

Temperance Column

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

ALARMING STATISTICS

Demonstrating that there is no monopoly in Washington, D. C., on the issuance of financial statistics dealing with astronomical sums, the National W. C. T. U. today released eight year totals on the cost of repeal. The net cost was computed at \$28,018,302,041.

"Even the experts in advanced arithmetic who are preparing new income tax schedules or the mathematical geniuses who are wrestling with lend-lease bookkeeping must take a back seat for the liquor traffic," said Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, president of the National W. C. T. U., as she made public figures purporting to show:

1. More money has been spent for liquor in the eight years since repeal than the entire government relief expenditures for the same period.

2. For every dollar that the national debt has increased during the repeal era, a matching dollar has been spent for whiskey, beer or wine.

3. Expenditures of the American people for liquor and the indirect results of liquor since repeal amount to enough to more than wipe out the entire federal government debt as of January 1, 1941.

The W. C. T. U. totals showed that the entire consumption of all alcoholic beverages in the United States from April, 1933, to January 1, 1941, amounted to 13,876,016,056 gallons and cost the American people by conservative estimate \$23,751,452,677.

But this is only the first cost, according to Mrs. Smith, there being computable parallel expenditures as a result of the consumption of this liquor amounting in the 93 month period to \$22,250,000,000. This sum the W. C. T. U. lumps under the heading of "Direct Waste," and in it are included the public and private costs of liquor-bred crime, accidents, disease, inefficiency, loss of earning power and premature death.

"We thus reach the gross total of \$46,001,452,677 as the cost to the American people in direct expenditure and waste of 93 months of repeal," Mrs. Smith asserted. "Our total national debt on January 1, 1941, was only \$45,001,757,537.

"A compilation of all government expenditures for relief from January 1, 1933, to January 1, 1941, gives a total of only \$20,250,515,357," she declared. "This was less, by more than three and one-half billion dollars, than the 93 month bar bill of the nation."

The W. C. T. U. report contains a breakdown of the various items included in the "direct Waste" category.

To liquor-bred crime was attributed 16 per cent of the nation's annual crime bill, as estimated by the department of justice. The percentage figure was taken from an authoritative survey of the liquor problem made by the "Committee of Fifty" for the years 1898 to 1910 in which it was found that intemperance was a factor in 49 per cent of the criminal cases investigated, exclusive of drunkenness, a first cause in 31 percent, and a sole cause in 15 per cent.

Disregarding all crime in which liquor was not sole cause, and applying a sliding scale to the proportion of crime attributable to liquor

in accordance with increasing liquor consumption figures in the years since repeal, the W. C. T. U. statisticians arrived at \$13,750,000,000 as the minimum total cost of liquor-bred crime for the 93 month period.

In computing the cost of accidents caused by liquor, the W. C. T. U. took cognizance of traffic, occupational and home accidents and figured such items as property loss, insurance, hospital and medical bills, and wage losses. For the 93 month period, a total of \$3,100,000,000 was arrived at.

The cost of disease, loss of earning power, lowered living standards caused by alcohol was estimated by the W. C. T. U. at \$5,400,000,000 for the period since repeal. This includes the care of chronic alcoholics and the economic loss due to their incapacity.

Carefully figured by the W. C. T. U. statisticians were items on the credit side of the nation's liquor ledger. The report revealed that the liquor traffic has turned back to the country, in one way or another, \$17,985,150,000 during the repeal years.

Federal, state and local governments received \$6,616,790,000 in various taxes, fees and licenses, the W. C. T. U. conceded, accepting at face value liquor trade claims of taxes and license costs paid local and state governments and adding them to official government figures and estimates.

Credit was given to the liquor industry for paying out during the repeal era approximately \$7,951,396,000 as wages in both the manufacturing and distributing fields, \$2,414,964,000 for raw materials, energy and fuel, and \$1,000,000,000 for transportation and miscellaneous expense.

Subtracting the total net return from the gross expenditure, the W. C. T. U. arrived at the sum of \$28,018,302,041 as representing the net cost of the liquor traffic to the country since repeal.—National W. C. T. U.

