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# Grit.

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## ARCHDEACON BOYCE CONDEMNS 1923 LIQUOR ACT.

The G.O.M. of our Movement says: "It must be quite a hundred years since the brewers . . . have had such concessions."

Writing to the metropolitan press, Archdeacon Boyce says:

"Referring to Mr. Ley's statement disparaging local option, permit me to say something in defence. I think that he should have given the Holman Government some credit for creating a Reduction Board about five years ago. Mr. Ley's Act of last session, not a Government measure, will be historical.

"He admits that the three local option polls cut out 402 licenses—344 hotels and 58 wine. There were only those State-wide polls, 1907, 1910 and 1913. They were in seven years. I suppose, to make up the ten Mr. Ley speaks of, he includes the three years' notice given licensees instead of making the people of this country pay compensation. Mr. Ley says that the net reduction by the Board in two years is 232—117 publicans' and 55 wine. He also says that the new licenses since the Board began have only been eight, while in the ten years of local option it was 249, thus reducing the numbers of licenses cancelled under that law to 153. This is misleading.

"Against his statement I place the facts as to years of local option, given in his official Year Book of the State. That book in 1907 gives them 3022 publicans' licenses, and that of 1915 the number as down to 2640, or 382 less. The wine licenses fell in the same period by 125. Thus on this point Mr. Ley's disparagement of local option signally fails.

"But, in fairness, the whole ground should be covered. Sir Henry Parkes in 1882 gave a small instalment of local option. He saw the wisdom of letting the people settle licensing questions for themselves. His Act gave the ratepayers of each municipality, for about 25 years, power to triennially vote and decide whether there should be more public-houses or not. In the great majority of cases the answer was no. There can be no figures to show the result, but, estimating by the increase of the previous decade, I consider that over 2500 additional public-houses were prevented from opening. When there are no increases in proportion to that of population it is in a sense equal to reduction.

"In 1882, when the Alliance was founded, there was one liquor bar to every 264 persons in the State, but in 1916 there was, according to the Government Statistician, one to every 713 persons. There has been some improvement again since. We have had over forty years of reduction, and the movement has been wonderfully successful; so much so that friends must not be surprised at our failing to go into ecstasies

over the Reduction Board, with its sadly limited powers.

"But the time has long passed when, in view of the serious ravages of drink, the people of this country should be satisfied with reduction, and this is my main point. That in the second and third local option polls the Alliance ignored the reduction issue wholly, and devoted all its energies to carry no-license—another name for Prohibition. The law gave a free people the opportunity of priceless value of having in each of their own electorates its own referendum. It was not an 'all or nothing policy,' for the whole State alone, which, if not carried, would leave localities and electorates that may have given majorities for Prohibition with the ever-dangerous temptations of open bars still forced upon them. It is not so extreme a policy as one for the whole State only, but its unmistakable effectiveness in Canada and the States has been seen. Local option has been responsible for three-fourths of the triumphs there. To win Prohibition in each electorate was the sole object of the Alliance in the second and third polls, rather than split the votes over an almost ineffective further reduction.

"Mr. Ley's Act of last session, a non-party measure, swept away this local option law, this right to local self-government. The law had been temporarily suspended, and no notice whatever had been given of the intended repeal. It had only been won after a long, strenuous and costly campaign, involving, shall I say, a thousand public meetings and a thousand petitions. I admit that it needed two or three short amendments, especially one that would have given majority rule, instead of a three-fifths one. The objection to voting on the day of a general election could have been accepted, and a change made to another. In many cases the interest excited in constituencies was far greater than in the Parliamentary contest. But the mandate of this Parliament has gone out to the people: 'Thou shalt not vote.' Even the vote on the complete State Prohibition has been given a long postponement. It must be quite a hundred years since the brewers and others in the business have had such great concessions. I refrain from saying more. I only hope that when the minor point of reduction is referred to it will be accompanied with some statement of the surrounding facts.—I am, etc.,

F. B. BOYCE.

'St. Pauls, Sydney, May 12."

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PASS "GRIT" ON.



## WOMEN AND PARLIAMENT.

(By M. PRESTON STANLEY.)

We are often told that we should have women in Parliament. Should we?

Is the demand only a passing phase? Does the demand come only from an extremist section, or is it the expression of a deepening realisation of the duality of humanity—a dawning recognition that divine manhood and divine womanhood working together will be the most powerful agency for human good the world has ever known?

Are we at long last beginning to realise that where man or woman works alone there is a loss, a void, a vacuum, and that the contribution which woman can make to the life of nations is necessary to the completion of man's work?

Man has applied the masculine genius to human problems inevitably with but partial success, for the human family is both masculine and feminine, and the feminine genius must be unfolded and applied to those same problems ere they can be solved.

### THE BALANCE.

When men and women work together in mutual understanding and sympathy; when there is no sex distinction in opportunity, education, labor, reward and human dignity, then equilibrium will be established, and man and woman shall together then guide the nation as they have the home through all the ages that are past.

The growing realisation that woman should take her place alongside man in all the serious business of life is by no means exclusive to Australia—just as the demand for women in Parliament is by no means restricted to Australia.

Indeed Australia is amongst the most benighted of all the nations in the world in this regard.

Since the war 37 countries have enfranchised their women, but although so lately admitted to full citizenship their enfranchisement is a reality.

In Australia our women have been enfranchised for nearly a quarter of a century, but in reality we are still among the backward countries with regard to our social recognition of the citizenship of women.

### COMPARE AUSTRALIA WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

Let us compare our achievements with those of other countries. In nearly every country of the world where women have been admitted to full citizenship, the men of their nation have recognised their right to take their place in the national legislatures, and have asked of them only one qualification, that of efficiency. The result is that in nearly every country women are sitting alongside men in Parliament.

Think of it—amongst other countries Britain, hoary with tradition, has opened the doors of the British House of Commons—Mother of Parliaments—to women as well as men, and eight women are playing an adequate part in the work of that august

assemblage. Two of these women are holding most responsible political positions.

A brief survey of the position in other countries is all that is necessary to show how Australia lags behind. In Austria there are eight women M's.P., one Mayor, 22 City Municipal Councillors, and 106 Suburban Municipal Councillors. In the Crimea five women were elected to Parliament. One of them is a Vice-President of the Diet. Czecho-Slovakia can boast of 13 women members in the Lower House and 3 in the Upper. Denmark now has four members in each House. Esthonia has five women members of Parliament. In Hungary one woman has been elected to Parliament. In Iceland there are five City Municipal Councillors; in Lettonia there are five women in Parliament and many in the Municipal Councils. There is a large party of women in the Norwegian Parliament. Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Poland and Ukrainia have all returned women to Parliament, and the same is true of Canada and America. Canada can boast a woman Speaker and a woman Cabinet Minister. America has many women in her State Legislatures, and one in her Federal House. Lithuania has five women in Parliament, Luxemburg has one, Netherlands has two women in Parliament, 88 women on the City Municipal Councils, and some aldermen have recently been elected. When it is reflected that these women aldermen have been elected by male suffrage it is a most remarkable tribute, not only to the calibre of the women of the Netherlands who have offered themselves for public service, but to the fine broad spirit of citizenship actuating the men of that country who were prepared to support women as against men because their principles were in the best interests of the nation. Rhodesia has one woman member of Parliament. Sweden has 400 City Municipal Councillors. Then let us turn to Germany, which is a country which has always held women in social subjection. The women of Germany have only very recently been admitted to full citizenship, and yet to-day there are 32 women members of Parliament

and 4000 City Municipal Councillors in that country.

### AUSTRALIA HAS NONE.

This is a disgrace to Australian manhood and womanhood, and a blot upon the escutcheon of our democracy. If we were to compare the achievements of the women of other countries in the short time that they have been regarded as full citizens with our achievements in Australia after 25 years of full citizenship, Australia stands condemned as one of the most reactionary countries in the world to-day.

Is it fair that our men should perpetuate old-time and outworn customs when the statutes of our country are daily recording the advance of civilisation, and giving legal sanction to a new and better order?

Is it right for our women to be patient under a condition which is putting Australia in the rearguard of the nations, and stamping her as an undemocratic country which, while ever boasting its democratic character and achievements, is archaic in its usages where women's aspirations are concerned.

Australia must become convinced that sex prejudice is a bar to progress, that intellect has no sex, and that the sex disability is one which must be lifted before our larger problems can be solved.

