

## UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA

Let's be frank and fair about Soviet Russia. The Russian fight against Hitler is magnificent. In this dark time we turn each day to the news from Russia for brightness and encouragement. The Russians are giving the world priceless proof that Hitler's might is not invincible. They are showing military power and skill of the first order. They have well earned all the money and munitions we can send them. We need have only praise and admiration for them as our military allies.

The United States has never had and has not now any political designs whatever on Soviet Russia. When the United Nations have smashed Hitler, the United States will no more think of trying to Americanize Russia than it will think of trying to Americanize any other military ally whose political system differs from our own. The common war purpose does not imply it. The common war effort does not require it.

That the Soviet ideology and program have always definitely called for the spread of Soviet doctrine and influence to other countries is not our fault. It is merely the fact. We have had abundant evidence of it in this country. We have had to combat it in order to preserve our Constitution and our whole political system. Self-preservation is as much a right of the United States government as it is a right of the Soviet government. It is not a right that is suddenly made one-sided by alliance for war against a common enemy.

Communists in the United States should be intelligent and fair enough, we think, to realize that this nation cannot allow its strictly military partnership with Soviet Russia to be exploited for the advancement of the Communist political program in this country.

Nor, when experience in times of peace prompts loyal Americans to be on guard against intensified Communist borings under cover of the war alliance, should Communists or their fellow-travelers raise stupid cries of "division" and "sabotage of war effort."

Such cries sound little less foolish than would a loyal American cry: "Give the Communists free rein at last. Let war open all our doors to them!"

In February, 1942, the Russians celebrated the 24th anniversary of the Red Army. Current achievements of that army are, all things considered, colossal. Military experts rate them as likely, if continued, to have a major effect on the whole vast conflict. The United States can wholeheartedly salute the Red Army.

But, in view of certain recent accusations from pro-Communists in this country, this is also a good day, we think, for another good-tempered but well-stressed reminder, on the political side, of the total absence of American attempt or aim to change the government of Soviet Russia.

With this should go a reminder of the consequent unchallengeable right of Americans to defend their own government against any Communist attempt to make "patriotism" and "war-brotherhood" shelter continued Communist working toward eventual overthrow of the government which is the very heritage Americans are fighting to preserve.—Editorial in New York World-Telegram. Reprint from The Free Methodist.

Sloth makes all things difficult, but industry all things easy.—Franklin.

## Temperance Column

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

DEATHS: We have just seen the figures on liquor-inspired fatalities for 1940. That may seem a long time ago, but remember that it takes a year or more, always, to get such figures accurately tabulated.

The Census Bureau tells us that deaths in the U. S. from alcoholism during the census year of 1940 were 1.9 per 100,000. This is nearly twice the rate of 1920, which averaged one death in every 100,000. We can thank repeal for the priceless boon.

TRAINS: Coming home from work the other night, we read a liquor advertisement which pictured a jolly-looking train conductor. Said the conductor, as we recall his words: "I had heard about Blank's Beer, so on the way home I just had to stop in and buy a bottle of it; from now on, it's Blank's Beer for me!" Or words to that effect.

Aside from the fact that any conductor found buying beer would probably be fired on the spot, we wonder what the commuters (who were placing their lives in the conductor's hands) must have thought of that invitation to railroad drinking, issued so brazenly to the trainmen. Boozing and running railroad trains just never go together; ask any railway official, anywhere.

Next morning, on the way to work, we read of a bad train wreck at Croton-on-Hudson, in which an engineer and his fireman were killed. Examination of the engineer's brain disclosed that fact that there was a percentage of .094 of alcohol in that brain; the doctor said that this was quite enough for the engineer to "lose his sense of caution."

And then we recalled a terrible wreck, some months back, in the Hudson and Manhattan tubes that lead from New York City to Jersey City. We forget the number of dead on that hideous casualty list, but we still remember that the motorman on the wrecked train had been drinking beer before he started his run.

Beer, says the brewers, is really quite harmless stuff. You just can't class it with hard liquor—until some engineer or motorman drinks it and wrecks his train and kills his passengers!

BILL: For religion and religious purposes in these United States in the year 1941 we gladly spent \$600,000,000. Good! Now read this, which isn't quite so good: we spent

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|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Beverages .....      | \$5,000,000,000           |
| For Gambling.....    | 6,500,000,000             |
| For Crime Costs..... | 15,000,000,000            |
| Vice and other sins  | 5,000,000,000 (estimated) |

TOTAL.....\$31,500,000,000

Or, to put it briefly, for every dollar we gave the Lord we gave the brewers, gamblers, etc., fifty dollars. Read it, America, and weep.

MOTTO FOR THE MONTH: The liquor industry would destroy the Church if it could (which it can't); the Church could destroy the liquor traffic if it would (which it should).—The Christian Herald.

## LINCOLN AND LIQUOR

It is related by Col. John B. Merwin, confidential messenger of Abraham Lincoln, that on the day of his assassination, Abraham Lincoln commissioned him to carry a confidential message to Horace Greeley, and knowing

that both he and Mr. Greeley were ardent Prohibitionists, his parting word was, "Merwin, we have abolished slavery forever in the United States. The next great moral conflict will be the abolition of the liquor traffic, to which I pledge my life and my all."

Relating this again and again as his last word with Abraham Lincoln, Col. Merwin asked, "Mr. Lincoln, may I quote you on that statement?" He replied, "Publish it as wide as the daylight shines!"—Selected.

## THE NATURE OF ALCOHOL

"There is no disease in the world for which alcohol is a cure. More to the point is the fact that, while it cannot be said to cure any disease, it does undeniably cause thousands of cases of disease, all of them fatal in the long run. Its use is ruinous to kidneys, liver, heart and the smaller blood vessels, and gives rise to the most common fatality, high blood pressure.

"All this has been proved by innumerable tests. Two men may play tennis or chess equally well. Give one of them a single glass of beer, and he will be easily defeated by the one who abstains. Start ten men of comparable vigor up a mountainside, five of whom have taken drinks as a stimulation. These five men fail in the climb. So mild a drink as beer will lessen their physical and mental prowess by ten to fifteen per cent.

"It has been shown that one spoonful of liquor lessens the ability to form quick judgment and to act on that judgment. Giving a driver alcohol endangers life.

"Alcohol is a habit-forming drug. Its high potency as a dangerous drug is a million times more harmful than any conceivable accruing advantage. It has no place in medical practice."—Dr. Howard A. Kelly, Emeritus Professor of Johns Hopkins University, in Ladies' Home Journal.

## CRIME OR PROHIBITION

The prison population has been so increased since 1930 that there has been an overcrowding of the Federal prisons, according to the annual report of James V. Bennett, director of the Bureau of Prisons. The daily average of increase in the prison population outran the expansion of institutional facilities by about ten per cent. The prison population is now 57.3 per cent higher than in 1930, and the constantly mounting number sent up for long terms offers little hope of relief. All this, although prohibition was replaced nearly seven years ago.—The Watchman-Examiner.

## CARELESS SMOKERS CAUSE BULK OF FIRES, SURVEY SHOWS

Careless smokers are responsible for starting more fires in the United States than are caused from any other source.

This fact was indicated as the result of a poll taken recently by The Automobile Insurance Company and The Standard Fire Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, in which fire chiefs in 225 representative American cities were questioned as to the leading causes of fires in their respective communities.

Out of this group of centers, ranging in population from 10,000 to Greater New York's nearly seven millions, about forty-three per cent reported that the careless disposal of matches, cigars and cigarettes showed up on fire department records as the most frequent cause, either directly or indirectly, of destructive fires.—Greenville Advocate.