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Grit.

A JOURNAL OF NATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND PROHIBITION

VOL. XVII. No. 33.

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WORKERS HELPED BY DRY LAWS.

SAYS JUDGE ELBERT GARY.

Better health, larger savings, happier families and less poverty and crime—these are the benefits the workers of America have derived from national Prohibition, according to Judge Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the board of the United States Steel Corporation.

"I have no hesitation in saying with emphasis that the Volstead Act and State laws prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor have been beneficial to the industry of this country and to the workmen connected with it and their families," Mr. Gary said in an interview reported in the Chicago "Herald-Examiner."

"While there have been violations of the laws, particularly in the large cities, while there has been illicit manufacture of 'hooch,' so-called, and while there has been more or less bootlegging, yet as a total result of the prohibitory laws there has been a large decrease in the use of liquor, at least in the vicinity of our various plants throughout the country.

IMPROVEMENT IS GENERAL.

"There has been a noteworthy decrease in the occupants of jails, asylums, and hospitals. There has been an increase, and a large increase, in the bank balances of savings deposits.

"There has been a material increase of the workers and their families at church; of the children at the schools, and of all of them at clean, legitimate, healthful resorts and places of amusement.

"Especially do I think that the working ability and disposition of employees have improved since Prohibition went into effect.

"The whole situation has improved as has the general tone of the workmen and their families.

"The sale and use of automobiles has been largely increased by reason of the fact that a great majority of the workers now prefer to take excursions with their families by automobile instead of spending their time at the saloons or other places and wasting their money in practices that are physically injurious instead of beneficial.

"At a meeting of steel men recently it was stated by one of those present, and admitted by all to be justified, that the families of the workmen in the steel mills would vote with practical unanimity in favor of total Prohibition, although some of the husbands

might be in favor of the sale of beer and light wines.

"All in all, however, there is no doubt that a large preponderance of the workmen of this country are in favor of the prohibition of the sale and use of all intoxicants from the standpoint of good morals, good economics, and peaceful social relations."

Prohibition a Success When Given the Right Kind of Chance.

Hon. Everett Smith, Judge of the Superior Court of the State of Washington for the County of King.

I came to Seattle thirty-eight years ago and saw conditions here under almost every phase of the license law, and at times the city was given over completely to the saloons, gambling dens and brothels. The people tried out to their hearts' content the theory that a wide-open town made business and created prosperity. If they labored under this illusion at any time, there was lots of opportunity for disillusionment, and it eventually came. We entered upon Prohibition conditions earlier than many of the States. I was a judge at that time and since, and, from my experience in that capacity, as well as from my observation as a citizen, can state that the prosecutions for crime fell off at least 40 per cent. six months after Prohibition was enacted. It was the comment of all of our judges that crime had decreased in a most gratifying and startling manner. We readjusted our court work to fit the situation. Business interests of the town which had opposed Prohibition were converted to the principle after a year's experiment. When at a subsequent date there was an opportunity for expression of opinion at the polls, Seattle voted to retain the complete Prohibition law, although it had voted heavily against Prohibition originally. While the law is not thoroughly enforced at present, there would be no more chance of voting back the saloons in this town than there would be of a return of the conditions of early civilization. Prohibition has succeeded because it was successful.

I visited both the State Penitentiary and the State Reformatory a year after the State Prohibition law went into effect. The population of the penitentiary had already dwindled, and dropped in another year from about 1200 to below 800. In the same time at the reformatory, which is a sort of junior penitentiary, the population shrank from over 700 to about 400, and dormitories closed

for lack of inmates. In fact, the superintendent stated that their industries there were planned on a scale which had compelled them to revise their programmes because they had not men enough to carry them on.

I might go into statistics along other lines, but I would simply be stating what is the universal experience. I read the last "Outlook," in which the Federal Prohibition Director gave statistics from all over the country, and can say that our State has demonstrated as fully as any other that the dry law is successful. I am not unaware nor forgetful of the fact that there are flagrant violations of the law, and our local and the Federal authorities must be constantly on the alert to overcome the schemes of bootleggers and other illicit traffickers in intoxicating liquors, but the law-abiding element is gaining on these fellows, and we are reasonably enforcing the law, and it is probably as well enforced on the whole as laws against such popular crimes as burglary, highway robbery and larceny generally.

SUNLIGHT SOAP

**The whole thing
in a nutshell**

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blend is the
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Sunlight cleansing**





PASS "GRIT" ON.

BRIEF TESTIMONIALS BY BIG PEOPLE.

Blessings from Law Impossible to Cover Briefly.

J. E. Swain, Attorney, Asheville.

In reply to your request for a "brief statement" concerning the benefits of Prohibition in North Carolina, I beg to advise that it would be impossible to make a "brief statement" of this character without its being trite. You might as well ask for a brief statement of the benefits of religion, or the benefits of decent living; because this subject touches so many angles of the life of our state that it cannot be made brief.

Therefore, I will answer by saying that Prohibition has been the largest factor in bringing our state from a position humiliatingly low in education, industry and wealth to the point where it is the most admired and talked of state in the South.

City Safe for Women Under Prohibition.

J. B. Ivey, Proprietor Department Store, Charlotte.

I have been in Charlotte in business for twenty-three years. The first few years it had bar rooms, and I have been able to notice a marked improvement under Prohibition. It was a common sight twenty years ago to see drunken men, and ladies did not go on the streets at night, except when compelled to. Now, the streets are crowded with parties of ladies unaccompanied, and they feel no fear. The business of the city has leaped forward, due largely, I am sure, to the benefits of Prohibition. I think that if a vote were taken in Charlotte there would not be more than 10 per cent. of the people who would vote for the return of whisky, or even beer and wines. From the business standpoint alone, Prohibition has been a great asset to Charlotte.

No Drunks or Fights in Town During Term of Court.

W. F. Carter, Attorney, Mount Airy.

My opinion as to the benefits accruing from Prohibition is based upon actual observation so far as Surry county is concerned, but as to the state generally, it is based on hearsay evidence. First, as to my own county. Without hesitation or reservation, I am thoroughly convinced that conditions in Surry county have greatly improved since the adoption of the Amendment. As evidence of this fact, I have noticed at the terms of our Superior Court, when hundreds of citizens are in attendance, that there is but very little drinking. At the recent February term of the court, an exceedingly cold spell, when the ground was covered with snow, and conditions were most favorable to the use of intoxicants, I did not see a single man whom I thought was under the influence of liquor. In my mind I could but compare conditions at that court with con-

ditions that I had seen at courts prior to the adoption of the Amendment, when a large number of citizens would be in attendance not only slightly under the influence of liquor but drunk, and as a result many fights would take place in the town of Dobson during the term of court.

Now, by this statement I do not want you to understand that there is no liquor manufactured or drunk in Surry county, for there are blockade stills operating in the county, and there are some bootleggers plying their trade in Mount Airy and in other towns and in the country, and I suppose that this will continue through all time. I do not think that any legislation will absolutely drive out whisky from our county and country. Our officers, both State and Federal, are, it seems to me, doing their duty more thoroughly than for some time past.

From the statements that I have heard made by prominent men, especially during the recent session of the legislature, I am of the opinion that state-wide conditions are very much improved, and I believe that if the recent Act of the legislature is rigidly enforced, the traffic in liquor will be reduced to a minimum. As you well know, to make effective the enforcement of the Prohibition law, it is necessary that there should be a strong sentiment behind the officers, and I am glad to say that so far as my own county is concerned, I think this sentiment is increasing and it enables the officers to more effectively discharge their duties.

There is no truth in the propaganda being circulated by the liquor interests that Prohibition does not prohibit.

Wail of Liquor Dealers Proves that Prohibition Prohibits.

C. H. Ireland, Odell Hardware Company, Greensboro.

As a close observer, from every standpoint, both as a business man and as a social worker, and also as a churchman, of those things which affect the welfare of our people, I have no hesitancy in saying that the results of Prohibition have been good, and good only.

If the law could be enforced, as it should be, the results would be very much more apparent. One fact most assuredly remains—that there are more people well fed, well clothed, living in comfortable houses; more children who are happy and contented; fewer women in tears; fewer men in debauchery; more taxes collected, larger deposits in the banks. Business, both wholesale and retail, is better, and there are wonderful improvements in the moral condition of the country.

There is some difficulty in enforcing the law because a few people, ostensibly respectable, still wink at the breaking of this law and treat it as a joke. Then there are others who are diseased and whose craving for liquor is such that the blind tigers have a field in which to operate.

Intelligence will eventually bring home to this first class mentioned the terrible seriousness of the mistake that they are making. The diseased crowd will in a few years die out. The ranks are not being filled with young people who will eventually become "old toppers." Not having acquired the taste for drink, they will not crave it like these other unfortunates.

Law enforcement is steadily being strengthened by the official representatives of the people, and I can very readily see that in a few years we will get much greater benefits than we are now getting.

I reiterate my statement that good, and good only has accrued to the people of North Carolina by the enactment of the dry law. I know certain people claim there is more liquor being sold now than before Prohibition was enacted. There isn't a word of truth in that. If there were as much being sold, no such howl would be going up from the liquor dealers to have the law destroyed. If the people will give this law their earnest support we will in the future see improvements along every line.