They tell us that women are not fit for Parliament. All women are not—NEITHER ARE ALL MEN. We only have to realise that all men are not wise and all women are not stupid to begin to grip the fact that fitness and ability without regard to sex is not only a condition precedent to a democracy, but is a sane and reasonable standard for the guidance of men and women in all the affairs of life—national, social or personal.

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Offices—Maconnell 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, May 25—

- 11 a.m.: Sth. Strathfield, Congregational Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Granville Presbyterian Church.  
Mr. Phil Adler.  
11 a.m.: Auburn Presbyterian Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Lidcombe Presbyterian Church.  
Mr. R. J. C. Butler.  
11 a.m.: Homebush Methodist Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Flemington Methodist Church.  
Mr. Charles W. Chandler.  
3 p.m.: Children's Service, Lane Cove Sunday School. Mr. D. H. Hardy.  
11 a.m.: Camdensville Methodist Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Enfield Anglican Church.  
Mr. Charles E. Still.  
11 a.m.: Watersleigh Methodist Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Mosman Methodist Church.  
Ex-Senator David Watson.

### NEW SOUTH WALES ALLIANCE.

ANNUAL MEETING  
AND  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS  
WILL BE HELD IN  
ST. JAMES' HALL  
PHILLIP STREET, SYDNEY  
ON  
TUESDAY, MAY 27th  
AT 8 P.M.

All Financial Members of New South Wales Alliance are eligible for admission and entitled to vote.

Farewell Entertainments by Australia's  
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MR. HERBERT CARROLL.

Monday, May 26: Masonic Hall, Stockton.  
Tuesday, May 27: Presbyterian School Hall, Hamilton, 8 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 28: School of Arts, West Maitland, 8 p.m.  
Thursday, May 29: Literary Institute, East Maitland, at 8 p.m.

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# MASS DEMONSTRATION.



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DOORS OPEN 6.30 P.M.

Chairman :  
**THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY.**

Speakers :  
**R. B. S. HAMMOND.**  
**Mrs. JAMIESON WILLIAMS.**  
**Miss PRESTON-STANLEY.**  
**Mr. W. P. J. SKELTON, M.L.A.**  
**Dr. RICHARD ARTHUR, M.L.A.**

**GRAND CONCERT PROGRAMME, 6.45—8 P.M.**

This meeting will launch the biggest campaign we have ever attempted. The temporary setback of the 1923 Liquor Act has stirred our people to new and vigorous enthusiasm. This Demonstration will focus the eyes of the people of New South Wales on the question of the Right of the People to vote on Prohibition.

**YOU** must make this night better than all our first "bests."  
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Advertise the meeting. Make sure the posters are on your Church notice-board. Distribute the tickets

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## ARE YOU A HEN?

### LIQUOR AND THE LAW.

#### WILL MITCHELL CALL OFF HIS DOGS?

#### HOTELS AS SHOPS—A SLANDER ON OYSTERS.

#### INCIDENTS IN THE COURTS.

The "Evening News," probably the silliest paper published in Australia, never misses an opportunity to tilt at Prohibition. It has just discovered that "the most effective witness on the anti-Prohibition side lately is Dr. Raymond Pearl." Why, in the estimation of the "News," is this particular medico so effective a witness against Prohibition? The reader will never guess. The answer is because Dr. Pearl "finds that the moderate drinking of alcohol by hens improves laying, does not interfere with fertility, and appears to increase longevity." So, there you are. What more need be said unless it be that human beings are not hens? The "News" reminds us of the man who mentioned that a camel can go nine days without a drink. "Just so," said his friend, "but who the blazes wants to be a camel?" To the "News" leader writer we would say, in the "argot" of the Latin quarter, "Chameau, va."

#### DRINKS AT HOTEL DINNERS.

The art of driving, or attempting to drive, a coach and four through an Act of Parliament is as popular to-day as it ever was. In Sydney at the present moment quite a number of people are trying to discover a means of driving the said coach through a legal decision. Ever since one of the city magistrates decided that a man who merely books up at a hotel in order to ply his guests with wine at dinner is not a bona fide lodger and cannot, therefore, consume liquor after 6 p.m. in that way, the hotel managers have been much perturbed, as the decision means a considerable loss of revenue to them. According to the "Sunday News," however, one hotel is not worrying. "Its banqueting hall, while handy to the licensed premises, is not a part of it. Consequently, so long as the ordering is done prior to 6 o'clock, you may still have your cocktails, and still wines and 'bubbly,' and liqueurs, the unstinted supply of which so many diners regard as essential." Well, maybe you can, but we have our doubts. It seems questionable whether the banqueting hall of a hotel can in any circumstances be considered "not a part of the licensed premises."

#### CLUBS AND LIQUOR LICENSES.

The recent conviction of the secretary of the Civic Club for selling liquor in that institution after hours has been quashed on appeal. In giving judgment, Judge White said:

"When the regulation was made for the

registration of clubs, the Legislature, instead of making a small code of offences for clubs, passed a section which made a number of sections applicable to licensed premises, which also were applicable to clubs, and in doing so the Legislature failed to realise that in respect of clubs a difference had arisen. With regard to a club secretary and a licensee, the positions are totally different. A club secretary is a licensed officer not in receipt of any commission, so that his remuneration does not depend on the sale of liquor."

We fail to see where the "total difference" comes in: we should have thought the difference cited by the Judge was immaterial. According to him, the test of being a licensee seems to be the method of remuneration, whereas to the mind of any person endowed with ordinary commonsense the test of being a licensee is whether you hold a license to sell liquor. Surely, if a club secretary holds a liquor license, he is a licensee. Anyhow, how does Judge White know that club secretaries do not get commissions for the sale of liquor? There is altogether too much laxity in connection with the sale of liquor in clubs. Certain members of the Ministry are members of the Civic Club. Bearing in mind the recent Carlton case, there may be something in that.

#### STILL "IN VACUO."

They have not materialised yet—those spooks. Nevertheless, we have advanced a stage since last week. According to the Minister for justice, "the difficulty with regard to the appointment of special or whole-time inspectors under the Licensing Act has been overcome." Please note the new alternative title: "Whole-Timers." This, apparently, is a sop to Inspector Mitchell, who is, curiously, very sensitive on the subject of "spies." Just fancy a policeman being sensitive! The Minister adds that "in order to dissipate the stupid suggestion that they were to spy on the police, a request was made by me for the services of two officers now in the police force. In view, however, of the attitude assumed towards this suggestion, my request for the services of these officers was not pressed." This statement is highly significant in that it proves conclusively that the "spy" plea was not made by the police authorities in good faith. What, then, is the real ground of their objection to the "spooks"? Are they afraid to tell us? It does not matter very much: a nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse, but most of the public could guess in one what the real reason is.

#### DUTIES OF "SPOOKS."

The Minister for Justice does not tell us yet who the two "spooks" will be, but he does state what their duties will be:

"The scope of the duties will be as follows: The special licensing inspectors will take their instructions from the permanent head of the department administering the liquor law. Their duties will include investigation of any complaints respecting accommodation, meals, sanitation, purity of liquors sold, and to report any breaches of the law. When deemed necessary, such reports shall be submitted to the Crown Solicitor for advice. The Inspector-General of Police shall be informed through the usual channel whenever, on the advice of the Crown Solicitor, it has been decided to institute proceedings. The scope of the duties is wide enough to include any possible offence that may be committed against the provisions of the liquor law."

So far, so good. But here arises a most important question concerning which all parties are silent. In view of the avowed hostility of the Police Department to the appointment of these two inspectors, will Inspector Mitchell call off his dogs altogether and leave the field clear to the "spooks"? To do so might, of course, interfere with the reason behind the hostility. On the other hand, if the police take no further interest in enforcing the liquor laws, will two spooks be enough?

In connection with the LA CORNICHE. sly-grog case against the fashionable residential at Mona Vale, known as La Corniche, the manager, John Andrew O'Shea, was fined £100, but the waiter involved in the charge, one Alexander Henderson, was discharged by the magistrate without previously hearing the Crown Prosecutor. This led to a lively interchange between the two legal luminaries, reported in the "Sunday Times" as follows:

Mr. Rogers (the Crown Prosecutor) asked Mr. Peisley (the magistrate) would he give his reasons for discharging Henderson.

