

Temperance Column

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

DISTRESSING SITUATION

The Ministerial Association of Saint John and District, representing over forty churches, desires to express the alarm and indignation with which it views the distressing situation caused by indulgence in intoxicating liquor; both locally and throughout the entire country. The ravages of this evil have always constituted a menace to society; but, especially in an hour when every principle held precious by democratic people is endangered and every national resource is being mobilized in a supreme endeavour to achieve victory, it is a matter of deepest concern that this liquor evil has reached proportions where it injuriously affects the country's war efforts.

Evidence of this serious state of affairs is apparent locally. Staggering steps, empty liquor bottles, blasphemous and indecent language from men and women who are not their true selves, tell their sordid story, to say nothing of the carousing which is done under cover. The County Gaol has for some time been filled near to capacity. In one day, March 2nd, this present year, according to the record, forty drunks appeared in the City Police Court; on the following day, March 3rd, there were twenty cases. Up to and including the 23rd instant, the month of March shows a record of 218 drunks. That comes quite close to an average of ten per day, not including Sundays, and Military arrests are not included in this record. Is there not in such a record sufficient grounds to awaken every good citizen to a sense of responsibility? Beside this, the cases of violation of the Liquor Act tell a story which ought to greatly disturb every person concerned with the maintenance of law and order in the community. Those qualified to know, claim there are some fifty places within city limits where liquor is sold in violation of law.

This bootlegging is conducted in dwellings, in clubs, in dark corners in connivance with taxi drivers, and constitutes a scandal against decent living. The city police are hindered in many ways from enforcing law in these cases; but one serious difficulty is that one person is permitted to travel from one Government Sale Store to another making one purchase or many purchases, until he has a large stock on hand for himself or others who desire it.

Not only is drunkenness manifest upon our streets and in public places, but in the seclusion of railway trains and buses and other resorts, the rowdiness is in evidence which is always the sure result of strong drink. In some cases those in charge of public transportation vehicles have found themselves in situations where they were helpless to preserve order.

There are facts before this Association which prove conclusively that industry keenly feels the affects of this drink evil. There are certain plants where, after each pay day, losses of half-day, a full day, and sometimes more, are suffered through the absence of workmen. In one case the head of a firm declares that he is "afraid to pay his men," because of the absenteeism which always follows.

All these facts indicate that the fair Province of New Brunswick has to a great extent become sodden with drink and that the distressing effects of this evil upon a generation of young men and young women, upon our military forces, upon our war effort, cannot be overestimated.

If we take a wider outlook upon the situation there is cumulative evidence that the ravages of strong drink are nation wide. The very fact that

all the various Church bodies in Canada were enabled to unite, through their leaders, and make representations to the Federal Government that restraint be given to the liquor traffic, is evidence of how wide and serious the situation really is.

All Protestant Church leaders have spoken with no uncertain voice upon this matter. Here is the voice of one of the leaders in the Roman Catholic Church, as reported in the Canadian Press. Archbishop William Duke, speaking in Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver, said, in part, "Vancouver is doing its part to corrupt youth on Saturday nights by the capital sins of liquor and lust. We are called upon to save, to help finance the war; consider the colossal waste of savings on liquor. We are asked to organize now to ensure a billet for our soldiers after the war, and now we corrupt them by liquor and lust, so that they will be morally incapacitated if they return alive. We are warned to guard our lips lest fifth columnists learn and divulge our defence plans. Have our fighting men no military secrets, and, if so, how can they guard them in liquor."

This Roman Catholic prelate is simply asking questions which are being raised in many minds and which no one in authority in the State has sought to answer.

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MARRIED

Chute-Fox

The Reformed Baptist parsonage, Millville, was the scene of a pretty wedding ceremony on the 8th day of May when Rev. E. R. Watson united in marriage Miss Vera Fox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Fox, of Waterville, N. B., and Mr. Harold I. Chute, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Chute, Millville.

The ceremony was witnessed by friends of the parties.

D. R. WATSON

Henderson-Price

On March the 27th at 8 o'clock in the evening, Miss Constance Price became the bride of Pte. Thomas M. Henderson. They were attended by their sister and brother respectively.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. A. Owens in the presence of a number of relatives and friends.

OBITUARY

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."—Revelations 14-13.

Mary Louise Brawn

Suddenly on April 9th, Mary Louise Brawn, wife of Thomas Brawn, passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Tranquilla, Millville. Although Mrs. Brawn's health had been poorly for some time, her passing was a shock to everyone. She was 79 years of age and is survived by her husband, two daughters, and several grandchildren.

The funeral was held at her late home conducted by the writer, assisted by Rev. S. McConaghy and Rev. C. Bainbridge.

To the sorrowing ones we extend our sympathy.

E. R. WATSON

Charles E. Palmer

The death of Charles E. Palmer occurred on May 2nd at Millville.

Brother Palmer was 89 years of age, and a charter member of the Reformed Baptist Church. He leaves to mourn, his wife, two daughters, one brother and five sisters.

The funeral service which was largely attended, was held in the Union Baptist Church, Millville, and was conducted by Rev. E. R. Watson, assisted by Rev. C. Bainbridge and Rev. S. McConaghy. Interment was made in Millville cemetery. We extend our sympathy to the bereaved.