Poor Have Home Comforts.

Captain W. T. Hall, of the Salvation Army, Asheville.

Since national Prohibition went into effect, conditions, morally and financially, in the poorer districts are vastly improved. The poor have home comforts which they never enjoyed in the old days of the saloon, and many of them now have savings accounts in the banks.

Prominent Democrat Opposed to Modification.

"I am unalterably opposed to modification of the Volstead Act as suggested by Governor Smith of New York," says Angus W. McLean, Democratic National Committeeman for North Carolina, in "Greensboro (N.C.) Daily News." "I believe that the overwhelming sentiment of the people of this state and of the United States is against any modification of either the Eighteenth Amendment or the Volstead Act and that they favor the strictest enforcement of the law as it now exists."

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FIELD DAY APPOINTMENTS.

Sunday, November 14th.—11 a.m., Botany Methodist Church.
7.15 p.m., Hurstville Presbyterian Church.—Mr. R. J. C. Butler.
11 a.m., Cronulla Anglican Church.
7.15 p.m., Mortdale Anglican Church.—Mr. C. W. Chandler.
11 a.m., Miranda Anglican Church.
3 p.m., Sutherland Anglican (Children's Service).
7.15 p.m., Heathcote Anglican Church.—Mr. W. D. B. Creagh.
11 a.m., Mascot Methodist Church.
7.15 p.m., Cronulla Presbyterian Church.—Mr. Phil Adler.
11 a.m., Cooma Anglican Church.
7 p.m., Cooma Anglican Church.—Mr. Chas. E. Still.
11 a.m., Sutherland Methodist Church.
7 p.m., Marrickville Presbyterian Church.—Ex-Senator David Watson.

MR. HERBERT CARROLL'S FIXTURES:

Monday, November 5th.—Berry School of Arts.
Tuesday, November 6th.—Kiama Odd-fellows' Hall.
Wednesday, November 7th.—Corrimal School of Arts.
Thursday, November 8th.—Balgownie School of Arts.

PROTEST CAMPAIGN MEETINGS.

Monday, November 5th.—Hurstville Masonic Hall.—Rev. R. B. S. Hammond.
Monday, November 5th.—Botany Town Hall.—Mr. R. J. C. Butler and Mr. P. Adler.
Thursday, November 8th.—Methodist School Hall, Bondi Junction.—Miss O. M. Preston Stanley and Mr. R. J. C. Butler.

THE LEGION OF HONOR.

THE N.S.W. ALLIANCE OF CHURCHES AND TEMPERANCE ORGANISATIONS.

Disraeli tells us: "The one duty of politics is to provide for the social welfare of the community."

Our trouble is that we cannot get Disraeli on one end of our delectable 'phone system and Sir George Fuller on the other, and have the above words repeated.

A politician who refuses to grant our citizen right to cast our vote at the ballot-box perpetuates on his own responsibility the public house bar and liquor nuisance merely for the price it pays by its license fees, or for the personal gain of a few liquor votes during the precarious time of a general election, and for those reasons has been already stigmatised as a liquor-protecting politician, and not worthy of the support of Christian patriots.

Such a politician should be buried under a Christian ballot at the next opportunity.

You are asked to voice your emphatic

"HONOR THE PLEDGE" CAMPAIGN.

MONSTER MEETINGS OF PUBLIC PROTEST

will be held in
HURSTVILLE MASONIC HALL

on
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5,
at 8 p.m.

BOTANY TOWN HALL
on
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5,
at 8 p.m.

BONDI JUNCTION
METHODIST SCHOOL HALL
on
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8,
at 8 p.m.

The Prohibition Party expects that every citizen will voice their emphatic protest at these meetings and elsewhere.

You must hear

R. B. S. HAMMOND
Leader of the Prohibition Party,
tell you his reasons for opposition
to the proposed Liquor Bill.

Admission is Free. Collection.

protest in a decided and definite manner, leaving no room for doubt in the mind (or the aching void) of your local member.

As a citizen you are expected to actively engage in this moral crusade against the sleeping partners of the liquor traffic.

Proposals contained in the proposed amending Liquor Bill have cast a moral gloom which can be felt over the whole State, and it behoves every citizen with a due regard to his or her moral responsibility to the community, to point out in an unmistakable manner to all political opponents of an immediate referendum, that the social and moral welfare of the whole community must be the first consideration, and as citizens you are bound to persist in your efforts to rid the State of the boy traps which have

snapped up the "hopes so dear to many a mother's heart."

We call upon you to assist in this moral fight, and to enlist your services in our Seven Points Campaign.

It's your move. Make a move to win.

MR. ALBERT KEELING.

APPOINTED GENERAL SECRETARY, SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ALLIANCE.

We congratulate the South Australian Alliance on the appointment of Mr. A. Keeling to the position of General Secretary. Albert Keeling is one of those rare folk who bubble over with human kindness. He is a capable and careful organiser. He loves his work, and puts a smile into every place he visits. We wish him the best of good luck.



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT.

Address all correspondence re Bands of Hope, Y.P. Societies, and the "New Day Crusade" to "The Y.P. Dept., N.S.W. Alliance, 321 Pitt-street, Sydney." (Phone, City 8944).

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Young People's Prohibition will be held in the Assembly Room, Y.M.C.A., on Monday, November 19, at 7.30 p.m. All delegates and representatives are specially requested to be present. **AMONG THE SOCIETIES.**

Mr. E. Oldfield has visited several societies during the last few weeks. At Granville Methodist he had a very enjoyable evening with the cinema. At Concord he visited the Rechabites, and also reports a good meeting.

Mr. S. Terrill is still continuing his visitation among the Sunday schools, and he states that the visits are producing good results.

Several societies are making it a general practice to visit other societies, thus forming a closer bond of friendship between societies.

THE "CRUSADE."

We would again remind the societies of our desire to obtain as many signatures to the Pledge by the annual meeting. Our aim is 10,000. Help us to get them.

BOOK THIS DATE!

DECEMBER 1st, 1923.

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Choir of 1000 voices

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Summer Hill.

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WRONG IN FACT.—UNFAIR BY SUGGESTION.

By R. B. S. HAMMOND.

"The Daily Guardian" deluded its readers some time ago by misrepresenting a conference of some of the political friends of the Alliance.

Now, "The Evening News" is guilty of further misrepresentation.

MR. LEY RESPONSIBLE.

In "Hansard," page 1490, the Hon. T. J. Ley, speaking on the Liquor Bill, said:

"The only reason is, I believe, a desire to have a campaign to keep alive propaganda and bring funds to the coffers of a certain organisation."

This is a grave charge, suggesting unworthy motives, and we would resent it from an enemy, and coming from a friend it fills us with amazement.

This unworthy, unwarranted, unguarded and unqualified statement must be held responsible for the following "News" item in "The Evening News" of October 18:

"THE CUPBOARD."

IS IT STOCKED?

ALLIANCE FUNDS.

LIQUOR BILL FATE.

A question now exercising the minds of many State politicians is whether the Liquor Bill will go through Parliament this session.

That is discussed in conjunction with campaign finances.

The Budget and the Estimates will occupy many of the remaining weeks of the session, and the opinion is expressed that the Bill cannot be pushed through before Parliament rises for Christmas.

Another topic of conversation is the attitude of the New South Wales Alliance.

Some curiosity exists regarding the financial condition of the Alliance, and there is a desire to learn whether this organisation is well in funds.

One view is that the Alliance has not sufficient funds to conduct a campaign at the present time in the event of Parliament's deciding that a referendum should take place next year.

But, on the other hand, it is submitted that the Alliance is now well equipped financially, as the receipts from a number of Prohibition fetes have swelled the credit balance.

A BALANCE SHEET.

However, there is an influential opinion that this is not so. Friends of the Alliance consider that a campaign should be immediately launched to increase the financial strength of the organisation.

The production of a balance sheet is being suggested, as many of its supporters would like to be enlightened.

This request has not yet been made directly and definitely, but as soon as the Alliance authorities learn of the desires of their friends they will probably be only too willing to supply the information.

UNTRUE IN FACT.

The following "news" appeared in "The Evening News" of October 11:

"IN CAMERA."

SECRET LUNCH.

MR. HAMMOND'S GUESTS.

M's.L.A. IN THE CAMP.

MR. LEY'S SPEECH.

There is trouble in the Prohibition camp. This was made clear at a private and

confidential luncheon held at the rooms of the N.S.W. Alliance to-day, when, at the invitation of Rev. R. B. S. Hammond, Secretary of the Alliance, certain members of Parliament met to discuss with him the latest development in the liquor position.

Mr. Hammond is not at all satisfied with the provisions of the new Bill, and, to express some of his dissatisfaction, he sent a confidential invitation a few days ago to a number of members of the Nationalist Party who had pledged themselves to secure a referendum on Prohibition next year.

Among those who attended were General Sir Charles Rosenthal, Dr. Arthur, Mr. Loxton, K.C., Mr. Perdriau, and Mr. Arkins.

SOME STAYED AWAY.

Other members received invitations, but these were the only ones noticed entering the luncheon room at 1 o'clock. The attendance may have been larger at the hour of adjournment.

