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The Association does not accept the responsibility for the opinions of contributors. Offensive personalities must be avoided.

TO PROHIBIT INTERSTATE COMMERCE IN ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS IN CERTAIN CASES.

Bills of identical wording have been introduced into the U. S. Senate (S. 4043) and House of Representatives (H. R. 16214), the former by Senator Kenyon, and the latter by Representative Sheppard, both bearing the title, "A Bill to Prohibit Interstate Commerce in Intoxicating Liquors in Certain Cases."

By picking the bill, or bills, to pieces we discover the following features: If enacted the law will prohibit,

1. The shipment or transportation in any manner whatsoever
2. From any State, Territory or U. S. District, or place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, or from any foreign country;
3. Into any State, Territory, U. S. District or place subject to the jurisdiction thereof
4. Of any spirituous, vinous, malted, fermented or other intoxicating liquors of any kind:
5. When said intoxicating liquor is *intended*
6. By any person interested therein, directly or indirectly, or in any manner connected with the transaction,
7. To be received, possessed or kept, or in any manner used, either in the original package or otherwise,
8. In violation of any law enacted in exercise of the police powers of the state, etc., into which the shipment is made.
9. All contracts pertaining to such transactions are declared null and void, and

no suit or action shall be maintained in any court of the United States for the enforcement or protection of any alleged right based upon such contracts.

10. It is declared that there shall be no property right in or to such liquors while in the possession of any common carrier in connection with any transportation thereof in violation of the act.

There is no specific penalty provided for violation of the act, unless deprivation of the right to sue upon contracts connected therewith, and the loss of property right in the liquors while under transportation be regarded as such.

It will be observed that the prohibition extends to the shipment of alcoholic liquors only when they are "intended" to be used in violation of the law of the State, etc., into which they are shipped.

It is a question, though, whether the language "intended by any person interested therein, directly or indirectly, or in any manner connected with the transaction," is not so broad as to be capable of working hardship in some cases. For example, suppose a booze selling druggist orders from his jobber, in connection with other drugs, some ethyl alcohol, brandy, port or sherry, intending to dispose of them in violation of local law, would not the pleading of his intent enable him to defeat the jobber from recovering either for the liquors or for the entire bill of goods, since the latter were a part of the transaction?

Undoubtedly the intention of the people behind the bill is to have it apply only to alcoholic liquors when unlawfully sold to be used for beverage purposes. Whether or not this will be the *effect* of the act will depend upon the construction which the courts may place upon its language. If there is any possible ambiguity in its provisions, it should be corrected now.

The drug interests do not use the expensive ethyl alcohol because they desire to do so, but because of the fact that science has as yet failed to discover any substance which can be entirely substituted for it in manufacturing chemistry and pharmacy. They would cheerfully abandon its use if it were possible to do so, but they have the right to demand that its legitimate use shall not be hampered by unduly oppressive restrictions because of its illegal use by other interests.

The enactment of the bills is being pressed by the National Temperance Bureau, representing the Anti-Saloon League of America and other national temperance organizations. The writer has on numerous occasions been brought into personal contact with the chief officers of the Anti-Saloon League, and has always found them ready to listen to argument. They are reasonable men and understand the peculiar situation of the druggist with regard to the use and sale of alcohol and of alcoholic liquors.

If it is considered that any legitimate drug interest would be unduly hampered by the passage of this act in its present form, these officials should be applied to directly for a proper change in its provisions.

J. H. BEAL.

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OLD TIME METHODS IN PHARMACY.

"There is no money in the drug business any more," says the old time druggist. To be sure there is not, if the business is conducted in the old time way: nor for that matter, is there any money in any other kind of business if conducted according to the customs of long ago. B. C. business methods won't attract Anno Domini customers.