

Temperance Column

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

REVENUE

Perhaps there is no better way to strengthen our courage and urge us onward in our fight for Temperance than to review the situation as it really is. Possibly there are some apparent evils against which we are naturally prejudiced, but upon investigation we find the consequences of that evil have been unkindly magnified, or are not far-reaching enough to merit our warfare against. But who can say that of the evils of liquor? We may do little real investigating, in fact, no more than read our daily papers, and observe the effects of drink on the intemperate, but if we face the facts at all we are forced to conclude that the evils of intemperate are great enough, with the very kindest interpretation we can put on it, to justify our every effort to abolish this increasing evil from our land.

But some one says, What of the revenue. While the liquor traffic may have some unpleasant features, who can discountenance the attractive sum it contributes to our provincial treasury each year? Yes, that is to be considered, so let us consider it thoroughly. Last year New Brunswick's net profits from liquor sales were \$782,742. Not so bad for our small province of 400,000 people, for a profit of nearly one million dollars nearly 3 million dollars worth of liquor was sold. If this amount had been sold to a people entirely outside our province borders, the situation would have been a bit different, possibly the only problem would have been that of a guilty conscience. But this 3 million dollars worth of liquor was sold, almost entirely, to our own N. B. citizens, and what has been the result? Is N. B. facing 1938 with as bright a prospect, financially, as she would have, had she sold her people 3 million dollars worth of flour?

N. B. has homes today that can no longer be called homes because alcohol has robbed them of everything that is worth while. Money that was needed for food and clothing has been spent for drink that has turned otherwise kind parents into cruel monsters. What is to be expected of children reared in homes like this. Can we expect them to rate among the heavy tax-payers of the next generation? Drink is accredited with being the largest cause of unhappy homes. Divorce has increased with the increased use of alcohol. In 1906 America reported alcohol helped to break up 9,228 homes every year. Without doubt these figures are much higher now. Alcohol is the enemy of the home. If the home is the back-bone of the nation, what kind of a nation is N. B. building?

N. B. has hospitals that are over-crowded with patients, and how many are there either directly or indirectly as a result of alcohol. With the increased number of accidents on our highways it would seem our Government might soon be called on to assist in enlarging these institutions to care for our maimed and dying victims of drunken drivers. A certain hospital in Massachusetts estimated it cost them \$500,000 last year to care for those who were there as a result of booze. A medical test in England showed there were five times as many feeble minded as normal children had parents who drank more or less alcohol. Authorities tell us 20% of males in asylums are there because of alcohol. Prof. Bunqe's studies

proved to him that alcoholism and defects of brain and nerves go hand in hand, and that defected children increase with alcoholism of parents. It costs America \$5,332,307 every year to care for the alcoholic insanes. We would like to know how much of the expense of maintaining our institution at Fairville is due to alcohol.

N. B. has schools and colleges whose aim and mission are to educate and develop our youth that they may fill important offices and become leaders of our people. Investigation has proven that highest scholarships decreased and poorest scholarships increased as the use of alcohol increased. In consideration of the facts that the makers and sellers of booze are advertising their wares in every conceivable subtle way to appeal to youth, and that alcohol is dressed up and served in honor at practically all our social functions, and we remember that alcohol continues to be habit-forming. We ask which is most important, our youth or revenue?

How much is it costing N. B. to deal with the almost continuous flow of cases brought before her courts for misconduct, drunken driving, etc.? Our jails are so over-crowded with inmates who have been sentenced there because of greater or lesser crimes they have committed while under the influence of liquor purchased at our Government stores. Our municipalities are finding the cost of maintenance very high and are soliciting aid from the Government to assist them in the added expense.

If we place over against the revenue obtained the sum total of all the loss that is involved when the bread winner is no longer able to support his family, we will find that this detracts largely from the revenue.

