

## SABBATH OBSERVANCE REPORT

Your Committee on Sabbath Observance wish to submit the following report:

We regret to report that while God has so clearly stated in His Word the sanctity of and reverence due the Sabbath Day, yet men persist in breaking this, another of His commandments thus setting forth the selfishness of the human race, who are unwilling to spend one day in seven meditating on and worshipping the God of Heaven.

He, who knoweth our frame and remembereth that we are dust knew that these bodies of ours needed one day in seven in which to rest from the toil and labour of the week, not by sleeping the hours away but by attending divine worship, musing on things of the Kingdom and thoughtful prayer, yet today the majority of mankind come to the close of the Sabbath with a weary body and a soul devoid of blessing due to lack of spiritual food.

The multitude has turned God's holy day into a holiday, day of re-creation into a day of recreation; substituted revelry for reverence; games for God, dissipation for devotion. And in the place of a day of wholesome meditation we now have a day of wholesale murder on the highways. 'Tis said, Thomas Carlyle believed in God till Cromwell died. So, multitudes believe in God till the links are green, the roads dry, the beaches warm, then they bid God good-bye.

How it grieves our hearts to see young people, who, after having attended Sunday school and feeling their duty was done, spend the remaining part of the day in skiing, swimming or whatever form of recreation they choose, and to see little ones having the same form of entertainment on Sunday as on Monday. God give us parents who will keep the Sabbath and teach their children to do likewise.

When we see the mothers spending Sunday morning packing the lunch basket and see fathers gathering together their fishing tackle, etc., what can we expect of the rising generation! We feel that much of the sin of Sabbath desecration lies at the door of parents of today.

Many times it is difficult for children to obtain a record of perfect attendance at Sunday school because of mother's and father's plans, and in many localities the schools are closed during the summer months.

It was on the first day of the week that Christ walked and talked with those two disciples on the way to Emmaus, and their hearts burned within them. The burning heart! We have lost it! The burning heart! How we need it. To find it we must needs walk and talk with the Lord. That is the high and holy purpose of the Sabbath day. In the very beginning God said of the Sabbath, "It is a perpetual ordinance."

We thank God that here and there are found those who are remembering this, and obeying, and whose children are rising up and carrying the standard. May many follow in their train.

Respectfully submitted,

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## TEMPERANCE REPORT

During the past year the fast moving developments of the present war have claimed the

attention of practically every individual of the civilized world. And naturally so, almost every day brings widespread destruction of property, tremendous suffering and loss of life.

With shocking rapidity, and an alarming total, one after another nation has fallen under the grasping, grinding heel of Naziism that threatens democracy and the Christian faith throughout the whole world.

Canada has, and is, responding to the call for help. Our training centres are filled with the strongest and best our youth has to offer. Young and old across Canada have felt the urge to lend all available funds to help defeat this menacing foe, while Red Cross workers throughout the land are making every effort to relieve suffering by sending hospital aid and clothing to those so much in need.

We admire and respect those who have responded to the call for help, but does not the fact that all too soon the foe will attack our own Canadian shores, if not soon checked, tend to stimulate our interest and goad us on to increased activity? Who can say what the result would be if we were given absolute assurance from a reliable source that, during the next ten years we need fear no attack or invasion? With the tendency of human nature to soon tire of any enterprise, regardless of how important or worthwhile it might be, and our proneness to procrastinate, is it not probable we would note a very great slackening of activity on our part? For is this not the attitude we have taken toward another foe just as menacing, just as destructive to all that is good—that foe of intemperance? Is it because we have long since grown so accustomed to seeing his victims fall, or because his war-machines are more subtly silent, though just as deadly, that we fail to be alarmed and muster arms to drive him back.

We usually expend our interest, energy or money in preventive measures in proportion to the apparent seriousness of the situation. The enemy of intemperance is no stranger among us. Down through the centuries he has continued to attack the sons of men. From every generation he has taken his toll; no rank, no race has been exempt. From among the poor, the rich, the educated, the illiterate his victims have fallen by the thousands. Though his attacks are silent and his emissaries steal forth under darkness of deceit, some clothed in the unmistakable uniform of the open bar, others decorated in the fancy society dress of cocktails, but all with the fumes of addiction, and the sword of circumvention, his victims soon are exposed to view, their wounds are evident. We see them stunned and bewildered, some vainly trying to conceal their wretchedness, others staggering on the streets of indecency, either making futile efforts to conceal their guilt, or cover their deeds with a cloak of popularity, while others, discouraged by their fast weakening defences, surrender unconditionally to alcohol's degrading relentless reign.

War is costly. With the tremendous sums that are being expended to carry on this present war, only a few speculative souls have the courage to look ahead to the time and task of rehabilitation. For, to the inconvenience of depleted treasuries is the irreparable loss of much that is valued for its venerable and historical associations. However, under favourable circumstances, modern architecture can soon restore dignity to streets that are strewn with wreckage. But who can

build again where drink has destroyed? For, after an attack from this atrocious foe we find not only that the building has been wrecked, but the very foundation itself has been so shattered and ruined that it allows for a hopeful prospects for reconstruction. The baneful effects of alcoholism so penetrate and undermine all that is good and worth while in man that under its continued attacks ultimate destruction is inevitable.

Are Canadians drinking more? Last year the Canadian consumption of spirits was 1,787,312 gallons, more than double the amount consumed five years ago. Nova Scotia spends five million dollars annually, New Brunswick almost four millions for liquor. Canada's liquor sales have steadily grown up to the two hundred million dollar mark. Two hundred million dollars spent for liquor that brought naught but misery and sorrow—two hundred million dollars that might have been used to feed and clothe the needy, relieve suffering, to construct, to educate, to make Canada a better place to live in. And that is just the initial cost. Add to that the crime, accidents, disease, inefficiency and premature death that is the result of liquor indulgence. Judge Porter, nationally known in United States, says: "Statistics gathered from all over the nation have convinced me that 60% of all traffic accidents are traceable to the use of alcohol." W. C. T. U. statisticians claim that \$13,750,000,000 is the minimum total cost of liquor bred crime in the U. S. during the ninety month period since repeal. These appalling charges against liquor are intensified by the remembrance of the heart-ache, the sorrow, the broken homes, the degradation that follow in its wake.

In every war, propaganda plays its part. Never before has it taken on the proportions that it has today. We are amazed at the far-sightedness and subtle scheming of Hitler and his war lords, but can they teach the liquor advocates and owners of breweries anything new? These cunningly contrive their plans and lay their nets to catch every mother's son and daughter. It may be the free drink, the tainted candy, the attractive advertising, the appeal to desire for popularity—it matters not by what means, but the propoganda must go on—they must create a demand for their liquid poison. And they so cleverly manipulate public sentiment that the quietus is put on generally, and we sleep on unperturbed.

The victim of a ruthless foe always pays dearly for his unpreparedness. Once within the gates he is not easily driven off. The temperance cause is paying for its impotency. How much has been spent in defence measures, how much are we spending? If it were possible to bring together the total amount Canadians have expended to combat intemperance in the last twenty years the result might be embarrassing. How many organizations, how many individuals are taking an aggressive attitude against the widespread sale and consumption of liquor? Many are resting in the precarious hope that since liquor has not, it will not touch their home, while others apparently believing the situation to be inevitable, calmly purpose to adjust their lives accordingly. True, our emotions are aroused as we watch our youth go staggering down the street under liquor's influence, or witness the tragedy and death that resulted from some one's drunken driving. We murmur, we protest, but how faintly

We have a government that gives its peo-