

A PROVINCIAL TEMPERANCE SUNDAY

In an effort to promote a concentrated campaign for temperance on the provincial level, the New Brunswick Temperance Federation has designated Feb. 23rd., as "Provincial Temperance Sunday."

From the Federation office in Saint John, and the General Secretary of the Federation, Rev. H. R. Ingersoll, letters have gone out to every Protestant minister in the Province, letters containing announcement concerning this special day, and some information that will provide source material for sermon preparation.

We hope that our Reformed Baptist ministers of N. B. will co-operate with the Temperance Federation in this worthy effort. In connection with this emphasis, we print the following article from a U. S. Methodist publication and entitled

THE DRINKS ARE ON YOU!

Sixty-five million Americans are hitting the bottle today. The toll, in dollars and cents, is in the sky-high billions. And who's stuck with most of it? You are!

"Don't kid yourself that if you don't drink you're not picking up a good part of the tab for those who do," writes Fred R. Zepp in the October issue of Together magazine. "The liquor industry has its hand in your pocket, right up to the wrist. In a dozen unseen ways, part of your pay check—cash you could spend to help feed, clothe, and educate your family—is going to pay for the smashed lives alcohol leaves in its bubbly wake."

Take the case of Joey X. for instance. At 54, points out Mr. Zepp, Joey has been drunk for 32 years. During that time, he has been jailed 285 times for drunkenness and related offenses. In Joey's city—typical of dozens of others—budget officials figure it costs \$60 in police and court costs to arrest and sentence a drunk. Those 285 offenses add up to \$17,000 of the taxpayers' money. His board in jail averages out to \$2.86 a day—or a total of \$26,873.

On top of that, Joey has spent 140 days in the city hospital for treatment of the DTs and otherwise drying out—another \$1,400. Add them up, says Mr. Zepp, and you get a total of \$45,373 in costs, from which you can deduct the \$510 in fines Joey has managed to scrape together on 52 occasions. Net cost: \$44,863.

And how many Joeys are there? "Latest FBI figures show that 1.5 million people are being arrested each year on charges of drunkenness, drunken driving, and similar offenses," points out Mr. Zepp. "Any schoolboy can figure out what this costs by multiplying the number of arrests by the \$60-per-case figure used in this typical city where Joey is running up the taxpayers' bill."

But most drinkers aren't skid row bums like Joey, the highly paid liquor lobbyists will tell you. "And look at all the revenue the states collect in liquor taxes!"

Consider what a few figures do to those arguments:

Of the 65 million drinkers in America today, "8 million drink habitually," says Mr. Zepp, "and between 4 and 7 million are alcoholics. Worse, the number of problem drinkers is zooming at the rate of 250,000 a year."

"As of this minute, these men and women are costing U. S. industry over \$1 billion a year in labor turnover and absenteeism due to hangovers. That's a billion bucks' worth of merchandise, services, and products lost to all of us—and liquor taxes aren't picking up the check for that. You are."

What's more, continue Mr. Zepp, 85 per cent of American alcoholics are to be found in the regular residential neighborhoods — where you live — and not "scrounging for dimes in filthy streets of the lost. Not yet, anyway."

As for the tax-receipts argument, latest available figures show that American drinkers are spending nearly \$11 BILLION a year, split almost equally between hard liquor and beer. Yet in 1955, the industry paid only \$3.8 billion in taxes. For every dollar collected in liquor taxes, some areas are spending as much as \$8 in handling alcoholics.

Let's look at another angle of this whole problem: the cost of alcohol-induced crime.

State-by-state investigation, points out Mr. Zepp, has shown that up to 51 per cent of the drivers involved in fatal automobile accidents were under the influence of liquor; an additional number ranging up to 21 per cent, "had been drinking." And this figure seems to be climbing at the rate of 1 per cent a year. With 41,000 auto fatalities per year, you can see what a staggering cost is involved when you use the insurance man's guage of \$120,000 per road fatality.

But the immensity of our liquor spending is more vividly revealed when it is compared to items in our family budgets.

For instance, points out Mr. Zepp, "we're spending more than eight times as much for liquor as we do for personal medical care We're shelling out \$50 million more than for milk and dairy products, and over \$1 billion more than for all the gas and oil we burn in our cars and trucks Americans plunk down three bucks at the tavern and package-goods store for every dollar they put in the church collection plate or give to welfare drives.

One of the most disturbing aspects of the whole problem is the mounting number of women alcoholics. As recently as 1937, only one out of every eight alcoholics was a woman; now it is estimated as high as one in two. And this points to even a greater tragedy.

FBI Chief J. Edgar Hoover says delinquency has shot up 28 per cent in the last six years—and he blames parental failure for most of the upsurge. "Behind parental failure," says Zepp, "all too often is the liquor-lapping mother."

"The liquor advertisements," concludes Zepp, "would have you believe that the key to gracious living is a snifter; that any fool can handle booze; that the liquor taxes are a boon to the public treasury.

"Next time you hear that line, remember—it's malarky. There's only one person picking up the tab on the bill for crime, accidents, wastage, medical care, smashed lives, relief payments, and all the rest of the many social breakdowns that liquor brings.

"That's you, John Q. And as long as you are willing to grin and bear it, they'll keep sticking you with it—but good!"

CHURCHES OF DISTINCTION

(Continued from Page One)

that when the true power of Christ's redemption is felt within, the life is dramatically altered. D. L. Moody phrased it in this manner: "conversion is 'right about face, forward—march!'" With a few happy exceptions, this is not a picture of the handiwork of the church of our day. But how can we expect any other condition when sin is countenanced, spiritual lethargy tolerated, compromise unchallenged, and aggressive Christian living frowned upon? No, so long as these emphases prevail, the mannerisms of the people will remain unchanged and in still another area the church will fail in its role of being distinctive.

Perhaps in this article there seems to be detected a veiled attack upon the ministry. This certainly is not our intention, although a clergyman is not guiltless who allows less than the highest in message, method and man-

(Continued on Page 6)