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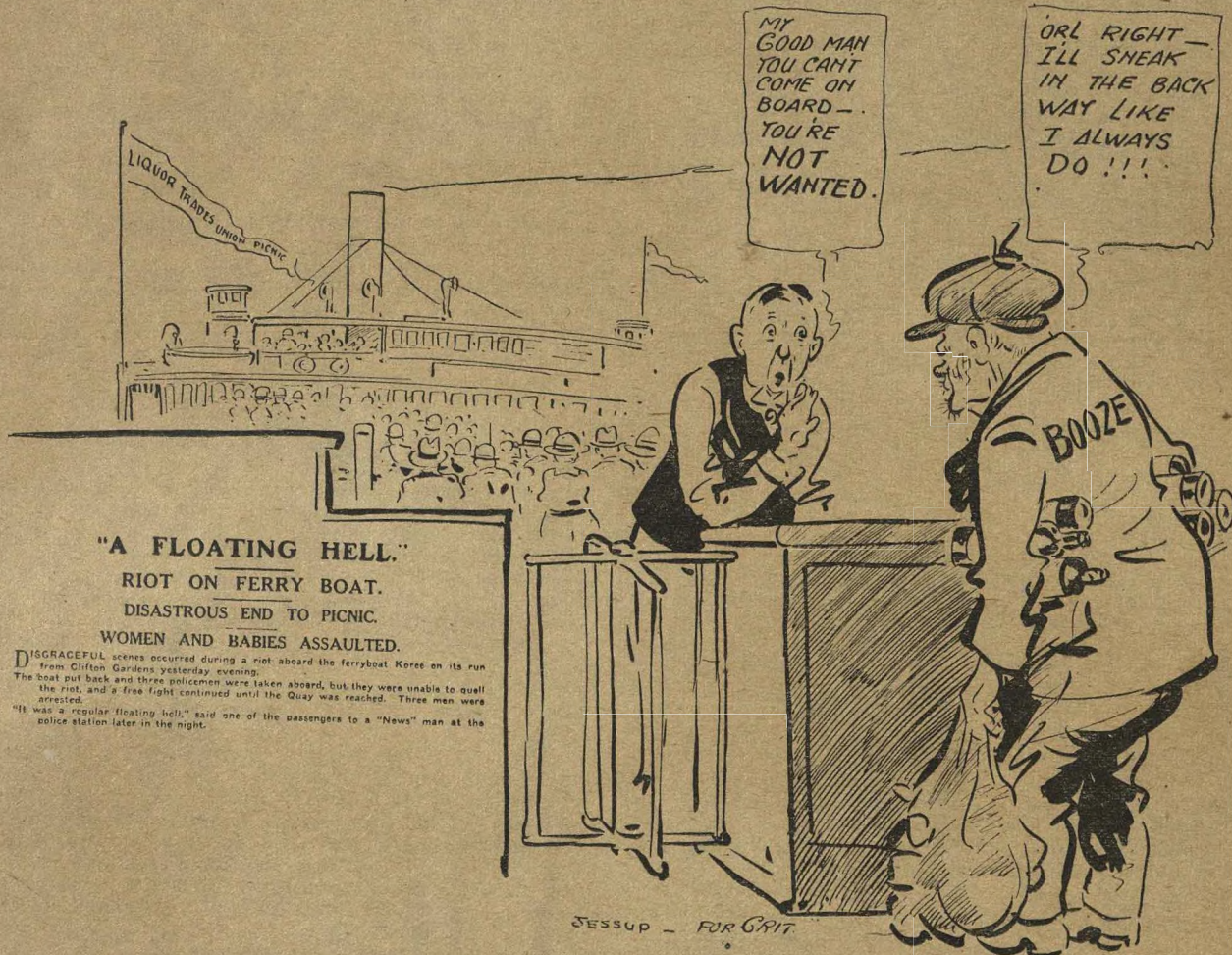
A JOURNAL OF NATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND PROHIBITION

VOL. XVIII. No. 1.

Twopence.

SYDNEY, MARCH 20, 1924.

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"A FLOATING HELL."

RIOT ON FERRY BOAT.

DISASTROUS END TO PICNIC.

WOMEN AND BABIES ASSAULTED.

DISGRACEFUL scenes occurred during a riot aboard the ferryboat Korea on its run from Clifton Gardens yesterday evening. The boat put back and three policemen were taken aboard, but they were unable to quell the riot, and a free fight continued until the Quay was reached. Three men were arrested.

"It was a regular floating hell," said one of the passengers to a "News" man at the police station later in the night.

A TRAITOR EVEN UNTO HIS OWN.

COLLECT GREEN COUPONS

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IS IT EFFECTIVE?

An Address delivery by Judge J. J. Britt, Counsel for the Prohibition Unit, before the National Republican Club, New York City, at their Annual Meeting, Saturday, February 2, 1924.

The Eighteenth Amendment is the organic law of the land, and embodies the nation's public policy. Like other constitutional provisions, it is the fruitage of intelligent public opinion. It represents the judgment, the hopes, and the aspirations of the people. The ripened public opinion of which it was the culmination had its birth with the landing of the Cavaliers in Virginia and the Pilgrims in Massachusetts. From that day to its adoption there was waged an unceasing warfare for the destruction of the liquor traffic from the rostrum, the press, the pulpit, the teacher's desk, and the fireside; and by publicists and reformers everywhere. From 1874 it was reinforced by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and for twenty-five years by the Anti-Saloon League, while the Prohibition party played no insignificant part. They who assert that the Eighteenth Amendment was the result of hasty and inconsiderate action, or of an abnormal state of mind, have not reckoned with the facts. Of the nineteen amendments to our Constitution, no other has received so patient, thorough and prayerful attention. And it was consummated at a time when we were appealing to our better natures and searching our inner souls; when the whole nation was asking: "What shall we do to be saved?" Such were the impulses of which the Eighteenth Amendment was born. The form of its adoption none dare question. The resolution received an overwhelming majority in both Houses of Congress, was submitted to the States in due form, and received the immediate approval of 46 out of the 48 States, and the validity of its adoption was subsequently confirmed by the United States Supreme Court.

SELF-IMPOSED RESTRAINT.

Now, what was the object of this great political, moral and economic departure? It was to impose upon the people by themselves certain fundamental and far-reaching personal restraints in the interest of the nation's morals, manhood and economic development. It provides that nowhere in the United States, or in any territory subject to its jurisdiction, shall there be manufactured, sold, transported, exported or imported any intoxicating liquor for beverage purposes. What was the object of this five-fold inhibition? The answer is that no one should be permitted to drink any intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes. That was as unmistakably the purpose as if the words just spoken had been written into the Amendment.

Edmund Burke said that among the most sacred rights of freemen are the restraints which men put upon themselves. It is one of the high privileges of democracy to place limitations upon itself. Among these are the barriers which men erect against their own weaknesses.

DUALITY OF POWER.

Now, upon whom devolves the duty of enforcing the prohibitions which the Eighteenth Amendment imposes?

The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Nineteenth Amendments each close with the clause, "Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation," although these specific grants of power to Congress were unnecessary, as they were clearly implied in the obligations imposed, as the Supreme Court has since held. But in the Eighteenth Amendment, for the first time, the power to enforce is conferred con-

currently upon the nation and the several States. In no other amendment is there duality of power to enforce. Wherever in the Constitution prohibitions are imposed, and the power to enforce them is conferred, there is an accompanying obligation that the prohibitions shall be enforced. The power and duty are inseparable. For instance, where, in the Thirteenth Amendment, it is provided that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States, or in any territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof, and the Congress is clothed with the power to enforce this Amendment by appropriate legislation, no one can doubt that it was the mandate of the Constitution that the Congress was not only clothed with the power, but was also charged with the duty of enforcing this prohibition, and that the performance of this duty was obligatory. So in the Eighteenth Amendment, where a five-fold prohibition is enjoined, and both the Congress and the several States are clothed with the power to enforce this prohibition, there goes with this power the inescapable duty of enacting the necessary laws and providing the required instrumentalities for enforcement.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE.

Both the nation and the States are charged with the duty, and neither can lawfully default, but if one defaults the other is not thereby relieved. I cannot dwell at length here, but no one can constitutionally justify an attempt on the part of either the nation or States to forego the enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment. The test of whether there is an endeavor to enforce the Amendment is whether the legislation has for its purpose the carrying into effect of the prohibition which it imposes. The instrumentalities of the States and the nation need not be the same, but they must have the same purpose. The only limitation is that the legislation of the States must not contravene, or be inconsistent with, that of the nation. In all other respects the States are free to enact and enforce such legislation as they may choose, limited only by the consideration that the end sought is the enforcement of the prohibitions of the Amendment. I quote from the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *U.S. v. Lanza*, decided December 11, 1922, in which Chief Justice Taft says:

"Each State, as also Congress, may exercise an independent judgment in selecting and shaping measures to enforce Prohibition, such as are adopted by Congress become laws of the United States, and such as are adopted by the State become laws of that State. They may vary in many particulars, including the penalties prescribed, but this is an inseparable instance of independent legislative action in distinct jurisdictions."

When the States ratified the Constitution and became parts of the Union, they thereby became parties to its Constitution. It was their own creation; it could be ratified only through the machinery of the State Governments; by ratification the States became sponsors for its enforcement, maintenance and protection. By the ratification of the Amendment they accepted all the obligations which it imposes. It was their own creation, and they could not desert it. By their acts they are estopped from a refusal to provide the necessary instrumentalities for its enforcement. But they are left to choose their own means for that purpose, limited only by consistency with the

laws of the United States, but available means they must provide. I would not be ungracious, nor would I abuse the privileges of a guest, but I cannot refrain from saying that when the State of New York, by repealing the Mullen-Gage Law, and thus destroying the instrumentalities which it had provided for the enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment, it violated the solemn faith which it pledged to the nation, when, on the 26th day of July, 1788, it ratified the Constitution of the United States, and became part of the Union.

NOT UNENFORCEABLE.

The opponents of Prohibition contend that the National Prohibition Act is not only not enforced, but that it is unenforceable. That I challenge. That it can be enforced I doubt not; that it is not wholly enforced, I admit. It is well enforced in most sections, and reasonably well enforced everywhere. In considering the difficulties of enforcement, many factors are to be taken into account. We are the first to embark in total national Prohibition. The experiment is new. Our country is immense in territory. Besides, we have inherited all the evil effects and tendencies of liquor in the past, an evil that has vexed the world for thousands of years, and America for 250 years. We were heirs to all the enslaved appetites, half-mortgaged souls, drunken derelicts, and evils of heredity in the blood of drinking generations, for here, as elsewhere, the iniquities of the fathers are visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generations. There are thousands of men in whose blood the thirst for drink is implanted. It has been handed down from father to son. It will take a generation to get it out.

