

## TEMPERANCE REPORT

In presenting our Temperance Report we regret that we cannot tell of any decided advancement along Temperance lines as far as our government is concerned. We do, however, commend it for refusing to grant liquor clearances to the United States and for withholding permits to serve wine and light drinks by hotel men. We believe this much gained has been due to the efforts of the Temperance people through their portests and petitions. We are glad that the Temperance forces are being aroused, and while the liquor interests lose no opportunity to entrench their forces, those who stand for prohibition are using their weapons against it.

We regret that so much ground gained has been lost in the past, partly because the Temperance advocates rested on their oars during prohibition days. The Premier of Ontario states that some believe that the reaction from prohibition in Ontario to Government Control was due to over-confidence on the part of prohibition forces, and after the prohibitory laws had been obtained the movement rested on its laurels and did not continue its educational work. "No law," he said, "can be enforced unless it has the overwhelming support of public opinion." The Montreal Witness says, "Today, for example, this beloved Canada of ours is being enslaved by the liquor traffic simply because there is so large a percentage of good church going people who are apathetic, or are inert from some other reason. "On the other hand we know how the Wet cause is at present using every method to influence the public mind against prohibition, how it has impregnated the newspaper press and how it everywhere places its slur upon total abstinence."

We are glad to read the notes of confidence concerning conditions in the United States as voiced by the World Convention of the W. C. T. U. held recently in Toronto. It was there expressed as a firm opinion that the United States will hold fast to the dry law. Mr. Brewster a former Governor of Maine, there admitted that the struggle between wet and dry factors might be prolonged but was confident that the youth would make victory complete for prohibition and that as long as the women are enlisted at the ballot boxes, the eighteenth amendment will never be repealed. Henry Ford says: "If the impossible should occur—I mean the return of legalized liquor—its first effect would be a widespread reduction of wages due to the demoralization of labor which liquor always causes. No one questions the great increase in general business since prohibition came. The liquor business made money for a very few—took money and money-making ability from very many. But general business since prohibition has resulted in the kind of trade that benefits all who engage in it—producer and consumer.

"I am certain that this present depression, falling as it does on a prohibition population, is going to result in more sober safeguards for the future than could have been possible had our people drunk their way through this experience. The people are soberly thinking, and that is the most hopeful sign we could have."

Frank E. Gannett, proprietor of seventeen newspapers, speaking of New York, says: I almost never see evidence of intoxication, or of the liquor traffic. I don't know what has happened to the memories of the folks who talk so much about the horrible results of

prohibition. Believe me, it's something if we've driven the liquor business out of sight. That's quite a lot to expect for the first ten years.

President Hoover states: "My own duty and that of all executive officials is clear—to enforce the law with all the means at our disposal without equivocation or reservation."

In our own country we have a different picture. With our government in the liquor business we have these statements from Dr. Irvin, acting Secretary of the Canadian Temperance Federation: "Canada is becoming a nation of drinkers as a result of the government sale of liquor. Freer access to liquor has been followed by a great increase in highway and industrial accidents. It has bred innumerable brawls, caused startling murders and given lease to licentiousness. Crimes against women have increased 76 per cent in Ontario in the last four years. The criminal records show only a fringe of the evil that has been wrought."

The "War Cry" states: "Deaths from automobile accidents are increasing in Ontario and the blame is laid on drink. If you would abolish accidents, then you should abolish Government Control. Accidents due to drunkenness have increased tenfold since Government Control was introduced."

The boasted revenue of the liquor board will fall far below the added increase in the cost of the maintenance of the Provincial Police, the hospitals, the administration of justice, the reformatories, the departments of health, etc., added to the loss of lives, property, health, peace and prosperity, which cannot be estimated.

Sir Josiah Stamp, a noted statistician and prominent man in British affairs, who has lately visited Canada, gives as his estimation that the increased output of his own country without the alcohol habit would amount to an annual average of £225,000,000. What we lose in Canada by indulging in drink will far outweigh our increase in revenue.

Let us pray and work for Christian legislation and education against the manufacture, sale and use of strong drink in all its forms. Then we can teach our children to hold respect for our government and its laws.

The Presbyterian Record says: "Everyone who votes for the legalized admission of the drink traffic is a sharer in the evil that results from it. Only by doing what one can to keep that traffic out can anyone be free from its guilt."

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### PRAYER

While many private prayers, in the nature of things, must be short; while public prayers, as a rule, ought to be short and condensed; while there is ample room for the value put on ejaculatory prayer—yet in our private communions with God time is a feature essential to its value. Much time spent with God is the secret of all successful praying. Prayer which is felt as a mighty force is the mediate or immediate product of much time spent with God. Our short prayers owe their point and efficiency to the long ones that have preceded them. The short prevailing prayer can not be prayed by one who has not prevailed with God in a mightier struggle of long continuance. Jacob's victory of faith could not

have been gained without that all-night wrestling. God's acquaintance is not made by pop calls. God does not bestow his gifts on the casual or hasty comers and goers. Much with God alone is the secret of knowing Him. He yields to the persistence of a faith that knows Him. He bestows His richest gifts upon those who declare their desire for and appreciation of those gifts by the constancy as well as earnestness of their importunity. Christ, who in this as well as other things is our example, spent many whole nights in prayer. His custom was to pray much. He had His habitual place to pray. Many long seasons of praying make up His history and character. Paul prayed day and night. It took time from very important interests for Daniel to pray three times a day. David's morning, noon, and night praying were doubtless on many occasions very protracted. While we have no specific account of the time these Bible saints spent in prayer, yet the indications are that they consumed much time in prayer, and on some occasions long seasons of praying was their custom.—*Bounds, in Preacher and Prayer.*

### A LIVING CHRIST

Over and over, since Peter preached to Corinthians, since Paul wrote to the Corinthians and the angels gave the message to Christ's disciples (Luke 24:4), the resurrection truth has been preached and taught and sung. A Mohammedan once said to a missionary, "We have one thing you have not. When we go to our Mecca, we find at least a coffin." "That is just the difference," replied the missionary. "Our Redeemer lives, while yours is dead." Christianity does not go to monuments, or mausoleums as do the worshippers of Buddha, Confucius or Zoroaster. Ours is the risen Lord, alive forever more.

To worship ancestors, saints or great religious leaders is idolatry. We should worship only him who has power over life, who bound death in chains and led him away captive forever.—Selected.

### ONE MORE NIGHT

On the outskirts of a busy city in central Japan, there stood an old two-story building which several families called home. Unfortunately it was too near the railroad tracks, and every time the express rumbled past, it shook and trembled as if an earthquake were rocking the foundation.

Since inspectors had condemned it as unsafe, one family had left, and another was expecting to move soon, but as the rent had been paid for two or three days longer, why should they worry? They decided to stay one more night, but before morning dawned, a train shook that house for the last time and it collapsed.

The fatal postponement claimed for death all but three men, who somehow managed to escape. The heap of ruins remained for days, a solemn warning to all who would risk their lives for "one more night."—Selected.

Not was, not may be, nor will be. "The Lord is my Shepherd," is on Sunday, is on Monday, and is through every day of the week; is in January, is in December, and every month of the year; is at home, and is in China; is in peace, and is in war; in abundance, and in penury.—J. Hudson Taylor.