

Temperance Column

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

REPORT OF TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE 1942

As a Temperance Committee appointed to bring a paper to you for 1942, we feel the subject almost too great and terrible to try to discuss, when we consider the deplorable condition of intemperance that exists throughout our nation today. However, by God's help, we trust we may be able once again to bring to our minds some facts that will drive us to our knees more often, in intercessory prayer, that some plan may be adopted, and that soon, whereby this awful evil may be curtailed.

We hear so much these days regarding national defense work, dear friends, and how true it is—we need a solid wall of national defense and yet, one of the broken fronts is due to alcohol, and the way it is passed out to our precious boys in training. And how the eyes of the enemies of democracy eagerly scan the walls of our defense work for weak places.

Are you all aware today, friends, that Adolph Hitler has given orders that the British breweries are not to be bombed? He apparently knows that the breweries in good working order can do more damage to England, with their product, than his bombers can by destroying these legal saboteurs, as we might term them.

In the Brewers' Digest of May, 1941, it was stated that this legal saboteur looks upon the men in camp as their golden opportunity to cultivate the taste for their product, and to make them victims of the alcoholic habit for life. Think of it!

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Marshall finds conditions so bad, around training camps that he has urged welfare organizations to combat their growing menace to our soldiers.

He also states that there is an increase in activities of these saloons, and a noticeable influx of people of bad reputation, women and gamblers.

Here we have, friends, on one side, this sordid business for the accumulation of money; on the other, the interest of every parent, who has a son in these camps, to say nothing of the responsibility of the war dept. to build an army of the highest quality.

Oh! Christian friends, as a committee, we are trying to urge you who may be worrying over Nazi spies and fifth columnists, to pray a thousand times oftener for the destruction of this legal saboteur—alcohol.

When we think how, with brutal injustice, Hitler has crushed the culture, and enslaved the people of Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Holland and France, we should not be blind to the measures taken to purify and strengthen the German people, and as good Canadians and Americans seek to do likewise, only in a higher order. Do you ever stop to think how the beer trade illustrates its advertising in such a way as to appeal to youth today, including our young women and even girls.

The cigarette industry specializes in a like appeal, and as a result, future defenders of a nation are poisoned before they draw their breath, to say nothing of popular novels and plays that reek with filth and crime.

God help our young people! And may they heed the advice of the noted penalologist, Austen McCormick, in his address to 200 freshmen of Bowdoin College this year, when he said,

to dress sensibly and avoid all forms of liquors, it being most often used as an escape from reality, and proven to be worse than a morphine fiend, this, he said, brought a cleaner and usually quicker death, which was a good thing.

Mothers and fathers, boys and girls of the congregation, where does the remedy lie today? Between us and God? Yes, to a great extent. Parents, even though it may be too late to save the present situation, let's train our boys and girls more thoroughly concerning the evils of this awful curse. Where? At our knee, in the Sunday school and Crusader Group, if Jesus tarries; and as an end by which to pray, as a committee, we recommend to you the measures adopted by the St. John Ministerial Association. In it there seems a possible ray of hope. You'll find it printed in the last two issues of The Highway.

Also in conclusion, we appeal to mothers of the congregation through this beautiful poem also printed last January—"Poem."

Mothers, are you in this service, and not in the place to pray this prayer for your son, today. Thank God you can be! And as a committee we beg of you to get on praying ground now, that your boys and girls may not have the results of any of these terrible evils to lay at your door.

May God help us is our prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. G. A. DeLONG
MRS. H. S. MULLEN
MRS. B. C. COCHRANE

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

In this modern age, when so many standards have been lowered, and high ideals compromised, or done away with altogether, we as a body of people, trying so hard to maintain and uphold the "Faith of our Fathers" are saddened as we see Sunday, the Christian Sabbath, fast becoming a day far removed from the original plan of the Creator.

In the first place Sunday was kept as a Holy day because it was upon the first day of the week that our Lord arose from the grave; also it was upon that day that the Holy Spirit was outpoured upon the disciples of Christ, who had gathered in the upper room to wait for the promise of the Father. And since God had commanded in the beginning that the seventh day should be a holy day unto Him, we cannot believe but that He still desires that we keep one day out of the seven as a day of rest and worship.

A London journalist has asked the question, "Why Sunday?" and in his own book by that title, he endeavours to answer his own question, speaking from different viewpoints.

First, we need Sunday, because the body cries out for a day of rest. Sunday's rest is a physical necessity. Sir James Crichton Brown, a noted physician, said, "If man will not have his rest one day out of the week, he will be compelled to have it in bed or somewhere else after a shortened lifetime." Man does not break nature's laws; he rebels against them, and they break him. The great statesman, Gladstone, attributed his long life to his rigid observance of God's day. Testimony to the physical benefit of the observance of the Sabbath law is too abundant to need further stress.

Secondly, the mind needs Sunday's rest. After being occupied all week with business and material pursuits, we need to relax on

Sunday, and let our minds ascend above the sordid.

Then, too, the soul of man needs the benefits that are to be derived from keeping the day holy. God has made special promises to those who will obey His command in this respect. But, alas, pleasure seeking has taken the place of religious exercises that were designed to cultivate the soul.

In reducing Sunday to a day of work or pleasure, we are destroying an institution which has been a powerful factor in the life of our nation. One clergyman was known to reply to a group of young people who were clamoring for Sunday games: "You take it from me, it's as important to play your tennis as it is to say your prayers." Hence, like priest, like people, and because of laxity on the part of ministers of the gospel, we have sports of very description carried on on the Lord's Day.

The spirit of greed and money making has so gripped the hearts of merchants and store-keepers; that they are not satisfied with sales made during the week; they persist in keeping open on Sunday in spite of the Lord's Day Act. Numbers of fines have been made where store-keepers have defied the law by remaining open on Sunday, and in a great many cases lunch counters have been installed and lunches are served as an excuse to run the business on Sunday.

Factories and plants are being run seven days a week in order to increase the production of ammunition and war materials. Invasions are made, and fighting goes on along all fronts on Sunday as well as any other day, and according to our radios and newspapers, some of the fiercest bombing carried on over occupied France by the R. A. F. was perpetuated early on Sunday morning.

Can we expect God to hear our prayers and bless us as a nation, while we trample under foot His holy commandments, and ignore principles that were so dear to saints of all ages?

We are loathe to report that Sabbath desecration is steadily on the increase, but let us as God's people who love all that is good, keep ourselves from the evil that is in the world, lest we also being led away by the spirit of the age fall from our own steadfastness.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. J. A. OWENS
MRS. A. D. CANN

A GODLY QUEEN

After 140 years of peace, Holland has been forced to fight and finally to surrender. Queen Wilhelmina, who a few days previous had gained the distinction of having reigned longer than any other Dutch monarch, was compelled to flee to England. But there is great consolation for this godly queen. Though her earthly country is gone, she has another; it is "a better country, that is, an heavenly." And no evil power can wrest that away. Since 1890, Wilhelmina has shown the rulers of the nations an example of a righteous reign, and the reward that lies in store for the faithful servants of God surely is awaiting her.—Pentecostal Evangel.

When you can treat your Judas as lovingly as you do your John, lovingly, from your heart, that is full salvation; that is true humility—H. E. J.