100 PER CENT.

Under these circumstances the results are as good as could be reasonably expected. In the southern belt, where Prohibition came first, the enforcement is nearly 100 per cent.; in the West there is a high percentage of enforcement; in portions of the East conditions are not so good, but even here, in some sections, there is nearly total enforcement. I have no official statistics, and none are available, for but few surveys have been made, but some have been made in the States, and these show great improvement in law enforcement; in lessening of drink consumption; in decrease of drunkenness; in fewer cases in the police courts; in increased school attendances; in increased savings among the poorer classes to whom savings mean most; in every way the social, moral, and economic conditions of the people are improved. How do we know this? By observation, and by the general consent of all classes throughout the country. Thousands of men who were hopelessly given up to drink, who had long since ceased to work, but spent their days in drunkenness, no longer drink at all, but have gone to work, saved their wages, and invested in homes, with consequent peace and happiness to their families. Every one here has seen this, and knows of it of his own knowledge. It is not a matter of statistics, but a change known and appreciated.

(To be continued.)



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PASS "GRIT" ON.

PUBLICANS AND SINNERS.

LICENSED VICTUALLERS AND POLICEMEN.

MOTOR CARS, PROFITS, CHEAP DRINKS AND "GHOSTS."

BOOZERS PRESENT £3000 TO GOVERNMENT.

"Your card, please!"

"I haven't got one: I am a press representative."

"You can't come in."

"Do you mean to say that the press is excluded from this meeting?"

"Yes."

"But matters of great interest to the public are likely to be discussed, and surely the public who support you are entitled to know what is the policy of your Association in relation thereto."

"That's as it may be, but you cannot come in, sir!"

And that is why we, in common with the rest of the Sydney press, are unable to present our readers with a formal report of the annual meeting of the Licensed Victuallers' Association of New South Wales, which was held in the King's Hall, Hunter-street, in the evening of Tuesday, March 4.

OCCULTISM AND MOTOR CARS.

All things considered, this is a pity. There is every reason to believe that the most interesting discussions took place touching "spooks" and the price of drinks and riots on ferry steamers and electoral campaigns, and what not. Nasty subjects these: some from the point of view of the publican, others from that of the public.

Meanwhile, it may be assumed that the place of meeting was chosen with due regard to the nature and secretiveness of the business in hand. The King's Hall is the headquarters of theosophists and spiritualists and other dabblers in "the occult," so naturally it is the best convocation hall in Sydney for those who "call spirits from the vasty deep." Lest anybody should fail to grasp the subtlety of the allusion, it may be explained that reference is made to the delightful practice of adding three gallons of water to every ten gallons of rum, not to mention the tobacco.

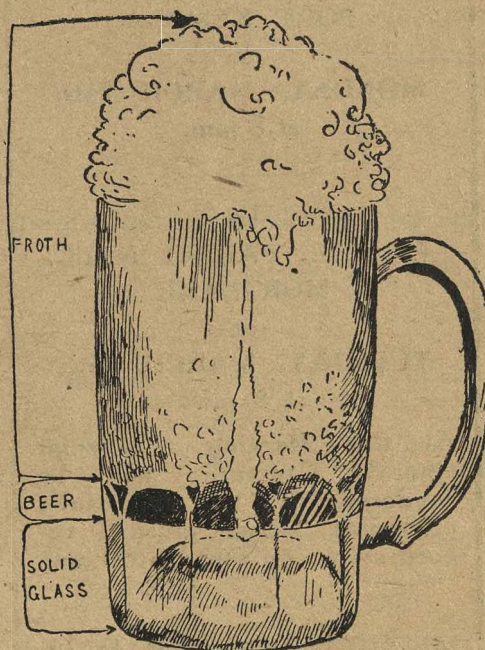
By the bye, there is no evidence that publicans are, like other folk, experiencing bad times. Both sides of Hunter-street were lined with expensive large motor cars—not a "Tin Lizzie" amongst them. "Eheu! beati possidentes!"

DISLOYALTY IN THE CAMP.

It is understood that there was a lot of recrimination at the meeting touching disloyalty in the camp, said disloyalty arising out of the base practice of underselling. Just fancy a publican charging less for drinks than he might! Yet such seems, indeed, to be the case, especially as regards bottled stuff. If you know where to go, you can get "case" whisky, rum, brandy and gin at specially low prices. But apparently that is not going to last. There are threats of the withdrawal of rebates and special discounts

if liquor is sold at reasonable prices, so if any Prohibitionist thinks he is paying too much for his favorite "tippie," he should apply to us at once for information as to where he can get it for less (no reference to Lowe's) before it is too late.

It is even whispered that the price of drinks is to be increased! In spite of motor cars and heavy jewellery, the poor publican is feeling the pinch. He dare not make his glasses any smaller or any thicker: the public are squeaking more than enough about



The Poor Brewer Tries to Make Both Ends Meet.

that already. So the only alternative is to charge more for a drink. You must make both ends meet somehow, don't you know, and people do so object to three inches of froth on a pot.

PRICES AND PROFITS.

When one comes to think of it, higher prices were to be expected. You see, prices in other directions are falling. Boots cost less; clothing is not so dear; foodstuffs are on the decline. So most people must have more means to pay for booze than formerly, and it is only fair that Mine Host should come into his own at last. At present he does not make more than six hundred per cent. profit on a pint of beer.

By the bye, it is interesting to note the rapid growth of the gross profits of two of our principal breweries in recent years. Here they are:

Year.	Toohey's.	Tooth's.
1920	£428,851 ..	£670,783
1921	584,936 ..	794,375
1922	615,509 ..	848,723
1923	620,691 ..	905,468

The total gross profits of all the breweries in New South Wales do not probably exceed £2,250,000. But the public in this State spend about £11,500,000 annually on booze. It would be interesting to know what proportion of the odd £9,000,000 sticks to the fingers of the publicans. Assuming that the publican, like the brewer, makes about 50 per cent. profit (it is really more than that), and bearing in mind that there are approximately 2500 licensees of hotels in the State, it would appear that the average income of publicans is not less than £2000 a year. And yet they want to increase prices.

SPOOKS.

Publicans are getting "nerves." They don't look nervy, do they? But appearances are deceptive. They are nervy. They are getting "dingbats." They see ghosts. "Spooks" haunt their minds. They are just as much troubled about them as are the police, another race of beings who do not, at the first blush, look like neurasthenics. In this connection, by the way, it is interesting to note that the subject engaged anxious, nay, wrathful attention at the annual conference of the New South Wales Police Association, which was held last week in the Highland Society's rooms, the venue being appropriate to the Scottish "canniness" characteristic of policemen as a class. Quoth the president:

"There is no reason for the appointment of outside inspectors under the Liquor Act. Such men would be looked upon as spies. Of course, the Minister concerned had the right to set out rules, but if the administration of the Act by the police was not satisfactory the only logical thing to do would be to take it away from them. Members of the public were always ready to rush in with criticisms of the police, especially with regard to the Liquor Act, but the public did not know the circumstances. It was enough for them to see people coming out of an hotel after hours to jump to the conclusion that illicit trading was going on. But in most cases these people had a perfect right to be upon hotel premises. Some hotels averaged more than a hundred guests."

IRRELEVANCE AND IMPERTINENCE.

Where the above statement does not merely recite obvious, platitudinous truth known to everybody, it consists of a mixture of irrelevancy and impertinence which does little credit to the intelligence, and still less to the sense of what is due to the Government and the public, of the president of the Police Association. It is very good of that person to define what the Minister has a right to do, though, no doubt, the Minister himself will not feel greatly indebted to his mentor. When the President—Chinner by name—goes on to give the Government lessons in logic, he is simply guilty of a gross and studied piece of impertinence for which he ought to be called to account. The police are servants, and not very high-ranked servants, of the Government, and their duty

(Continued on page 15.)

New South Wales Alliance

Offices—Macdonell House, Pitt Street, Sydney.
Cable and Telegraphic Address: Dry, Sydney.

Phones: General Offices, City 157; Organising and Public Meeting Dept. City 8944.

FIELD DAY APPOINTMENTS.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23.

- 11 a.m.: Wollongong Presbyterian Church;
3 p.m.: Balgownie Presbyterian Church;
7.15 p.m.: Wollongong Presbyterian Church;
Mr. R. J. C. Butler
- 11 a.m.: Badgery's Creek Methodist Church;
3 p.m.: Briggely Methodist Church;
7.15 p.m.: Luddenham Methodist Church;
Mr. Chas. E. Still.
- 11 a.m.: Wollongong Methodist Church;
3 p.m.: Mount Drummond Methodist Church;
7.15 p.m.: Port Kembla Methodist Church;
Ex-Senator David Watson.
- 11 a.m.: Leichhardt Methodist Church;
7.15 p.m.: Waterloo Congregational Church;
Mr. Phil Adler.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

R. B. S. HAMMOND.

- Monday, March 24: Memorial Hall, Port Kembla, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, March 25: Church of England Parish Hall, Mortlake, 8 p.m.
Monday, March 31: Methodist School Hall, Malvern Hill, Croydon, 8 p.m.
Monday, April 7: Brockley College Hall, Northbridge, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, April 8: Coronation Hall, Mascot-Botany, 8 p.m.
Monday, April 14: Haberfield, School of Arts, 8 p.m.
Monday, May 5: St. Mark's Parish Hall, Darling Point, 8 p.m.
Monday, May 12: St. Mary's Parish Hall, Birrell-street, Waverley.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

The Leader of the Prohibition Party recently conducted most enthusiastic public meetings at Hunter's Hill and Rydalmere.

The response and appreciation of the audiences at both meetings left nothing to be desired.

It is quite evident that the recent setback in legislative circles has aroused the resentment of all New South Wales citizens, and the outcome can only be a tightening up of the Prohibition organisation and a valuable accession to the numerical strength of our workers.

AUSTRALIA'S "DRY" COMEDIAN.

Mr. Herbert ("Pat") Carroll has received very flattering receptions at Box Hill, War-rague, Drouin, Yallourn, Yarragon, and other centres in the Southern State.

The successful opening of his Victorian season must be very gratifying to Australia's "Dry" Comedian, who is out on his own as an entertainer, and is entitled to our heartiest congratulations.

Being a Digger, we quite expected him to have a highly satisfactory and successful tour.

Rev. Trevor Hughes, the big-hearted and enthusiastic worker who has ministered to the Methodist folk of Gladstone district for some years, has accepted his call to Walls-end, Newcastle district.

"MAKE PARLIAMENT DRY."

R. B. S. HAMMOND

The Leader of Australian Prohibition Party, will address

Monster Meetings

in the Public Interest, which will be held in

MEMORIAL HALL

PORT KEMBLA

on

MONDAY, MARCH 24th

at 8 p.m.

IN

C. of E. PARISH HALL

MORTLAKE

on

TUESDAY, MARCH 25th

at 8 p.m.

At this Meeting a special Choral Overture will be rendered by the Mortlake Juveniles, whose musical record shows up second to none.