While Mr. Hammond was entertaining his friends at this luncheon, Mr. Ley, Minister for Justice, was preparing his second reading speech on the Liquor Bill, which he will deliver to the House of Assembly after the dinner adjournment to-night.

Mr. Ley's action in plumping for a referendum in 1928 has filled Mr. Hammond with sorrow, but the Minister for Justice is stated to be unconcerned. He intends to stand by the provisions of his Bill, and fight hard to secure its adoption by the House.

OPPOSITION.

The discussion at to-day's luncheon made it clear that Mr. Ley will meet with some strong criticism from members of his own party when the Bill comes to be debated.

The fact is I was in Hobart, Tasmania, on Thursday, October 11.

The fact is I am not Secretary of the Alliance.

The fact is certain members of Parliament meet at the Alliance rooms each fortnight, all the year round.

The fact is that "The News" does not know of a single thing associated with the very usual advent of several politicians calling at the Alliance in my absence.

FURTHER INNUENDO.

On October 20, "The News" continues to mislead the public in the following statement:

LIQUOR BILL.

ELECTORS FEARED.

M's.L.A. AND ALLIANCE.

A ROUND ROBIN.

The rift in the Prohibition camp over the Liquor Bill is giving concern to the advocates of temperance reform.

While the Alliance takes the view that members of Parliament should be held to their pledge, and be pressed to support a referendum next year, the majority of Prohibition politicians see no wisdom in this course, and they have now taken steps to present their views to the Alliance, in the hope that this action may influence it to "see the error of its ways."

A round robin, signed by most of the Prohibitionists in Parliament, is now being prepared, and this will probably be presented to the Alliance next week.

The signatories wholeheartedly support Mr. Ley and his Bill, and they take the view that it would be most unwise to take a referendum next year, as it would probably

be on the basis of the 1919 Act if the Alliance kept members to their pledge.

It is claimed that, in that event, the hour of closing would also have to be remitted to the electors, with the possibility of an extension in the hour of closing.

Supporters of Mr. Ley's Bill are emphatic in their view that the present Bill is the best for the Alliance.

The temperance organisations are active. An important meeting of the Grand Council of these bodies will be held on Monday, when the Liquor Bill will be discussed.

It is likely that something may be heard concerning the financial position of the Alliance, upon which some enlightenment is desired.

MR. HAMMOND'S REPLY TO "THE NEWS."

Dear Mr. Editor: During my absence in Tasmania you asserted I held and presided over a lunch meeting of politicians. This of course was unpardonably inaccurate. You are a great paper, and people may reasonably be expected to rely upon what you print. When certain visitors called at my church last week, they were indignant and resentful at being informed that I was away, and accepted your statement of my presence in the city against the statement of a responsible person at the church.

In Saturday's issue you make two statements under the heading, "Liquor Bill," one of which is without foundation in fact, the other is grossly unfair and calculated to do the Alliance much harm.

There is no such body as a branch of the temperance organisations, unless you mean the N.S.W. Alliance, with which is affiliated every Protestant church and every temperance society, and as President I assert that no such meeting as you announced has been called for Monday or ever contemplated.

You then refer with unworthy innuendo to the financial position of the Alliance. We have for over 25 years published annually a balance sheet, for 16 years this has been printed in "Grit," the only weekly liquor reform paper in Australia. Our thousands of subscribers are fully informed of our financial position. Our accounts are subject to a progressive audit by a reputed firm of public accountants. The last balance sheet I enclose, that you may see how unfair and unsportmanlike your suggestive reference to our finances was. It would be merely contemptible on the part of an individual to do as you have done, but for a great newspaper going broadcast to make such a suggestion is a serious injustice to a body of people of whom it can be said in all sincerity that however some may deplore their judgment there are none who can fail to acknowledge their altruism and the sacrifices they make in loyalty to their ideals.

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THINGS THAT I SEE.

By A MAN OF THE ROAD.

Women suffering. It is not in the slums of the city, nor in a far-back uncivilised town. The place where the following experiences were met is a large and highly-civilised town. It dignifies itself by calling itself a city. Very many highly-cultivated people have most beautiful homes in its environs. It is the centre of two fine cathedrals and the home of two bishops. Splendid and costly churches of various denominations also abound. Besides which this city prides itself upon being the most important educational centre of the State outside Sydney. Magnificent schools and colleges, managed by church boards, are an attractive feature of the place, besides a splendid State High School and several public schools. The church and school properties would be valued at hundreds of thousands of pounds. It is not a squalid slum area, but a truly magnificent and wealthy town. There are, for instance, some thousands of motor cars in its vicinity, and the telephone is in a large proportion of the homes, both town and country.

It is in this refined community that the old, old story is repeated, so that it is plain we want more than religion and education and refinement and wealth to cure the drink evil.

No. 1. It is only a fortnight ago. The husband was out. The apparent dejection of the wife at once oppressed me. The story was soon told. "I can't do any business with you to-day. I am too wretched. My husband has been drunk night and day for nine months. He is drinking

SIX BOTTLES OF RUM A DAY!"

I expressed my incredulity. How can a man drink so much? But the servant maid confirmed her mistress's statement, saying, "It's quite true. He drinks a bottle before breakfast, and is up more or less all night. He takes rum and milk, and sometimes an egg beaten up in it. But he never drinks less than six bottles a day." The poor, suffering wife asked me, "What would you advise me to do?" What could I advise? I felt like saying to use the axe. I suggested a prohibition order, but she pronounced it futile. He has so many friends and so much money. He has property worth quite £15,000, and a long rent list. In this case, anyhow, poverty did not drive this man to drink. And poverty never would drive men to drink if there were no drink. Nor would drink then drive men to poverty.

No. 2. It was only last night, a mile from

where I write. A few days before I had met his children—four of them on the track to school—two girls and two boys, fine, healthy and intelligent youngsters. They told me that their father did no work, because he has hydatids. I met two of them again last night at a neighbor's, and he was there, on the way home from town. He was very far gone in drink. I heard the neighbor's daughter ask her brother if Mr. W. had brought any wine out. The wife was afraid of his coming home with drink. Then she said that the children had come up to ask her to go down and poultice the mother, who is sick in bed. This brave, sensible country girl induced the drunken husband to go home with her. But picture the home-coming! The sick woman trembling with fear; the children as fearful, keeping out of the drunkard's way, and talking in whispers lest they should annoy him and arouse his violent temper.

Women suffering. And, oh God! how they suffer. Can a decent man see it without a quickening pulse, and a deepened determination to smash the cause of such agony as these two women, and thousands besides, are feeling?

But the things that I see are not all sordid. I saw last week the splendid enthusiasm at the Conference in Sydney, which was an inspiration to hundreds of us. I travelled over 700 miles, to and fro, in order to be at that grand gathering. It was worth while, and worth the week's lost time and lost pay. It was there that I saw the wonderful new book called "3500 Miles of Prohibition," which everybody should—must—read and boost.

And what have I seen since I came back to my territory, and before I went away? Very much indeed to gladden the heart of Prohibitionists everywhere. The public conscience is wonderfully awakening. From interviews with hundreds of people of all stations in life I feel convinced that victory is assured if Parliament will only give us a square deal. For instances: Two drovers, both Prohibitionists; three teamsters, ditto; a mine manager, four graziers, a housemaid, a caretaker and his wife, an ex-publican, a farmer, a butcher and his wife, a squatter's widow, all downright. These were met in a drive of 28 miles from the above town—all in one vicinity. No propaganda work had been done there, no meetings held. It is the exception—not the rule—to meet an "anti" in this district. Let us thank God and take courage.

PROHIBITION VICTORY FETES.

North Shore Fete.—St. Leonards to Wahroonga, Chatswood Town Hall, November 16th and 17th. Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. Anderson, "Bayswater," Mackenzie-street, Lindfield.

THE MODEL AND THE MOUSTACHE.

"Oh, she's lovely now, I grant you," my friend admitted when I had shown him Dolores, the little Spanish model I had brought back from Seville.

"But in five years' time," he sneered, "she will be useless. Fat. And she will have a moustache."

"I shan't let her get fat," I protested. "I shall work her much too hard. And she won't have a moustache. I'll see to that."

"How are you going to prevent it?" he asked, unconvinced.

"That's my secret," I replied. "Well, it's a fairly open secret, among women at any rate. Too many of us incline to what is euphemistically known as 'superfluous hair.' It is the penalty of the type that has dark luxuriant hair and incredibly long eyelashes. Nature is an extremist. Either she is too prodigal with her favors and gives a moustache and beard in addition to these beauties, or—'relenting,' mends too much with naught," and dowers the rest of us meagrely with scanty hair and invisible eyebrows.

However, it is fortunately easier to cut down superfluity than to produce abundance. The most obstinate growths of unwanted hair can be so easily removed nowadays—not by shaving, which only makes the growth reappear more vigorously in a few weeks' time—but by the easy and effective application of pure powdered pheninol. You buy a package from the chemist, you make it into a thin paste with water, apply it to the unwanted hair, and let it dry. In a few moments you can scrape away the paste, and the hair comes away with it—absolutely easily and painlessly. There is no soreness or irritation of the tenderest skins. You just wash and powder as usual; the skin is perfectly soft and smooth as if the hair had never grown there.

