

Temperance Column

REPORT LAW AND ORDER DEPARTMENT FOR THE NEW BRUNSWICK W. C. T. U. 1931-1932

At the last Provincial Convention, the department of Law and Order was added to this year's plan of work.

This action was the outgrowth of a timely discussion on the apparent lack of the enforcement of certain laws in our Province and of a growing sentiment as to the difficulty of securing convictions in our courts both for minor offences and on major counts as well.

An outstanding periodical stated some months ago that a great deal of the most valuable work done by our great religious bodies while in convention passed all too quickly into oblivion. If this be true, then all the more reason that the work of the Women's Christian Temperance Union be made to produce definite and lasting results.

Crime is on the increase in the Dominion, so states the Bureau of Statistics for 1930. The total number of court cases disposed of during the previous year were 354,415, of which 19,905 were juveniles. Just where this increase is leading us can better be appreciated by glancing at the figures taken from the Gaol Report of Ontario from 1926 to 1930. You will recall too that these figures cover the population of one-third of Canada.

The number incarcerated in the jails increased over	60%
Convictions with imprisonment for drunkenness, increased over.....	60%
Murders increased	80%
Manslaughter increased	50%
Crimes against the person increased.....	65%
Crimes against property increased.....	86%
The population meanwhile increased only	12%

Roscoe S. Todd, of Toronto, when using these and similar figures in a Temperance address, said: "Where is that respect for law which we were promised if we would but give Government Control a trial?"

Let us consider briefly just a few of our commonly broken laws:

ANTI-TOBACCO LAW

"Every one is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction in the case of a first offence, to a penalty not exceeding \$10.00, and in the case of a second offence to a penalty not exceeding \$25.00, and in the case of a third offence to a penalty not exceeding \$100.00 who directly or indirectly sells or gives or furnishes to a person under the age of 16 years (18 years in New Brunswick) any cigarette or cigarette papers, whether for his own use or not, or sells or gives or furnishes to such person tobacco in any form other than cigarettes, which tobacco he knows or has reason to believe is for the use of that person." We have here surely an excellent law.

We are told there are 79 establishments manufacturing cigars and cigarettes in Canada with a capital investment of over \$37,000,000. For every 25c package of cigarettes the Government gets a revenue of 15c. But there are other figures still more illuminating. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Canadians were smoking one hundred and twenty million cigarettes a year.

In 1914 they were smoking one billion per year.

In 1918 they were smoking one billion, six hundred million per year.

In 1928 they were smoking three billion, nine hundred million per year.

In 1930 they were smoking five billion per year.

This is the equivalent of 500 a year for every man, woman and child in Canada.

President Hoover says cigarettes are a source of crime, and to neglect crime at its source is a short sighted policy not worthy of an intelligent nation.

But can anything be done you ask? Listen!

The Mayor of Lynn, Mass., has banned the moving pictures showing women and girls smoking cigarettes. Again, members of the Fargo, North Dakota school board have declared themselves as not approving of the use of tobacco or smoking by the faculty of our public schools and have ruled to incorporate the question, "Do you smoke?" in their application blanks for teachers. This is an example worthy of a following.

Under the title, "The Power of Women," Mrs. Pusgley, in the January White Ribbon Tidings, writes, "We each have a responsibility in electing the members of the Councils and School boards in our various localities. Are we accepting this responsibility as an avenue through which we can assist in getting the victory for Prohibition? Unless we make it our first thought to help choose those who make and enforce our laws because of their fidelity to God's Precepts we would better not have been enfranchised.

NARCOTIC DRUG ACT

Canada has at present an almost perfect Drug Law, but a perfect Drug Law does not mean that there is not traffic in drugs in Canada. Narcotics are being smuggled in, big business is being carried on illegally and the use of drugs is increasing to an alarming degree. Between 1926 and 1929 seventy tons of drugs were smuggled into various countries. Each ton represented one hundred million doses, which gives an idea how gigantic this illicit traffic is. . . . For us, in New Brunswick there is no better time to help fight the organized drug evil than when as far as we know, it is still within bounds, and when organized effort to combat it is backed up by public sentiment and by adequate legislation.

The following Resolution framed at the last W. C. T. U. World's Convention, should find a place among the resolutions voiced by every Convention of Christian men and women:

"Recognizing the evils of the use of opium, heroin, and other habit forming drugs, we urge education in the dangers of self-prescription; we urge physicians to exercise caution in their medical practice to limit prescriptions to cases of necessity only, and we urge sale to the medical and scientific practice only.

GAMBLING AND LOTTERIES

During the past year the subject of sweepstakes and lotteries has received frequent attention, often with a measure of certainty that our Provincial and Federal Authorities are on the job. That big business is here too being carried on illegally we gather from various sources.

In a circular letter sent out by the Attorney General of Nova Scotia to his chief of police, he urged that they strictly enforce all sections of the gambling law including betting and other illegal practices, and that they not overlook certain regulations pertaining to Section 236 of The Criminal Code.

From another source we cover these regulations. Only a church or charitable organization can hold a raffle and it must be in connection with a bazaar. Permission to hold a raffle must be obtained from the City or other Municipal Council, from the Mayor or other municipal

officer of the city or town or municipality where the bazaar is to be held.

Articles raffled must have been first offered for sale, and none may exceed in value 50.00. It would therefore not be lawful to sell tickets for the raffle before, or as soon as a bazaar opened, or shortly after it opened, since the intent of this enactment is to aid in the disposal of articles unsold at the close of the bazaar.

Are we in New Brunswick doing everything in our power to help our legislators frame a clear cut Gambling Law, without compromise whatsoever, or if the question comes too near home shall we be found among those who count coin before character? Here again education and legislation must go hand in hand, the one to prepare the way, and the other to hold the ground once gained.

And what of the Moving Picture Act, the Smuggling Law, the Motor Vehicle Act? These and others we must pass by, as we hasten to consider just one more, namely:

THE INTOXICATING LIQUOR ACT

Most of us are familiar with parts if not all of this law. It is too big a subject to receive more than a passing word.

We find that little hand books of information are among the free literature at our Tourist Information Bureau, and we presume may be found elsewhere, the object as stated to give the new comer into our Province necessary legal information. But 35 liquor stores are listed on the front page, then the quantity procurable—next, what the purchaser may do, and finally what he may not do.

In this connection we are reminded that there is a sentiment growing against liquor advertisements, whether found in the movies, on the radio, in the magazines and daily papers, or elsewhere. But are aware that we have a law against liquor advertising. Perhaps at no other point could our women of the Christian Temperance Union strike the liquor business any harder for the present than on this very question of the advertising of the liquor business. If every member would list and report the instances of public advertising of the liquor business to the Superintendent of the Department of Law and Order, and if she in turn will pass on the evidence we shall be taking a forward step, both practical and expedient.

You will observe that this report has made no effort to deal with other specific cases of lawlessness or lack of law enforcement. A better policy for the present time we believe is to bind ourselves to a consideration of how we may help to make our New Brunswick a Province of social and economic justice, of political and moral integrity and withall a dry province.

With that idea in mind, we sum up our report with the following recommendations:

1. That we organize to create more public sentiment against all forms of law breaking whether in our homes and among our relatives or in our civil and political relationships.
2. That every Union arrange for a public program at some time during the year presenting some phase of this subject for the purpose of better broadcasting the facts as to our steady and even rapid drift in this state of lawlessness so apparent and also to impress on all parents and those in civil authority the necessity for obedience to the law.
3. That our Resolutions dealing with any phase of legal administration be framed with no uncertain sound and that when a chance presents itself for us to back up our resolutions with an aggressive reform policy we shall unite a desired organized