METHODIST SCHOOL HALL

MALVERN HILL, CROYDON

on

MONDAY, MARCH 31st

at 8 p.m.

The Prohibition Party expects that every citizen will voice their emphatic protest at these meetings and elsewhere against continuance of the liquor traffic.

You must hear

R. B. S. HAMMOND

The Popular Leader of the Prohibition Party tell you the reasons why Parliament must be dry.

Admission is Free. Collection.



OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT.

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

MOTHER'S DAY.

Crusaders and friends are asked to do their best to make this year's demonstration a huge success. All leaflets and information matter are available and can be obtained from Room 32, N.S.W. Alliance, or by applying by letter.

Early door tickets, 1/- each, are available, and we would impress upon our friends the advisability of procuring a ticket. Those not holding tickets will be obliged to wait until the procession is seated before they can get admission to the hall. Make certain of your seat—procure a ticket.

MOTHER'S DAY DISPLAYS.

Many Societies will plan to enter displays for the procession and to give emphasis to Mother's Day. Here are some ideas:

(1) Procession of children, each carrying banner with a portrait of Mother, and underneath the words "My Mother," followed by suitable quotation, such as:

"A Boy's Best Friend."

"The Household Fairy."

"God Bless Her."

"The Greatest Heroine of Life."

"The Queen of Home."

(2) Lorry, arranged as kitchen, with Mother hard at work. Write over it "The Household Fairy."

(3) Lorry decorated as room, with Mother sitting at ease and children either setting or cleaning table, mending clothes, etc. Over it print "Lend a helping hand to Mother."

(4) Lorry, with rows of seats and pulpit, to represent interior of chapel. Children sitting with Mother. They could be singing "Mother's Day" songs. Print over it, "Go to Church to-morrow for Mother's sake."

(5) Lorry, with post boxes at each corner, and boys posting letters. Some, as postmen, could empty boxes and deliver letters again. Print on it, "Post a letter to Mother to-day."

(6) Group of boys, dressed as postmen, carrying aloft a large representation of envelope. On front put address: "To Mother; Home Sweet Home, Everywhere." On back put: "Write to her to-day."

(7) Lorry, decorated with white flowers, with writing over it, "Wear one to-morrow in honor of Mother."

PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE.

Individuals and societies are urged to show their interest right now by filling in particulars on the form herewith and posting to our office immediately.

(Continued on page 10.)

FIVE POUNDS.

Sincere thanks for a five pound note sent anonymously from "A Friend," with the request that it be acknowledged in "Grit." Again, thanks.

THE WORK OF THE WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

REPRESENTATIVE WOMEN'S PROHIBITION LEAGUE.

The first meeting of the League for the current year was held at the Feminist Club last Monday, and was splendidly attended.

Representatives from all the branches were present, about 200 in all attending. Mr. Fritz Kunz, B.A., a very distinguished American lecturer, spoke upon the achievement of Prohibition in the United States, and aroused very considerable enthusiasm as a result of his address.

Mr. Kunz has determined to give every possible assistance to the work of the Representative Women's Prohibition League during his stay in our city. Miss Preston Stanley outlined the work for the year, and emphasised the necessity for co-operation in a plan for raising revenue for the great fight which lies ahead of the movement.

Miss Stanley pointed out that this was probably the most important year in our history. We could place the movement in the forefront of the political situation or we could, by our failure to realise the necessities of our present position, remain in the back-waters of the political life of our State. The present situation demands courage, determination, endurance and sacrifice, and Miss Stanley concluded: "It is to the women of this State, and particularly to the women who are members of the Representative Women's Prohibition League, to whom we look to supply these qualities to the present great struggle."

Miss Stanley reported the formation of a Theosophical Branch of the Women's Prohibition League, with Mrs. McLennan, a very forcible speaker and clear-headed, capable woman, as President; Miss Upwood and Mrs. Freedman as Joint Honorary Secretaries. This organisation has undertaken a definite share in the work of the organisation. They have agreed to carry on the activities of the League in the Northern Suburbs from Barrenjoey to Chatswood. They will arrange the meetings of the existing branches and undertake to organise further branches in North Sydney, Cremorne and Neutral Bay, and also to assist our fighting fund by the arrangement of either one large or a series of small revenue-producing events during the year. The response from the branches to Miss Stanley's appeal for assistance was very generous.

The Burwood Women's Branch undertook to again organise a fete in the Burwood district, and the meeting to consider ways and means has been arranged for Wednesday, the 19th inst., at 3 p.m. A meeting of the General Fete Committee is also to be held in Burwood on the 17th inst., through the good offices of Mr. Samuel Vickery.

The Wollstonecraft Branch has undertaken a fete which has been arranged for Saturday, May 17, and which we hope will be held at the residence of Lady Hay, North Sydney. The Wollstonecraft Branch is seeking the co-operation of the Greenwich Branch in this event. This branch has also arranged to hold four dances during the winter, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the Prohibition Fighting Fund.

The Manly Branch, with its President, Mrs. A. A. Kemp, has also undertaken to arrange either a fete or some revenue-producing effort in the course of the next few months. Mrs. John Fell also offered to allow her grounds to be used for another fete this year, and the women of the Eastern Suburbs also agreed to very heartily co-operate in a fete for that district.

Eastern Suburbs-Waverley.—We desire to express our appreciation of the kind co-operation of the ministers and of the Churches throughout the Waverley district.

Already a successful women's meeting has been held in Waverley. A branch of the Representative League has been formed, and they have resolved to throw themselves heartily into the work for the fete.

We are specially indebted to Rev. Macaulay and Rev. Riley for their sympathy and interest in the matter.

Bondi.—A very successful meeting was held in the Rev. Dunstan's Church, when a Bondi Branch of the Representative Women's Prohibition League was formed, and which resolved itself into a Fete Committee, which has decided to do an adequate share in the work of the fete.

Meetings have been arranged for Randwick, Vaucluse and Rose Bay, when there is every prospect of securing the very generous co-operation of our friends.

The Croydon Park-Enfield Branch is well ahead with its fete arrangements. The fete is to be held at "Montreal," George's River Road, Enfield, the residence of the energetic Secretary, Mrs. Bray, on Saturday, April 5, from 3 to 10 p.m. The fete will be opened by Mrs. Pratten, and addresses will be delivered by the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond and Miss Preston Stanley, and the chief of the Rechabites.

Mrs. Bray is having her grounds electrically lighted for the occasion, and a band will be in attendance.

The Refreshment Stall is to be in charge of the Presbyterian Ladies' Guild; the Jumble Stall, Mrs. Gilbert; the Sweet Stall, Mrs. Grant; the Cake Stall, the Misses Robinson; the Cool Drinks and Ices, the Rechabite girls and boys; and there are to be many most interesting side-shows.

One of the features of the occasion will be a number of walking Lucky Dips, where prizes to the value of the money expended are to be had in infinite variety.

Amongst some valuable meetings recently held was one under the auspices of the Granville Women's Branch, when Mr. Fritz Kunz, Miss Preston Stanley, and Mr. Morrow, M.L.A., addressed the meeting. Dr. Richard Arthur presided. One of the notable features of the occasion was the number of people who were not Prohibitionists who attended to hear the facts from an American speaker. Mr. Kunz delivered a most eloquent and glowing address, which was forceful and convincing. The branch is to be heartily congratulated on the nature of their propaganda. Owing to the indomitable courage and energy of Mrs. Nicholls, the President of the Branch, two very successful meetings have been held in the Local Town Hall. A most interesting newspaper correspondence has been conducted, and she has made a very big and fine effort to convince men and women that Prohibition is their business.

A most successful meeting was held under the auspices of the Lakemba Women's Branch last week. The Rev. Mr. Peacock presided over this meeting, and the Secretary, Mrs. Cottier, is certainly deserving of the appreciation of the League for her persistent efforts to make her branch a factor in the life of the suburb.

A successful girls' meeting was addressed by Mrs. Partridge in Croydon under the auspices of the local branch.

A public meeting has been arranged under the auspices of the Women's League at Mosman Town Hall on March 27 at 8 p.m., when Mr. Fritz Kunz will again speak and Mr. Hammond, our leader, will make a statement on behalf of the Prohibition Party, supported by Dr. Richard Arthur, and Mr. R. W. D. Weaver, M.L.A., presiding. We

want our friends to attend this meeting. Every effort is being made to make it a memorable success.

The Business Women's Prohibition League is certainly very much alive. A few days ago one of the most interesting meetings yet held by this organisation took place at the Feminist Club, when a mock election was held, and candidates representing Nationalism, Labor and Prohibition, together with an Independent candidate and a woman candidate, presented their views to the electors. Miss Arscott acted as returning officer, with the following girls as candidates:

Miss Phillips, Prohibitionist.

Miss Sinclair, Nationalist.

Miss Flett, Labor.

Miss Andrew, Independent.

Miss Preston Stanley, the Woman Candidate.

Each candidate had a nominator and a seconder, and the result was a victory for the Woman Candidate. As the Woman Candidate expressed the strongest Prohibition convictions her success was really a Prohibition as well as a Feminist victory.

The next meeting of the Business Women's League is to be held next Wednesday, the 19th inst., at the Feminist Club, when there will be nine tables, each of which will be presided over by a leader who will lead the discussion on some aspect of the Prohibition question. The speakers have been arranged as follows:

Miss Ruby Rich.—"Alcohol, its influence on racial development."

Miss M. Lade.—"Alcohol and the human body."

Miss P. Sinclair.—"Prohibition as a promoter of industrial efficiency."

Miss E. Arscott.—"Prohibition as a waster of income, morals and health."

Miss E. Johnston.—"Every woman's responsibility to social service."

Miss M. Flett.—"Prohibition as a protector of all that is best in our social life."

Miss B. Phillips.—"Prohibition as a prohibitor."

Miss E. M. Andrews.—"Is moderate drinking a social evil?"

Miss Preston Stanley.—"Woman, the race mother—a programme of social service."

Tea will be provided at 1/3 a head, and a very joyous and valuable meeting is expected. Tea will be served at 6.15 p.m.

We hope that the prospects in the Western Suburbs will be as good as those in the Eastern Suburbs when our branches are a little more matured.

For Supper
INGLIS'
Coffee Essence
Is Delicious

Ask Your Grocer

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

A NEW RECRUIT?

MORE ABOUT SPOOKS.

Mr. Booze Continues His Pranks.—Sly Grog, Violence and Crime.

(By C.)

Mr. Booze easily beats the most popular of our public men in the demand he makes upon our attention. No newspaper ever accorded to a Prime Minister the space weekly accorded to him. This page aims at reviewing the career week by week of Mr. Booze, and it must be confessed that there is never any shortage of material. Mr. Booze never rests and his pranks are endless. He seems to invade every sphere of human life and interest. In the past week alone he occupied approximately 320 inches of space in the daily newspapers, which is equivalent to between ten and fifteen columns, according to size and type.

