

Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

W.C.T.U. CHIEF CALLS WOMEN DRINK LEADERS

By Corrinne Hardesty, United Press Staff Correspondent

Energetic Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, surveyed an array of gin and whisky bottles on her desk and charged that women, once champions of temperance, now are the nation's heaviest drinkers.

The middle-aged, blue-eyed woman who has given most of her life to the temperance cause, said that 90 per cent of the inmates of institutions for alcohol cures are married women and 77 per cent of them are housewives.

"Most of them are young women," Mrs. Smith said. "It is another expression of woman's so-called freedom. Right after the war, when women were giving most flamboyant expression to their newly gained freedom, prohibition came. Repeal, with its rush of women to the bars, just provides another opportunity for unthinking women to show their equality with men.

No Compromise Offered

"The hue and cry to get women out of bars is silly. Women can now go anywhere. The way to get them out of saloons, as some of the most ardent wets I know are advocating, is to close the saloons."

She had returned to Evanston, birthplace of the temperance union, from a tour of Eastern and Middlewestern states. She found, she said, besides a gratifying increase in union membership, alcoholic cure institutions flourishing and temperance hotels opening in nearly all cities.

Mrs. Smith made the collection of miniature bottles on her desk, she said, to show her friends, who are now aware that "mere children in many states may buy these bottles with their pennies."

Cities Insurance Report

"Another proof that young people are the drinkers," Mrs. Smith said, "is the fact that the Northwestern Life Insurance Company, in its last annual report, said rejections because of excessive drinking among persons under 30 had increased 183 per cent since repeal.

An avid reader of all the liquor journals, she said she always let the other side make predictions about the return of prohibition.

"Some of my wet acquaintances say two years," she said. "Others say five. Sen. Arthur Capper said 10 years, the most remote date I have read or heard."

The W.C.T.U. is not worrying so much about legislation as education, its leader said. They have embarked on a five-year program for educating the young, in and out of school, on the effects of alcohol.—Selected by A. I. J. Ward, Vancouver, B.C.

THE CHURCH IN RUSSIA

By P. Rahnell, North Head, Grand Manan

(Special to The St. Croix Courier)

The old and faithful saying is, "Two sides to every story," and faithful it is indeed.

Often there appear in newspapers and magazines articles written by people in various walks of life condemning Russia for steps taken chiefly against religion and the church. I am not a Communist and do not know much about them, but according to all accounts there are ideas existing in the Communistic world which are not in harmony with the welfare of humanity. However,

when it comes to condemning the Russian people for pitching out the church, if such it could be called, there is more than one side to the story.

I lived over twenty years in Russia before the Communists' time. All that time I was partaker and victim of the activities of the church, so-called. Therefore I have a very personal knowledge of it, perhaps better than any man in this vicinity.

What I learned of the church in Russia and what I have learned since of the true church of Christ gives me undisputable ground to say that if the church had lifted up Christ as He intended to be lifted up, Russian people would this day have been drawn unto Him. In other words if the church in Russia had continued to stay on the Rock on which Christ built it, Russian people would never have taken the steps against it that they did.

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The attitude that the Russians manifested toward the church was only a fulfillment of the prophecy of Christ Himself. The church there lost its spirit of goodwill and the life of self-denial for the good of humanity, therefore it became good for nothing, it was cast out and trodden under the feet of men. It happened exactly as Christ had foretold would happen to His church if it should lose that saltiness. (Matthew 5 verse 13).

Or call again on the words of Him, "If the light that is in you becomes darkness how great is that darkness." It became so great in the Church of Russia that instead of the Church being a blessing to mankind it was a curse. The necessity of the life of self-denial or self-sacrifice for the good of humanity in word, thought and deed as He set the example for mankind was taken away from the minds of people as Daniel foretold it would happen and abomination that maketh desolate the welfare of humanity was set up in its place. Daniel 12, verse 11.

