

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
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EDITORIAL

PREPARING FOR THE OFFENSIVE

Within the next six months many churches will launch evangelistic campaigns in the hope of revival. Special workers are or shall be engaged and a series of services will be conducted. Pastors and people will look to these meetings with the hope that saints will be refreshed, unsanctified believers filled with the Spirit, backsliders will be reclaimed, and the unsaved brought to a knowledge of sins forgiven.

The results of many revival campaigns are often disappointing. So often reports read: "We did not see the results we had hoped to." As long as there were soul needs unmet, the true Christian would suffer a sense of dissatisfaction, regardless of the number saved and blessed. But there would be much less of disappointment and much more of rejoicing if we more carefully prepared ourselves for the "revival" effort.

When military strategists contemplate an offensive they give much time and labour to preparation. Weeks and months are spent in developing the plan of attack, training men for the battle, and massing supplies for the campaign. When the command to advance is given the leader knows the location of his objectives, the fighting men understand what is expected of them, and supplies and equipment are at hand to facilitate the attack. Many a conflict is half won before the order to join in battle is given—won by careful planning.

The weakness of many of our revival campaigns lies in the lack of preparation. The comparative barrenness of some meetings is not due to the lack of fervour and faith on the part of the workers, but can be traced to the failure of pastors and people to get themselves in readiness for the engagement.

A study of the work of the great revivalists and their fruitful campaigns reveals a wisdom that might well be imitated by those who long for real visitations of the Spirit and community-wide revivals. In the Moody, Finney, Sunday evangelistic endeavours, many weeks were spent in systematic, earnest, patient preparation. In the opinion of these evangelists certain things were necessary to get the people of the church and community ready for the meetings, and they solicited the co-operation of the pastors in seeking to get

things in order. Without doubt, this method was an all-important factor in the labours of these who were so abundantly fruitful in the service of their Lord and Master.

God is willing to come and bless but we must prepare the way for Him. Let us dedicate the weeks and months of the immediate future to the vitally important task of getting ready for the Spiritual offensive we now contemplate.

TEMPERANCE REPORT

"The blighting curse of the liquor traffic is still upon the land." Its effects are ever before us. The liquor business, as organized before prohibition, stood for everything that decency was opposed to, and fought everything that decency desired. It is a burning issue. This problem concerns everybody. It is powerful because of the money back of it; it demands our attention because of the greed and selfishness in it; we cannot ignore it because of its cruelty; we cannot avoid it because of its political intrigue; we cannot forget it because everywhere we turn it insults our ears, our eyes, and outrages every sense of decency we possess. Since the government is responsible for its manufacture and sale, the place of selling it may appear more respectable, but the results are becoming increasingly more alarming.

Think of the headlines in a Maritime daily paper, dated May 8th! No "prejudiced" temperance society was responsible when we read: "Mob Runs Wild in Streets of Downtown Halifax." Drunken revelry to celebrate the victory that has been purchased with the heart blood and anguish of our nation! No people who would celebrate a victory in such a way, are worthy of the freedom bought by such an enormous sacrifice. Relating to this, Rev. Gordon Vincent, speaking in Halifax from the West End Baptist Church, declared: "If anyone should get prison sentences, it is our own Canadian Government, who wholeheartedly back the sale and distribution of liquor." How can the Government attach responsibility and penalty for the violent acts occasioned by the loyal patrons of its own business?

We consider cold statistics the most condemning of all arguments we can present, as in this case, nothing is worse than the truth. Do we realize that the liquor bill for the U. S. in 1944, equalled \$7,000,000,000, averaging about \$54.00 for every man, woman and child in the nation? That it is estimated there are 40,000,000 drinking Americans with 1,000,000 alcohol addicts, increasing at the rate of 60,000 annually? That the drink bill would supply food to 1,000,000 Chinese refugee children for nine months, or would build forty of the largest and best equipped battleships? The grain alone used would provide 10,000,000 loaves of bread a day for a whole year for the needy in Europe?

Do we know Canada's bill for legally purchased liquor amounts to over 179,000,000 dollars, nearly equalling the total amount of gold produced in the Dominion? Do we know that nearly all fatal accidents involve liquor, according to R. B. Bennett, and one-third of crime is closely related to drink? Dr. Kolb, assistant surgeon-general of the U. S., points out that the consequences of drinking are not made public. Physicians, for example, whenever possible, report some other cause for death other than alcoholism. He quoted as "accurate and suggestive," a survey made in

Boston in 1940, which revealed that 50% of prisoners in penitentiaries, and 90% of those in jail for misdemeanors, were there for offences in which alcohol had a share. In general alcohol figures as one of the causes of crime among 50% of convicted criminals, and the sole cause of 16%.

Do we know that if our revenue derived from the sale of liquor, were balanced against the cost of maintaining police forces, courts, jails, penitentiaries, asylums, hospitals, charity homes, added to the loss of production, because of alcoholism, it would present the most ridiculous of all financial investments? It is authoritatively stated, "There is no net revenue in drink." Mr. William Graham, a former financial secretary to the Treasury of Great Britain, and President of the Board of Trade, says: "We would willingly abandon every copper of the revenue in the sure knowledge that the saving to the state in the transaction would be immediate and substantial. We could abandon every copper of it tonight, and regarded only as a plain business proposition, earn a substantial social and financial profit." The plea of the necessity of revenues from the profit, and the need of publications to receive money from liquor ads, in order to survive, is merely "wet propaganda." We protest against the demoralizing of our boys in the armed forces through their easy access to drink. The "Brewers' Digest" in May, 1941, said editorially, "One of the finest things that could have happened to the brewing industry was the insistence by high ranking officers to make beer available at army camps. Here is the chance for brewers to cultivate a taste for beer in millions of young men who will eventually constitute the largest beer-consuming section of our population." "The liquor barons know that if their business is to grow and prosper they must have plenty of people who will drink their stuff. Their eyes are on the coming generations; those youths of tender age. Therefore a great battle is on between the liquor powers and the forces of prohibition. The booze men must create in our young people a thirst for alcohol, or the future of their business is imperilled. Which side are you on?" Our hearts cry out against the laws which sanction it, against influential men who advocate it, and against a thoughtless and godless society which promotes it. We strongly resent the idea that our men who fight for us, must have their daily ration of rum in order to do their work. General Hart says: "As an officer, I support temperance because I know that officers and men who avoid drink are physically and mentally efficient and their power of resistance is strengthened."

General Montgomery's eighth army won its greatest victories on tea. After Alamein, the supplies of beer were cut and his troops got tea instead.

Lord Kitchener said: "I beg most earnestly that the public generally will do their best to prevent our young soldiers being tempted to drink." Some of the social invitations to drink are given thoughtlessly, but "Evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as by want of heart." "This whole social vogue is increasingly dangerous under war conditions. With men and women away from customary home restraint, open and eager for hospitality, with an unusual emotional atmosphere everywhere present, the inducements to drink are greatly intensified."

Some of our greatest military disasters