HERE'S A HEALTH UNTO

His Excellency the Governor, Admiral Sir Dudley de Chair. It seems that we may welcome him as a recruit to the cause of Prohibition. At any rate, it is reported that he is a teetotaler. According to the London correspondent of "The Guardian," official circles are "curiously watching how the temperance principles of Sir Dudley de Chair will be received in Sydney."

We do not suppose that official circles are concerning themselves about that matter in the least. Bad as our drinking habits are, it is improbable that we enjoy the reputation of being bemused by booze to the extent of looking upon a "dry" Governor with wondering eyes. Even "The Guardian" has not had the nerve to ask Sir Dudley whether he is on "the water waggon," but it has been nosing around as usual and professes to have noticed that His Excellency avoids strong waters at banquets.

What well-bred men some of our local journalists are, to be sure!

WANTED—A GOOD SOFT DRINK.

It is said that the new Governor's temperance principles will set a good example. Well, they ought to, and if the fashion set at Government House is as closely followed in this respect as it is in others, no doubt they will. Remains the question as to what is the best sort of soft drink to "set before the King."

As a rule the complaint that there is no good soft drink comes from the boozers. It is their stock excuse for taking something stronger. But now we have it on the authority of the Women's Temperance Union that soft drinks often contain injurious matter owing to the fermentation of fruit juices. The President (Mrs. McLeod) said so at the Hobart Conference last week, and she added that "it appeared to her that before the issue of Prohibition or Continuance was put to the electors, temperance reformers should endeavor to find desirable substitutes for beverages now consumed." Oh, dear! Oh, my!

A SUGGESTION.

Well, here goes. As suggestions are wanted, here is one derived from New Zealand. It is offered by way of compromise and without guarantee.

The writer once knew a Prohibition family living in Christchurch. They were hospitable people and frequently entertained their friends. About 10 p.m. sandwiches, cakes, tea, coffee and cordials were produced. Amongst the latter there was always a bottle of ginger wine, and most of the guests preferred a small glass of ginger wine.

Indeed, before departing they could always be induced to have another little drop. It was always noticeable that these little parties became very jolly before the night was done, and as one of those who used to be invited remarked to the writer, "The idea that you cannot be jolly and enjoy yourself without drinking beer or whiskey is sheer nonsense."

Just so. Perhaps "The Guardian" would make discreet inquiries with a view to ascertaining whether the Governor jibs at ginger wine. If he does not, that fact will solve the perplexities of many a hostess.

VIOLENCE, INFIDELITY, EMBEZZLEMENT.

Booze has been responsible during the past week for the usual amount of misery.

The Leura tragedy, involving a charge of murder against a man named Shuttleworth, appears to have been the direct result of booze. The evidence showed that both men had been drinking all day and the licensee of the Alexandra Hotel stated in evidence that Sharp, the murdered man, had eight or nine whiskies during the afternoon and bought half a bottle before six o'clock.

In the Divorce Court a husband secured a decree nisi against his wife who, according to the evidence, "got drunk periodically" and had a most violent temper, assaulting her husband with bottle and poker when he remonstrated with her.

At North Sydney Police Court a man 35 years of age was convicted of embezzling the paltry sum of £2/18/-. He admitted that his lapse was due to drink. Booze will make a man stake his honor and his reputation for the sake of a few shillings. What else will produce the same effect?

At the same Court another man was heavily fined for hitting and kicking a policeman whilst under the influence.

And these are but a few cases picked out at random—all in one week!

WHO SAID "SPOOKS?"

The "spook" problem is still engaging attention. The latest development is an attempt to erect the matter into one of first-rate political importance by suggesting that it may cause a split in the Cabinet between Mr. Oakes and Mr. Ley.

Nobody will seriously believe that the question of appointing two inspectors under the Liquor Act is likely to produce a Cabinet crisis, and it is not difficult to divine whence these mischievous suggestions do proceed. There is a palpable conspiracy on foot to intimidate the Minister for Justice, and it is to be hoped that he will refuse to surrender to the specious pleas which are being urged from interested quarters.

Meanwhile, it seems that the police have no rooted objection to "spooks" or their methods. The following appeared in the "Evening News" of the 6th inst.:

"The police night patrol, composed of uniform men in plain clothes, often careers around the silent streets without anything to show that the men are members of the force—there's not a warrant card in the whole bunch.

"Police Conference to-day decided to ask that the driver at least be given a card, so that on a raid he may vouch for the rest."

Which is all very well and as it should be in a force which hates secret and under-hand methods, but what about the joy rides?

BALLOTS AND BEER.

Mr. Alfred Carter, Secretary of the Factory Employees' Union, throws a lurid light on the relation between booze and the purity—or rather, impurity—of public life. He tells a tale of how, on one occasion in Sydney, prior to the opening of a selection ballot, "polling booth officials and others interested got up early in the morning and proceeded to mark ballot papers in favor of certain candidates. An unexpected visitor wanted to know what the game was. He was asked who he was representing, and on mentioning the name of a candidate, a compromise was made, and the visitor was allowed to mark 200 ballot papers himself. So pleased was he with his morning's work that he drank too much and, unguardedly, began to tell various people what he had accomplished for his candidate. Supposed friends gave him more liquor and put him in a room to sleep off its effects. When he woke up the ballot was over and his friend, even after getting 200 votes, was defeated."

All very savory, isn't it?

Mr. Carter adds that a few years ago politicians used to pay 10/- each for votes, "but," he goes on, "some of the would-be politicians of to-day resort to other tactics. Filling in ballot papers or bribing the hangers-on at pubs with a pint or two is much less expensive."

SLY GROG.

Step by step we are getting nearer to Inspector Mitchell's exact point of view as to when breaking the law is not breaking the law, or, at any rate, merely an agreeable and pleasantly inoffensive sport for the great.

It will be remembered that recently he declared that it would be ridiculous of the police to summon the Premier—or Inspector Mitchell himself—for drinking after hours. Well, recently the police visited several hotels after hours. "At one," we are told, "the visiting Victorian Parliamentarians and a number of local members were being entertained. The room in which the function was being held was not exempted from the scrutiny of the police."

We are not told what they found there, or whether they were invited to take something. But we have not noticed that any members of Parliament have been summoned lately for breaking the liquor laws, so perhaps it was only ginger wine.

Mr. Mitchell reminds us of the Jesuits as described by Lord Macaulay, who points out that they modified their methods according to the people they had to deal with. Always saintly and austere fathers to the poor and lowly, they were ever tolerant to exalted folk. "The gay cavalier who has thrust his rival through the body; and the frail beauty who has been false to her marriage vows, finds in him an easy, well-bred man of the world ever ready to excuse the little irregularities of people of fashion."

By the bye, a man was recently fined for selling six bottles of beer to a policeman at half-past ten at night. The evidence does not state whether the policeman was dressed in "spook" clothes.

CHILDREN IN WINE BARS.

Every reader of "Grit" will endorse the protest of the Methodist Conference at the fact that while the law prevents the presence of children in public house bars, there is no similar provision respecting wine bars. The Conference has directed the attention of the Minister of Justice to this anomaly, and it is to be hoped that it will be remedied without delay.

MORE THAN SATISFIED WITH GRIFFITHS BROS.'

PEKOE
FLAVOURED
TEA



A RUIN—A STORY—A GHOST.

I DISCOVER A RUIN.

The desire to "find out" explains every explorer and gambler. The most valuable trait in the character

of our race is the desire to explore the unknown. Our Empire is far-flung and embraces so great a portion of the globe because as a people we are keen to know what lies beyond the bend in the road.

That path which I discovered last week, the one which I imagined led to Nowhere, has been explored. The desire to know just where that path ended took me away from home early yesterday. I crammed some tucker into my pockets, slung a water-bottle across my shoulders, and set forth to find out the secret of that bush track.

I was at the clearing, where the big dead tree is, early, and after a brief rest was on the track again. An hour's walk brought me to flat country and a definite track which improved and widened into a cart road. And here was the secret of the path. Back about seventy yards there stood the ruins of a house. The fence in front of the place was all awry, the slip-rails were down—pathetic evidence of a departure which gave no promise of a return—and the spirit of loneliness was everywhere. I went over to the ruins with that peculiar feeling which possesses one when one is in the presence of death. I made an effort to reconstruct the scene. The roof was gone, the water-tank overturned, the walls were crumbling;

an old stove rusted in a corner and bits of iron, wire, and those odds and ends which collect in the wake of men lie scattered everywhere.

When was the house built? Who built it, and why was it abandoned? These questions I vainly tried to answer.

I left the ruin early after noon. I would find another way back home, and decided to head due north and risked getting bushed. About three-quarters of a mile from the deserted homestead I came to a cultivation plot, and in the manner of Sherlock Holmes I at once deduced there must be a house somewhere nearby. I found the house and in double quick time was seated on a wide verandah with Mr. M—, discussing those many ills which afflict farmers. My host was worth a ten-mile walk to meet. Six feet one inch in his socks—when Church Sunday or a social demanded his wearing a pair—iron-grey hair and bushy beard, clear kindly eyes which reflected the soul of a man who always ploughed a straight furrow, a quiet musical voice and quaint way of repeating softly to himself the last few words of a sentence.

His three-score years and twelve rested lightly upon him. "Yes, I've been on this place for nigh fifty years; we came by bullock waggon, and a mighty long way it seemed. The missus was heavy with our

first boy and she stood the journey well. We were both only just turned twenty-one, and a few hardships didn't matter then. . . . Yes, we've reared eleven—six boys and five girls. They're mostly all married except Em, who stays with the missus and me . . . That place in ruins? Yes, that was Berkley's home. You must have come the long way round to have come across that place. He was a decent chap, and his wife was all gold too; she was the bravest little woman I ever knew . . . I drove them home after they were married. A well-matched pair they were. For about five years his was the best kept place along the river. He had a knack of doing things. Some men have, and some ain't got the knack—well, he had it. . . I never knew him take a drink until near the end of the big drought. I recall the day well. I was up at the hotel arguing with a buyer about three pigs I was after selling when Berkley joined us and at once invited us to have a drink. He drank spirits like a madman, and after having more than he could carry rushed out to his buggy and drove away as though the devil was after him. That started it. From that day Berkley went to the dogs. . . I'm not an interfering sort, but when my missus told me that Berkley had marked his wife with a stick I went over and let him know that that sort of funny business must stop. He never spoke back, but listened and said, 'Alright.' . . . It must have been two years after when my missus started to visit Mrs. Berkley every other day. The missus always took a basket, but 'twasn't no business of mine what she was taking with her. That went on for nearly a twelve-month, and Berkley got to

(Continued on page 10.)

BABY'S FIRST PORTRAIT.

