

Temperance Column

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

TREND TOWARD PROHIBITION

It is significant that Collier's Magazine which opposed prohibition, and is now carrying liquor advertising should have the following to say about the evils of the liquor traffic:

"The same people who voted so exuberantly against prohibition four years ago are now expressing impatience with the products of repeal.

"Some clubs are clubs in name only. Ex-bootleggers and speak-easy proprietors own them.

"In Pittsburgh there are musical clubs without music or musicians. There are yacht clubs without even rowboats. Their business is merely the sale of liquor.

"The abuses of such concerns generate the public irritation which is the force behind the present dry movement. The old anti-saloon leagues and prohibition associations are still without much political power."

A revived Woman's Christian Temperance Union is teaching Iowa children to chant these rhyming words:

"Down with booze, down with booze;
We want groceries, we want shoes."

Shrewd observers in the Middle West report a growing prejudice against some of the practices of the beer operators as well as of the liquor distributors. Iowa already is talking of a new prohibition movement.

Conditions are even more disturbed in Pennsylvania. Alcohol provides now the single political issue most agitating to that state.

Already 479 communities have voted themselves dry under the Pennsylvania local option law. Next year, at the state-wide elections, a larger number of cities, boroughs and townships will vote on the question of permitting the sale of liquor within their boundaries.

The trend of recent local elections in Pennsylvania encourages those who would restore prohibition. Two out of three of the communities which have had local option elections have voted dry. The dry majorities have been large, running up to four and five to one.—D. Carl Yoder in the Religious Telescope.

ELECTION DAY

"John Q. Public," after hearing the talk of all sides, got up on Tuesday, November 8th, and went to the polls. The general result seems to us to have been a signal blessing for our land. It was a conservative victory. Radical Mayor La Guardia, Republican and ardent New Dealer, declared it was a setback to bogus liberalism. Mr. Farley proved that his advice was good when he saw old-line Democrats succeed and brain trusters fail. To be "for the New Deal" was not much help to candidates that Tuesday. The country evidently is getting out of the mood for card-playing with "deals" and possible "jokers," and prefers to conduct its affairs on a more dignified level. The "card-game" psychology is waning. Card-playing never was a way to prosperity. Possibly this is a sign of a turn from gambling and other schemes of the get-something-for-nothing attitude. Sound and serious business might profitably turn from its many bizarre prize-schemes whereby the buying public is distracted from the merits of the product and set to guessing contests and other childish pastimes for the sake of glittering money bait dangled before its eyes.—The Presbyterian.

FEDERAL FINANCE

In an article which appeared in the April, 1938, Atlantic Monthly, Senator Harry F. Byrd (Democrat) of Virginia, gives the following figures as to the amazing increase in the cost of our Federal Government:

Year	Regular Budget
1934	\$2,700,000,000
1935	3,200,000,000
1936	3,300,000,000
1937	4,400,000,000
1938	5,400,000,000

It is well-known, and should be universally known, that while the Federal taxes, especially hidden taxes, are now taking an unprecedented portion of the national income, the national debt has arisen from \$16,000,000,000 in 1930 to approximately \$41,000,000,000 in 1938. To say that this procedure is of no importance is idiocy.

Most of us know that when the family is in financial distress to borrow all possible and spend is exactly not the way out of our troubles. That a nation is so essentially different from an individual or a family that economic laws work opposite when the group is concerned is a theory which remains to be proven. Some of us do not believe it.

That a nation can borrow and spend itself into prosperity is as sane as the teaching that we can drink ourselves into sobriety.—Free Methodist.

THE REGIMENT OF GOD

Every mason in the quarry,
Every builder on the shore,
Every woodman in the forest,
Every boatman at the oar,
Hewing wood and drawing water,
Splitting stones and clearing sod,
All the dusty ranks of labor
In the regiment of God,
March together toward His temple,
Do the tasks His hands prepare;
Honest toil is holy service,
Faithful work is praise and prayer.

—Selected

RESOLUTIONS OF A MINISTER— NO. 1

I Will Not

Be late to meetings, thus being a bad example for my people.
Scold the people who are present at a meeting because of the poor attendance.
Make a slighting remark as someone leaves while I preach, assuming that he is offended. I might be wrong. I would be after the remark, anyway.
Weary the people with long-drawn-out announcements, saying in ten minutes what I should say in two.
Hint about my economic distress to my people, either in public or private.
If discouraged, unload this feeling upon my people.
Make in public or in private insinuations against the church, the welfare of which I have promised to promote.
Assume that everyone who differs from me in judgment is against me.
Think it positively necessary that I always have my own way.
Think of myself more highly than I really ought to think.—Free Methodist.

Faithfulness to plain and small duty fits us for greater and nobler service.—Sel.

COAL ENOUGH FOR THIRTY-SEVEN CENTURIES

The world's reserves of anthracite and bituminous coal will last thirty-seven centuries at the average annual extraction rate for 1925-35, according to a report on "The World Coal Industry" which the International Labor Office is preparing for the World Coal Conference at Geneva in May. The report puts the proved and probable coal reserves at 4,600,000,000,000 metric tons (a metric ton is 2,200 pounds). Almost half—1,975,000,000,000 metric tons—is in the United States, which has the largest supply, with Russia second with 1,075,000,000,000 metric tons. Although the United States also has the highest extraction rate—more than twice that of its nearest rival, Great Britain—the American reserve, even at the present extraction rate, is declared good for 3,686 years. Britain's 200,000,000,000 metric tons, with her reserves, will endure 868 years at the present average extraction rate. The figures show why the coal problem is especially urgent for Britain. Ranking sixth in reserves and second in extraction, she risks being the first to outrun her coal. With enough coal at the present rate of extraction to last 3,686 years, the United States does not need to wrinkle her brow, but the British Empire at the end of her coal resources would occasion an empire tragedy of stupendous proportions. At any rate, when the tragedy happens we will not be here to break our hearts over it.—The United Presbyterian.

KILLING SOME OF OUR BEST FRIENDS

Our Dumb Animals says: "Until a few years ago, thousands of robins wintered in the thick woods along Choctawhatchee Bay in north-west Florida. They feasted on the millions of bugs and insects that prey on vegetation.

"A few winters ago hunters decided that robins—enough of them—made good potpies and stews. They went at night to the robin roosts and killed thousands of the birds, knocking them off into bags. In one patch of vine-tangled woods where the robins roosted low, ten thousand were killed.

Now very few robins are seen in this section of Florida. Those who do stop are on their way north and tarry only for a day or two. The result is that bugs and insects of all kinds have multiplied to an alarming extent. They eat vegetation that man tries to raise for his family; they swarm in the houses. Everybody has to use quantities of insect powder to keep the bugs out of the houses."

We understand this inhuman and wasteful custom of hunting and killing robins and other song birds is not confined to this one state, but is widely practiced. What fierce and unreasonable creatures men are when the desire to kill such harmless and useful creatures takes hold of them!—Wesleyan Methodist.

Are We Ready?—The uncertain hour of Christ's certain appearing calls for constant readiness. We must live moment by moment in the attitude of preparedness, so that His coming will not take us unawares, causing us to be ashamed. Said an old Scottish peasant woman, "I dinna ken when He's coming, but I'll be gey glad to see Him when He comes."—Herbert Lockyer.

How beautiful is modesty! It winneth upon all beholders; but a word or a glance may destroy the pure love that hath been for thee.—Tupper.