

# N. B. TEMPERANCE FEDERATION IN ACTION

By Rev. D. Burton Isaac

General Secretary of the New  
Brunswick Temperance Federation

The following was prepared by Mr. Isaac at the request of The Maritime Baptist, in order that he might present to our readers the work of the New Brunswick Temperance Federation as it is actually being developed today.

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I am happy to acquiesce with the request of your Editor to spell out for you a picture of the New Brunswick Temperance Federation in Action.

The best way of doing this is to give the six basic aims and objectives of the Federation, and comment on each of them in turn.

## OBJECTIVE (A)

To secure accurate, scientific and up-to-date information related to the personal and social effects of alcohol when used as a beverage.

This is an ongoing process for there is constantly coming to our hands the latest information from experts in all fields of life. This information is passed on to the Federation itself and in the visits the Secretary makes to Churches, Schools and other groups.

## OBJECTIVE (B)

To assist in the dissemination of this information, so that individuals and society at large may have sound reasons for making wise decisions regarding the use of alcohol as a beverage.

This information will be given through printed literature, advertisements, press releases, radio, T.V. Films, discussions and lectures to Schools, Churches and all kinds of organizations.

The dissemination of knowledge is constantly going on. Seminars have been held throughout the province and all the facts of alcohol discussed with the clergy, in the high schools, and with the public generally.

Already the General Secretary, in cooperation with Dr. J. E. Carten, Director of Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation, has visited with some 17,000 students in the high schools, giving lectures and presenting temperance films. The cooperation and keenness of superintendents, principals and teachers in this work is most encouraging.

A series of conferences for youth, regarding the alcohol question, are being planned for this fall and winter by the General Secretary and Dr. Carten. The first of such conferences is to be held at Teachers' College in Fredericton on October 26.

The visits to the Churches are greatly enjoyed by the General Secretary; he is delighted that Churches of all denominations are extending to him such invitations. Apart from giving a short resume of what the Temperance Federation is planning and doing, he feels he must bring the challenge of the word of God to his hearers, that they accept their responsibility, as Christians, to face up to the question of alcohol and all its effects upon life, in an intelligent and realistic fashion. The alcoholic must be understood, he is a sick and lonely person, distorted in his thinking, he is crying out for friendship, love, and understanding. The Church must not preach at the alcoholic, but in love surround him with the passion of the Master. The Church should not lustily sing "Rescue the Perishing, Care For The Dying", and do nothing to help the person who finds alcohol a great problem. The Secretary reminds the Church her great problem today is with the social drinker. This is a challenge to the Church that she must face up to.

## OBJECTIVE (C)

"To work for, and secure effective legislation and such measures of control regarding the sale, use and distribution, of alcohol beverages that will best curtail its use, and protect the health and welfare of all our citizens."

In a recent questionnaire sent out to all Protestant clergy in the province, answers to which are just beginning to come in, the Federation is seeking information re all outlets in their areas, and any that are giving concern. Many answers seem to indicate that bootleggers are still operating. This and other matters will be brought to the attention of the Government. The matter of those under twenty-one getting supplies, will be brought to the attention of the Government.

## OBJECTIVE (D)

To help develop individuals, and strong groups with a great variety of interests and healthful activities, so as to influence our social culture and provide a substitute for alcoholic beverages.

One way by which the Federation is trying to do something here, is to encourage in all high schools the setting up of Posts of "ALLIED YOUTH". This would almost call for another full-time member on our staff, and our budget as yet does not permit this.

## OBJECTIVE (E)

To assist and encourage all agencies working for the treatment and rehabilitation of the alcoholic, and all who have an alcohol problem.

This aim of the Temperance Federation commends itself to many today, and reveals a great step forward in our movement. We cannot leave the alcoholic to himself, he needs help and plenty of it. The Federation, through several of its members, are working closely with the A.A. groups in various parts of the province. The General Secretary is always a welcome guest at many of the meetings of A.A. Individual pastors are doing a magnificent job, with limited knowledge and resources in this matter.

The General Secretary has been engaged in public and private conferences re the rehabilitation question with several interested parties in the greater Saint John area. As a result, there has now been established a committee to set up and to operate a clinic in the greater Saint John area. Two members of the New Brunswick Temperance Federation are on this committee.

It is hoped that similar clinics will be established elsewhere in the province. The Church should seriously consider how she can help in this way. Are there doctors, lawyers, nurses and others ready to support their ministers in some form of clinic?

## OBJECTIVE (F)

To promote the ideal of voluntary abstinence from beverage alcohol, and to work toward the goal of a culture free from the indulgence in beverage alcohol.

This is our goal and we strive vigorously towards this. We stress education more than ever; this is a must for every child, in home, in church, and in school. We place before him all the facts of alcohol, and in that light we say make up your own mind. We cannot compel; we can plead, and we do plead, for abstinence on a voluntary basis. We remind all of the virtue of good examples, as well as reminding all that he or she who takes the first drink may become an alcoholic.

—The Maritime Baptist

The King's Highway