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**The Australasian White Cross
League,**

56 ELIZABETH-STREET, SYDNEY.

W. E. WILSON, Hon. Secretary.

A Personal Chat with my readers

CHARITY. There is no greater reflection on our good sense and our religion than the way we handle our charities. We swell up with pride over £100 taken at a charity ball, though the new dresses cost at least a couple of thousands, and the expenses of transport, etc., ran into a couple of hundred easily. And then no one gave to charity, since all they spent was on themselves, and every penny given was to purchase pleasure. We really are 90 per cent. a contemptably mean lot.

All the giving in Sydney is done by less than 100,000 of the people, just 10 per cent., the other 90 per cent. don't pull their own weight in the boat.

The chap who always gave his wife some expensive linen as a birthday present was a good, kind fellow, and he was so thorough in his generosity that he always kissed her and said, "My dear, you can make it up into shirts for me." That chap has a host of relatives.

Greed tempts us all, but when charity yields to temptation and makes the chocolate wheel, the card party, and the dance an agent, then it ceases to be anything but self-indulgence under a very poor cloak. Charity may cover a multitude of sins in the repentant sinner, but not in the unrepentant church. Pious gambling devices and thinly-veiled selfishness may produce money, but they overwhelmingly defeat their purpose.

THE BADGE OF SELFISHNESS. The Government Statistician has just informed us that while our population and marriages have increased, there were 100 fewer babies in 1923 than in 1922.

There were actually 113 more marriages and 100 fewer babies. No less than 1404 babies died in the first few months after coming into the world; that equals 63.8 per 1000 births. How much of that is due to ignorance and wickedness may never be known. It is evident that babies have a rougher spin in N.S.W. than our boys had at Gallipoli. There is no remedy in legislation, education, or a baby bonus; it is only to be found in the sense of obligation and the sense of privilege, that is a fruit of real religion.

MEDICATED WINES. The "Australasian Journal of Pharmacy" ranks with the best in the world, and is a very high-toned and valuable magazine. It says editorially:

"Increased attention on the part of the licensing police is being given to alleged

abuses arising out of the sale of medicated wines by pharmacists. The matter is sufficiently serious to cause considerable concern to those who have the interests of their profession at heart. Apart from the possibility of the sale of these wines by chemists being further restricted, there is the attendant stigma attaching to pharmacists generally when cases of deliberate evasion of the spirit of the law are brought to light. These wines serve a legitimate purpose, but unless greater discretion is exercised in regard to their sale there is a danger that their sale by pharmacists may be prohibited altogether. Pharmacists are advised only to sell medicated wines during the hours that licensed premises are open, not to sell on Sundays at all, and in addition to labelling the bottle with their name and address, to inquire of each purchaser if the article is required for medicinal purposes. According to legal opinion which has been obtained, failure to observe these precautions may lead to prosecution under the Licensing Act."

DECEPTIVE FIGURES.

On page ten I have a statement that is most significant, and I want my readers to give it special notice. When a statement is cabled from the U.S.A. our papers, for reasons best known to themselves, never analyse it, explain it, or supply the facts that will interpret it.

This results in endless confusion and much misunderstanding. 115,000 cases under the Volstead Act seems a vast number, but first of all it is for four years, and only means 29,000 a year.

Even this seems a large number until you remember there are 110,000,000 people in the States. Then again, remember 10,000,000 of them are negroes, and another 30,000,000 are foreigners as we understand the word, ignorant of the law, with prejudices, habits and traditions which do not dispose them to think well of the Prohibition law.

America's record is miraculous and makes ours look very pitiable and one to be ashamed of.

MONEY TALKS. It has been said with truth that "money talks." It does so, like

a parrot, in an intermittent and disappointing way. To most people it only says, "Good-bye." To some its faintest whisper is law, and they sooner or later find out that while it is the best of servants, it is the poorest of masters.

I heard a money story recently that amused me:

A woman depositor entered a bank to make a deposit. She had some bills and cheques to deposit, so she procured a deposit slip which required the listing of bills, specie, and cheques. She listed her bills and cheques in their respective places, but was somewhat in doubt as to what to list under specie.

GRIT

A JOURNAL OF
NATIONAL EFFICIENCY
AND PROHIBITION

"Grit, clear Grit."—A pure Americanism, standing for Pluck, or Energy, or Industry, or all three. References probably had to the sandstones used for grindstones—the more grit they contain the better they wear.

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SYDNEY, THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1924.

After a few moments' thought she wrote after the word specie "Female," and turned in her deposit.

What decided this in her mind?

The Editor

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THOSE "SPOOKS."

PRESENT CONTROL OF LIQUOR TRAFFIC ILLUSORY. SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE POLICE.

By R. B. S. HAMMOND.

The police of New South Wales, headed by the Inspector-General (Mr. Mitchell), have publicly expressed the strongest opposition to the proposal of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ley) to appoint two civilian inspectors for the more efficient control of the liquor traffic in the city of Sydney.

There is every reason to believe that pressure is being brought to bear upon the Minister to reverse his decision. It is to be hoped that, in this instance, Mr. Ley will stick to his guns. Apart from the merits of the specific proposal, it would indeed be a grave menace to public liberty and the free operation of the institutions of government if Ministers could be successfully intimidated by the police.

So important is the whole question of control of the liquor traffic that I, as President and Campaign Director of the New South Wales Alliance, addressed the following letter to the Sydney press. The letter appeared in a truncated and somewhat misleading form in some of the lesser newspapers, but was printed in extenso in the "Daily Telegraph" of March 7:

POLICE "SPOOKS."

In view of the strenuous opposition of the police and the "trade" alike to the appointment of special civilian inspectors to enforce a better observance of the liquor laws, I make no apology for dealing with the matter in some detail. The public interest involved is too important to allow the case to go by default.

There can be no question whatever that the liquor laws as they are now can be more efficiently administered under a system of special inspectors, such as is contemplated by the Government, than they ever have been in the past. The public have a right to this protection until they have the opportunity to outlaw it by voting for Prohibition.

The failure of the police to control the liquor traffic is notorious. They never have controlled it. They never could control it. In some cases, they never seriously wanted to control it. It is a fact that drinking amongst the police has in the past led to some officers being disrated. It is also a fact that drunkenness is on the increase, that men under the "influence" may be seen in most bars any day, and that the police only become active when the drunks are put out of the bars at closing time.

Fourteen of the sixty-four advertisements in the police magazine, issued monthly by the Police Association, are liquor advertisements, and one of them declares that the hotel proprietor is the policeman's friend. Seeing that the police themselves will readily admit that the major part of the social disorders they are called upon to clean up is due to excessive drinking, it is possible to question the propriety of admitting these liquor advertisements to the columns of a police journal.

Generally speaking, the police are a fine and estimable body of men, well-informed, obliging and courteous to the public. That does not affect the fact that the public have

lost all confidence in the efficiency of the police as an agency for the control of the liquor traffic and the administration of the liquor laws. Let me put three questions to the police:

(1) If it is wrong to appoint special men to control the liquor traffic, why is it not wrong for the police to appoint civilian specials to help them catch sly-grog vendors and other law-breakers?

(2) If the police are so tender about the proposed new appointment, why did they not object to the licensed victuallers appointing five special officers to control liquor-law breakers? I refer the police to Mr. Durham and Mr. Donnison for details, but I happen to know that some, if not all, of those appointees of the liquor people were ex-policemen.

(3) If the specials are to be called "spooks," why did the police offer no protest to the specials appointed under the Pure Food Act, and why are they not called "spooks"?—Yours, etc.,

ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

LETTER CAUSES SENSATION.—MARKED OFFICIAL RETICENCE.

This outspoken letter caused a sensation and became the topic of general conversation.

The letter was, of course, written with the object of demonstrating the necessity for the appointment of the special civilian inspectors contemplated by the Minister. But owing to the way in which some portions of the letter were featured in certain newspapers discussion centred chiefly around the question whether the police are boozers. It will, of course, be noticed that no suggestion of the sort against the police as a body is made in the letter. In any case, the question whether certain police officials have been dismissed from the force in consequence of excessive drinking is only a side issue, though it is an important one as bearing upon the main issue.

The following article appeared in the "Sun" of March 7:

DO POLICE DRINK?

OFFICIAL SILENCE.

R. B. S. HAMMOND'S ATTACK.

The Inspector-General: I have nothing to say. You had better see Mr. Oakes.

The Chief Secretary: I have nothing to say about it now. You can see Mr. Mitchell if you like.

These were the replies made by the two heads of the police force to-day when they were asked if they had any comment to make on the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond's attack on the police regarding the administration of the Liquor Act.

Mr. Hammond was reported to have declared last night that the police had never controlled the liquor traffic, that they never could control it, that in some instances they never seriously wanted to do so, and that drinking among members of the force had brought about the disrating of some officers.

The Inspector-General (Mr. Mitchell) said he had read Mr. Hammond's remarks. He

LADIES—

The Beautifully Illustrated

"KING" TEA

Catalogue of Free Gifts is Now Obtainable.

Ask your Grocer or Storekeeper.

smiled broadly, and repeated some of them to himself.

"No, I have nothing to say about it," he said. "It is not for us to reply. You had better see Mr. Oakes."

WHY PICK ON POLICE?

Questioned about the statement referring to drinking among members of the police force causing disratings, Mr. Mitchell said: "That is public property. Why single out the police force—a body of 3000 men? You can go much higher in the professional ladder, and find that men have been disrated for the same thing."

Outside the Chief Secretary's office a motor car was waiting to take Mr. Oakes for a holiday. He was stopped as he left his room, with his hat on and a bag in his hand making for the lift.

When he was asked if he had anything to say in reply to Mr. Hammond, he said, "No, I have nothing to say about that now. I will be back on Tuesday. I may have something to say then."

He had almost reached the lift by the time his remarks ended. As far as the heads of the Police Department are concerned, the matter appears to rest there—until Mr. Oakes's return from his holiday on Tuesday. It was like a game of tennis, in which the Chief Secretary and the Inspector-General each wanted to lose the game.

The Secretary of the N.S.W. Police Association (Mr. Fortescue) said that he did not think Mr. Hammond's remarks worth replying to.

(The above calls for little comment. In view of the fact the Police Association considers itself qualified to give lessons in logic to the Minister of Justice—see the remarks of its President at the annual meeting—it is not surprising that its Secretary should not consider my remarks "worth replying to." Prudence is the better part of valor. In this deal I hold the cards, and Mr. Fortescue knows it. As for Mr. Mitchell, he should have said nothing at all. His comment lays him open to the obvious retort that the police are singled out because it is they who are charged with the administration of the liquor laws. For the rest, Mr. Mitchell admits the indictment.—R.B.S.H.)

(See page 12).

THE BEEHIVE NOVELTY STORES

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GOODS, NOVELTIES AND TOYS,
DIP TOYS, STREAMERS, BALLOONS,
Etc., Etc.

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PROHIBITION WINS AGAIN.

