

Temperance Column

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

SUCCESS OF REPEAL

When the wets promised to pay off the national debt with revenues which repeal would make possible our public debt was thirteen billion dollars. Today, after six years of saloon revenue, it is forty billion dollars!

We were asked to repeal the 18th Amendment because our Federal prisons were overcrowded. Today we have built seven new Federal prisons, and our prison population has reached the all-time high of 152,000—one-fifth of whom are still in their teens.

At a recent session of the Congress of Criminologists held in Illinois, a man prominent in the FBI is quoted as saying, on the basis of present trends, 230,000 persons now living will be murdered and that there are at large 150,000 actual unapprehended murderers.

Crime costs us fifteen billion dollars a year!

In American colleges are 439,000 women, but three times that number—1,359,000, are employed in dispensing liquor in saloons and such places.

We have a murder every 39 minutes; a major crime every 29 seconds; an automobile death every 15 minutes; one marriage in six ends in divorce. This is a part of the picture we are supposed to admire—after repeal.

Beer of 3.2 alcoholic content was promoted as a means of preventing the drinking of hard liquor. Now the public spends \$2,200,000,000 for beer annually, which averages \$55.00 per family annually. This money has been diverted from legitimate business, which has suffered by exactly that staggering sum.

Repeal was to end bootlegging. Not so long ago Representative Doughton (who is no Dry) told Congress that: "This is a bootleggers paradise." A widely read publication, "Business Week," recently said that "40 per cent of our national consumption (of liquors) is from illicit sources," although the government has increased its enforcement personnel by 2,000 men.—National Voice.

The foregoing from the National Voice is a true description of social and economic conditions in the United States since the repeal of the prohibition law; and any fair minded person who is at all interested will admit that the same conditions obtain in Canada, only on a smaller scale because of the smaller population.

The Government Control advocates preached the same gospel here that they did in the U. S. before repeal. They said it will put an end to bootlegging and will greatly reduce the drinking habits among our people. Because some of us strenuously opposed the repeal, they laughed at us, and said we were keeping company with bootleggers. In our conversation with one of the members of the local house from Carleton Co. while we were contending for the preservation of our prohibition law, the honorable gentleman said many preachers and bootleggers are in the same class. I often wonder what those fellows think now, when they see so much drunkenness exhibited among our young people today. In forty years I have not seen anything like it.

I have travelled a little on trains in the last few months in New Brunswick, Nova

Scotia and some in Ontario, and I saw more drunkenness and men under the influence of strong drink than I ever saw in all my travels before. And I travelled first class and did not even have to go into the smoker to see it. I went from Moncton, N. B., to Westchester, N. S., a distance of about one hundred miles, a short time ago, and saw during that short trip not less than ten, all young men under the influence of strong drink, some of them reeling drunk. One afternoon, the Friday before Xmas, I went to the bus station in Fredericton, N. B., to take the bus for up river, and words fail to describe what conditions were like there in our fair Capitol City, right on Carleton street in the afternoon. Young men and women, some of them soldiers in the King's uniform, some colored people, cursing, swearing, screaming, some staggering drunk. I said to the ticket agent, "Why don't you call the police." He said, I am trying to get them. Well, after several of the offenders had gotten tired of the bus station, and decided to take a walk, and some others had settled down on seats to rest a little, a policeman walked in, and I said, you are too late, policeman, the fun is all over. He looked around a little, and in spite of the fact that some of the drinkers were still there, he said nothing to them, and walked out again. One of the serious aspects of all this drinking is, that no one seems to take much notice to it now, it has become so common.

Another very serious feature is, our governments are calling our boys and young men to train to send them over seas to fight the Germans, and by selling them liquor they are making drunkards of them before they go. I have asked some of the boys who are in uniform about conditions among them, one of them, an officer, who has charge of a number of soldiers, and they all told me that there is a good deal of drinking among them and conditions are very bad at times after pay day.

When will our people, church members, temperance advocates, Canadians, wake up to the fact that strong drink is our greatest foe. We would better send munitions, war supplies to the Germans than to keep on giving liquor to our young people. Unless something is done soon to check this curse, rum will be Canada's eternal undoing.

A MESSAGE TO OUR PASTORLESS CHURCHES

It is very unfortunate that we have churches deprived of a pastor's care. A faithful pastor is a God-given boon to any community. It is only that men fail to estimate the worth of such a man that any community will long suffer the loss of his ministries.

The God-appointed pastor deals in costly wares. He ministers in holy things. His garments carry the odor of the holy place. His concerns are not temporal but eternal. He represents God and a future world. His medicines are for the soul. His messages are addressed to the heart. He is a defender of truth; a hater of sin; a comfort to the sick; a staff to the weak; a stay to the dying.

I repeat, the only reason that any community will long suffer the loss of such a man is, there are too few who realize the real worth of the things in which he deals. May God hasten the day in which men generally will

appraise more ardently the things related to Christ and eternity.

Nevertheless the fact faces us—we have churches that have no pastor. I know many of these dear people regret the fact very much. This must not be accepted, however, as an excuse for inactivity and barrenness on the part of our people thus situated. There is no loss without some gain, and while you are deprived the benefits of a pastor you are also relieved the expense of supporting him. This leaves you free to use the money you otherwise would give the pastor for other purposes as truly related to the work of God.

But do you always do this? I fear not. I think history will bear me out when I say that a pastorless church is all too often a penniless church. A church that last year could support a pastor and in addition raise money for missions, Sunday school, Bible societies, etc., may this year without a pastor, raise much less money for missions and denominational funds in general. "Brethren, these things ought not so to be." Will God be pleased with such inactivity and neglect. I fear not.

I am writing this letter to you dear people in our pastorless churches to ask you for a vigorous, whole-hearted effort in a program best suited to your respective communities that will enable you to contribute more to our mission work. More even than you would be able to contribute were you supporting a pastor.

Get the few members together. Take this fact into consideration. Make plans to work for God and souls even though you have no pastor to keep the needs before you. Remember God requires the tithe, pastor or no pastor.

I have spoken plain. I intended to. I am asking nothing for myself. I know your needs and I believe you want to share in the burdens. Let your missionary report this year prove that giving to God's cause is a matter of deep, heart conviction with you. And pastor or no pastor, Christ can depend on you to be a faithful laborer in the gospel.

FRASER DUNLOP,

Pres. Foreign Mission Board

PRAYER SEEN AS SECRET OF FINLAND'S SUCCESS

The following letter to the Toronto press emphasizes the religious character of the Finnish people:

The civilized world today stands in admiration and wonder at the marvellous success, that up to now has attended the Finnish army. It may not be generally understood that Finland is using the most powerful weapon known to man. This weapon was seen in action in a remarkable picture showing Field-Marshal Mannerheim with his staff officers seated upon their horses, caps in hand, heads bowed, engaged in prayer.

Is it any wonder that this people cannot be defeated? Job asks, "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or has thou seen the treasures of the hail, which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?" (Chap. 38, ver. 23, 23).

Who will say that the snow and frost is not God's answer to Finland's prayer? Her troops march into battle singing: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." It is hoped that Britain and France will also get in on the secret of using this most powerful weapon and wield it to advantage.—Selected.