Mr. Peisley: I do not think he is guilty.

Mr. Rogers: Is it for a legal reason you have discharged Henderson?

Mr. Peisley: What I say is exactly what I mean. I will give no further reasons.

Mr. Rogers: Will you have it noted that you did not give me an opportunity of being heard?

Mr. Peisley: I will hear you now.

Mr. Rogers: I will not ask you to hear me now, but I will have it noted that you refused to give me an opportunity of being heard before you discharged Henderson.

Mr. Peisley: It would not be consistent with what took place if I allowed that to go down.

Mr. Rogers: Your Worship, you will —

Mr. Peisley: Sit down, sir, at once!

Mr. Rogers: Very well.

Mr. Peisley: What do you want me to put down?

(Continued on page 15.)



## MY UTOPIAN FRIENDS.

(By THOS. E. SHONK, Secretary, Australian Starr-Bowkett Building Co-operative Society, Ltd.)

I may not believe in the Theosophist's idea that everyone has lived many lives on this earth, and will probably live many more, but I am very ready to allow my imagination to picture what some of my friends would have been like had they lived in the years of long ago.

There is "T.G.," for instance. One of the best of good fellows, with his mind ever astir with plans for social regeneration, and many a one has he set afoot, but they usually come to grief after a short period. The failure is usually due to "T.G." suddenly discovering that he had neither time nor money with which to carry forward his scheme. It is at a time when he has lost heavily at the races that this occurs. If there is anything in the reincarnation idea, he must, in 1830, have lived in the

invariably slept at night with their feet projecting through the bedroom window! No matter how worthy their co-operative ideas may have been, their faith in cold feet must have seriously limited the number of their followers. No, my friend "C," a true visionary, does not dangle bare feet over the nose of the Mosman ferry, but he does love to cool his head by sallying forth without his hat.

"A.S.," another friend of mine, was a manager of a certain Co-operative Society. He was an intensely religious man. On one occasion he persuaded his committee to allow him to open a fresh fish department for the Society. He confided to me that he knew that it would succeed, for he had received no spiritual warning against the venture. The department was opened, and was



person of Mr. J. S. Vandeleur, a follower of Robert Owen, the famous reformer. Vandeleur attempted to establish a self-contained ideal co-operative community in the north of Ireland. Everything went along famously, even though Vandeleur's steward was shot by the peasants, and despite the fact that Vandeleur was a Prohibitionist of the first degree. He prohibited the consumption of spirituous liquors, tobacco and snuff in the colony, and gambling was forbidden. As I have said, everything went famously until Vandeleur was declared a bankrupt due to losses at gambling!

I well recall G. J. Holyoake's narrative of some well-meaning social enthusiasts who established a co-operative community near to London. They had very fine ideas, and very hot toes. I would imagine so, at any rate, for Holyoake gives it that they all

a losing proposition right from the beginning. I am certain that "A.S." lays on the Almighty the blame for the failure of that fish shop! He could easily be the reincarnated spirit of Abram Combe, who, in 1825, gathered together a group of enthusiasts claiming to be "adherents to Divine Revelation." They capitalised with £50,000 a co-operative community settlement at Orbiston, near Glasgow. Land, money, food and clothing were all held in common, but within three years the community had failed. All that was left to the "adherents" was the consolation of knowing exactly on whom to place the blame.

It seems to me that we always tempt Providence to have a joke at our expense when we "count our hens before they are fully fledged." "Harmony Hall" was the name given to the big building in the Queenswood Community Settlement in Hampshire, Eng-

land, and with which Robert Owen was closely connected in 1839. Lack of harmony was the main cause of its early liquidation. I admire the courage of one of my friends who has given her house the name "Harmony"; but when "A.J.," whose wife has lately presented him with triplets, allows his house to be called "Mon Repos" I consider it to be the height of fatuity.

We often unfairly judge a man just by whether or not he fails or succeeds. The well-known community experiment of William Lane's was a failure, but Lane himself well-earned the title of "Good Austra-



lian." The accompanying picture shows some of Lane's pioneers resting from work in the forests of Paraguay. Many people remember how, in 1893, William Lane took over 250 Australian men and women on the ship *New Australia* to the distant shores of Paraguay, in South America, there to found a co-operative community on the 100 leagues of land given them by the Paraguayan Government. The prospects were certainly bright, for the Paraguayan Government also exempted them from stamp duties, land transfer and survey fees, and all import duty on their goods. They, also



spent 450,000 dollars in buying the land for them. Lane was a Prohibitionist, and strictly excluded liquor from the settlement. This break from civilisation was, however, too extreme, and economic hardships, dissension and, finally, liquor broke up the promising colony. There's a friend of mine whom I liken to Lane. He has failed in his big task in life, but he is a magnificent success as a man.

(Continued on page 16.)



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## AUSTRALIAN PROHIBITION COUNCIL.

### REPORT OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

#### R. B. S. HAMMOND ELECTED PRESIDENT.

The eighth annual meeting of the Australian Prohibition Council was held at the Central Mission Hall, Geelong, on May 1, 1924. Present: Rev. R. B. S. Hammond (President), Mr. H. M. Hawkins and Mr. A. Lane, M.L.A. (New South Wales), Mr. H. R. Francis, Mr. R. T. Chenoweth, J.P., and Mr. W. Wilson (Victoria), Mr. A. Toombes (Queensland), Lieut.-Col. T. H. Smeaton, Rev. H. Escourt Hughes and Mr. A. Keeling (South Australia), Rev. W. Corley Butler and Mr. Henry Macourt (Tasmania), and Hon. S. Mauger, J.P. (Hon. Secretary). There were also present the Rev. H. Worrall, Federal lecturer, and Mr. H. Gover, of the West Australian Anti-Liquor League.

#### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

In the course of his presidential address, the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond referred to the general advance which had been made during the year. Locally prospects were at times discouraging. Nevertheless, they were justified by the great advances made in many directions in being supremely optimistic in regard to the ultimate victory of the cause. He urged the need for untiring and consecrated effort in this greatest of causes.

#### SECRETARY RESIGNS.

The Hon. Samuel Mauger announced his resignation of the position of Hon. Secretary.

The resignation was accepted, and the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That the best thanks of the Council be tendered to the Hon. Samuel Mauger for his services rendered during several years as Hon. Secretary to the Council, and that sympathy with him in his recent troubles be expressed."

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Rev. R. B. S. Hammond was unanimously re-elected President of the Council for the seventh year in succession.

In returning thanks for his re-election, Mr. Hammond expressed his appreciation of the honor they had done him, an honor which, he said, he valued very highly under the circumstances.

The following officers were also elected:

Vice-Presidents: Lt.-Col. T. H. Smeaton, (S.A.), Mr. H. M. Hawkins (N.S.W.), Mr. V. Winstanley (Q.), Bishop Hay (Tas.), and Hon. S. Mauger (Vic.).

Treasurer: Mr. R. T. Chenoweth, J.P.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. H. R. Francis.

#### FEDERAL LECTURER.

It was reported that arrangements had been made by the Executive for the appointment of the Rev. Henry Worrall as Federal lecturer, and the question of the allocation of his services between the various States was left to the Secretary and Treasurer, acting in consultation with the President. The following basis of allocation was suggested: Victoria, New South Wales, three months each; South Australia, two months; Queensland, one month; Tasmania, six weeks.

It was further resolved that Messrs. H. M. Hawkins and H. R. Francis be a sub-committee to arrange the amount which the States should pay towards the Interstate travelling expenses of the Federal lecturer.

#### STAFF OFFICERS.

The question of interchanging staff officers between the various States was discussed at some length, and the following resolution was adopted: "That an interchange of staff officers between States, not necessarily at the same time, is desirable in the interests of staff efficiency and the work of the campaign generally; that we commend this to the various States and encourage the carrying out of the proposition."

On behalf of the Staff Officers' Conference,

Mr. H. Macourt reported that a scheme was under consideration for provision for the rendering of assistance to staff officers in any unfortunate circumstances in which they may be placed, and that definite resolutions on this would be submitted to the next Conference."

#### AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE.

The Council resolved—"That Mr. C. M. Gordon, M.A., B.D., be appointed honorary representative of the Prohibition Council of Australia in America, and that the President give to Mr. Gordon a letter of appointment."