LIQUOR LAWLESSNESS IN AMERICA.—SIX TIMES GREATER IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

According to a cable message from Washington, dated February 17, which was printed in the Sydney newspapers of February 19, it appears that the report of the Department of Justice to President Coolidge concerning the four years' enforcement of Prohibition shows that an excess of 115,000 criminal cases had been prosecuted under the Volstead (Prohibition) Act, of which 80 per cent. had resulted in convictions, with fines exceeding 15,000,000 dollars.

Seven times as many cases were prosecuted in 1923 as in 1920, and eight times as many convictions were secured.

In other words, the enforcement of the liquor law is rapidly becoming more efficient.

AN INTERESTING COMPARISON.

This, of course, is satisfactory, because it proves that public opinion is strengthening in support of the Volstead Act. You never can enforce a law which does not enjoy public approbation.

But, interesting as this is in itself, it is by no means the most interesting or the most instructive fact disclosed in the report referred to in the cable message. It is stated there that in four years there have been 115,000 prosecutions under the Volstead Act. That is an average of a little under 29,000 per annum. The population of the United States is approximately 110,000,000, so that

the number of prosecutions under the Volstead Act per million of the population per annum works out at 263.

Now let us compare this with the number of prosecutions for breaches of the liquor laws in the State of New South Wales. According to the last annual police report, the number of cases brought against breakers of the liquor laws was 3339 for the year 1922 alone. The population of the State is approximately 2,100,000, so that the rate per annum per million of the population is 1588.

Thus the relative amount of liquor lawlessness under Prohibition in the United States, as compared with the licensing system in New South Wales, is represented by the proportion 263 to 1588, or less than 1 to 6. That is to say:

More than five-sixths of offences under the liquor law are directly the result of the licensing system. Prohibition has done away with 84 per cent. of police prosecutions.

To put the position in another way: on the basis of 3339 cases per annum for a population of 2,100,000, the number of prosecutions in four years in the State of New South Wales under license, supposing we had the same population as the United States, would have been, not 115,000, but 694,512.

Our Young People's Department—

(Continued from page 4.)

Information from Individuals.

I will help by distributing leaflets, visiting societies, ushering, selling buttons, marching in procession. (Cross out those you cannot do).

No. leaflets required
No. buttons required
Name and address

Information from Societies.

No. of leaflets for distribution
No. of buttons for sale
Date and time of visit to Society
No. of Society expected in procession, for whom seats must be reserved
Display will be entered in Class No.
Name of Society
Name and address of responsible officer of Society

WRITE NOW.

Address all communications in reference to this demonstration to—

E. SPURGEON GILBERT,
N.S.W. Alliance,
321 Pitt St., Sydney.

FIRST-HAND INFORMATION.

A nurse, recently arrived from New York, supplies the Director of the Y.P. Dept. with the following authentic information on the effect of Prohibition upon sanitoriums:

"This is my personal experience regarding Prohibition in New York in my capacity as trained nurse. I was called on a case to

take care of a little girl whose father owned and ran a sanitorium for the treatment of alcoholic cases in conjunction with a doctor. When I was on this case Prohibition had been in force about a year, and at that time there was only one case under treatment. Shortly after this the sanitorium, from lack of alcoholic cases, was sold and turned into a boarding house."

MILE OF PENNIES.

Several books of (sold) Mile of Pennies have been received, but no name has been given with them, consequently we have not been able to forward the names to the Editor of "Australian Young Folks" so that copies of this paper might be sent to them. We await the names.

UNCLAIMED SEALS.

Quite a number of Signed Pledges for New Day Crusade have come to hand without any intimation as to where they come from, hence the seals cannot be forwarded.

W. H. MITCHELL,
Director of Y.P. Dept.

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The Odd Job Man's Diary—

(Continued from page 7.)

raving. He would be away from home for a week at the time, and his wife did the work. Mark you, she did the work of that farm and minded her three kiddies for a matter of more than three years. I never saw much of her, but Jean—that's the missus—used to tell me how things were going. . . . The end of the business came all of a sudden. One Thursday Berkley went up to the hotel in the morning and stayed till he was turned out. But he never reached home. They found him dead beside the road. There was an inquest—the first I remember in these parts—and the verdict was 'death from natural causes,' which of course meant that nobody had murdered him. Of course we all knew it was him who murdered himself. After the funeral I went over to Mrs. Berkley, and there wasn't a stick of furniture in the whole dashed place. Just a few boxes and two old mattresses. Why my missus never told me I don't know. I never questioned her about it—women sort of like to keep some things to themselves. . . . The place was mortgaged up to the hilt, and his missus never had a penny. We bought the place and did what we could for the widow. She went to New Zealand, and last we heard, about fourteen years ago, she was doing fine. . . . Whenever I go over to Berkley's place I see a very good reason why I won't have a drink. . . . Yes, I've been teetotal for a good many years now."

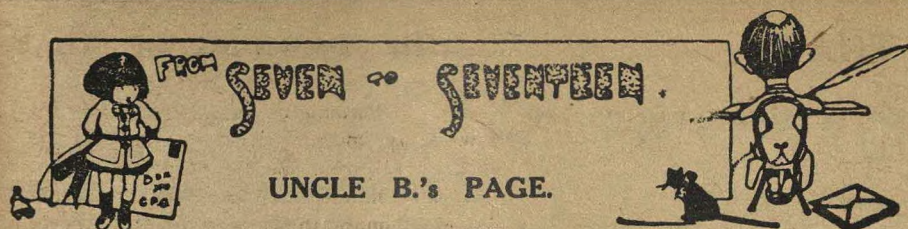
Such was the story my host told me. He was quite ignorant of my interest in the Prohibition movement. In fact, after we had become real chummy over a cup of tea he said, "I suppose you might be a commercial of some sort," and then I told him why his story was of peculiar interest to me.

* * *

Go where you will,
ITS TRACK IS EVERYWHERE. you cannot escape the sinister track of alcohol. The crowded city and the less settled bush are studded with the homes of Berkleys.

I visited the hotel which had been the means of Berkley's tragedy. It was under new management and the landlord informed me that he didn't know of anybody of that name in the district. I am afraid I went near to startling that landlord when I said to him, "You will get to know Berkley. His ghost wanders about here all day and night. . . . He drank a farm and a home in this bar and spoiled a woman's life. . ."

In a room next to the bar I saw a drunken man sprawling over a couch. I called the landlord and, pointing to the drunk, I said, "Oh, there he is—the ghost of Berkley. I knew he was about here somewhere." The landlord seemed too flabbergasted for speech. I left him staring at the drunk while I hurried out of the house and made my way home.



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.

THE OTHER FELLOW.

Do you know how many children are in the various Church Homes—the Burnside Homes, the Church of England Homes, Methodist Homes, Salvation Army Homes, Mr. Ardill's Homes, and others?

There are quite 1000. Do you know why they are there?

Irreligion and drink are the two biggest factors.

Do you know that thinking about these things should make you—

Grateful for your home.

Grateful for your Church.

Grateful for your circumstances.

I want you to say a little prayer every day for the children in these Homes, for those who are caring for them, and for those who have it in their power to give to them.

UNCLE B.

OUR LETTER BAG.

PEN COUSINS!

Elsie Rogers, "Merrington," Main-street, Young, writes: I don't know when I wrote last or whether I am a scallywag or not, but if I am the latter, please forgive me. I had some presents given me for Christmas, including a nice signet ring, on which I am going to have my initials engraved, and a lovely fountain pen, with which I am writing this. How are things going with you, Uncle B.? I haven't anything to complain about. I have gained two nice new chums this year so far. I don't make many real chums, but what I have I stick to. I have only three of them at present. Before I only had one, and that was enough. I received a letter from Jean Putland some time last year, about November, so now she and I are "pen cousins," aren't we? I am awfully glad we are able to use a pen, and that pens, ink and paper were manufactured, because it draws us near to people who are miles and miles away, and often we can cause joy by taking up a pen and writing. We can also cause sorrow, of course, but still I am so glad we can write. I saw Kathleen Hughes' letter in "Grit," and I felt I wanted to write, but I have so many pen-friends and the cost of stamps mounts up so, that I didn't after all. Still, I may one of these days. Our Band of Hope meeting is to take place to-night (Thursday), so I will tell you all

about it next time I write (if I don't forget).

Well, Uncle B., I must close, trusting you are well. You see, my fountain pen is no better than any other pen—it runs away from me just the same.

(Dear Elsie,—I like the idea of "pen cousins," and hope every Ne and Ni will have at least one. Hope you remember to tell us about the Band of Hope meeting. I thank you for your prize essay.—Uncle B.)

WHICH?

Len Cundy, Glenreagh, writes: Just a line hoping to find you quite well, as it leaves me the same. Well, Uncle, we are having some big thunderstorms here now, and the grass is growing lovely; the cattle are all looking nice and fresh again. I had myself and the pony snapped this morning. I am sitting on the horse in long trousers, and will send you one when my sister fixes them up. These will be the first snaps she has taken since she got her camera. It was her Xmas box. We will just see if they are any good. My sister snapped Mary also, and I am sure Mary will send you one. I will have to close now as it is time to milk, so good-bye.

(Dear Len,—Will you send me a pony, your trousers, or a snap? I could do with them all just now, that is, when your sister fixes them up. So glad the rain has made things nice again.—Uncle B.)

MIGHT BE BLACKER.

Noel Weaver, Weaver's P.O., Weaver's, via Windsor, writes: I wonder if it is three months since I last wrote to you? I hope my name is not on the black list yet. Still, it would be of a still darker hue if I did not write at all. I know I don't write very often, but half a loaf is better than none. I suppose you have as many letters as you have space for, don't you? We are having beautiful weather lately; everything is growing wonderfully. How are you getting on with Prohibition? I should have a budget of news for you, but things are very quiet up here. We will be losing a lot of our respected residents soon, as some of them are going away, having sold out. I am sure we will all be sorry to lose them, as they have been always helping the district along as much as they can.

(Dear Noel,—In your case the list might be blacker, but the list on which some of your "cousins" are is so black that it makes a nigger look grey.—Uncle B.)

A PROMISE.

Mabel Binks, Fern Bank, Cambewarra, writes: Will you please strike my name off the scallywag list and I will promise to write

more regular? We are very busy at present getting ready to fill our silo, which has a capacity of 100 tons. Our jubilee show was held a few weeks ago, and proved very successful. I stood for my Q.C. last year and succeeded in passing. We had some very beautiful rain yesterday, for which we were very thankful, as the grass and crops were badly in need of it. We obtained a few prizes at the show, one of which was the garden. No more news is available, so hoping you will forgive me for not writing sooner.

(Dear Mabel,—Slow to make promises and slower to break them is a good plan. I hope you will write soon. My scallywag list is full to overflowing.—Uncle B.)

BLACKBERRIES.

