

PROTECTION TO LIQUOR-DEALING.

THE Excise Board presents both a majority and minority report to Mayor Hewitt, in making suggestions, in compliance with his request, for changes in the law. The majority, Messrs. Andrews and Von Glahn, are opposed to high license and in favor of licensing houses instead of persons, and of issuing licenses to "keep open all night to liquor-dealers in certain portions of the city, in the restaurants, hotels, and drinking places about the markets, at the ferries, railway stations, about the printing-offices, and at certain points on the main thoroughfares." They would also license certain places to keep open on Sunday during specified hours, for the accommodation of that large portion of the community who take beer or wine as part of their daily diet. On the number of drinking places they would place no restriction whatever, and as they would only charge a "moderate fee" for the privilege of carrying on the business in any particular house, and as they admit that "the rental value of places licensed is greater for that than for any other business as a rule," they must contemplate an indefinite expansion and cultivation of the business by all property-holders desirous of securing an unusually high rent for their premises.

Mr. Woodman, the minority, on the other hand, would restrict the number of licenses granted to one to 500 of population, which would cut down the number of drinking places now existing in New York from 8,000 to 3,000, and would make the license fee very high, and add imprisonment to the fine for violations of the law, and would in all cases compel the landlord of the premises on which liquor-dealing was carried on to go on the applicant's bond, if he were not himself the applicant. Both reports are worth careful reading as the expression of the two great divisions of public sentiment about the liquor business. Mr. Woodman represents those who think that

"the Excise Law was not made, and should not be administered, in the interest of the liquor-seller. It was made not to promote, but to restrict the traffic; not to protect the seller in his business, but to protect the public against the inevitable evil results of that trade. So inevitable and so evil are these results that the tendency of public opinion and of excise legislation in all civilized countries for many years past has been towards severer curtailment and control of the liquor traffic. In several States of our Union it has culminated, through popular vote, in absolute prohibition.

"Every new step, therefore, should be towards further restriction and repression. The saloon, as it has developed in this city, is a gigantic evil in the vastness of its proportions and in the character it too often bears. It is sapping the strength and endangering the safety of the commonwealth. I believe it to be in the highest degree unwise to do anything to enlarge its scope or strengthen its grip upon the community."

Messrs. Andrews and Von Glahn are not equally explicit in stating what their attitude towards the liquor traffic is, but it comes out clearly enough incidentally through their recommendations. They evidently consider it a source of comfort and convenience to a large body of the population, liable to abuse certainly, and therefore to be regulated, but in no way to be discouraged or frowned upon. Obstacles are

not to be opposed to the business. The conduct of it is to be made safe and convenient; the license is to be transmissible to heirs and executors; the applicant is not to be required to reside in the county in which he sells liquor; licenses are to be issued for short terms for special occasions; connection with theatres and places of amusement is to be permitted; there are to be no prohibited hours or days for all drinking places. In fact, the only condition worth mention which they would attach to permission to carry on a liquor store, is the condition which is attached to permission to carry on a bakery or dairy lunch-room in all civilized communities—that is, abstinence from disorder and indecency. For, most assuredly, if it appeared that bakeries or dairy lunch-rooms were the favorite resort of bad characters of both sexes, and noted for the number of fights and murders which occurred in them, and for the number of persons who issued forth from them to commit assaults in the streets, or go home to "pound" their wives and smash their own furniture, bakers and milk-dealers would be carefully licensed and looked after by the police.

Now, whatever be the merit of this assumption of Messrs. Andrews and Von Glahn, it is certainly not the one which now commands general acceptance, or on which the bulk of this community will any longer allow liquor legislation to be based. Whatever change is made in the law in this State must be, and we believe will be, made in the direction indicated by Mr. Woodman. In other words, public opinion demands, all over the country, with increasing force, that since liquor-dealing cannot be abolished, it must be discredited; that entrance to it must be made difficult; that the number of those engaged in it must be restricted; that liquor-dealers must, by hook or by crook, be ousted from their present influence in our politics; that all regulation of the traffic must openly recognize and provide for the fact that it is by far the most fruitful source of crime and disease and poverty known to the modern world. There is not a civilized country to-day which is not dealing with this problem on these lines. All thoughtful men are everywhere seeking to make liquor-dealing an uncomfortable and disreputable calling. This tendency may be temporarily baffled here and there, but its triumph is certain in the near future, and no flummery about "reputable persons conducting an orderly place in a moderate way," or about "honest, thrifty, law-abiding" drinkers, will arrest its progress.