#### LOCAL OPTION.

The Council discussed the question of local option and adopted the following resolution: "That, whilst maintaining in every way the fight for complete Prohibition, we recommend the State organisations to take every advantage of and concentrate on such local option legislation as now exists, or which it may be advisable to seek in furtherance of the objective."

#### YEAR BOOK.

The best thanks of the Council were accorded to the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond for the preparation of the Year Book for 1924.

The Council then adjourned until the next day.

#### CANBERRA.

On resuming the Council discussed the question of liquor in the Federal Capital area and adopted the following resolution: "That the Australian Prohibition Council is watching with deep concern the progress of Canberra, and believes that the present Ordinance protecting the Federal Capital area from a license is of immense value to the Commonwealth and must be maintained."

It was further resolved—"That a deputation, composed of the Executive officers and such members of the Federal Parliament as are in accord with us, wait upon the Prime Minister in reference to the position at Canberra."

#### AUSTRALIAN WINES.

In reference to an export duty on Australian wines, the following resolution was approved: "That the Executive of the Australian Prohibition Council records its emphatic protest against the proposal to give an export bonus on sweet wines. It points out that as the excise duty of 6/- per gallon is on spirit to be used for fortifying wine, and the proposed bonus of 4/- per gallon is intended for wine exported, the greater part of the money required would have to be raised by taxation from public funds. Further, the Executive expresses its conviction that settlers should be encouraged to meet the demands for food products, which would be profitable to them, rather than to enter into competition with African and European wine countries with their cheap labor and easier access to the home market in meeting the declining demand for wine."

(Continued on page 9.)

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# A Personal Chat with my readers

## GRIT A JOURNAL OF NATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND PROHIBITION

SYDNEY, THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1924.

### A CHRISTIAN'S PURSE.

When I see the long queue of women waiting outside the theatre and the vast crowds who go to the pictures, I wonder how ever they can afford it. Where does the money come from? Do those people ever go to church? If they do, what particular twist in their make-up reconciles them to the incongruity of thirteen pence for the pictures and threepence for religion, or three shillings and threepence for the theatre and threepence for God. I have come to the conclusion that the Christian purse is worked overtime. This is not true of all such purses, because Christians can give of their meanness as well as of their means.

There are a million people in Sydney. The hospitals, urged by imperative needs, have in a big way appealed to Sydney. The result was about £30,000—little more than sixpence a head. Religion is worth threepence a head in Sydney.

Charity is worth sixpence a head in Sydney.

Amusement is worth all we have in Sydney.

It looks as if we might well revise our sense of values.

But I set out to discuss the demands on the Christian purse, largely due to the fact that tens of thousands "can't afford" to help any good thing, and the Christian purse is worked overtime and all the time, and is doing the duty of fifty other purses only open to indulgence. The following is only a partial list of the appeals on the Christian purse:

Hospitals.  
Benevolent Society.  
Children's Home.  
Home for Incurables.  
Hospice for the Dying.  
Salvation Army.  
City Mission.  
Shelter for Destitute.  
District Nursing.  
Babies' Home.  
Baby Creche.  
Free Kindergarten.  
Sunshine Fund.  
Limbs for cripples.  
Home Missions.  
Foreign Missions.  
Near East Relief.  
Barnado Homes.  
Sir John Kirk's cripples.  
Religious instruction in public schools.  
Ten funds in our own church.  
That list of thirty does not exhaust the appeals, not have I mentioned the biggest

and most insistent of all—the one made by the circle of those who seek our direct help for their personal needs.

Now I suggest, while you can't give to all, that you determine both to give more and specially to give more wisely, and to remember that whatever distress you are caused by the demands made on you, such distress is insignificant compared to that suffered by those for whom the appeal is made.

Now, Prohibition has an insistent claim on the Christian purse, because it directly makes the biggest contribution to every one of these thirty or more demands for help.

The statement of Wayne B. Wheeler, the famous U.S.A. lawyer, whom I count it a great privilege to know, is quoted in the cable news of the press this week, and his statement of fact should quicken our gifts to the key to all charity, viz.: Prohibition.

The cable stated that in four years under Prohibition there had been 873,000 fewer deaths, 2,000,000 fewer arrests for drunkenness, and a decrease of 74 per cent. in poverty due to intemperance.

Now, let us readjust our giving, and give more by giving more wisely.

The Lord Bishop of Goulburn, speaking this week at a very big meeting in his Cathedral City, said: "While I have come slowly to a belief in Prohibition, yet I cannot now think that I should ever go back on my conviction that Prohibition is essential to the highest and best in the community. When I read the confusing, contradictory, and evidently untruthful statements that appear in the press from time to time, one thing stands out above them all, viz., that General Pershing is a great man of wide experience, and he says: 'Two things are beyond question and abiding facts. First, Prohibition has forever abolished the saloon; second, it has saved the children.' That is a good statement to recall.

### IN THE DARK HOUR.

None escape the dark hours in which the soul is enveloped from time to time. To some, such times come more frequently and are of longer duration than is the common experience, but to all a dark hour comes.

It is often a terrifying experience, and then it may be only a depressing, despairing, crushing sense of failure and impotence.

It may come from one's own failure, or the failure or apparent fickleness of one we love.

It may come from your enemies, but it is

much more likely to come from your friends; but the dark hour is a fact in the life of all of us.

There are clouds, dark clouds, and impenetrable darkness. How do humans meet this dark hour?

Some get drunk and wake to find the darkness ten times darker.

Some seek diversion and ostrich-like hide their head in the sand of some gaiety, and find their dark hour waiting for them with exasperating patience. Some assume cheerfulness and would ignore the facts and cover up the sore which only the more deeply carries on its poisonous work.

Some take their courage in both hands and seek to end all, and remedy darkness with darkness by ending the period of their life.

The Salvation Army originated a suicides' club to meet the distress of these desperate ones.

I sometimes wonder if there ever was a normal human who did not in some dark hour despair and stretch out their hands to welcome death.

Death, sleep's twin sister.

Just as the most ferocious animals at times of flood or fire lose their fear of man and their animosity towards him is overpowered by a greater fear, so our dark hour sometimes robs death of all its terror, and it becomes the welcome visitor by whom we escape the more to be feared sorrows, burdens and disappointments we are facing.

The real test of your religion is its power in your dark hour.

Is God a very present help in time of trouble?

Does the Invisible Hand restrain?

Does the Invisible Presence bring comfort?

You know little of life if you do not know how many thousands have been preserved in what seems a miraculous way from taking some desperate step that the dark hour has suggested to them. Will you accept from me the personal testimony that "sorrow comes into lodge at even, but joy cometh in the morning"? Sorrow is a transient lodger. The morn will dawn and Love will dispel the gloom. Love that is of God—for Love is God's Fairy Wand by which the ugly is made beautiful and the unbearable made bearable. Birds, it is said, best learn to sing when in the dark, and that is equally true of humans; so lose not the priceless experience that lies hidden in every dark hour.

THE EDITOR.



## FROM PLEDGE TO BETRAYAL.

### HAMMOND'S ANXIETY TO BE FAIR TO LEY.

The "S. M. Herald" of 1/5/24 reports the Minister for Justice as complaining that the pamphlet "From Pledge to Betrayal" did not contain all the correspondence. To this Mr. Hammond replies: "I published all the letters I had in my possession. One letter marked 'Strictly private and confidential' I destroyed immediately I had read it, but if Mr. Ley will make a copy of that letter available I will publish it."

We hereunder print Mr. Ley's statement and Mr. Hammond's reply.

#### MR. LEY'S STATEMENT.

Speaking at a meeting of temperance workers at Lakemba, Mr. Ley (Minister for Justice) referred to the Liquor Act and the disagreement which had occurred between certain Prohibitionists concerning the date of the proposed referendum.

He said that during his absence from the State early in the year a brochure was published, with the caption "From Pledge to Betrayal—the authentic story of Ley's Liquor Protecting 1923 Amending Liquor Act, as told in the correspondence between Hammond and Ley; also a Study in Trust. By E.H.T." It purported, he said, to be issued with the authority of the N.S.W. Alliance. However, on his return he wrote to the Alliance a strongly-worded protest pointing out that the authentic story of the Liquor Bill of 1923 could not be told without including information showing:

(1) That the Government and he, as Minister in charge, were always willing to bring in a one-clause bill to fix the date of the referendum under the 1919 Act by a non-party vote on the floor of the House.

