

10th. That an hospital, or work house, shall be provided in each county for the confinement and employment of the habitually intemperate, in order that such maniacs may be recovered from their derangement—to be under the direction of trustees appointed by the court, who shall have charge of their persons and property, to be surrendered at the expiration of six months, or any subsequent period, if they, by the advice of attending physicians, deem it safe and expedient.”

While deprecating the evils arising from the excessive use of spirituous liquors, the committee is not prepared to recommend a restrictive system which might be viewed as extending the principles of monopoly and arbitrary rule, odious in themselves, and inconsistent with the genius of our free institutions.

In the adjustment of a topic so full of complication and delicate concerns it becomes the statesman to ponder upon the variant and conflicting considerations, either for or against the entertainment, of the practice in question, and without regarding it as a fiscal expedient of adequate import to countervail the injurious tendency of its operation in a moral view, the political economist might interpose the interest of distillation in its protective character against the miseries of famine, which, in the absence of so available a resource, might waste the people to an extent only limited by the degree of dearth, as a sufficient ground for the indulgence of that practice.

In support of so valuable a guaranty, which has been recognised by philosophers of ancient and modern times, the committee would refer to statistical tables, in which it appears that the quantity of bread stuff, simultaneously converted into alcohol, and consumed in the production of animal food, creates a demand upon agriculture equal to the subsistence of the entire population of the country, for two, three or four months of the year; and which, effective supply, in a season of scarcity, would be diverted to that more essential appropriation.

For the reasons assigned, and others which might be urged, the committee conceives, that beyond the enactments already pending upon this subject, it would be inexpedient to legislate at the present session—and, therefore begs to be discharged from the further consideration of the several petitions and memorials referred to, and that the proper parties have leave to withdraw their respective papers.

All which is respectfully submitted,

LITTLETON D. TEACKLE, chairman.

By Order,

Gordon M. Handy, Clk.