MUTATIONS OF THE BOOK TRADE IN GERMANY.

THE decadence of the book trade, outside of our largest cities, has been much discussed by those immediately interested, but it is to be feared that the reading public fails to perceive that the disappearance of the country book-shop implies a corresponding narrowing of the area of literary culture. In this connection it is interesting to learn (from an article in the *Preussische Jahrbücher* for November) that the same result is threatened in Germany, though, the German trade suffers from only one of the evils

which afflict the American. These are three in number: first, the dying out of the habit of buying books as part of the furniture, as it were, of the homes of all families of even moderate wealth and cultivation. This is chiefly owing to the enormously increased taste for bric-à-brac, engravings, artistic furnishings, and the like, the gratification of which absorbs the margin of income formerly spent in providing well-bound sets of the Waverley Novels, *Littell's Living Age*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, and the newest volumes of Huxley and Lowell. Want of space forbids our discussing this point in detail, and we therefore refer those interested to Mr. Henry Holt's New Haven address of last year. Another evil is the revolution in values—that is, in the instinctive consciousness of what one ought to pay for a book, caused by the existence of the twenty-cent libraries. The literary democracy which these have established has destroyed the aristocracy of good editions and authors' monopoly, which, apparently, had nothing to support it except custom and tradition.

These two causes would probably have been sufficient to limit the bookseller's stock to "libraries" and a few gift-books for the holidays, and this limitation is fatal to his prosperity, because the margin of profit on the "libraries" and on school-books is very small, while the gift-book season is short, and the danger of being left with damaged or *passé* stock is great. But that which, in the opinion of the trade, is the greatest evil, and the one from which, in a different form, the Germans also suffer, is the underselling, by which a few dealers are able to profit at the expense, and eventual ruin, of the majority. This is the "bazaar" nuisance, the system under which publishers sell quantities of their most salable books, at the same or greater discount, to the miscellaneous shops modelled on the *Bonne Marché* or the "Universal Provider," one, at least, of which is now to be found in every considerable town, and which use books, along with dentifrices and soaps, as decoys to entice buyers of their other wares. Nor is the influence of these shops confined to their immediate neighborhood, for some of them do a large business by post.

The same thing, it appears, is going on in Germany, and is ruining that particular feature of the German book-trade which, according to our *Jahrbücher* friend, is the envy of foreigners, and which has undoubtedly, as he says, largely helped to make Germany the country in which learning is geographically most widely distributed. By means of it, the scholar who lives in the remotest country town enjoys the same advantages, as regards current literature, as the dweller in the largest city. He has only to give his local bookseller the name of any book which he possibly may find valuable, and by return of post it is on his table. He may keep it several months, and after making any useful extract, return it without compensation for the loan. Two-thirds of the books he receives are thus, at the end of a year, returned to the publisher, and the bookseller makes his living out of the profit on the third book, which is bought. The rural scholar is thus never obliged to buy a pig in a poke—he has ample opportunity to learn, by examination, whether a work is indispensable, and to have the use of the larger number which, though not of permanent value to him, are of great temporary use. Another advantage of the system is that it implies the presence in every little town of a bookseller who is obliged to anticipate, to a large extent, the wants of his circle of customers, and hence to be a man of considerable intelligence, if not a scholar, him-

self, and whose shop, in a small way, is a "literary centre."