(2) That it was he who originally suggested March, 1924, and was prepared to hold to that if the said one-clause bill was passed.

(3) That entirely new legislation was taken up as the result of representations made by the Alliance.

(4) That if the referendum were taken under the new legislation proposed in March, 1924, and continuance were carried, the same effect would have to be given to the result in the State as in the electorate, and the then existing number of licenses could not be reduced.

(5) That in publishing the correspondence essential letters had not been printed, and that in the letters printed, words had been left out, and, in some cases, other words substituted conveying an entirely different meaning.

Mr. Ley added that he offered to produce for inspection the letters and other documents in his possession. Three members of the Alliance Executive made the inspection. Later he received from the Alliance Secretary a letter admitting that in sub-editing the pamphlet the amendments and omissions complained of had been made, promising that no further copies of the pamphlet would be issued.

#### MR. HAMMOND'S REPLY.

Mr. T. J. Ley has made the statement that the pamphlet entitled "From Pledge to Betrayal" has been withdrawn by the New South Wales Alliance, and that it was published in his absence.

The first instalment of the facts, as set forth in the pamphlet, appeared in "Grit" on January 3, 1924, and was completed in the issue of January 24. Mr. Ley left Sydney on February 7.

The pamphlet sets out, with brief comment, the story of the passing of the Amended Liquor Act, as told in the correspondence only.

Mr. Ley preferred a complaint on two grounds.

#### LETTER DESTROYED.

First, that all the correspondence was not printed. However, all the correspondence in my possession was printed. A letter written by Mr. Ley, marked "Strictly private and confidential," was not among them, as, in my desire to be considered worthy of confidence, this letter, very rightly, had been promptly destroyed.

Secondly, some non-essential and very slight omissions in the printed pamphlet were considered fully justified by the fact that they in no way affected the question at issue, were irrelevant to the purpose of the pamphlet, and what might be expected when publishing confidential correspondence.

Out of deference to Mr. Ley's dissent from this judgment no further copies of the pamphlet are to be issued in the form complained of, but on his making available the missing letters, I purpose on my own responsibility re-issuing the story of his Amended Liquor Bill, as told in the correspondence, without omissions or additions.

#### TO PARENTS.

Have you realised the importance of instructing your children in matters of sex which every child has a right to know in a clean, wholesome manner? If you want help write to us for some of our penny booklets, and send one shilling in postal note or stamps, with your full address. We can supply booklets for Parents, Boys, Girls, Youths and Maidens. You will never miss a shilling so spent, and your children in years to come will thank you heartily. Rev. R. B. S. Hammond has been using them for past 24 years.

**The Australasian White Cross League,**  
56 ELIZABETH-STREET, SYDNEY.

W. E. WILSON, Hon. Secretary.

### Australian Prohibition Council—

(Continued from page 7.)

It was further resolved that the A.P.C. Executive be requested to consult as to the best action to take in regard to the above resolution and act accordingly, and that the various States be urged to induce their local organisations to pass a similar resolution.

#### UNIFORM NAMES.

It was resolved—"That a uniform name shall be adopted by the Prohibition Leagues, and that the matter be submitted to the Executive for decision in regard to name."

#### COMPENSATION TO THE TRADE.

It was resolved—"That this Council is strongly of the opinion that the liquor trade having received unusual consideration has already been amply compensated through time notices and in other ways, and we emphatically protest against any financial compensation from the public funds."

#### MAJORITY VOTE.

It was resolved—"That this Conference asserts the right of the people to decide the question of Prohibition on the basis of a majority vote."

#### WORLD LEAGUE.

It was resolved that the President express to the World League our appreciation of the good work being done by them, and that an affiliation fee of £10/10/- be forwarded.

#### NEXT MEETING.

It was resolved that the next Conference of the Council be held in New South Wales, date and place to be fixed by the Executive, and that in connection therewith the Executive be recommended to make use of the speaking ability of the representatives and thus secure the best financial results.

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## IS THE WORLD GOING DRY ?

### THE RELATION OF BIG BUSINESS TO PROHIBITION.

By CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL.

(Reprinted from "The Century Magazine," January, 1924.)

(Continued from last issue).

The extent to which alcohol dropped out of the national cup is easily shown. On what is called beer in England, and we should call ale if we had any of it, the Government's tax is based upon a "standard" barrel containing 8 per cent. of alcohol. After the tax had been paid on this, the brewer can dilute his product as much as he pleases—or dares. The beer as it finally leaves his establishment is recorded in what are called "bulk" barrels. In 1901 the number of "standard" barrels on which tax was paid and the number of "bulk" barrels sent out to be consumed was virtually the same; there was no watering. In 1915, 1,669,000 barrels of water had been added to the "standard" barrels before they were sold to the public; in 1916 the amount of water added was 1,818,000 barrels; in 1917, 3,538,000 barrels; in 1918, 5,269,000 barrels, under which dispensation beer had become about as potent as lemonade.

The restrictions of grain were chiefly responsible for these inundations in the nation's favorite drink. In 1914 the brewers used 52,818,000 bushels of barley and malt; in 1917 they used only 28,664,000 bushels, and in 1918 only 22,265,000 bushels. The nation's consumption of alcohol declined from 92,000,000 gallons in 1913 to 37,000,000 gallons in 1918.

In yet other ways the Government had accelerated this decline. It put spirituous liquors out of the reach of the poor by increasing the tax on such liquors, and it ruthlessly cut down the hours in which public houses (saloons) might be open. In 1909 the internal revenue duty on spirits was 3.68 dollars a proof gallon. In 1918 it had become 7.50 dollars a proof gallon; in 1919, 12.50 dollars; and in 1920, 18.12 dollars. The duty on wine was raised from thirty cents a gallon to sixty-two cents for wine having less than 30 per cent. of alcohol, and 1.25 dollars for wine of a greater strength. The whisky that formerly cost one dollar a bottle now costs 3.50 dollars.

The duty on beer was also greatly increased, so that the retail price of a pint was more than doubled. But this had more reference to the needs of increased revenue than to the end of furthering temperance.

Under all these innovations drunkenness almost disappeared from the nation, as may be seen from this table covering six years in England and Wales:

#### CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS.

Year.	Male.	Female.
1913 .....	153,112	35,765
1914 .....	146,517	37,311
1915 .....	102,600	33,211
1916 .....	62,946	21,245
1917 .....	34,103	12,307
1918 .....	21,853	7,222

#### DEATHS FROM ALCOHOLISM.

Year.	Male.	Female.
1913 .....	1112	719
1914 .....	1135	680
1915 .....	867	514
1916 .....	620	333
1917 .....	358	222
1918 .....	222	74

In all the United Kingdom the total proceedings for drunkenness were 374,749 in 1913 and only 71,306 in 1918.

Something, though not much, is to be allowed from these figures because in 1918 a million men or more were out of the country. We are to note, also, that in 1919, with the extending of the hours of sale and with the bacchic joys of post-war reunions, the convictions for drunkenness rose to 46,765 for men and 11,183 for women. Yet remains the pregnant fact that for the population at home, 1918 was the year of greatest sobriety the country had ever known, and the foregoing recital shows why it was sober.

It was also the year of the greatest production efficiency. Production kept even pace with sobriety.

(To be continued.)

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO THRIFTY HOUSEWIVES

We have decided to inaugurate a Bonus System whereby regular purchasers of

### THE FAMOUS INGLIS STANDARD BRANDS

Will receive valuable presents in exchange for labels.

The goods subject to the new Bonus are:

INGLIS GOLDENIA TEA  
INGLIS THE BILLY TEA  
INGLIS CAMEL COFFEE AND  
CHICORY  
INGLIS ESSENCE OF COFFEE AND  
CHICORY  
INGLIS PURE SOLUBLE COCOA  
INGLIS GRANUMA PORRIDGE MEAL  
INGLIS BAKING POWDER  
GREER'S HOUSEHOLD AMMONIA

and to enable you to begin the collection of coupons now and from present stocks certain labels from packets, tins, and bottles will be accepted as coupons. When present stocks are exhausted they will be replaced with coupon labels attached.

Full particulars of these labels and of how to obtain the presents are set forth on the second page of the Preliminary Catalogue, which may be obtained at your Store, or by letter from

INGLIS LIMITED, BOX 1582, G.P.O., SYDNEY.

