

them if this occupation didn't lessen demand in those. And while the liquor trade does furnish a large proportion of the municipal revenues, its doing so merely relieves the public-utility franchise companies and the vacant lot owners who now lawlessly evade far more taxation than the liquor trade pays.

+

This referendum does not necessarily raise the question of whether men shall be prohibited by law from drinking liquor. The important question it raises is whether the drinking habits or customs of these men shall be accommodated through a business that works out into a public nuisance. Whether or not men shall be allowed to drink, is one thing; whether or not a nuisance shall be maintained for their convenience, is another and quite different thing. No one's liberty is invaded when a business which has come to endanger the community—physically, morally, or politically — is stopped. And this is the essence of the issue in Chicago. It is a simple and obvious fact that the brewing and distilling interests are debauching the politics of Chicago. As a political nuisance alone, they ought to be suppressed.

+ +

Steel Trust Capitalism.

Last year's report of the Steel trust shows its net earnings for the year to have been \$131,491,413, after the payment of \$151,663,394 in wages and salaries. The proportion, therefore, of all wages to net profits was about as 53 is to 48. In other words, for every 53 cents that went to employes, 48 went to the owners of stock. And let it be noticed that these employes included not only the poorly paid "workingman," as that term is usually understood, but also the highly paid office man and expert and high salaried officials. But the point we wish especially to direct attention to is the fact that of the 48 cents which went to stockholders for every 53 that went to laborers and officers, a large percentage was due to the value of the natural opportunities which the Steel trust had monopolized and which in all fairness belonged not to this trust but to the people. Few of us think of the Steel trust as a landlord, but it is one of the most stupendous landlords in the world. Its rents are concealed in its dividends, its land values in its capital stock.

+ +

The Rockefeller Foundation.

The millions of John D. Rockefeller, which have long figured as the most dramatic monument to

the unjust social conditions that made their accumulation possible, are offered as a peace offering on the altar of implacable Justice. But the struggle to get the control or the benefit of this offering will prostitute thousands who might otherwise be of real benefit to their kind, and will leave to its administrators a sickening sense of disillusionment. Nothing has been more clearly proven than the impotence of money outside the domain of purely material things. It is hard to tell which is the more unfortunate—the man who thinks he can buy everything he wants, or he who wants nothing but what he can buy. The need of the world is justice; and money, however intelligently used, cannot buy it. Indeed such largesse as Mr. Rockefeller's may prove an insurmountable obstacle to its own realization. And the injustice which unconsciously he may do his son, may not be the least in the long roll of the father's offences. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., if he takes up the task he is reported to have assumed, is doomed to inevitable cynicism. The meanness of the world will be opened to his gaze with an extension and intensity which even a god could scarcely gaze upon unmoved. The exploitation of the poor for selfish ends has become one of the most appalling phenomena of our times; cynical disregard of misery is not one-tenth as repugnant as hypocritical solicitude for their welfare based on sordid self-interest. If you would find a wholly soulless man, seek one who has made a living by mercenary benevolence. And such inevitably will be the vultures who will flock around so far-smelling a carrion. Yet Mr. Rockefeller will have done a service to the American people; not in the good which his money can do as a colossal "drawback," but in the test of our national fibre to be afforded by the spirit in which his donation will be met. Even the corrupt Jewish priesthood of an earlier day rejected with scorn the thirty pieces of silver which were the price of innocent blood. Being unable to dispose of the money otherwise, they used it to buy the potter's field. The Rockefeller gift may ultimately buy a tract (if the American people do not utterly reject it) which will be a perpetual potter's field for the earlier hopes and ideals of a degenerate Republic.

+ +

The Cure for Cannonism.

Representative Norris, of Nebraska, he whose resolution on rules has made him famous and Speaker Cannon a "has been," writing recently in *La Follette's Weekly* on the secret of Cannon's power under the old rules, arraigned the Speaker as a despotic "Iron Duke." Mr. Norris was incor-