

Temperance Column

TEMPERANCE FORCES MUST REORGANIZE

Ottawa, Nov. 27.—Rev. John Coburn, of Toronto, general secretary of the Canadian Temperance Federation, in an address before the federation today charged that influence of liquor corporations on politicians and political parties threatens the integrity of public life in Canada.

He called for "complete re-organization of temperance forces in Canada" to meet the threat of liquor corporations—"the greatest menace of our national welfare."

"The liquor forces today are strong and aggressive," said Mr. Coburn. "So-called goodwill advertising together with the pressure in so many provinces for increased outlets for liquor demonstrates that they are determined to still further increase their sales."

The federation had become "weak and ineffective." He urged increased effort in research work, literature, films, finances, special projects, education and suggested there was an urgent need for a strong temperance paper with a national-wide appeal.

Provincial reports presented included those by J. H. MacFarlane, Bedeque, Prince Edward Island; Rev. A. Langley, Saint John, N. B.; and Rev. P. A. Fitzpatrick, Nova Scotia.

Mr. Langley said the limit of the sale of intoxicating beverages in New Brunswick seemed only to be the capacity to drink and hours of sale.

Rev. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that the Nova Scotia organization, which had suffered reverses, had been told by the provincial attorney general's branch that it would be advised of any liquor legislation before it was passed by the government.

The increased number of accidents, murders and suicides in Prince Edward Island was blamed on the increased sale of liquor, by Mr. MacFarlane. He said the sale of liquor had jumped from \$46,000 in 1945 to \$117,000 in the first six months of this year.

BEST-SELLER LEAST READ?

The Bible, now in its third billion edition has a greater circulation than any other book in the world. In whole or in part it has been translated into more than 1,090 languages and dialects. With a continual distribution of 1,500,000 copies every month, it is still far ahead of all other books as the world's best-seller. But in spite of all this the general ignorance about its contents, even the simple things in this important book, is really appalling.

A recent survey conducted by the Gallup Poll, and published on the front page of Britain's News Chronicle, showed that only 3 persons out of 5, that is only 60 percent, could give the names of the four Gospels which are the first books of the so-called New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. One person in every four, or 25 percent, could not name even one of these Gospel books!

Now this survey was not conducted behind the Iron Curtain in atheistic Russia, or in the pagan jungles of Africa, or among the non-Christian Mohammedans, Buddhists and Hindus of greater Asia, nor was it made in a notorious Bible-burning country. Instead, this amazing sample of ignorance was taken from a churchy country that loudly boasts of

being a Bible-loving land, namely the British Isles.

Broken down, the figures show that among the four leading sects—the Church of England, the Nonconformist, the Church of Scotland, and the Roman Catholic—the greatest ignorance showed up among Catholics. Only 51 percent of the church-going Catholics surveyed could name all the Gospels, and well over a third, 36 percent, to be exact, failed completely, not being able to name even one of the Gospels.

"Why?" the News Chronicle asked. Why such ignorance about a book that is found in the majority of British homes? Among the various answers sent in and published was this one: "This rotten condition of affairs," wrote Mr. H. Mills, "is chargeable to pseudo-science, modernism and false doctrine persistently held and taught by the Churches both Protestant and Roman Catholic. The latter call the Bible a dead book and the former are becoming more and more disposed to accept the false idea that it is a book of legends and folklore not to be taken seriously." The bishop of Rochester, Dr. C. M. Chavasse, wrote, "The chief cause of all for the Bible being an unknown book is, of course, non-Christian homes."

The Rev. Dr. H. Townsend, Principal Emeritus, Manchester Baptist College, was honest enough to admit that even the clergy are grossly ignorant when it comes to the Bible. Backing up his admission he quoted the Anglican Commission as saying: "The ignorance of the Bible today amongst many of the younger clergy is really horrifying." Others thought that the clergy should be only partly blamed. Wrote Mrs. H. M. Fenn, "The clergy are not the only ones responsible for interpreting the scriptures. Even when being taught by Christ's own apostles the early Christians were commended for 'searching the scriptures daily, whether these things were so.' (Acts 17:11)".

The truth of the matter is, these are all contributing factors—evolution, modern atheism, pagan doctrines taught by both the Catholics and the Protestants, the hiding of the Bible under the creeds and traditions of men, the rejection of the Bible as God's inspired Word of Truth, the gross blindness of the clergy, and the woeful indifference of the people themselves toward reading and studying the Bible—all these elements combined have produced a wild generation of hypocrites! They draw near to God with their lips in prayer, but their hearts are far from Him and their minds are so far removed they know not even the simplest things about the Bible. In vain they do worship, teaching and believing the commandments of men and the philosophies of the pagans.—Matt. 15: 1-9.

But you, dear reader, do not be like those who have the best-seller in their homes and yet open it so seldom they cannot tell the Gospel books containing the life of Christ. Do not be an imitation Christian. Instead of following the blind clergy of Christendom and falling into their miry ditch of confusion, better it will be if you study the Bible for yourself, as Christ and the apostles did. It too can be a lamp for your feet. It can lead you out of the darkness and death of this present devil-ruled world into the glorious brightness and life of the new world of righteousness. Gain such life-giving knowledge and wisdom and you will not exchange it for silver or gold or precious rubies.—Ps. 119: 105; Prov. 8: 8-12.

THE WISDOM NEEDED TODAY

A man's wisdom is often judged by his ability to acquire wealth. But surely that is not an adequate standard. James views wisdom in its relation to the character of the inner life. He wrote "Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first sure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity. And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." James 2:13-18.

The world is sorely in need of the wisdom which is from above. If the leaders of all nations were endued with such, there would be no war-scare. Instead of our youth being recruited, the church could continue sending missionaries into China and into all the world heralding the glad tidings of Jesus Christ. We need something stronger than an atomic bomb. We need the power of God to recreate men in His likeness having that wisdom which is pure, peaceable, gentle and open to reason. We can best advertise it by possessing it ourselves. The world over we have ills; economic and social. But the basic ailment is man's corrupt heart. Only the grace of God can cure it. But that grace is free to all who will call upon the Lord. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

R. Barclay Warren,

Lorne Park College.

Rev. R. G. Finch, editor of The Immanuel Herald, says: "There is no way to escape the cares of life. But domestic duties may be handled so the home is a plague and misery, or they may be so handled as to make 'a heap of pleasant living.' I lay exhausted and verging on nervous prostration one time, when to my further distress the street department began tearing up and repairing just in front of our home. The awful clatter of machinery drove me nearly wild. I lay there and prayed. "Oh, God, if that noise could stop just a while!" It was then that still small voice began to instruct me. He drew my attention to a tired looking black man among the workers who looked more sick than I. Several white men faithfully wielded their tools also. I was reminded that those men were tired too, but they were glad to endure that noise day in and day out, that they might be able to feed their little ones at home. Suddenly I felt altogether different about it all. I saw hungry tots waiting for their tired fathers to come home and bring their daily bread. I dropped off to sleep and rested and wished more men could be busy, too. Our homes would be havens of rest, regardless of all the cares of life, if we let the Word of God enter therein and function in its duties and cares just as it does when running and having free course in our hearts."—Canadian Free Methodist.

Thank God every morning when you get up that you have something to do that day which must be done whether you like it or not. Being forced to do your best, will breed in you . . . a hundred virtues which the idle never know.—Kingsley.