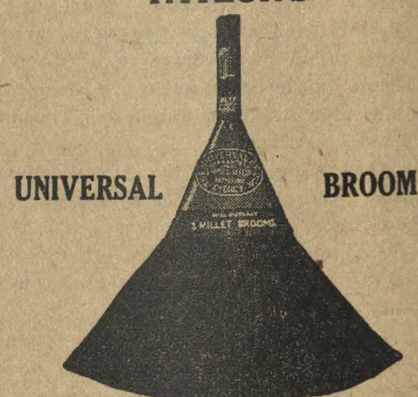
The Preliminary Catalogue, however, is very incomplete. To realise the wide range and excellent quality and value of these presents we invite you to visit our Showrooms at

INGLIS BUILDINGS,  
396-404 KENT-STREET, SYDNEY  
(Off Market-street).

INGLIS BUILDINGS,  
71 KING-STREET, NEWCASTLE  
(The 'buses will set you down at the door)  
where you can have forenoon or afternoon tea with us, free of cost, and have the new system fully explained to you.

## INGLIS LIMITED

## WILL OUTLAST 3 MILLET BROOMS TAYLOR'S

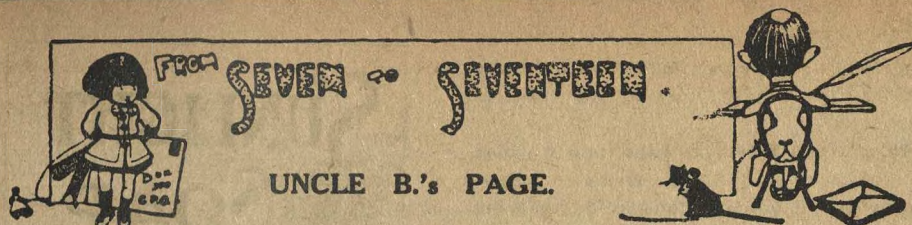


Obtainable at All Grocers and Ironmongers.

Buy one to-day and Save Money.

## PASS "GRIT" ON.





## 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.

### DO YOU KNOW A BOY LIKE THIS?

A boy went to church. When the sermon began this is what he did:

Composed himself with a deep sigh; listened attentively for three minutes in unimpeachable form.

Cautiously reaches hymn book from rack; drops it; recovers it; reads hymns for five minutes.

Explores trouser's pockets, and examines with deep interest one magnet, two nails, three pencil stubs, and several pieces of unclassified junks.

Drops something, and hunts under seat until discovered.

Sighs heavily, inspects all the stained glass windows and the overhead architecture and decorations.

Puts sole of left foot against back of pew in front, at level of knee, and is highly surprised when foot drops noisily. Repeats same exercise with right foot, with same result.

Sits still and gratefully sucks peppermint offered by merciful aunt.

Sighs heavily; experiments to see what will happen if he presses on his adam's apple while head is extended forward; strange choking sound ensues, immediately suppressed by domestic authorities.

Takes a re-count of articles in book rack; finds old paper fan, and discovers that it will make a crackling noise if flipped in a certain manner; flips it in a certain manner until reproved.

Sighs heavily; listens for five minutes; explores coat pockets for solace; looks happier.

A mysterious hissing sound, like escaping steam, leads to probe, revealing old camera bulb; confiscated; dissects and re-assembles flashlight; finds piece of string in pocket, and practices Scout knots for a peaceful interval.

Stands up with a sigh of relief; thank goodness, it's time for the last hymn.

Don't declare him to be a worthless scamp—he is the only material from which men can be made or saints produced.

UNCLE B.

### OUR LETTER BAG.

#### APPLES! HURRAH!

E. and E. M. Hunt, Glen View, Parkes-bourne, write: We are sending you a bag

of small apples by rail, and we hope you can place them somewhere. Could you make use of some more little garments our little girlie has grown out of? You see we are not very well off ourselves, or we would send you new things. "Grit" is getting better than ever, so we think.

(Dear Friends,—Apples lovely! Gave them to 142 orphan children. I would be so very glad of the garments, and am proud as a cat with seventeen kittens to hear "Grit" seventeen-year-old is getting better than ever. Hurrah!—Uncle B.)

\* \* \*

### A NE IN HOSPITAL.

Norman Hawke, Niola Hospital, Parkes, writes: I am in the hospital at Parkes, as you can see by my address, with a sore leg. Last week I went down to my uncle's place for meat, and when I was going home I tore my leg on the fastener of the gate and had to come in here to get it stitched up. It was about four inches long, and it was torn into the bone. I have been in here a week. The doctor took two stitches out yesterday. It hasn't pained much since they were put in, so it must be healing quickly. We had a lovely fall of rain about three weeks ago; we had 125 points. We also had some more last Sunday, and now the grass is shooting up, and it makes the place look pleasant. I will close now, hoping you are well.

(Dear Norman,—Thank God for the hospital, the doctor, the nurse and all the dear folk whose gifts have brought it into existence. We all hope Mr. Leg is quite alright again, and that Mr. Head sees that he is not torn up again.—Uncle B.)

\* \* \*

### A GOOD START.

Gladys Gray, Box 164, Lismore, writes: I would like to join your large family of Ni's and Ne's. My birthday is on July 3, and I am 12 years old. My sister Eileen writes to "Grit." I am in sixth class now, and I am going for my Q.C. at the end of the year. Here are some riddles:

(1) I have a little sister, she waves the waters deep, she climbs the mountains high, poor little creature she has but one eye. What is it?—A star.

(2) What relation is the doormat to the scraper?—A step-father.

(3) When is a soldier like a baby?—When he is in arms.

(Dear Gladys,—You have made a good start by including those interesting riddles in your letter. You just see that Eileen does not become a scallywag. If I were in the sun and you were out of it, what would it become? Why, sin. Eileen's turn now.—Uncle B.)

### ENTERTAINING OTHERS.

Marjorie Harris, "Brundah," 33 Bent-street, Lithgow, writes: Excuse me for not writing before, as I am real lazy about writing. It is beginning to get cold here. In the mornings the ground is covered with frost, which nips our toes and fingers. Yesterday was very cold and windy, but to-day is much warmer. There seems to be nothing else but concerts in Lithgow lately. About Saturday week there is going to be one. I am singing in it, and I may recite. Not very long ago I was in one and sang and recited. Fred. got his Rechabite magazine to-day, which is very nice. Well, I must close now.

(Dear Marjorie,—I hope you will go on patiently with your singing and reciting. It is really a nice thing when one can please and entertain their friends. It is a gift from God, and don't be stingy with it.—Uncle B.)

\* \* \*

### THINGS THAT DO US GOOD.

Eden Hubbard, Hintonholme, Mary Vale, writes: Well, I suppose it is time once more to write to you, and I must not put it off any longer, as I have been doing for some time; it is just three months to-day since I wrote last. How is work progressing down at the "Smoky Village"? It is almost a picture here at present. It does our eyes good just to look across the green fields, but they are not all green, as some are red (as it is sowing time), and that makes it look all the better. To-day has been a beautiful day, and three or four days prior to this one have been perfect. Last Monday fortnight Misses Thelma Lovett, Edna Little, Alice Olde and myself sat for our Sunday school examination, and now, of course, we are patiently waiting to hear what the results are. They say patience is a virtue. Is it true, Uncle? Our examination was about the life of Joseph, and a very interesting story I think it is. Don't you think so, Uncle? My Uncle James Worboys has been here for a fortnight. He has been for a trip round the world, and some interesting stories he can tell, too. He said next time he goes to America (which will be about four years' time) he is going to take me. So if he means what he says my luck will be right in, won't it? He said he knew you, too. He had a mission in Wellington last week, and we only finished last night, which I am sorry to say. He is a beautiful speaker. It has done me a lot of good anyway. Our pastor, Mr. Dunkley, has been at Orange having a mission while Uncle was there, and we expect Mr. Dunkley home next Thursday. Well, I must close now, as I cannot stand this nib any longer.

(Dear Eden,—Your letter is most interesting. I am glad the mission was a help; they always are to those who are willing and who go to them in a right spirit. Remember "feeling better" will soon fade unless we continue to pray and serve God. When you cease to get better it is because you cease to be good.—Uncle B.)



## MOTHER'S DAY.

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEMONSTRATION.