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A SURVEY.

N.S.W. POLICE REPORT, 1923.

SERIOUS INCREASE OF CRIME.

(By W. D. B. CREAGH.)

"An outstanding feature since the conclusion of the armistice has been the continued increase in serious crime."—James Mitchell, Inspector-General of Police, N.S.W., 1922 Police Report.

"Despite the many agencies operating to lessen crime, the proportion of criminals to-day, compared with 1880, is higher."—Mr. Bavin, Attorney-General, N.S.W.

The above statements were made on the floor of Parliament House. The occasion was the second reading of the Crimes (Amendment) Bill.

In making the statement the Attorney-General was remarkably frank; and I commend him for it.

The Crimes (Amendment) Bill is chiefly directed against gambling; some people (a few) even go so far as to say that this gambling evil is the greatest producer of crime; but whoever thinks this way is wrong. A man is an authority on what he knows, not on what he thinks, and Mr. Bavin, and all other Ministers of the Crown, know, or should know, that alcoholic liquors taken as a beverage are responsible for more people committing crimes, and the worst crimes.

1922 CRIMINAL STATISTICS, N.S.W.

	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	Increase or decrease of 1922 over 1921.
				Inc'se.	De'se
Offences against the person	4,667	3,761	4,140	4,043	97
Offences against property with violence	1,933	2,481	2,517	2,241	276
Offences against property without violence	7,841	8,759	8,649	8,784	135
Offences against the currency	66	147	163	146	17
Offences against good order	34,370	44,759	49,694	51,864	2170
Offences not included in the preceding	24,499	27,168	29,402	29,830	428
Totals	78,376	87,075	94,565	96,908	2343 390

In fairness to the country districts, in comparison with the Sydney metropolitan districts, I wish to point out that the country districts showed a decrease in serious crime.

FIGURES FOR METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS COMPARED WITH COUNTRY.

	1919—Metropolitan	Country	Total
1919	33,718	44,658	78,376
1920	44,184	42,891	87,075
1921	54,178	40,387	94,565
1922	56,274	40,634	96,908
Totals—4 years	188,354	168,570	356,924

Looking carefully at these figures one can see that the serious increase in crime is in the over-licensed areas, and the Inspector-General in his report publishes these words:

"Owing to the prevalence of serious crime in the city and suburbs, it has been absolutely necessary to relieve the police in the metropolitan area of the necessity for making extraneous inquiries for other departments."

Surely the above words should make the citizens think. The trouble is that those words will reach only a handful of people.

THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW.

Who should know the full strength of crime? Why, the police; so it was a timely, also a thoughtful, act on the part of the Inspector-General of Police that he sent me to-day a copy of the N.S.W. Police Report for last year, published on September 6, 1923. This deals with the period ending December 31, 1922.

In this survey I will give facts and figures, comparing various years, various crimes, to show that the serious statement made by the head of our police force in his last report calls for immediate consideration from all serious-minded people, especially if they are really serious—our members of Parliament, who of all people are in a position to know and help.

CRIMINAL STATISTICS—STATE GENERALLY.

First, let me give the State figures year by year, in the same order as tabulated in the Police Report, the total number being 96,908; and in addition to this huge total must be added 134,390 applications for orders of court, and 5687 cases of non-compliance with such orders. The amount of misery and trouble, mostly through drink, found in these last-named orders is tremendous.

In 1922 2303 convictions for drunkenness and drunk and disorderly were recorded against females.

Some other items in report stir one's imagination as to the degradation rampant, but not all is shown in Police Report, 1922.

Riotous, indecent, offensive, threatening or insulting conduct	3327
Using profane, indecent or offensive language	5972
Idle and disorderly persons	1217
Rough and vagabond	316
Breaking, entering, or attempt	1373
Assault, common	2155
Assault officer in execution of duty ..	513
Assault a female	574
Attempt suicide	72
Indecent assault on girl under 16	35
Gaming and betting	1162
Murder	18
Attempt to murder	21
Manslaughter	44

Above 14 offences tabulated, total 21,799

The above 14 offences, combined with drunkenness, and drunkenness and disorderly conduct, number more than half—52,716 cases. This leaves 44,192 convictions to be apportioned to the 248 other offences tabulated.

Next week I will continue the survey of the report, the Liquor Act cases, inquests on bodies; the number and cost of the police force will be dealt with. I will also compare some Prohibition States with our own State.

Keep in mind that the Police Report only deals with one Government department. All departments, whether it be Health, Lunacy, Prisons, or Chief Secretary's department, show much trouble is rampant. The reason for it can plainly be seen. The chief reason, "Alcohol as a common beverage," must be dealt with. Until this habit stops we must expect, and certainly will get, much trouble that will be as a black stain on a great national character.

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STRAIGHT-OUT DRINK FIGURES.

The largest number of crimes (51,864—more than half) come under the heading, "Offences against good order." This is where alcohol shines, although alcohol goes fifty-fifty with most other crimes.

DRUNKENNESS, AND DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

1917	21,867
1921	29,046
Increase—1921 over 1917	7,179
1922	30,917
Increase—1922 over 1921	1,871

A Personal Chat with my readers

THE HON. ALBERT BRUNTNELL, M.L.A. In a recent issue of "Grit" a statement from the "Sunday Times" reporting a speech of Mr. Bruntnell's at a National Party picnic was reprinted.

So far so good.

It was sad reading to find our one-time general organiser and lecturer who entered Parliament when in the employ of the Alliance describing us as "extremists," and announcing himself as whole-heartedly in favor of Mr. Ley's proposed Bill that takes from us local option, loads us with compensation, takes away the triennial poll, and gratuitously gives the liquor sellers protection for five years, and postpones the poll till 1928.

We made no comment on this, but published an unkind and unpleasantly worded comment from a paper that probably none of our readers ever see.

I am sorry this was done.

The rebuke was justified, but the manner of administering it cannot be excused.

Mr. Bruntnell is a good party man. His responsibilities as a Minister evidently weigh with him, and he has come to feel that the party counts for more than a flat-footed stand for his pledge and the Alliance.

Mr. Bruntnell I have no doubt is quite sincere, and is fully justified in his own mind at his change of attitude, but he cannot complain if those who have always regarded him as their champion and a 100 per cent. Prohibitionists, are disappointed, and voice criticism that will be harsh and couched in terms that in cooler moments will be regretted.

It is one of the penalties of public men to find a change of opinion on a matter of principle will alienate them from old friends.

We are deeply sorry that Mr. Bruntnell cannot support us in our modest demands, and I am also sorry that we used an unworthy quotation to express our disapproval.

ON COMPENSATION. We quoted Sir Henry Parkes the other day as very strongly opposed to compensation.

I have just read in the "Life of Sir William Harcourt," by Gardner, p. 105 of the second volume, a very strong statement on the question.

The Court of the State of Arkansas had ruled that their law did not permit of the taking of property without compensation, but Sir William Harcourt, in a speech recorded in the book I refer to, quoted the judgment of the Supreme

Court of that State "that the power of the State to safeguard the health and morals of the community cannot be burdened with the condition that the State must compensate such individual owners for pecuniary losses they may sustain by reason of their not being permitted, by a noxious use of their property, to inflict injury on the community."

Harcourt hoped the House of Commons would take the same view.

The Hon. T. J. Ley thinks highly of the operations of the Reduction Board. He is prepared to make great sacrifices, and to go to endless trouble to explain the value of this great social reform.

What are the facts?

Some two hundred licenses have been cancelled in localities that were crowded with drinking places.

The closing of any of these places has never imposed upon anyone the necessity of walking more than 200 yards at the farthest to get a drink at one of the remaining places.

Since the breweries own all these "pubs," you have merely decreased their overhead expenses without decreasing their turnover.

In 1918-19, when the Board came into being, we spent in N.S.W. £7,277,000 for drink; in 1921-22 we spent £10,671,000; in 1919 we had 63 drunks convicted every day on which the pubs were open; in 1922 we had 99 convicted every day.

Pretty difficult job to convince anyone that this is a great social reform—when it does not reduce our economic waste or our moral disasters.

It has always roused great indignation when newspapers publish the attendance of members while Parliament is sitting. But the curious thing is the member is much more indignant than anyone else.

One member has a record of seven full attendances in thirty sittings.

They are, of course, paid to attend, but as they are paid just as much if not attending, many prefer to take it that way.

One Cabinet Minister in a former Ministry wrote me a most indignant letter for publishing the fact that he had received £1300 a year plus much else, and only attended 27 times out of 77.

He made no apology for his absence, and expressed no regret for his dishonesty in drawing money for work he refused to do.

Some of our friends are among the flag-

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AND PROHIBITION

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Editor—ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.
Assistant Editor—R. J. C. BUTLER.
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SYDNEY, THURSDAY, NOV. 1, 1923.

rant offenders, and we wonder what the remedy is.

Perhaps payment by attendance at so much an hour would solve the problem.

If the manufacturer wants a Bundy clock for his employees, why should not the elector have a Bundy clock for his member?