Situations like this are all too numerous. They have their individual circumstances but they have one common back-ground—alcohol. It may be the man who once boasted that he could master alcohol has awakened to the fact that alcohol has mastered him. He finds he is no longer able to take his place in the world; he has little to offer to his employer. Hence there is no pay. A man's usefulness is gone, a family is on relief.

Again, it may be the moderate drinker who once too often has been immoderate. His resignation is asked for; he is out of work, and maybe he has been a heavy tax-payer.

Another class, and each their number increases, meet with losses of property, loss of health, and many are maimed and crippled for life, yet they themselves are innocent. Many times they are our most worthy citizens, but some one who is helping our Government raise the liquor revenue has crossed their path and they are the unfortunate victims. Our highways are no longer safe. During the past summer our daily papers have told the tragic story over and over again that gasoline and alcohol make a dangerous combination.

All this loss, you may say, affects the individual, yes, but follow it out, does it not eventually revert to the Government?

A people who has spent 3 million dollars for drink have 3 million dollars less to spend on something else. We can only spend our money once. America finds that while she has had an increase of more than 61% in her national income for 1936 over that of 1932, and a cumulative increase of \$48,718,000,000 since 1932, the American public actually gave 30% to churches, 29% less to general benevolences, 24% less to community chests and 18% less

to colleges in 1936 than was given from the smaller income of 1932. On the other hand expenditures for whiskey increased 203% and for beer 317%. At that rate America may soon find her revenue looks paltry and contemptible in comparison to what she has lost. So may N. B. listen to a quotation from Rev. A. A. McLeod.

Last year in the Province of Nova Scotia \$3,831,198 was spent in the Government liquor stores.

Taking out Sundays, we spent on an average last year \$12,162 every day in the liquor stores.

If this amount of money instead of being worse than wasted had been paid direct to the Government, the Gasoline tax could have been abolished.

We could spend 75% more for education than we are doing.

Old Age and Mothers Allowance pensions could be paid, and we would have about \$2,500,000 over for nursing and medical assistance to fishermen, farmers, lumbermen, miners and other primary producers.

Relief could have been paid in full, instead of being added to our debt, and two million dollars left over to provide jobs for the needy.

While this was said of N. S., it could also be applied to N. B. Yes, N. B. is selling rum to make revenue. While our leaders want to make this a thrifty and prosperous province for us to live in, they ask us to tolerate the inconveniences that it may include. We are to reconcile ourselves to the fact that the temptation to drink will meet our children on every hand; and true they are expected to drink and thus aid a worthy cause. We are to forget our heartaches as we see around us the tragic results of drink. We must not even lament over the appalling wave of immorality that sweeps our land as a result of drink. No! We are expected to keep quiet over all this, and pay our bills as best we can for in spite of all it may incur, the politicians have a revenue to raise.

But I ask you, when the Budget is balanced, when the debts are all paid that alcohol drinking has incurred, does the Revenue look MRS. F. A. DUNLOP as worthwhile?

THAT OLD MAN IS BACK AGAIN

That old man is back again—at least the story of him—the man who lived a long, long, long time ago. A newspaper tells us the tale. In Michigan the bones of a mastodon have been found. The scientists, so the newspaper reports, estimate the age of the bones of this creature to be 25,000 years, and they believe that he may have been killed by a man! Therefore this logical conclusion: "If this mastodon did live so long ago and if he was killed by a man, then a man lived in Michigan 25,000 years ago."

Only two "if's" in the way of a strictly scientific conclusion as to the great antiquity of man? Only two. And now with apologies to Darwin, "We may well suppose" that the bones of the "missing link" for whom a certain type of "scientist" has been searching for these many years are in the very neighborhood where the mastodon was found. If so, then we have now for sure this time positive proof of the great antiquity and brute ancestry of man.

Isn't newspaper "science" grand. We wonder whether some fellow who professed to be a scientist has actually talked this nonsense or whether the reporter is writing a story out of his fertile brain.—Free Methodist.