

The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
REFORMED BAPTIST ALLIANCE

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—Editorials—

SOME QUESTIONS THE LIQUOR INQUIRY COMMISSION DID NOT ANSWER

The report of the Bridges Liquor Inquiry Commission has offered little by way of solace to the cause of temperance and abstinence in the Province of New Brunswick. "Wide open" appears to have been the Commission's guiding policy. If any restrictions were suggested, we wonder what they are.

We can honestly commend the fairness of the Commission hearings, chaired by Mr. Justice G. F. G. Bridges of the New Brunswick Supreme Court. Those presenting briefs were treated with utmost courtesy and kindness. The public had every chance to speak its mind. We cannot believe, however, that the Commission has interpreted fairly and accurately the facts presented to it.

The following questions, rising out of the observations and recommendations of the Commission, are pertinent and critical to the society in which we have chosen to live.

1. What is the true source and foundation of law? Is it to be found in an ethical concept of right and wrong, or is it to be found in the will of the "supposed" majority? Supposing everyone suddenly began to steal? Would we be justified then in making the stealer innocent of a crime? We believe that honesty is right—whether anyone is honest or not!

The decision to adjust the liquor law to suit the offenders is to us judicially indefensible and morally offensive. To have recommended an enforcement of the law would have required courage, but it would have had the taste of daring integrity that has been the foundation of the free world and which if lost spells the doom of our society.

2. Why the "grave doubts" concerning the "correctness" of the table compiled by the Alcoholic Research Foundation of Ontario in 1957? To call in question the accuracy of a public research foundation, and yet not issue some basis for such questioning, appears to us a rather serious oversight on the part of the Commission.

3. The Commission reasoning is to be challenged again when its report says, "An increase in outlets will not, in our opinion, necessarily mean an increase in alcoholism." Yet the report points out in the same paragraph that it is the "large urban centres where alcoholics are more generally found." Common sense dictates the conclusion that there is a definite connection and ratio

between (a) number of liquor outlets (b) number of alcohol consumers (c) number of alcoholics. All available evidence points to this conclusion.

4. The report says, "There appears to be little question that, when drinking is a normal part of social life and not associated with guilt feelings and takes place in good surroundings, drunkenness seldom results." The sincerity of those who made this observation cannot be questioned. We believe they were sincere. But the facts do not support such a conclusion. Drunken parties with drunken guests is not some fanatic's dream. It is a common occurrence in our contemporary "social life" amid "pleasant surroundings."

5. How in the name of consistency can a Commission ask for increased outlets and facilities for the sale and consumption of alcohol and in the same report ask "that appropriate alcohol education" be given to school children and young adults?

Other questions need to be asked, not answered in the report. Since when did alcoholism become a "disease" and why was not some cure recommended? These, we believe, are the very obvious questions.

It is not a foregone conclusion that the recommendations of the Commission will be accepted by the present government. The time is now for churches and individuals to speak their mind to their government representatives. Names mean votes to governments and we believe that every citizen has not only the right, but the obligation, to state his own convictions on the matter.

We abhor the thought that in every hotel, motel, and restaurant in our province we shall have to share the bottle. Such may be the case unless the present trend is checked by the voice of the citizens.

L. K. M.

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THANKSGIVING

by Jean Leathers Phillips

The Psalmist sang with thankfulness
When life was filled with cares.
The Master prayed with gratitude
For heard and answered prayers.

With grateful praise our hearts we lift
To Thee, our Sun and Shield,
Our Source of all that's good and right
In life, in sea, in field.

Our saving Friend, our House of Rest,
Our living Drink and Bread,
Without whom earthly wealth is dust
And life a vale of dread!

With bounteous hand the year is blest
With gain from field and tree.
For these, Thy gifts, and for thyself,
We lift our thanks to Thee.

SPECIAL NOTICE

All material, except notices, must reach the editor, Box 723, Woodstock, N. B., by the 15th and the 30th of each month. This will make possible the publication of the Highway on time and will greatly simplify the work of the Editor and the Associate Editor.

Please, if possible, send material for publication, typed and double-spaced.

We cannot make up news! Please send your local Church news, plans for meetings, etc., and personal news that has general Highway interest.