We are quite as good-natured as the petty officer in the following story, but, like him, we have our limit:

When the German submarines surrendered outside Harwich, a German officer, overcome with passion, said to a British petty officer: "I tell you what I think of you and your British flag," and he spat in the sea. "Hearty Jack" said nothing, whereupon the German officer remarked, "I tell you what I think of you and your Beatty," and again he spat in the sea. "Hearty Jack" then stroked his beard and replied, "I sympathise with your feelings as a Hun, but don't spit in our sea."

WHY IRELAND IS GOING DRY. The male population of a certain Irish village thought more of the local inn than of attending Mass. One Sunday the

priest, armed with a hunting crop, drove them all out of the "pub," and they went to church.

The priest desired to give them a little lesson, so he addressed them as follows: "Why is it you never have any money? It's the dhrink. Why have your women and children to work in the fields for you? It's the dhrink. What is it makes you shoot at your landlords—and miss 'em—"

The Editor

MR. LEY MISUNDERSTANDS THE ALLIANCE POSITION.

ESSENTIAL THINGS WE MUST HAVE.

By R. B. S. HAMMOND.

With the exception of the "Sydney Morning Herald" the daily press did not see fit to publish my reply to Mr. Ley's statement that the new Bill contained only 5 of our 7 points, and so it is printed here.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Ley has not clearly understood our Seven Points, presented to him at a deputation on May 11 last. Five of the seven points are not embodied in the Bill.

The antagonism of the Alliance to the proposed Bill is based on the following facts:

We have now in our laws the Bare Majority decision (1919 Act).

A poll every three years (1905 Act).

A poll on a day other than election day (1919 Act).

Local Option (1905 Act).

We hold that it is a sound principle that what the people have won by agitation, and have had embodied in their laws, should not be withdrawn without some mandate from them.

Without any public request, without any questions thrust on candidates for Parliament, the new Bill proposes to take from the people that which is theirs by law, viz.: A poll every three years and Local Option. This is an outrage sufficient to rouse deepest resentment and the strongest possible opposition.

THE REDUCTION BOARD.

The Hon. T. J. Ley thinks highly of the operations of the Reduction Board, and makes it the chief reason for postponing the poll. He is prepared to make great sacrifices to go to endless trouble to explain the value of this great social reform. What are the facts? Some two hundred licenses have been cancelled in localities that were crowded with drinking places. The closing of any of these places has never imposed upon anyone the necessity of walking more than 150 yards at the farthest to get a drink at one of the remaining places. Since the breweries own all these "pubs" you have merely decreased their overhead expenses without decreasing their turnover.

In 1918-19 when the Board came into being we spent in N.S.W. £7,277,000 for drink. In 1921-22 we spent £10,671,000. In 1919 we had 63 drunks convicted every day on which the "pubs" were open. In 1922 we had 99 convicted every day, or 9 per 1000 in 1919 and 14 per 1000 in 1922.

Pretty difficult job to convince anyone that this is a great social reform, when it does not reduce our economic waste or our moral disasters.

THE SEVEN POINTS.

The Seven Points as printed, and circulated immediately after the deputation are:—

1. The principle of the bare majority.
2. A provision for a poll every three years.
3. That the poll, as provided for in Queensland and West Australia, be held on a day other than election day.
4. A provision be included to submit the question of compensation to the people upon the terms which the Reduction Board is now providing compensation for over 200 de-licensed hotels.
5. That provisions be made for preferential voting, and that the ballot-paper contain the three following questions:—
6. The bill should include the Local Option right given to the people in the 1905 Act, by which the progressive localities should have the right to free themselves from the liquor nuisance. The local option areas to be as defined by the present 24 electoral areas.
7. Since law enforcement is now so unsatisfactory at present that special inspectors, like those already employed under the Factories Act and the Pure Foods Act, be appointed to see that the liquor laws are enforced.

In granting the first and third, Mr. Ley merely confirmed the provision made in existing legislation. In the seventh, he assured us that power already existed to grant that request, and is therefore not included in the bill, though no action has ever been taken to exercise such power. Request number two is not granted, but a period of time is fixed without public request, precedent, or any warrant whatever. To state that we asked for a recurring poll is to do our request an injustice. We never suspected that the recurring poll could be denied us, but we urged that the triennial poll provided for in the 1905 Act, and only suspended during the war, should be conserved to us. This has been refused. In response to this request the bill provides for a poll that may never be taken five years hence, to be followed five years later by another poll that may never be taken. To call this a recurring referendum is Gilbertian and does not command the respect of those who know politics or use their common sense.

A GUARANTEE TO THE LIQUOR INTERESTS.

Mr. Ley's proposal is merely a guarantee to the liquor interests that for five years they have security from the verdict of the people, and may collect at least £65,000,000, and return 150,000 public drunks, and the suffering public cannot take any action to protect themselves during that period. Even when they decided to rid themselves of this economic and moral disaster, the liquor interests are to be given a further trading period of one year and nine months, and by way of further penalising the public they are guaranteed a huge cash compensation.

Numbers 4, 5, and 6 are refused, thus providing further protection to the Liquor Trade, and imposing further handicaps on the people. Mr. Ley further states that the poll is postponed because I stated that we were not likely to win if it were held in 1924. Many a second-rate horse could beat Zev if you insisted on the champion carrying 12 stone, while his opponent carried 8 stone.

It is true that I expressed a doubt about our winning a poll in 1924; that was because I feared the outrageous Compensation Clauses would defeat us.

(Continued on page 12.)

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DRINK.

By LORD ASTOR.

Those who want cleaner politics and more independent politicians in this country (England) should tackle the power of the Liquor Trade. Individually the members of the Trade are often most hard-working and respectable members of the community. Yet under the existing system they are compelled to place temptation to drink alcohol before the weak as well as before the strong.

Some men can carry a lot of liquor without apparent immediate effect. Some have "weak heads," and lose their self-control after drinking only a small quantity, but in every case there is a limit beyond which a man cannot drink without obvious harm to himself, and ultimately every man is affected prejudicially who imbibes more than a definite amount of alcohol. In every case the inexorable laws of competition force traders, by advertisements, by suggestions, and by every known artifice, to maintain and increase the public demand for their goods. It is because of these laws that some reformers advocate a system of disinterested management either under the State, as at Carlisle, or with a limit of profit, as in "trust" houses, or in some other way whereby intoxicants would be supplied but no one would have any financial inducement in trying to augment demand.

Accordingly, there is a perpetual battle in progress between those who represent the interests of the Liquor Trade as now organised and those who aim at better health, greater efficiency, and increased welfare for the community. The prosperity of the former largely depends upon the drinking habits of the latter. The consequent menace to national welfare as well as to private character must be obvious to all. We never hear of men who die because they drink too much water, or who beat their wives because they drink too much tea, or pawn their children's boots in order to buy coffee. But we all know of men who have been normally good husbands and fathers deteriorating because they have taken to drink, and of countless children who go hungry, are unhappy and neglected, because their mothers have also come under the influence of alcohol.

All those who have studied the social life of this country know that the above remarks are true. "Outward Bound," a magazine that stands for spiritual principles and for the Christian spirit, is assisting the cause of progress by allowing the attention of its readers to be directed to the conflict which must rage between those engaged in stimulating to the utmost the sales of gin, port, spirits and beer, and not only those who are conducting the temperance campaign, but all taxpayers and industrialists.

On the one side is ranged the well-disciplined force of the Liquor Trade. In the front line are the publicans, those who serve behind bars, in gin palaces, etc. Then come, in the second line, the brewers, the distillers, restaurant-keepers, owners of night clubs, and all the auxiliary corps incidental to the sale of intoxicants. Far away in the background, rarely seen by the combatant forces of either side, are the directing brains at G.H.Q. This is all-powerful, with an un-failing supply of the munitions of money, and an alert political organisation served by agents in every circle of life, and allied with Leagues and Associations "camouflaged" as bodies working for "freedom" and true temperance, but all the time financed by trade funds and fighting for the Liquor Trade's policy and prosperity.

This organised army has as its primary objective the making of money. In any business the man who invests money expects to obtain a return on his capital. Under a

system of private ownership and competition success usually comes to the man who sells most of his wares, and failure—even bankruptcy—to him who sells least. Every commercial man tries to increase the public demand for his goods. Similarly, the brewer, the distiller, the wine merchant, and the publican all must push their wares, and naturally resist all proposals which threaten to diminish the purchase of intoxicants and thus to reduce their profits. This system forces the Liquor Trade to oppose the teaching of temperance to the young almost as vigorously as they would Prohibition.

On the other side in this battle is the unorganised force of common sense, which has not got powerful financial resources behind it, and is, in fact, more dependent upon the enthusiasm and unselfish views of the rank and file than upon money, or the desire for private gain.

The interests of these two forces are irreconcilable. The Trade in private hands must work for the maximum sale of intoxicants. They must constantly try to increase consumption. But no statesman would dare to advocate that the amount of liquor to be consumed by his fellow-countrymen should be stimulated to the fullest degree. Parliament, local authorities, the Churches, business men, doctors, and social workers, all are trying in some degree to protect the community against excess.