But some clever Berlin dealers a few years since conceived the idea of offering publishers to take at one time a large quantity of each book on which they were sure of a large sale, the publishers, in consideration of the large number sold, to give a discount of 40 or 50 instead of the usual 25 or 33 per cent., at which rate they were able to sell the book at about the same price which it cost the small bookseller. By this arrangement publishers and dealers alike profited, but the old-fashioned retailer, of course, came to grief. Two years ago the publishers discovered that this was a short-sighted policy—that their sales through the large dealers in the end were smaller than they had been under the old plan, and 600 of them agreed to have no dealings with firms which dealt on this principle. On September 25, 1887, this boycott was strengthened by a resolution of the Book-dealers' Union hereafter to regard every dealer who gave a discount of more than 5 per cent. as coming under the ban. But though the local bookseller in Germany, thanks to these sharp measures, will die a more lingering death than his American brother, his doom seems to be just as certain.

The resolution of the Union, which we mentioned, has been unfavorably commented upon by the press, and the *Jahrbücher* article is largely a reply to these criticisms. The writer maintains that the prices of serious works are low enough, but admits that those asked for school-books and belles-lettres are too high. In defending these positions, the (anonymous) writer gives some interesting statistics, which, as the *Jahrbücher* is issued by a highly respected firm of printers and publishers, are, we suppose, trustworthy. Incidentally the exports and imports of Germany are compared with those of France, the result of which, in view of their political relations, is highly surprising. In 1885 France imported books, engravings, etc., to the value of \$6,400,000, and exported \$9,000,000 worth. But taking the trade with Germany by itself, the proportion was reversed, the importation being \$3,600,000, the exportation only \$765,000. The total German trade for 1886 was—imports \$6,000,000, exports \$15,530,000.

We get, too, some light on the pecuniary profits of authorship in Germany, though the writer apologizes to his brethren for telling tales out of school. It seems, then, that the cost of putting on the market a strictly scholarly work, of which the number that may be sold will not exceed 500, and assuming the author to be neither unknown nor famous, is: Composition and presswork for an 8vo volume of 320 pages, 500 copies, \$175, paper \$41.25, *author's compensation*, \$125, incidental expenses \$33.75; total \$375. Moreover, the author of a work of more popular character, which may be expected to sell 1,000 copies, or of a novel which sells 1,500 copies, gets no more for his labor; but the compiler of a school-book which is likely to sell 5,000 copies, gets the fabulous sum of \$150! The insignificance of the sums paid the authors of works of scholarship and fiction might be accounted for on the ground that so many works of these classes are published with a view to benefit the author's reputation rather than his pocket; but compilers of school-books do not usually work for "glory."

THE YELLOWSTONE PARK AS A FOREST RESERVATION.

WASHINGTON, January 2, 1888.

Of the varied beauties of the Yellowstone Park much has been said in praise. The

splendor of the Grand Cañon, the grandeur of the Lake and of those scientific curiosities, the geysers and hot springs, have been described over and over again until every one is more or less familiar with the natural marvels of this wonderland. Now that the once famous pink and white terraces on the shores of Rotomahana in New Zealand have ceased to exist, the similar deposits in the Yellowstone Park stand unrivalled. Notwithstanding all that has been written, based upon sentimental considerations, in favor of a maintenance of the Park by the general Government, the most forcible argument for its preservation is an economic one far outweighing all others in importance. It is one which has received but slight attention outside of a narrow circle of the friends of the Park who realize the true value of the region.

The object of first importance in maintaining the Park is the preservation of its forests. Forest preservation is rightfully attracting increased attention in all parts of the country, and it is now very generally admitted that a rigid enforcement of the proper restrictions in the cutting of timber is demanded for the public welfare. Owing to the many conflicting interests in the more settled communities, additional protection by legislation is by no means a simple problem. Nowhere is this better shown than in the struggle in New York State to preserve the timber of the Adirondacks against the encroachment of lumbermen.