Gertie Williams, Forge Creek, writes: I hope I am not on the scallywag list. Please cross my name off if it is on. Thanks for the lovely photos that you sent back with our teacher. We have had a good many pounds of blackberries this year. One day when we went blackberrying we picked a kerosene tin full in about three hours. And on Saturday, when we went again, we picked twenty-three pounds in an hour and a half. We have a good many pumpkins this year. We have nine young turkeys and three full-grown turkeys. On Christmas Day we had our big gobbler for dinner. We play tennis on the court at school and we have four racquets. I must close now. Give my love to all Ne's and Ni's.

(Dear Gertie,—It is a sad business going "black burying," but the kind you seem to do sounds good to me. Twenty-three pounds in an hour sounds wonderful to me. Glad you liked the photos.—Uncle B.)

PUSHED OFF.

Muriel Condon, Dingley Dell, Bairnsdale, writes: I think I am nearly on the scallywag list. If I am on it, please cross my name off. It is very hot here to-day. Dad took his horse to the Omeo Show and won three prizes. We went to a sports carnival on the river and there were fireworks and decorated boats. It was very pretty. We have four fowls and two little bantams, and we milk two cows. We often have a game of tennis at school. I like tennis very much. Last year we had a tennis tournament at school and Gertie Williams won it. We are going to have another one this year.

(Dear Muriel,—You were not crossed off the black list, you were pushed off by the big crowd of scallywags who crowd it. Hope you won the tennis tournament.—Uncle B.)

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JUST FANCY THAT!

THE POLICE AND THE "SPOOKS"—A CHALLENGE TO MR. MITCHELL.

(BY ONE WHO IS IN THE KNOW.)

The author of the following article, which has been specially written for "Grit," has had twenty years' official connection with the Police Force of New South Wales. What he has to say, therefore, possesses all the authority which belongs to an intimate inside knowledge of actual facts. Our contributor does not write as a Prohibitionist. His logic and his biting sarcasm alike cannot be discounted on ex parte grounds. We hope that the Inspector-General of Police (Mr. Mitchell) will give all the attention it undoubtedly deserves to that portion of our contributor's article which refers more particularly to himself.

The proposal to appoint civilian inspectors under the Liquor Act does not meet with the approval of the police as a body. No one conversant with the manner in which the police carry out their duties under that Act ever expected that it would.

The President of the Police Association has stated that if the police do not enforce the Act as it should be enforced, they should be relieved of their duties. So say all of us.

But who is to be the judge? Are we to take the assurance of the police themselves? Is it not because there is a widespread belief that all is not well that the civilian inspectors are to be appointed?

Perhaps the police, to show their resentment, will strike. As well might every banker, accountant and cashier in public and private employ strike as a protest against the "stickybeaks" who come along to audit their accounts. If the police have nothing to fear they should welcome the civilian inspectors as useful auxiliaries.

The President goes on to say that such appointees would be merely pimps and spies. It looks like the old story, "No argument, abuse the other side." Anyhow, it is refreshing to hear the President of a body of men who are engaged in the detection of crime calling others on a similar mission "pimps and spies."

JUST FANCY THAT!

So much for the opinion of the rank and file. Now let us get to the head. According to the "Sun" of 26th ultimo the Inspector-General strongly opposes the suggestion, declaring that "serious results would be likely." The article goes on to say, "It has been pointed out that the police have never received specific instructions to tighten up activities where the liquor trade is concerned." Just fancy that! Whoever heard of "tightening up" and "slackening down" provisions of the law according to the caprice of some Minister of the Crown.

The next thing we will hear of will be an armistice between the police and some desperado who happens to be terrorising the countryside with shootings of harmless citizens and burning of peaceful homesteads. After that we can arrange for a "Drunks' Day," and perhaps a "Be Kind to Burglars' Week," during which the "Knights of the Jemmy" will be allowed an "open go." But what are these "serious results of which Mr. Mitchell is so apprehensive? In the name of humanity could there be anything more

serious than the numbers of men and women who are locked up daily for drunkenness?

A "WAD" WITH MR. MITCHELL.

We are also informed that at a public dinner to overseas visitors held in a city hotel, and at which the Premier and other Ministers and no less a person than Mr. Mitchell himself were present, liquor was consumed after hours. So it seems if I want a "wad" after hours all I have to do is to invite Mr. Mitchell to join me. It is a pity some of the "heads" did not live in Wilcannia when the writer was there. The by-law which prohibited persons driving vehicles along footpaths had long been in abeyance, and the footpaths had been greatly damaged in consequence. The Council at length gave notice that in future offenders would be prosecuted. The first prosecution under the altered conditions was directed against His Worship the Mayor. Is there any Inspector of Police in Sydney game to prosecute the high personages (including Mr. Mitchell) who saw fit thus to flout the law? If there is not, let us have the civilian inspectors, and let them "kick-off" with some "big game."

THE SERVICE SQUADRON.

The view is advanced that in carrying out the law on such an occasion the police would be acting ridiculously. The coming of the British Service Squadron is cited as a case in point. It seems to the writer that we look more ridiculous to an oversea visitor by breaking the law of the land for his pleasure. If the law is good enough for Australians, it is good enough for visitors, and they would have more respect for us as a nation if we ourselves observed and compelled them to observe the laws of our own creation.

The writer has yet to learn that alcohol is an indispensable adjunct to hospitality. The experience of most of us who go to banquets and dinners is that in many cases it is the wine that talks which probably accounts for so many dishonored political promises.

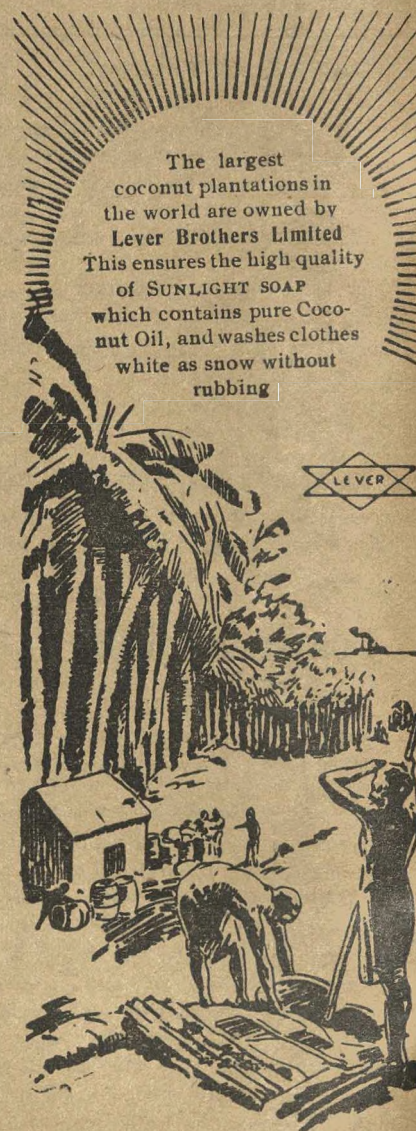
A CHALLENGE.

Mr. Mitchell, by his opposition to the proposed appointments, would seem desirous of conveying the impression that the police are faithfully administering the Act (except on special occasions when visitors are feted).

Well, the writer may be able to enlighten Mr. Mitchell. There is and has been for

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some years a certain George-street hotel not far distant from the Central Railway Station whose sales of liquor after hours to persons other than travellers and lodgers have been and are much greater than those made in regular hours. This is one of the most flagrant cases in the city. The place is notorious for its Sunday trade. When Mr. Mitchell cleanses this "drunkery," I will give him a few more odd jobs to keep his officers out of mischief. I make only one condition: No "wet" policemen are to be detailed for this duty unless accompanied by a reasonably "dry" one.

BIDGIEBIL.



REPAIRS IN GRAFTON.

James Utt is still trying to patch up the fence around our cemetery, taking a plank off a place where it is not needed and nailing it in a place where it is needed more.

GETTING THE EFFECT.

Bride (to butcher): "What sort of roast do you think would go well with a perfect darling of a blue-and-white dinner set?"

TOO ANIMATED.

Stage Hand (to manager): "Shall I lower the curtain, sir? One of the livin' statues has the hiccups!"

TROUBLE IN THAT NAME.

"Mrs. Jones, why does Mr. Jones keep on calling you Amelia?"

"Because that is my name, child."

"But mummy says your name is Anathema to everybody who knows you."

"GRIT" SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Received to 13/3/24, and where not mentioned the amount received is 10/-: Mrs. E. Lambert, 30/-, 30/12/23; Miss Glanville, 5/-, 6/9/24; Dunedin Y.M.C.A., 34/6, 30/12/23.

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QUITE FUR.

"Oh, constable, I feel so funny."

"What's the matter, madam? Have you vertigo?"

"Oh, yes, constable, about two miles."

GOOD IN EVERYTHING.

"But your mother is too old-fashioned, my dear. I'm afraid she'd be awfully shocked at our party."

"She expects to be; that's why she's dying to come."

PALMS ON EVERY HAND.

First Guest: "I'm sure I don't know why they call this hotel 'The Palms,' do you? I've never seen a palm anywhere near the place."

Second Guest: "You'll see them before you go. It's a pleasant little surprise the waiters keep for the guests on the last day of their stay."

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DAILY INSPIRATION.

By FAIRELIE THORNTON.

SUNDAY.

"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing."—2 Cor., 6, 10.

This seems like a paradox, but there are many such in the Bible. This chapter is full of them. There may be storms on the surface, while underneath there is a great calm. Outward things may tend to ruffle our peace, while within there is a peace which passeth understanding; sorrow may press us down, and "for a season, if need be, we are in heaviness, through manifold temptations," while we still have "the joy which no man taketh from us." Rejoice in the Lord," not in outward circumstances. "My Soul, hope thou in God, for my expectation is from Him." It is useless placing it anywhere else; all hope built elsewhere is built on shifting sand. There is a peace which passeth man's conception, the peace which Christ can give. He offers it for every man's reception to all who will receive. There is a love beside which other love is not worth mention, a love beyond man's comprehension—the love which Christ bestows. From Him alone it flows. Resting in His love, trusting in His power, we may be sorrowful, yet always rejoicing."

MONDAY.

"THE JOY OF THE LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH."

"Neither be ye sorry, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."—Neh., 8, 10.

Rejoice in the Lord, then, believer;
The joy of the Lord is your strength.
Remember for each tribulation
There's a "weight of glory" at length.

"Rejoice in the Lord"—in His mercy
When sins are oppressing thy soul.
Rejoice in His tender compassion
When o'er thee the deep waters roll.

"Rejoice" when thy foes all distress thee,
So suffered the prophets of old.
Forget not for each tribulation
Thy reward is a thousandfold.

"Rejoice" in His love everlasting
When earthly affections decay;
So strength shall be thine to support thee
When earth's transient joys pass away.

"As sorrowing, yet always rejoicing,
We press towards the mark just before,
By faith looking forward and seeing
The pleasures for evermore."

TUESDAY.

"When He hath tried me I shall come forth as gold."