Unfortunately, in the past those who are working for increased sobriety have been divided. There is, however, a new determination to face and grapple with the problem, and with a definite and moderate policy. Temperance reformers gladly recognise that there has been considerable improvement in the habits of the nation. The hard drinking of our forefathers, when it was a commonplace of good society for a man to be found under the table after a night's carouse, has largely disappeared. Healthier habits and increased devotion to athletics have had a wide influence.

In fact, the advance troops of the Liquor Trade are being forced out of their position. Cinemas, A.B.C. shops, football matches are replacing public-houses. As those directing the Liquor Trade see themselves being defeated in the struggle, they are making desperate efforts to resist the pressure of the forces of reason and unselfishness. As the offensive of the reformer progresses so with all the more tenacity the business men responsible for the drink trade, not only in this country, but in all parts of the world, are holding on to inner lines of defence, and are permeating the political life of nations with their dangerous influence.

Most people consider that the temperance policy advocated by leaders of all Christian denominations provides the best line of advance yet planned for our land with its quite peculiar conditions. The legislative claim is fourfold, namely:

1. That there shall be no sale or supply of intoxicants to young people under eighteen years of age.

2. That clubs supplying liquor shall be put on the same footing as licensed houses and be brought under the control of the local Licensing Justices.

3. That intoxicants shall not be sold on Sundays.

4. That through a measure of local option the inhabitants of each area in England and Wales shall have power of regulating or experimenting in the sale of intoxicants.

In a country like Great Britain, where the social habits of the people are so much affected by legislation, and where independence of thought is a tradition handed down

through generations, it is vital to have popular opinion in support of any progressive step which may be taken. To my mind the only way of dealing with the drink problem is to submit periodically the three broad alternative policies of private competitive ownership, of disinterested management, which meets but does not stimulate demand, and of "no sales" before the inhabitants of each locality. They should be allowed to try temperance reform experimentally, and change their local regulations, if they wish to do so, by direction of the ballot-box. No change would be made without a mandate and a direct instruction from the citizens concerned. Different systems could be tested and compared. Men and women in a town would thus be made to feel their collective responsibility for the welfare of their brethren in that town. This solution is supported by the leaders of the United Churches, and is called local option.

THE WORLD TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

Local option has been adopted in practically every British Dominion and colony, and many other countries are also in favor of this democratic method. It is not generally realised how extensive is the movement in the world at the present time for increased fitness and temperance. As "Outward Bound" aims at opening a window on the world panorama of life, it is well that I should say something to show that reformers in Great Britain are not working alone, but are, for instance, supported by many leaders of the medical profession in all parts of the world. In England an important scientific contribution was published recently by the Medical Research Council showing that attention diminishes and brain-power deteriorates as alcohol is absorbed into the blood.

In Switzerland, where special investigations have been made, it has been found that 20 per cent. of those suffering from mental trouble are habitual drinkers. The attention of the British public might well be directed to this cause of madness, especially at the present time, when there is so much discussion of lunacy reform. Alcoholism has a very direct responsibility for the amount of mental disease that is at present filling our mental hospitals.

In other countries the evil effects of alcohol are being scientifically studied. In Paris, according to a recent medical report, 42 per cent. of the morbid criminals and insane are drunkards. In Belgium the proportion of those persons taken up for resisting the police, for blows or for violence, is as high as 48 per cent. At Lausanne M. Favre estimated that 75 per cent. was the proportion of alcoholic victims among the criminals sent to the local penitentiary.

In Germany food restrictions during the war reduced the quantity of barley available for brewing beer. The consequent decrease in the consumption of alcohol reduced the inmates of homes for inebriates by 92.6 per cent. for men and by 81.6 per cent. for women. In the hospitals admissions for alcohol diseases decreased by over 85 per cent. for women, and in the one State of Prussia alone the decrease in the cases of death from delirium tremens saved practically 2000 lives in a year. These figures are interesting to compare with the figures for England as the result of war restrictions on alcohol. From 1914 to 1918 in this country there was a decrease of 83 per cent. in death due to drink, a decrease of 53 per cent. in deaths due to cirrhosis of the liver, a decrease of 54 per cent. in deaths due to the overlaying of children, and a decrease of 67 per cent. in suicides.

(Continued on page 16.)



UNCLE B.'s PAGE.

All boys and girls between the age of seven and seventeen are invited to join the family of Uncle B. Write only on one side of the paper. Send the date of your birthday. There is no fee to pay. If you do not write for three months you are a "scallywag."

Address all letters to Uncle B., Box 390 G.P.O., Sydney.

WHAT THE SUN COULD NOT FIND.

One day the birds, the bees and the butterflies were chattering together, and they all agreed that there was a dark, dark, dreary, shivery place that has scared them all, and that it was the best place they ever heard of to keep away from. The wind overheard them and he laughed, and said they were easily frightened, and he did not believe it was half as bad as they said.

They dared him to go and have a look. Off he went whistling.

He found the place and bustled and rushed in. He came out sighing and moaning, and said it was even worse than the birds, the bees and the butterflies had said.

The sun smiled at them all, and he said he would go and look at this terrible dark and fearsome place.

Off he went.

They waited for a while, and back came the sun, all smiles and laughter. He said he had been there and could not find any darkness at all; it was indeed a very bright and cheerful place.

And he was right.

A Christian is like the sun. He can't find dark, dreary, miserable places; he takes his own brightness and cheerfulness with him.

Are you like that?

UNCLE B.

OUR LETTER BAG.

A NEW NI.

Amy Williams, Forge Creek, via Bairnsdale, writes: Will you let me be your NI? My birthday is on April 1, and I am seven years old. I have a doll that I call Peggy. Mary and I have a tea-set. The harbingers of spring are out now. The heath is coming out, too. There is a big tennis court at the school.

(Dear Amy,—Welcome to my family. I am glad to have anyone from Gippsland among my big circle. I spent happy days there years ago, and I love to hear about that part of Australia.—Uncle B.)

HELPING JAPAN.

Frances Williams, Forge Creek, writes: Will you please cross my name of the scallywag list? I am ten years old, and my birthday is on February 6. I have three sisters and five brothers. I have a little baby brother, who is seven months old. Wasn't

the earthquake terrible that was in Japan? There are twelve children going to our school, and we sent £3/15/- to the Japanese. We go through a bushy paddock, and there are wild flowers in it. The white heath is out now. We were reading how Pitt and George streets got their names. Wishing your nieces and nephews and yourself good wishes.

(Dear Frances,—It is very fine to hear that twelve of you sent £3/15/- to the unfortunate people in Japan. It has been a very sad time for the poor people, and we fortunate ones might easily spare something to help in such a calamity.—Uncle B.)

ARMS LIKE A SAUSAGE.

Elsie Crawford, Uralba-road, Alstonville, writes: We are having the school holidays now. I was put up into third class because I was the best in second class. I will be able to ride to school after the holidays. Father got a horse from Mr. Williams. I have another pony, but it is too lively for me yet. Mother has a photo of me when I was a baby; I was very fat and my arms were like as if a piece of string was tied round them. I will be eight years old on November 30. I have a sister; her name is Vera; she will be six on the 3rd of February.

(Dear Elsie,—I am glad to hear from you. I have an idea I saw you when you had big fat arms just like a great big sausage. I hope you will see that Vera writes to me just as soon as she is old enough to join my family.—Uncle B.)

THE FUN OF THE COUNTRY.

Frank Playford, Merrylands, Glenreagh, writes: I suppose I am very lazy, not having written to you for about four months. I hope you will cross my name off that black list. We went for another mountain trip the other week and saw a brush turkey. Yesterday I was out in the bush and saw a hare. I watched it for a long time, and then I ran into the bush to meet it and nearly ran into another one, and chased it. After a while I saw them playing. Then in the afternoon a boy friend and I went hunting, but got nothing.

(Dear Frank,—We folk who live in the city envy you. We only chase trams and trains, and go hunting for jobs, but you have better fun than that when you chase hares. I chased most of my hairs away long ago.—Uncle B.)

THE WORST AND THE BEST.

Ruby Jarrett, "Morven," Oakwood, writes: Well, Uncle, this is my first letter to you. We held our annual Sunday school picnic on Thursday. It was a very dull morning, but we didn't have much rain until evening, so were able to get all the races off. I won a ping pong set and have had several games. The coronation of the successful candidate

for the Queen competition was to be held in aid of the district hospital the same night, but it rained too heavily, so it had to be postponed. You asked me, Uncle, to tell you which I thought was the best and worst of farm life. Well, I think the worst of it is when you have to come home from picnics to milk the cows. The best part of the day is taken up with the milking, but it is nice to have plenty of milk and cream. The best of it is you have plenty of freedom, and it is far healthier in the country than in the close, dusty cities. I would far rather live in the country. You can also have fowls on a farm, and you haven't always got to be buying eggs; we have been getting up to 40 eggs a day lately.

(Dear Ruby,—Thank you for answering my question. I think your answer is very good and true. Have you any milking machines in your district?—Uncle B.)

WHAT ABOUT A BAZAAR FOR PROHIBITION.