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The religious forms, ceremonies, creeds, festivals and Holy days and seasons of various kinds were set up as a substitute for the spirit and principles of Christ. Therefore religious activities became an abomination in the sight of God because it desolates and destroys the happiness and welfare of humanity which He intended to be uninjured. That substitute is the work and invention of the enemy of God and man.

The Church in Russia instructed people that as long as they are devoted to their religious activities and duties then they are pleasing God and their sins will be forgiven them. Thus it became a loophole for wrong-doing and corruption; a mysterious Babylon, a confusion of crime.

Therefore God provided a day when it was overthrown. An act entirely in harmony with the word of God, the prophecy that said that thus it would happen to the church should it get out of harmony with the spirit and principles of Christ. Revelation, Chapter 18.

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The following is not a threat but advice and warning. God only demonstrated by the overthrow of the church in Russia what would happen elsewhere unless they line up and keep lined up with a light that He brought to the world through Christ which is summed up in the Golden Rule. "All things whatsoever ye would that men would do to you, do ye even so unto them." This is the only religion and power that will build peace on earth and goodwill among men and is still the chief desire of the loving heart of our God and Christ our Saviour. That straight and narrow path that leads to abundant life both here and hereafter.

Also it is well to remember the warning of Christ against false teachers and prophets who are offering substitutes for the religion of Christ, Matthew 7, verses 15 to 20. Not everyone who says unto Him, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven, only they that do the will of God. Only then are we building our future and eternal welfare on the rock which will stand against all storms like a house that is built on a rock. Matthew 7, verse 24-25.

The apostle John understood that, therefore he said, "If we walk in the light (meaning the light mentioned above) as He is the light, having loving fellowship with one another, our fellow men, only then the blood of Christ, God's son, will cleanse us from all unrighteousness." And that is the only condition provided for the redemption of humanity, redemption from all ill now and hereafter.

That is the only religion that has assurance of life hereafter—assured to humanity by the resurrection of Him (Christ), who was devoted to that religion. It is well to bear in mind the sad ending of the Church in Russia, which was the result of substituting the Light of Christ for the Darkness of the Enemy. It is a pity and a crime that men have given the Enemy the privilege of misinterpreting the aim and mission of our Lord and Savior, which is the cause of all which is the cause of all wicked and crooked works in the so-called Christianized world today.

The Priest and the Levite in connection with the story of the Good Samaritan, and the rich man who refused to care for poor Lazarus is only some among the direct evidence that Christ despised religion made up of items that has a tendency to become a substitute for brotherly love. Scripture distinctly declares that He that has not the spirit of Christ is none of His. Jesus Himself told Nicodemus "Except a man is born of that Spirit he can never see the Kingdom of God." Doubtless we can bank on that. He knew what He was talking about. Therefore, it is very important to find out what really is the nature of the Spirit of Christ. Assuredly His own testimony is the best answer for it. He said, "He has (the spirit has) anointed Me (urged or gave Me a longing) to live for the good of humanity", Luke 4, verses 18-19. This was also the way His early followers identified the Spirit of Christ on them. "We know that we are the children of God because we love the brethren" (brethren in the human family). "He that loveth is of God, and he that loveth not is not of God." "His Spirit beareth witness (agreed) with our Spirit that we are the children of God", etc.

I am sure that this still is the true identification of the Spirit of Christ, regardless of all substitutes invented to identify it. A Spirit that the world has so much need of today to solve the tangle which it is in, a Spirit which is the only power which enables humanity to live up to the Golden Rule and qualifies us for the Kingdom of God hereafter. A Spirit which is the light and salt without which the church would be good for nothing, would be cast out and trodden under foot of men. A Spirit that is the holiness, without which no man can see the Lord. Therefore let us beware of false teachers and false prophets—their fruit is their teaching and religion by which we can know them. They are the thieves and robbers of our soul salvation if we should become victims of them. May the Lord help us to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, and tarry till we are endued with that power from on high. "Faith is dead without works that proceed from that Spirit", said the Scriptures. James 1, 27; 2, 1-26.