

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
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EDITORIALS

OUR CHURCH AND THE LIQUOR PROBLEM

The position of our Church, in relation to the liquor traffic, is pointed and pronounced. Article 5 of our Church Covenant reads: "We will not traffic in nor use intoxicating drinks as a beverage, but will use our influence to advance the principles of temperance, to aid in the legal suppression of the liquor traffic, in order that ultimately it may be totally prohibited". The alcohol problem is a matter of international concern. Across Canada, in the United States in France, Sweden, and many countries of the world, responsible citizens and authorities are alarmed at the increase of alcoholism, the death toll on the highways resulting from drunken and "impaired" drivers, the many social evils resulting from drinking, and the staggering sum that is being spent on liquor and their work of repairing the damage done by the evil.

The Church should be leading in the fight against this plague. The late Frances Willard, founder of the Women's Christian Temperance Union declared, "The liquor traffic would destroy the Church, if it could; the Church could destroy the liquor traffic, if it would". It is deplorable, but true, that government leaders, concerned about the liquor problem, cannot gain the unqualified support of the church in an effort to correct the evils created by the this diabolical trade. Church leaders confess, with or without embarrassment, that their members drink, have cocktail parties, etc. Even some of the clergy are patrons of the brewing industry, some of them to the point of drunkenness.

We deplore the position taken by the United Church of Canada—"the right for a Christian to drink temperately cannot be denied . . ." and further disagree with their stand in calling for the nationalization of liquor trade. We see no merit in the suggestion that such action would remove the profiteering motive from the evil business. It appears to this writer that it would only mean taking the profiteering motive out of the hands of private industry, and transferring it to the political authorities, a change that has most dangerous potential.

For centuries the liquor traffic has spread damage, death, and damnation everywhere it has operated. It will

continue to do so as long as its life is spared by those who condone it by legislation or "moderate" consumption. The battle against the evil will be won by those who dare to speak plainly and wage a "gloves-off" warfare against the manufacture and sale of all beverage intoxicants.

Yes, the position of our Church is pointed and pronounced. God grant that we maintain our stand!

EASTER OFFERING FOR MISSIONS

For some years we have been having an Easter Offering for Foreign Missions. Again this year our F. M. Board asks that pastors and churches plan for special missionary offerings Easter Sunday, April 6th.

It is doubtful whether the Easter Offering for missions has ever been as important as it will be this year. Our Board has ventured courageously in the missionary programme of the church year. Four missionaries have been sent out, the last of the four, Miss Chase, due to arrive about the time this Highway is mailed out. Two more missionaries with their two children the Karl Gorman family, are due to sail March 25th. And Bill and Elsie Morgan are due to sail for the homeland and furlough in May. That means that passages and incidental expenses of eight on the Canada to South Africa route have been, or must be paid. And that runs up to a total of about \$6,000. Add to that sum the amount needed to pay salaries of workers already on the field, maintenance expenses, and other demands, and it will be clear to all that we have had a year of record-making financial demand in this area of our work.

The Mission Board is of the opinion that our people are whole-heartedly behind this expansion programme. The ready and generous response to the financial appeal of December would indicate that it is the will of pastors and churches that the forward move continue.

But the Easter offering will be vitally significant. The Board asked, in the appeal already referred to, that the Easter offering be a "budget-plus" effort, that is, that the money raised and given that day be in addition to budget payment. And a generous response to this request is the only convincing proof that we are prepared to go all the way in support of our foreign mission enterprise.

Pastor, take the lead in challenging your people. They will respond, and gladly. Let's make the Easter offering bespeak our promise of support of a continued advance in Africa and Rhodesia!

FOUR REQUISITES FOR GREAT PREACHING

First, there must be something vital inside the preacher. It may be the "I know" of Paul or the "I must" of Jesus. We cannot "feed the sheep" without having something in us deeper than words. Truth becomes aglow only when it is incarnated.

Second, self-discipline is the path to powerful preaching. The second essential to great preaching is work, work, work. Learn the rules and follow them. Stop the discipline of hard work only when you stop preaching.

Third, great preaching will be life-centered instead of theory-centered. The sermon comes out of the congregation quite as much as out of the preacher. When we lose a sympathetic, intelligent understanding of the problems of the people to whom we minister, we lose the power to preach.

Fourth, the minister must never forget who he is, but he must never allow this to form a chasm between him and his people. To outthink and outlive his people in the field of the spirit and at the same time be their comrade is a fine art. That lays the foundation for great preaching.

—Gospel Messenger

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