Mildred Newman, Rous, writes: I saw my letter in "Grit" a few weeks ago. We want rain here very badly. The grass is growing very brown. We had a bazaar at Alstonville last Wednesday and Thursday. They made £118. I went to a concert at Ballina last Thursday night week. Rous school took a dialogue named "Peter Pan." We went down in Mr. Spearing's lorry. It was very dusty and hot going down. I was sick all next day. On Monday night we went to the Band of Hope. We had a good programme. Then on Friday night we went to a lantern lecture. Mr. Jackson showed forty-two pictures; they were all very nice. We have a nice lot of paw paws, and they are getting ripe now.

(Dear Mildred,—That bazaar was fine. You folk in the country know how to do those things. I wish you would get up a bazaar for Prohibition and cheer me up with £118.—Uncle B.)

ON HIS BIRTHDAY.

Colless Barrett, Nottingham, Parkes, writes: It is a long while since I last wrote to you, so thought I would write again. We held our school picnic to-day. All of the school pupils got prizes. I came second in my race. My prize was a self-filling fountain pen and a Europe Kino. We had great time playing games. We had dinner and tea. We had an orange and an apple each. I am twelve years old to-day. Our annual show was held on the 14th and 15th August. Our school got four prizes, three firsts and one second. I had three entries, but I got no prizes. I sat for my Sunday school examination again this year, but I have not heard the results yet. I think I am going to sit for the Bursary this year, but I am not sure. I subscribe to the "Young People's Banner" and "The City Mission Herald."

(Dear Colless,—You deserve a special word of thanks for writing on your birthday. We are glad you won that pen.

You will go on showing, and some day will be sure to win a prize. UNCLE B.

Mr. Ley's Misunderstanding—

(Continued from page 9.)

I have no doubt about Prohibition or our being ready for it, but I feared many people, including genuine Prohibitionists, would be deterred from accepting the reform at such a staggering and unjust price, with always the possibility of a future Government saying they could not find the money, thus nullifying our victory.

The way out of the difficulty was not to postpone the poll, but to minimise the handicap.

There is no guarantee under the bill that we will get a poll in 1928. This Government has no control over and cannot bind any future Parliament. There is no reason for Mr. Ley to believe that we are more likely to win in 1928 than in 1924, unless the unwarranted compensation handicap is removed, which it is not proposed to do.

The alterations in the new bill modifying the compensation provisions are more than offset by granting a right of appeal against the verdict of the Court, which is not possible at present.

Even more serious is the growing value of the property for which compensation will be claimed. This is in part due to the operation of the Reduction Board, which in closing one place greatly adds to the value of the one opposite it.

THE LETTER TO CANDIDATES.

In the letter to candidates before the last election no reference was made in any way, nor has any request been made at any time to revive the 1919 Act, which the Storey Government had made null and void by their refusal to proclaim a day within the period specified. At that time we were all under the impression that fresh legislation was necessary, and the letter that called forth the promise of 55 members asked "Do you favor an immediate referendum on Prohibition, and if returned will you support any motion in the House that aims to give the people the right to vote on this question?"

The following election was not fought on a request to put the 1919 Act into force, but on the question of an immediate referendum to be decided by a bare majority.

Every candidate knew that to carry out their pledge fresh legislation would be necessary.

POSSIBLE COMPROMISES.

It is a grave mistake to think that Prohibitionists doubt Mr. Ley's sincerity—he is above suspicion; but we may be pardoned if we doubt his judgment, and if we fear the political influence of some of those with whom he is associated.

Mr. Ley has undertaken a most difficult task; he is not free to do it in his own way. The bill contains some really good and valuable provisions for which we have to thank him, and it ought to be gone on with. If Sir George Fuller will consider past legislation, Mr. Holman's fatal misjudgment of

the people when he said "Ten o'clock or nothing," his own Annual Conference, the growth of sentiment against the liquor evil, and the united front of Prohibitionists—he will see that the minimum protection for the people is: First, a poll in the life of this Parliament, even if to meet his prejudices it is held on the day of the general election. Second, provision for a poll every three years. Third, a local option provision to preserve the rights of progressive localities; and, lastly but maybe of greatest importance, some alternative to the unjust and impossible compensation clauses. The compensation at present proposed is on the basis of three years' profits; then let the liquor interests, if Prohibition be carried, have three years further in trading in which to collect their own compensation, as under the 1905 Act. It is hateful to me to suggest that they be allowed to prey on society for three years, but better that than to fix a compensation so impossible that they will continue to prey without any near relief.

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THE BEST LAID PLANS.

When Tut-ankh-Amen retired into his dug-out, he little thought that he would be.

TRUE LOVE.

He: "Oh, Peggy, I shall be so miserable all the while I'm away from you."

She: "Oh, darling, if I could be sure of that it would make me so happy!"

GONE HIS LIMIT.

"Prisoner, have you anything to offer in your own behalf?"

"No, your Honor, I've turned every cent I own over to my lawyer and a couple of jurymen."

REAL ENTERTAINMENT.

To-morrow Lord Cecil begins a round of social and public engagements, beginning at noon with a luncheon given by Frank A. Munsey to newspaper publishers and editors, which will occupy his time until he sails for home on April 28.

DOUBLING UP.

"Willie," asked the teacher, "what is the plural of man?"

"Men," answered the small pupil.

"And the plural of child?"

"Twins," was the prompt reply.

FAST TRAVELLER.

We like a story that was very popular with the Army in France.

It is the tale of a negro who was beating it for the back areas as fast as he could go, when he was stopped by a white officer.

"Don't delay me, suh," said the negro, "It's gotta be on my way."

"Boy," replied the officer, "do you know who I am? I'm a general."

"Go on, white man, you ain't no general."

"I certainly am," insisted the officer, angrily.

"Lordy!" exclaimed the negro, taking a second look. "You sure is! I musta been travellin' some, 'cause I didn't think I'd got back that far yit."

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SUNDAY.

"Come ye yourselves apart . . . and rest awhile."—Mark, 6, 31.

MEDITATION.

"It is not the number of books you read, nor the variety of sermons which you hear, nor the amount of religious conversation in which you mix; but it is the frequency and the earnestness with which you meditate on these things till the truth which may be in them becomes your own and part of your own being, that ensures your spiritual growth."—F. W. Robertson.

MONDAY.

"The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ."—2 Thes., 3, 5.

"WAITING FOR THE ADOPTION."

As hidden in the bare brown shoot,
Lie rosy buds and future flowers;
Abundant seed and golden fruit;
So in these earth-bound souls of ours
The lovelier life lies still concealed.
We know not yet what we shall be,
When faith's fruition stands revealed
And we shall be as one with Thee.
Day hath its sun and night its star;
We have Thy promise in Thy word.
But is Thy coming still afar?
We weary for Thyself, dear Lord.
As maiden for her lover waits;
As mother for her sailor boy;
So lean our souls upon their gates,
And wait for Thee with trembling joy.
—Lillian Wooster Greaves.

TUESDAY.

"I count all things but loss . . . that I may win Christ."—Phil., 3, 8.

THE LIFE THAT WINS.

"We can win others to Christ only by being Christ to them, by showing them Christ in ourselves, by living so that they may be attracted to Christ, and may learn to admire and to love Him by what they see of Him in us. One of the most effective ways of winning souls is through beautiful, gentle, Christlike living. Eloquence of persuasion in a preacher is powerful with sinners only in so far as the preacher's life is consistent. Preaching without love in the life is only empty clatter. But where deep, true love, the love of Christ, is, the plainest, humblest words become eloquent and mighty."—Green Pastures.

WEDNESDAY.

"Be content with such things as ye have."—Heb., 13, 5.

DISCONTENT.

If tears and groans would make things right,
If worry could kill care,
If moping filled the dark with light
And make the black day fair;
Then weeping would be quite the thing,
And groaning would be fine;
And moping mixed with worrying,
'Twere useful to combine.
—Howitt.

THURSDAY.

"Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed."—Isa., 1, 17.

"DOING."

In vain do they talk of happiness who have never subdued an impulse in obedience to a principle. He who has never sacrificed a present to a future good or a personal to a general one, can speak of happiness only as the blind do of colors.

Believe then that neither feeble health, nor cramping poverty, nor crushing sorrow, nor accomplished sin, nor evil habits, need paralyse the aspirations of your essential manhood, nor quench its immortality. Put forth your hand, my brother, and the serpent shall become a rod!—Dr. C. F. Aked.

FRIDAY.

"Let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love."—1 Thess., 5, 8.

LOVE'S HARVEST TIME.

Love's holy flame for ever burneth;
From Heaven it came, to Heaven returneth.
To oft on earth a troubled guest,
It here is tried and purified,
At times deceived, at times opprest,
Then hath in Heaven its perfect rest;
It soweth here with toil and care,
But the harvest time of love is There.
—T. Southey.

SATURDAY.

"Let us cleanse ourselves. . . . Perfecting holiness in the fear of God."—2 Cor., 7, 1.

THOUGHTS FROM CANON BURROUGHS.
There is no real holiness which does not issue in righteousness, nor any live or valid righteousness of which holiness is not the background and spring. The combination of the two is the very essence of true Christianity. Christ fused the moral and the spiritual once for all.