The annual observances held under the auspices of the Young People's Prohibition Council and Band of Hope Union on Mothers' Day passed off very successfully. The one main thought in everyone's mind was "Mother."

Preceding the Town Hall demonstration, THE PROCESSION, while not as large in numbers as in previous years, was in quality up to the standard of past years. Marshalled by District Scoutmaster Le Clerc, who had the assistance of Section Marshals, the procession aroused great interest along the route of march.

Almost every denomination and temperance organisation was represented, and the displays entered brought out the main idea of the gathering, the observance of "Mothers' Day."

The section winners in the various competitive sections were:

Enmore C. of C. Temperance League (2); Hurstville Baptist Sunday School; Greenwich New Day Crusaders and Homebush Presbyterian Sunday School. The winner of the Business Section was Sharpe Bros., cordial manufacturers, who entered a very pleasing display.

Special thanks are due to the Boy Scouts, who assisted as Section Markers and in other duties.

### AT THE TOWN HALL.

It was very gratifying to see the support given by the general public, which was equal to previous years. On the other hand, the display in numbers of young people was far below that of other demonstrations. This was to be regretted, and we hope that our workers will try to do a little better and help make these functions a great success in the future.

The programme submitted was of the highest order, the display of gymnastics given by the boys from the Hurlstone Agricultural College being exceptionally fine. The item given by the girls from the "Fold" showed great thought by those under whose care they were, and they were deserving of all the applause they received.

Pieces presented by the Langridge School of Physical Culture, Mascot Congregational Band of Hope, and Enmore Y.P. Temperance League were well received. Special mention must be made of the choir under Mr. S. McKern from Canterbury district, ably assisted at the piano by Mr. Alan Holland. As in the case generally where district choirs are concerned, it is difficult to get the members together for satisfactory practice, and congratulations go to Mr. McKern for the able way in which the choir presented their items.

### REV. S. VARCOE COCKS,

of Burwood, was in excellent vein for his story-speech, and everybody was delighted with the way this gentleman, in his eloquent manner, spoke of "Mother."

We were pleased to have the Ven. Archdeacon Boyce on the platform, and he kindly presented the trophy cups to the winners of each section.

Mothers' Day, 1924, has gone, and we look now to Mothers' Day, 1925, striving to eclipse all previous demonstrations and honoring Mother in the best possible way.

O, sing me a ballad of "Romany Love!"  
The call of the thrush and the coo of the dove,  
A song of the forest where fond lovers hie,  
A romany "chal" and a romany "chi."  
Mid the turbulent chant of the wintry breeze  
That scatters the leaves from the murmuring trees,  
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### SUNDAY.

#### THE THORN IN THE FLESH.

"Lest I should be exalted above measure, through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."—2 Cor., 12, 2.

Occasional pain can be faced and conquered. But to find oneself disfigured, or injured, or crippled for life; to discover that the mischief is cureless, and that you must go on suffering without any real respite; to know that you will have to creep on "broken wing" for all the rest of the way, until the end, this is what human nature rebels and revolts against. The terrible cross to carry is the cross you must carry permanently without any hope of relief, the cross which in this world God refuses to let you lay down.—J. R. Darlow.

### MONDAY.

"When I am weak, then am I strong."—2 Cor., 12, 10.

Yet the holiest and most apostolic men, with richest gifts and rarest insight, are perhaps most tempted to inward elation, most in danger of spiritual pride. And against this deadliest and subtlest of temptations God's chosen safeguard is oftentimes the steady, constant, enduring pressure of some humbling, distressing pain. . . The outward hindrance is sent as an inward help. The material stumbling-block becomes a spiritual stepping-stone. The heavy burden is transformed into "such a burden as wings are to a bird, or sails to a ship." What we count "messengers of Satan" are angels of God in disguise. . . In the economy of grace it is the bruised lives and the shattered plans, and the broken health, and the spilled spikenard which become peculiar objects and opportunities for the Lord's blessing. His angels excel in strength, but His saints excel in weakness. His apostles conquer through infirmities, and necessities, and distresses. His little flock, when it is diminished and brought low, receives the kingdom unawares. When the saints are weak, then are they strong. What we call hindrances are appointed as helps. I bid.

### TUESDAY.

"Satan hath desired to have thee that he may sift thee as wheat."—Luke 22, 31.

One look at that pale suffering face  
Will make us feel the deep disgrace  
Of weakness.

We shall be sifted, till the strength  
Of self-conceit be changed at length  
To meekness.

Wounds of the soul, though healed, will ache,  
The reddening scars remain, and make  
Confession.

Lost innocence returns no more,  
We are not what we were before.  
Transgression.

But noble souls through dust and heat  
Rise from disaster and defeat  
The stronger.

And conscious still of the divine  
Within them, lie on earth supine  
No longer. —Longfellow.

### WEDNESDAY.

"When thou art converted strengthen thy brethren."—Luke 22, 33.

Peter was put through Satan's winnowing, but the chaff only in him was blown out. . .

He lost his rashness, his self-confidence, his pride, and came again a humble man, but stronger, majestic—a power to bless the world. . . Much of the grandeur and power of Peter's after-life came out of that costly lesson. The oyster mends its shell with a pearl. Where the ugly wound was there comes a gem, hiding the scar, and making it a spot of lustrous beauty. So true repentance of sins changes the weakness of our lives into strength. If we are Christ's true followers, even our defeats bring blessings.—Dr. Miller.

### THURSDAY.

"Thy will be done."

To have, each day, the thing I wish,  
Lord, that seems best to me;  
But not to have the thing I wish,  
Lord, that seems best to Thee.

Most truly, then, Thy will is done,  
When mine, O Lord, is crossed;  
'Tis good to see my plan o'erthrown,  
My ways in Thine all lost.

Whate'er Thy purpose be, O Lord,  
In things or great or small.  
Let each minutest part be done  
That Thou mayst still be all.

In all the little things of life,  
Thyself, Lord, may I see,  
In little or in great alike,  
Reveal Thy love to me.

So shall my undivided life  
To Thee, my God, be given;  
And all this earthly course below  
Be one dear path to heaven.

—Rev. H. Bonar.

### FRIDAY.

"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him."—John 13, 31.

It was when Christ was about to suffer that He said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him." And in reference to Peter's crucifixion, He spoke "signifying by what death he should glorify God." We are perfected, God is glorified by our sufferings. Is there no comfort in this, that when it seems impossible that through a wearing sickness or a cruel mental infirmity, which appears to us such a waste of life, we should glorify Him? . . . In this is comfort for the life-long hopeless sufferer, mourning his inability to contribute to the work or the well-being of the Church on earth. In his most solitary days and weariest nights he is not alone, but surrounded by a mighty host of witnesses. If but ever so slight a thread binds him to the great Head of the Church, he is also united with every member of a great body, visible and invisible. His "light affliction" shall work an "eternal weight of glory." For remember in the great bloodless battle wherein the soul thinks itself forsaken and alone, the warriors of the world unseen are looking on. The one who through long years of unspeakable trial can still, like Job, "hold on to God," and accept His will, strikes one of the deadliest blows at the powers of darkness, whereby Satan's kingdom can possibly be weakened, and the hosts of heaven rejoice in beholding it.—Bishop Wilkinson.

### SATURDAY.

"Who is this that cometh in the name of the Lord?"

Who is this that cometh in the Lord's dear name?

Wan and drooping on the road, very weak and lame?



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Pale brow overshadowed, eyes all quenched and dim—

Is it pain who cometh? Did the Lord send him?

Who is this that cometh in the Lord's dear name?

Meeting never praises, only tears and blame?  
Mourning veil to hide him, eyes which tears o'erbrim—

Is it grief who cometh? Did the Lord send HIM?

Who is this that cometh in the Lord's dear name?

In his strange and searching gaze burns a pallid flame.

Mournful flowers crown his head, terrible and grim.

Is it Death who cometh? Did the Lord send him?

Never messenger shall come if he be not sent.

We will welcome one and all, since the Lord so meant.

Welcome Pain, or Grief, or Death, saying with glad acclaim,

Blessed be all who cometh to us in the Lord's dear name.

—Susan Coolidge.



## Are You a Hen?—

(Continued from page 5.)

Mr. Rogers: That his Worship, without affording me an opportunity of addressing the Court, intimated that in the case of Henderson he was discharged. Further, I ask the magistrate to state his reasons for discharging the accused.