Have we not often found that what seemed to threaten our destruction has turned out a blessing in disguise and driven us closer to our Saviour? God can bring good out of evil, and make all those things which seem against us turn out the very best for us. Joseph, when in prison, little thought that it would lead to him becoming so great. Jacob did not know what a surprise awaited him when he said, "If I be bereaved of my children, I am bereaved." Daniel little imagined when he was thrust into the den of lions that it would lead to him becoming the third ruler in the kingdom. The three Hebrew children, when thrust into the burning, fiery furnace, never dreamed that the Son of God would be their companion there.

Ah, you know not suffering one, for what God is preparing you by this affliction. The very things which seem to be against us will turn out the very best things which could happen to us. "All things work together for good to them that love God. All things must include the unpleasant things,

the things we cannot understand. But they work together. Looked at alone, we see only the unfinished work, and it appears a tangle, but when all the colors are blended we shall see a perfect whole, and that not one thing could have been omitted.

WEDNESDAY.

"All things are yours."—Rom., 3, 21.

"Thou hast ascended on high, Thou hast led captivity captive, Thou hast received gifts for me."—Ps., 68, 18.

Strengthened with the might of Jesus,
Succored by an aid divine;
With the love of Christ so precious,
What is there that is not mine.
Not a blessing in creation,
But through Christ I dare to claim.
Resting on a sure foundation,
All is mine through His dear name.

For He once to heaven ascending,
There obtained free gifts for all,
And those gifts are now descending
On all who for them will call.
Mighty faith obtains the blessing
Timid souls can never know.
Onward then, with boldness pressing,
Take the gifts He would bestow.

THURSDAY.

"The accuser of the brethren is come down which accused them before God night and day."—Rev., 12, 12.

Satan has been rightly styled this. He knows so well our weak points, and where to shoot his fiery darts. Has he never come to you in this guise? When you have attempted to live a godly life, or to engage in some work for the Master, has he never brought before you all your past failures, telling you it was of no use for you to attempt to do any good or to make any profession; that you would only be a hypocrite if you did so? Remember this is one of his favorite snares, and is specially effective in preventing many from attempting any work for God, which is his very aim. He will bring many a true saint into bondage unless he is very wary. He may use human agents, who will perhaps accuse you falsely, or he may inject into your mind many an accusation which may be true or may not. In any case your one remedy is to fly at once to your great Substitute. Remember you are "Accepted in the Beloved." "The altar sanctifieth the gift." So your offering of service, if laid on the altar, is accepted through Him, not weighing your merits or demerits. Or if it is sin which Satan taunts you with, remember you can come again to the fountain opened for sin and uncleanness, and you have a merciful High Priest who is able to keep you from falling and ready to pardon.



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FRIDAY.

"The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me."—Ps., 138, 8.

Perfect Thou that concerning me, and make me,

O Saviour fit to dwell
With Thee for ever, then Lord, Jesus, take me
And all will then be well.

Thou must do all for me, O Master,
The work from first to last;
Oh, take my hand, that I may follow faster
And leave the failures past.

Work in me, Lord, to will and do of Thy good pleasure,

That I those heights may gain,
Where Thou dost give Thy Spirit without measure,
Freed from all earthly stain.

So shall I then be fit to share Thy glory,
Clothed in Thy righteousness;
Looking back o'er life's finished story
I shall Thy dealings bless.

SATURDAY.

"I believe God that it shall be even as I was told me."

Oh, that we all had the faith of St. Paul who in his hour of peril could make the confident assurance. It is so easy to be brave when no danger threatens, when a ship is smooth sailing to sing praises, but when the waves of affliction go over us, and the storms threaten to overwhelm us, then is the time for testing whether our faith is real or not. It is the testing which proves the metal. Peter could sing praise in the dungeon. He had been an eye witness of His Master's resurrection, and there was no faltering now in His confidence in God. "At their wits' end all men pray," says Shakespeare; but the Christian does not wait until he is at his wits' end. In the sunshine of life he does not forget God, and God does not forget him when the shadows cross his path. He who has learnt to trust God in the light will not fail to trust Him in the darkness. Let us be willing to have our faith put to the test, and believe God that it shall be even as He has told us.

Mistress—

Mary, your kitchen
is a picture!

However do you
get everything so
spotlessly clean
& bright?



"Ma'am, it do
look nice but it's
very little trouble
when you use
PEARSON'S
SAND SOAP."

Publicans and Sinners—

(Continued from page 3.)

is to obey orders, not to discuss them. As for the public, they are not such fools as Mr. Chinner would so courteously suggest. They know all Mr. Chinner tells them, and a great deal more than he does not care to tell them. The public are firmly convinced that there is a great deal of police connivance in breaches of the liquor laws, and there is a widespread suspicion that much palm-oil passes in this connection, nor will all the fulminations of Mr. Chinner serve to alter the state of the public mind. If Mr. Chinner wants plain language, he can have it: the public is extremely dissatisfied with the way in which the police administer, or fail to administer, the liquor laws.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

Mr. Chinner suggests that the "only logical thing to do" is to remove the administration of the liquor laws from the police. It is extremely unlikely that he would like to see his own suggestion adopted. Nevertheless, it is a good suggestion worthy of serious consideration. It may well be questioned whether the uniformed police are the best agents for the administration of this particular law. They can deal with drunks and disturbances of the public peace under the Police Offences Act. That is their proper business. But it is more than doubtful whether they are so constituted as to deal with breaches of the liquor laws. That is highly specialised work. The objection to "spooks"—that is, civilian inspectors in plain clothes—is pure moonshine, and one is convinced that it is not genuine. It is pure camouflage to disguise the real basis of grievance of the nature of which the public entertain more than a shrewd suspicion. The detective force wear plain clothes, and a whole lot of plain clothes constables are employed on the streets and on special service chiefly in order that they should not be recognised as police officers by the general public, to say nothing of "crooks." Moreover, quite a number of special Acts are administered by civilian inspectors who have the power to summons delinquents, e.g., sanitary and public health Acts, prevention of cruelty Acts, public nuisances Acts, pests Acts, and so forth. There appears, therefore, to be no good reason why the liquor laws should not be so administered. But if, for motives of economy, their administration is to be left with the Police Department, special plain clothes inspectors, on the analogy of detectives and plain clothes constables, are plainly indicated as the best means of improving the efficiency of law enforcement. That there is room for improvement is notorious. The fact that both the police and the publicans are so strenuously opposed to an innovation plainly needed in the light of experience is extremely significant, and it ought to convince the Minister that he is on the right track.

REVENUE FROM DRUNKS.

"The Guardian" of March 5 directs attention to the considerable revenue derived from drunks by the State.

"Formerly," says that paper, a person arrested for drunkenness was taken to the lock-up and allowed out on bail, which was usually fixed at £5. The sum was big enough to make it worth his while to answer the charge in Court. And a defendant who was not an old offender got off with a fine of 5/- or the rising of the Court. Almost invariably he sat out his sentence.

"But two years ago a regulation of the Department of Justice altered the system completely. The arrested person was allowed his liberty on his own bail of 5/-. Early last year the amount was increased to 10/-.

"On depositing this amount the drunk is informed that, in default of his appearance when called upon, the money will be forfeited. Naturally he prefers losing 10/- to the inconvenience of attending Court.

"What it means in revenue can be seen

from the following list, which shows recognisances for drunkenness forfeited during the four weeks ended January 29:

First week	£94 10 0
Second week	54 0 0
Third week	57 0 0
Fourth week	78 10 0

Total for month £284 0 0

"In such manner does the 'demon' rake from the streets and gutters about £3000 a year for his employer, John Taxpayer."

All this is very well as far as it goes. The pity is that the present method of dealing with drunks is futile. If the object of treatment be deterrent and reformatory, as all modern criminologists agree that it ought to be, then our method of treating drunkenness fails absolutely because it doesn't deter and it doesn't reform.



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MORROW'S FIGHTING SPEECH.

PARRAMATTA ELECTORATE.

When moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Hammond at his meeting at Rydalmere, Mr. Morrow, M.L.A., said:

"I have been a Prohibitionist all my life. In the old country I saw such sorrow and brutality caused by drink that I recognised it to be an enemy to society that should be given no legal protection.

"I was surprised and dismayed to find some of my fellow-members of Parliament gave the word "immediate" such an elastic meaning as to stretch it to 1928. I gave a definite promise and I do not consider any specious plea of changed circumstances had the power to free me from my obligation to keep my word. I consider the Reduction Board futile and not in any way adequate to meet the liquor evil.

"I cannot hand freedom on to my children if I leave the liquor evil in their path. There will be a greater freedom when Prohibition comes. Let us fight on. Let us emulate the glorious persistence of our men at Gallipoli. We have had a reverse, but let us fight on. In God's name, let us with fresh courage work for that which will make us a better and brighter and happier people.

"Don't be downhearted. There are dependable men in the community; there are men whose word is their bond. Make it your business to put them into Parliament."

ALCOHOLICALLY SPEAKING.

By T. A. CUSACK.

Prohibition is the clean broom of Reform that will soon sweep up the refuse created by the Liquor Traffic when Miss Democracy can be given the opportunity to use it.

Liquor Trade propaganda in the form of "Paid for by arrangement" articles is sold by the inch and swallowed by the yard.

Palliatives applied to the Liquor Traffic is like giving a sick man medicine when a surgeon's knife is the only real cure.

A lot of crimes start in front of bars, and the most of them end behind them.

The pro-bung moderate drinker is a man who thinks it is sound logic to view social problems in the light of his own vaunted strength of character.

The worker who takes his stand on the side of Bung is like the bird that feeds the cuckoo that has been hatched out in its nest.

The man who said that "money is the root of all evil" couldn't have known of the Liquor Traffic.

The hotelkeepers have raised the price of drink, but the boozers will still lower it.

The Drink Traffic is like an aching tooth:

the only real way of stopping the pain is to have it out.

A "wet" Parliament is responsible for the liquor reign in N.S.W., but the clouds may roll away long before 1928.

Every liquor ad. in a newspaper adds to that journal's hostility to Prohibition. Motto: Take a line of their Prohibition facts (?) with an inch of their booze advertisements, and judge by the latter.

Alcohol is just as necessary to the devel-

opment of the physique, and conducive to longevity, as the tape worm is to the life of a horse.

Black, white, and green are words that figure prominently on bottles that ought to bear red labels.

If the moderate drinker took a few drops of Prohibition oil with his "occasional glass," it wouldn't help the drink down any better, but would probably have a lubricating effect on the working of his reason.

"The House of Economy"

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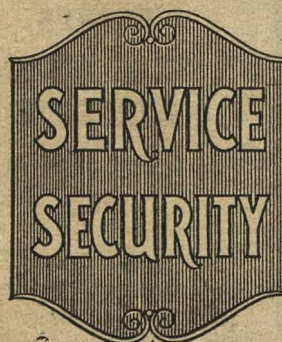
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