The whole of this provision for service comes, so to speak, out of God Himself. He has not to go outside the infinite resources of His own Personality—"Three in One"—for anything which He either gives us or does for us. He Himself is at once the Ideal to live for, the Atonement for refusal and failure to live up to it, and the Power to follow it afresh when forgiven.

We talk to-day of the need (and it is great) of interesting the indifferent; if one may judge by the effects of John Wesley's conversion, perhaps an even more pressing need is to rise en masse, within the Church and in all its branches and parts, from the religion of obedience to rules, whether wooden or fussy, to that of inspiration and freedom and grateful love.—Canon Burroughs.

"GRIT" SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Received to 25/10/23; where not mentioned the amount received is 10/-: Per Miss Phipps, 3 subscriptions, 30/-, 5/4/24; Rev. St. John Heard, 28/6/24; H. A. Beiers, 30/5/24; Miss M. Grant, 5/-, 5/4/24; S. A. Shields, 30/12/23; H. Hoare, 30/12/23; Rev. H. M. Wheller, 28/6/24; C. E. Greenham, 30/5/24; A. Gerlach (N.Z.), £13/-, 30/12/25.

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LABORERS AND ALCOHOL IN GERMANY.

By PROFESSOR DR. REINHARD STRECKER.

The habits of the working classes are not independent of the habits of the whole people. When, therefore, the eating-houses are prepared to sell beer, when meetings take place mostly in beer shops, when among the students and in cultured circles the drinking of beer is such a universal custom that it is done with special ceremonies, it is comprehensible that in this milieu the working classes also cannot imagine life without beer. Beer is said to be wholesome, nourishing and necessary to life. With plenty of money to spend in advertising, the liquor interests are seeing to it that this popular notion is kept alive, and the people remain ignorant of the results of latest scientific researches. The principal cause for the great diminution of the consumption of beer among the working classes recently is their great economic distress. Wine is much too expensive for the laborer. Lately the consumption of dram is increasing in Germany. Unscrupulous speculators take advantage of the situation. In addition to the obtrusive liquor advertisements, there are thousands of newly-established so-called Liqueurstuben, and each of them is a place of seduction and moral corruption. Unfortunately the working classes do not always avoid this temptation.

There are many erroneous opinions concerning the economic condition of the German laborers. In Germany one speaks much of the high or too high wages of the workmen. In reality, the wages to-day have only a fraction of the value they had before the war. By the revolution the laborer secured political rights, social esteem, and shorter working hours, but, with a few exceptions, he did not gain higher wages. Only those families profit where several members are of an age at which they are able to work. But when the laborer must earn money for minor children, his economic condition is very bad. Very heavy also are the taxes of the State, which is deeply involved in debt. Only the young, unmarried laborer who has reached the age where he receives full wages can squander his money. This squandering is the result of the demoralisation we see in all youth (and not only in Germany) since the war and the revolution. Added to this is the disastrous effect of the low standard of our money, which discourages the individual from saving. Every day the money in the savings banks loses more and more of its value, and so it is quickly spent, often for the most useless and most noxious enjoyments. And with brutal indifference the liquor interests are profiting by this situation.

But the thinking German laborer begins to look into the situation. The last Parteitag of the Social Democrats at Augsburg adopted two important resolutions. The first resolution demands that in consideration of the nutrition problem, no German sugar shall be misused for the manufacture of liquors and wine, and that in general all crops produced in our country shall be used for the nourishment of the people. This resolution does not demand complete Prohibition, but if the Government followed it, wine and liquors would become articles of luxury, and the alcoholic content of beer would be reduced to a minimum. This would already be great progress. The second resolution demands that the alcohol question shall be studied thoroughly by the leaders of the Trade Unions and the Arbeiter Abstinenten Bund. When this resolution is seriously followed, there is no doubt but that the result will be complete deliverance from the alcohol curse, which would bring an enormous increase of economic, moral and spiritual power to the working classes. Everybody knows that it is a long way from the resolution to its application. There are still strong hin-

drances. We have already mentioned usage and the national customs. And there are the laborers in breweries, dram-factories, etc., who are afraid of losing their livelihood. Among these people the propaganda of the liquor interests easily meets with success. From motives of solidarity, other workmen are led to side with their (as they believe) threatened comrades. One of the spiritual factors is that misunderstood Marxism which does not believe in any progress of the working classes before the realisation of the socialistic economic system. Marx himself knew well—but these men do not think of that—that a people of high moral and intellectual qualities is needed to bring about the realisation of the socialistic economic system. We know that the danger of stagnation from the use of alcohol is great in our time of poverty and distress. But the connection between the economic condition on one side and moral and intellectual efficiency on the other, is not one-sided casual but reciprocally functional. And so the moral deed of the deliverance from alcohol can considerably improve the economic condition of the laborer and also accelerate the economic development in his favor. The abstaining laborers have understood that. At this time they are unfortunately divided by another question and, therefore, they are weakened. For a part of them, working with the Burgerlichen is against the principle of the class struggle, and only the society which is free from alcohol will be won by the socialistic order. The others, thinking more clearly and conforming also more to Marx, take every ally, also the Burgerlichen, when thereby they may help even a little to deliver the working classes. We hope that in a few years the questions will be settled, and that the number of adherents to abstinence will become greater and greater. This hope seems reasonable when we think of the rapidly growing organisation known as the Arbeiter-Jugend. The most intelligent elements of the hand-working coming generation are enlisted in it, and there are already thousands of young lads and girls of the working classes to whom it is self-evident that they must avoid drinking and smoking as well as bad books and objectionable moving pictures.

In Germany women are not accustomed to frequent beer-shops. Where women are allowed to vote, they are an important factor in the struggle against alcohol. But the cleaning-up has only begun. Unfortunately, the church and the school—this must be admitted—do not do their duty. Greater, therefore, are the responsibilities of political leaders. The struggle against dram will be the easiest; that against wine, harder, for some provinces of the realm believe that their economic existence is dependent on the cultivating of wine. The struggle against beer will naturally be the hardest, for there are so many connections between that beverage and the national habits. We cannot at present employ the best ammunition—the establishment of public meeting houses and restaurants where people could eat and drink well and cheaply, but where no alcohol was served, for our economic situation makes it impossible. If we could provide these for our working classes, a great majority of them would find where they must seek their true salvation.



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Drink—

(Continued from page 10.)

These statistics provide some evidence of the destructive effect of the unwise use of alcohol upon the well-being of a nation, and the enormous expense entailed in hospitals, asylums, prisons and workhouses. Statesmen in Great Britain are at present seeking for all opportunities of effecting economy. A profitable way of reducing expenditure and increasing thrift would be by reasonable temperance reform. Unfortunately, many politicians are afraid of offending the Liquor Trade. They know that to offend this all-powerful body in England has the same result as offending the Tammany organisation in New York. People shudder at the control of New York politics exercised by Tammany, but they little realise that in this country the drink trade adopts the same methods, and is as unscrupulous and almost as wealthy. Too many politicians to-day, both in Parliament or in municipal councils, are either tied to, or afraid of, or are indebted to, or hope to get aid from the organisation of the Liquor Trade, whose interests, as shown above, directly cross those of the community.

As well as considering drink reform from the point of view of national health and economy, in a Christian country we ought to appreciate more our duty as Christians. Avoid cant. Why should consciences be lulled to sleep by quoting the Miracle of Cana? If we apply to modern life the doctrines contained in such texts as Romans, xiv., 17 and 21; Romans, xv., 1 and 2; Galatians, v., 19-23; Galatians, vi., 2; 1 Corinthians, 9 and 11-13, then there can be, little doubt that all Christians would support the temperance campaign of the Council of the Christian Churches.

Scientists have proved to us that alcohol deadens self-control; that it diminishes ability to choose between right and wrong, and thus drugs the conscience; that, in fact, it frequently acquires the same control over persons as drugs. If, then, we recognise our collective responsibility for our fellow-countrymen, we shall help to mobilise the Christian forces of this country on the side of temperance.

Let all concerned concentrate upon the essentials, and not waste time discussing those comparatively minor details on which in the past there has been division. The main point, so it seems to me, is that there is perpetual conflict between the prosperity of the Liquor Traffic on the one hand and the welfare of the community on the other. Let the people of this country be given the facts and exercise their influence to obtain from Parliament a Local Option Act, so that they may then, by their votes, show what form of drink policy they wish to adopt in their own district. Local option, the principle of which has been adopted throughout almost the whole of the British Empire, is the rational policy. Surely the facts that can be observed by anyone who studies the world around us to-day prove how morale is often deteriorated, physical strength weakened, and political ideals undermined owing to this profitable monopoly being unduly protected.

A measure of local option would also have the incalculable advantage of taking drink out of politics. Citizens would have their fate and power in their own hands instead of seeing their fate so much controlled by the power which the Liquor Traffic now exercises in political life.

Over the French college of physicians may be seen the words cut in stone:

I dressed his wounds,
God healed him.

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BRICKFIELD HILL SYDNEY

Box No 2712
GPO

Mistress—

Mary, your kitchen
is a picture!

However do you
get everything so
spotlessly clean
& bright?



Yes, ma'am, it do
look nice but it's
very little trouble
when you use
PEARSON'S
SAND SOAP

✱ *Laundrena* ✱
the Quality
Starch
For dainty women