Mr. Peisley: When I discharged Henderson, I said I did not think him guilty. I will give you no other reasons.

All of which is peculiar—very peculiar. One would have thought that the magistrate would not make up his mind without first hearing what the Crown had to say. But you never know where you are in the Courts nowadays when liquor cases are under review.

## HOTELS AS RETAIL SHOPS.

A telegram from Mudgee, printed in the "Daily Telegraph," says that the practice of "birds of passage" having the use of hotels for the sale of goods to the public has aroused the ire of country traders, whose association has written to the Mudgee Chamber of Commerce on the matter. They contend that hotel premises in this way are practically converted into retail shops for the benefit of persons who have no stake in the town. The practice is, no doubt, an objectionable one from many points of view, and is distinctly unfair to local shopkeepers, provided, of course, that these people carry such stocks as satisfy their customers. Unless the Licensed Victuallers' Association is prepared to act, however, it is difficult to see how a stop is going to be put to it short of prohibitory legislation, and to that, too, there might be grave objections. Legislation in restraint of trade is not popular nowadays, and, after all, the buyer has a right to go to any market he prefers. The Secretary of the Commercial Travellers' Association points out that these travelling retailers are not commercial travellers who represent wholesale houses, but we have known plenty of commercial travellers who did a thriving retail trade on the quiet. From our point of view, the chief objection to this practice is that it leads to a lot of unnecessary drinking.

## A SLANDER ON OYSTERS.

Most of our readers will agree with us that oysters are a most toothsome delicacy—except on the shell, of course, when the teeth do not, as a rule, play any part in their gestation. Fried oysters, well done, with lemon juice, curried oysters, oyster patties, oyster soup—the mere mention of such dishes makes the mouth water, and thus it is with no little indignation that we find one Harry Reginald Nash blaming the bivalves for his being drunk whilst in charge of a motor lorry in North Sydney the other day. Nash is 44 years of age, and really ought to know better. "I had eaten some oysters from Middle

Harbor, which made me ill, and I had some port wine and brandy." Harry does not seem to have reflected that it was perhaps the port wine and brandy which upset the apple cart or the oyster barrel.

## DRINKING IN FRANCE.

According to a report issued by the French Government, the great reduction in the number of cases of drunkenness in that country is attributed to gardening, the wireless boom and outdoor games. This, at any rate, disposes of the old fiction that there is no drunkenness in wine-drinking countries. We know better so far as France is concerned—it is only necessary to visit the cabarets of Montmartre and the brasseries of La Villette to know whether drunkenness is rife there or not. But the statement seems to us rather far-fetched. It is true, of course, that idleness—"le desoeuvrement," as our French friends call it—is a prolific cause of excessive drinking, and that the best safeguard is healthy occupation, but we have our doubts about the "great reduction" in France. The fact, as we gather from French Prohibition literature, is that the French Government is under the thumb of the wine interests in the country and is apt to publish reports to order proving that drunkenness is on the decline when such is not really the case. The peasantry and the lower working class in France do not play games, do not go in for wireless, and only do gardening for a living, and it is amongst this class that drunkenness is common. The amount of bad liquor sold to the masses in France is incredible until you have discovered it by practical experience. During the war the quality of the liquor usually sold to the troops was awful.

## MOLESTING CHILDREN.

It appears that there has been a marked increase of late in the number of cases of molesting children in Goulburn, and, according to a telegram in the "Labor Daily," the local police magistrate is determined to stamp out this practice. But he will not succeed in doing so if he is content to impose a £5 fine, as he did the other day when a man named William Christie pleaded drunkenness as an excuse for having stopped and frightened a little girl seven or eight years of age. It does not appear that he hurt her, but he certainly frightened her, for she ran to a policeman for protection. These brutes always do plead drunkenness when charged with behaviour of that sort, but such a plea ought never be allowed to weigh in mitigation of penalty for offences of this class. There should be imprisonment without the option every time. It is the only way to protect children of tender years effectively. And when we find, as we so frequently do, that drinking can induce men to tamper with children, that surely ought to be a final and sufficient argument for cutting out the drink traffic entirely.

## DOMESTIC INFELICITY.

Not a week goes by without some story being unfolded in the courts of domestic infelicity due to drink. The other day a man was bound over for twelve months for using threatening language to his wife, to whom he had been married for fourteen years. The wife said she lived in a single room, and her husband would not get work. He told her he would shoot her and brain her. She had to go out to work, and had given him money to try and get rid of him, but he would not go. The accused said there was no meaning in his threats, which were made under the influence of liquor—a pretty excuse, indeed. There are too many of these loafing bullies living on women in this city, many of them young, hefty men who dress well and always have money in their pockets. It's strange how some women take to such fellows.

## A LABORER'S DEATH.

On March 16 the mangled body of George Hearn was found on the railway line at Lakemba. At an inquest held last week it was stated that on the night preceding the fatality the deceased was drunk, and left a companion, telling him he would meet him next day. A couple of years before he had tried to cut his throat with a razor. When found, the feet and the head and shoulders were severed. His wife had been away for some time, and when informed of the accident she said she had expected it. The deceased left seven children. No amount of apology and special pleading on behalf of Bung can get over the horror of this sort of incident. When we have developed a real sense of responsibility to our fellow-men, stories of this sort will convert more people to Prohibition than they do to-day.

## DRUNKEN DRIVERS.

Some of the local bodies are beginning to take notice of the number of accidents on the roads due to reckless driving by motorists under the influence of liquor. This sort of thing is particularly bad on the Parramatta and Liverpool roads, and the Burwood and Annandale Councils are co-operating with a view to the exercise of more rigorous supervision over motor traffic. Most people will agree with Alderman Hogan, of Annandale, who said that fines were not sufficient, and that drunken motorists ought to be sent to jail. That is the only course of action which will deter some people. At the Burwood Court on the 6th instant, Harold Hughes was fined £5 for being drunk whilst in charge of a motor car.

## ANOTHER WAITER ESCAPES.

Recently a waiter named Fitzsimmons, employed at the Macquarie Restaurant, was fined £100, or six months, for supplying liquor to customers. He appealed against his conviction.

(Continued on next page.)



on the ground that, as an employee, he was not responsible for the sale of the liquor. At Quarter Sessions, Judge White, who heard the case, sustained the appeal and quashed the conviction. Thus it appears that a man who does an illegal act at the instigation of his employer is not liable, although he is aware that what he is doing is illegal. That may be good law, and again it may not. If my employer orders me to break the law am I entitled to do so?

### My Utopian Friends—

(Continued from page 6.)

In the United States they "do things differently." On the healthful highlands of Western Louisiana is a 20,000 acre tract of land which bears the name of the Llano Co-operative Community. It does not hold itself apart from the rest of the civilised world, but is gradually establishing its independence, and is transforming local competitive industries into co-operative concerns. Already they have co-operatised a brick-making plant, sugar refinery, dairy, orchard, printery, laundry, boot factory, school, picture show, rice plantation, store, blacksmith's shop, and last, but not least, a hotel. This is quite a "dry" hotel, and Llano colonists are avowed "drys." They are experimenting. There is a community kitchen, in which the housewife's drudgery is reduced to a minimum. And this will shock many of us: some of them are living almost wholly on uncooked foods—vegetables especially, carrots, turnips, cauliflowers; yes, and even uncooked cabbage. It may be that in cooking foods we are destroying essential parts. The fact is that Llano children are thriving despite their experiments, and it may be that the causes of cancer and other scourges can be traced to wrong diet. Job Harriman, well known as a co-operative publicist, became practical when he formed the colony, and one of my best friends, "T.E.S.", is secretly envious of the co-operative success which Harriman has achieved.

Our late co-operative leader, Mr. Frank E. Pulsford, gave strong calls for adherents to our cause which is striving to make Christian commerce possible, and to eliminate many of the evils of the competitive system. The response was usually discouraging, and we realise that co-operative education must precede any big co-operative developments.

The successful establishment of the Australian Starr-Bowkett Building Co-operative Society will help to give some such co-operative education. All who become members of it will have an object lesson of how co-operation will give them loans free of interest, with which they can buy their own home, land or farm. This Society, which has recently been formed, is now open to receive members, and all who desire to buy their own home or land are invited to correspond with the Secretary (Thos. E. Shonk), 630 Daking House, Rawson Place, Sydney. Phone: M3507.

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