

METHODISTS DEMAND ARMY DRINK INQUIRY

Call for Dismissal of All Military or Naval Officers Who Vio- late Dry Law.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Under the heading "Turn On the Light," a demand that the Secretaries of War and Navy do everything possible to find out if officers named in a recently published Washington bootleggers' list actually bought liquors from this man was made by the Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals of the Methodist Episcopal Church today. Coupled with this demand was another that, if found guilty, the officers should be "publicly humiliated" and retired from the service of their country.

"Lists have been published of alleged patrons of bootleggers in Washington," says an editorial in the board's publication issued today. "These lists contain the names of officers of the United States Army and Navy.

"The Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals of the Methodist Episcopal Church sincerely and earnestly hopes that the War Department and the Navy Department will use the utmost diligence in finding out whether or not officers have actually patronized bootleggers in contempt of their official oaths to uphold the Constitution of the United States. Any officer who has been guilty of such conduct stands dishonored and disgraced and should leave the service.

"It is unfortunate that Secretary of the Navy Denby, who would undoubtedly be deeply concerned, is out of the country. We hope that he will approve the most energetic action in that department.

"The integrity of government, the sincerity of a great people and the honor of the war services are vitally involved."

Officials of the War and Navy Departments said the matter of an investigation was one for the civil authorities. Nevertheless, prohibitionists are insisting upon an investigation, and there is considerable agitation over the subject.

Another editorial issued today by the Board of Temperance reads:

"Prohibition is the law of the land. Conceivably there are some members of the House of Representatives and the Senate who were so accustomed to alcoholic liquors that they feel unable to control their appetites. If these men have liquors which were legally procured they have a right to consume them, and the public in general will only give them sympathy because of their unfortunate condition. It may even be that a man whose appetite is not compelling has a right to consume such liquors, provided they were legally procured and provided he does so in the privacy of his own home.

"But when a Congressman, an executive, an officer of the navy or the army consumes liquor in public, flaunting his contempt for a fundamental law of the land and showing himself lost to the sense of honor which should hold him true to his official oath, he should be publicly humiliated and permanently retired from the service of the United States."

The board takes the attitude that the rich as well as the poor must be prosecuted for violations of the Volstead act. "One law for every American," it says.