The Park is a natural reservoir admirably adapted by its topographical structure for the storage of water. No region of equal area in the heart of the Rocky Mountains presents so many favorable conditions for receiving, storing, and distributing a liberal water supply. For the preservation of this water the dense forest which covers this region is of incalculable value. The central portion of the Park is a broad, elevated volcanic plateau between 7,000 and 8,500 feet above sea level, with an average elevation of about 8,000 feet; it is accidented by broad depressed basins and scored by deep gorges and narrow valleys. Surrounding it on the south, east, north, and northwest, are high peaks and mountain ridges rising from 2,000 to 4,000 feet above the general level of the enclosed table-land. Across this plateau from the southeast to the northwest, with a very sinuous course, runs the Continental divide, separating the waters of the Atlantic from those of the Pacific. Several large bodies of water, notably Yellowstone, Shoshone, Lewis, and Heart Lakes, form such characteristic features on both sides of this divide, that the country has deservedly received the appellation of the Lake region of the Park. Hundreds of smaller lakes occupy irregular depressions either in the lava flows or in shallow basins of glacial origin high up in the neighboring mountains. Scattered over the plateau, in striking contrast with the greater part of the Rocky Mountains, occur numerous ponds, marshes, and meadows, which hold very considerable amounts of water throughout the greater part of the year. More than 3,500 thermal springs bring up their waters from below to swell the surface flows, while innumerable cold springs coming out from beneath the rocks add their share to swell the current.

Careful observation of plateau, mountain, and valley shows that about 84 per cent. of the Park region is forest-clad. The bare portions of the Park are mainly areas above the timber line, steep mountain slopes, and wet marshy bottoms. The forest is essentially coniferous. A few groves of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) add brilliancy to the autumnal foliage, but are so insignificant that from an economic point of view they may be discarded.

Quite two-thirds of the trees are what are known as black pine (*Pinus Murrayana*), and one may travel for miles over the gravelly ridges of the plateau without encountering any other species. On moist ground at high elevations, and where the snows lie later in the season, this species gradually gives way to the balsam (*Abies subalpina*) and the spruce (*Pinus Engelmanni*). Over large areas, of course, the three species occur more or less mingled. In a few favored localities the statelier tree, the red fir (*Pseudotsuga Douglassi*), is conspicuous by its size and vigor. The black pine rarely attains any great size, trees more than two feet in diameter being exceptional, while over considerable areas they are so diminutive as to be locally known as "lodge-pole" pine. The young forest is generally made up of shapely, graceful trees, but the maturer growth is not specially attractive. The charm of the forest is found in the natural groupings and park-like character of the trees in the more open country, many of those on the mountain slopes being of exquisite beauty. For grandeur and imposing appearance they are not, however, to be compared with those of the Sierra Nevada or Cascade Ranges.

Precipitation of moisture throughout the arid region of the Far West is governed in part by mountain mass and in part by the great altitude of single ridges. Across the Park plateau and the Absaroka Range to the eastward the country is unsurpassed in average elevation by any area of equal extent, and is so situated as to form one of the storm-centres of the northern Rocky Mountains. The moisture-laden winds coming up from the southwest precipitate rain and snow upon the plateau and the western slope of the Absaroka Range, innumerable streams bringing the water from the mountains back into the Park. In consequence, the climate of the region is exceptional, the amount of snow and rainfall being higher and the mean annual temperature lower than over the adjacent country. Unlike the greater part of the Rocky Mountains, heavy rains occur frequently through the summer, and snow-storms are of common occurrence any time between September and May, the snows lying upon the ground well into midsummer. The region is one of the nation's grandest reservoirs, sending its waters thousands of miles to both oceans. A closer examination of this water-supply shows its preservation to be a question of vast economic interest. Two rivers, the Yellowstone and Snake, carry off the greater part of these waters; the former draining more than one-half the area of the Park, and the latter the entire western side of the divide. Yellowstone Lake, the great reservoir for the river which gives its name to the Park, is a body of water of great beauty, measuring twenty miles in length, with a breadth across its greatest expanse of fifteen miles. It has a very irregular outline, with an indented shore of nearly one hundred miles, and an area of one hundred and twenty-one square miles. Not only is the Yellowstone by many times the largest lake in North America at so high an elevation above sea level (7,741 feet), but it ranks among the first in the world at high altitudes. Upon the western side of the divide, less than six miles from the Yellowstone, and separated from it by a ridge not more than two hundred feet in height, lie Shoshone and Lewis Lakes; the former with an area of twelve square miles, and the latter four and one-half square miles. Heart Lake, at the eastern base of Mt. Sheridan, measures three square miles. These reservoirs pour their waters into the Snake, which also finds its source near the southeast corner of the Park.