvation Army "bar" already running is that of the Argonne Hotel, in West Forty-seventh Street, recently taken over for the accommodation of soldiers and sailors. A cursory look at the said "bar" shows nothing out of the ordinary to the visitor. The counter, finished in dark wood, seems to conceal untold wealth of hard drinks; the brass rail is aggressively anti-prohibition in appearance. But if anybody, mislead by these appearances, asks for a highball or a gin fizz he will get a severe shock. Behind that "bar" there is nothing but coffee and buttermilk and ginger ale, and the sisters, cousins, and aunts of these beverages.

The Salvation Army has options on five places now run as regular saloons and may soon have twenty-five liquorless saloons in operation in New York ready for the drought after July 1.

"We do not intend to eliminate the name 'saloon' from these places when we take them over," said Elmore G. Leffingwell, Publicity Director of the Salvation Army. "Our theory is 'Once a saloon always a saloon.' Experience has shown that landlords find it hard to rent a place that has been used as a saloon to anybody wishing to install another line of business. It's hard to run a shoe store successfully on premises over which hangs the taint of liquor.

"But if the places continue to be known as saloons, and aim to get the same frequenter, even if no liquor is sold in them, we feel that they may continue to be run successfully. There is a great deal in a saloon besides the drinking of liquor. Men go there for sociability, to meet their friends, to play games, to read. We expect to keep the saloons which we take over just as they are, except that we insist on there being

"BUSINESS AS USUAL"

Salvation Army's Hotel Argonne.

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A little road to freedom from the world of work. After eight hours of activity as a cog in an industrial or other machine, the greater part of human nature is left over and pressing for utilization. The hours of leisure become on this account more significant for life as a whole than the hours of work. What is known as recreation—which is, specifically, the means of employing leisure—is, therefore, deserving of the best thought and of the most persistent activity on the part of the socially minded. The present is the golden moment of opportunity for modifying the whole system of recreation.

"What is wrong with it?" First, it is made to appeal to individuals singly through the medium of commercialized amusements. When a boy, after his day's work, as an individual, in search of recreation, which he is to purchase, so to speak, over which he will, in the mass, choose the worse instead of the better. The tendency of recreation will, therefore, become a luxury. On the other hand, if amusement is a matter of group action, social and active, instead of individual and passive,

Behind the Bar.

The Bartender of the Future.

Sample Dry Saloon, Hotel Argonne, in West Forty-seventh Street.

Evelyn Henderson, the celebrated English actress, who made her debut in the old Park Theatre in 1852 and afterward married a Southern plantation owner, had a good word for Broadway at that period, although many of her American criticisms were severe.

"Broadway is a long street of tolerable width," she says in her journal, "in short, the American Oxford Road, where all people go to exhibit themselves and examine others. We walked to the end of Broadway, a distance of two miles. It is finer than any I have yet seen in New York. The street was very much thronged, and I thought the crowd more civil and orderly than an English crowd."

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