SPEED-DEMON MAYOR AN ABSTAINER

Mayor Ab Jenkins, of Salt Lake City, Utah, who was elected on a traffic-safety platform, and who, himself, holds more than 500 world automobile speed records without an accident, neither drinks nor smokes. Mayor Jenkins plans to pass on to the public the traffic safety principles which he has practiced and which have been the basis of lectures on safety which he has given in many cities. He also proposes to make Salt Lake City's traffic record a pattern for other cities now working on the problem.

Mayor Jenkins seeks every land speed record, including the measured mile, and he hopes to be the first American to travel more than 300 miles an hour on land. He wants to break the mile record which John Cobb, of London, boosted to 368.85 m.p.h. in 1939.—Selected.

QUARTERLY MEETING

The Quarterly Meeting of Dist. No. 2 convened with the Church at Killam's Mills on May 22nd to 25th inclusive. President Rev. H. M. Kimball was in charge.

Thursday evening Lic. J. A. Sanders brought a good message from John 21:17. On Friday evening Rev. Mrs. H. C. Sanders spoke from the warning words of Jesus found in Luke 21:34. Saturday morning there was prayer and testimony scripture lesson from Matt. 25:1-13.

The business session was opened in the

usual way at 2.30 and was well attended though a heavy rain had continued all day. Roll Call found all the pastors present and delegates from Amherst, Moncton, Salem and Killams Mills.

Officers appointed: Pres., Rev. H. M. Kimball; vice-pres., Rev. J. A. Owens; secretary, Alice Sterritt; treasurer, Bamford Fawcett; Highway agent, Rev. H. S. Dow.

Written reports were received from Westchester, Amherst, Moncton and Greys Mills. Verbal reports from Saint John, Mercer, Salem and Killams Mills. Most of these reports were encouraging and hopeful, expressing gratitude to God for help and blessing.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Killams Mills Church for the kind entertainment of the Quarterly Meeting and a motion passed that the quarterly meetings for the year be slated as follows:

Westchester—September, 1941.

Moncton—December, 1941.

Saint John—March, 1942.

Salem—June, 1942.

A vote of sympathy was extended to the recently bereaved families of Brothers Noah Hicks, Walter Steeves and Abner Hopper.

A motion was passed that protest against the liquor traffic be again presented to the Premier of N. B. A number of testimonies were given before the meeting adjourned.

Saturday evening Lic. Mered Grant brought an encouraging message from Heb. 12:1. The Love Feast Sunday morning was conducted by Lic. Helen Sterritt. Scripture lesson: Psalm 121. A good testimony meeting attended this service and God blessed His people with a sweet sense of His presence. A strong message of truth from II. Thess. 2:7 was given by Rev. H. M. Kimball in the following service, and in the afternoon Rev. A. D. Cann brought a very timely and truly impressive message from II. Samuel 20th chapter, latter part of verse 3 to a well filled house.

An inspiring song service was enjoyed in the evening, at the close of which all stood in silent tribute to the memory of the brothers whom God has so recently called home, and Rev. H. S. Dow offered fitting prayer. Rev. J. A. Owens brought the closing message to a full house from II. Kings 5:1 (last clause). This was a clear, convincing message on the need of atonement. One soul found forgiveness of sins at the close while others felt deeply this need, not yielding to the Spirit's call.

God was especially near during this quarterly and ministered comfort to His children in this sad time of bereavement in the community. The services were well attended all through, especially on Sunday.

We praise God for the messages of truth and the fellowship of His people. The definite testimonies of the young people who attended were good to hear and the special singing of Sister Owens and Brother DeVerne Mullen was a blessing to all. Lic. Judson Sanders held a children's meeting at the close of Sunday afternoon service which was well attended.

May the Holy Spirit help souls to seek the shelter of atoning blood is our prayer.

ALICE F. STERRITT

A student of astronomy in the University of California, by using an interferometer, found that Ras Algethi, brightest member of the constellation Heracles, measures 690,000,000 miles in diameter.—United Presbyterian.