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# Grit.

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WHY HE CANCELLED.

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## CHRISTMAS AND THE POOR.

### WHOSE BIRTHDAY IS IT?

Let us Remember the Sad, the Sick and the Forgotten Ones.

By ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

It will soon be Christmas, and everyone will be rushing away for holidays, buying presents and remembering old friends.

Now, I dread Christmas. I know over 1000 people who will have what we call a very thin time. I want to tell you about some of them, so that you may perhaps find it possible to help me to help them.

#### OLD-AGE PENSIONERS.

Just think what it means to live on 17/6 a week! When you pay 6/- a week for your room then you have 11/6 left.

If they want three meals a day that means sixpence a meal and one shilling over for clothes, fares and everything else.

Well, of course, you can't get much for sixpence, so they all have only two meals a day, and not always that. They are such poor little meals—meat once a week—and I fear you would turn up your nose at what they "enjoy."

What does it mean when they are sick? Instead of sending for a doctor they have to creep and toil in pain to a hospital, wait their turn for hours, and then go back again to be all alone in their suffering.

Last Christmas I was able to help about 30 old-age pensioners, and they were all so patient, brave and grateful.

#### CASUAL WORKERS.

Just think of the great number—many thousand—who only work by the day. Well, the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th are all holidays, but the rent goes on each day, and appetite goes on each day, and lots of fun goes on each day, but they have no work, so there is no money coming in.

Instead of Father Christmas calling, the only caller is the rent man. Instead of a nice holiday, it is a horrid no-work, no-pay time. Why, I paid the rent for over twenty families last year, and that made them happier than anything, and gave them freedom from that constant care.

#### THE SICK FOLK.

Sickness is always bad, but when it is hot, and you are too poor to have ice, or other nice things; when you fear to send for a doctor because you can't pay him; when your medicine takes the rent money or you have to pawn something to get it, then sickness becomes very, very sad.

#### DESERTED WIVES.

In Sydney there are over 1000 women with children whose man has cleared out and left them. I know a nice little woman who has a baby and a three-year-old child. Her man just went, and never said a word. She gets 10/- a week from the Government and she has 5/- besides. How do you think she lives on that? Don't you think it sad when she pawns her wedding ring? How can she work with two wee children? Do you think she looks forward to Christmas? I grow sick at heart trying to help, and just now my poor account is £24 overdrawn, but I just have to try to go on helping. I wish I had £250 this Christmas. My! I would be a great Santa Claus!

#### THE HOMELESS MEN.

Such a lot of men—hundreds and hundreds—are homeless, friendless, workless and conscience-burdened. The Christmas week will be one long nightmare to them. Yesterday I met a boy of 18 out from England only six months. He was sleeping in the Park. What will his Christmas be like! He does not know a soul in all Australia, and he may not get a letter from home, and he is ashamed to write and tell them of his plight. I could tell you of so many more—the poor, the sad, the foolish, the victims, the innocent ones, who can't understand.

If you can plan to help and will let me be your messenger I will be so happy to do so for you. It will surely make your Christmas a much happier one.

#### PROHIBITION V. GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

Rev. W. L. Lawrence, speaking in the Broadway Tabernacle in Toronto recently, cited facts taken from Government statistics to prove that Prohibition does prohibit. The facts, given in connection with conditions in British Columbia, a "Government sale province," showed that sales in that province during the last six months ending December, 1920, under Prohibition, were 99,376 dollars; sales during six months ending September, 1923, under Government control, were 5,717,624 dollars; yearly average of prisoners sent to Oakalla jail under Prohibition, 511; yearly average under Government sale, 1565; yearly average of prisoners in penitentiary under Prohibition, 61; yearly average under Government sale, 113.

#### LIBERTY AND LIQUOR.

"I am sure that the wildest exponents of the theory of personal liberty would not agree that one of the 90,000 engineers I represent should have the right to exercise his personal liberty and take two or three drinks before starting from the terminal with a limited express train."—Warren S. Stone, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers.

In Delaware crop reports state that the demand for strawberries by the manufacturers of fruit juices and ice cream makers has increased 1000 per cent. since Prohibition. The farmers have been greatly benefited by the increased prices. Prohibition scores again!

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Now that Xmas will soon be upon us subscribers to "Grit" can show their appreciation to our advertisers in a practical way by purchasing their Xmas gifts from those who support the cause. We draw your attention to that of the Beehive Novelty Stores on page 14, who cater specially for the gift season. They carry a huge stock at reasonable prices. Pay them a visit as early as possible and show your loyalty to those who stand for Prohibition.

## SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

### TERRIBLE CONDITIONS IN GREECE.

The serious condition of the refugees in Greece is growing increasingly serious as the winter develops. Dr. W. A. Kennedy, the Chief Commissioner of the Save the Children Fund, is faced with appalling difficulties in meeting the situation, and is sending urgent appeals to the relief agencies in the home countries. A cable received recently by the Secretary of the Save the Children Fund and Armenian Relief Fund advises that ten thousand refugees arrived at Salonica during October from Pontus. In Salonica alone, apart from scattered refugees whose numbers cannot be tabulated, there are fifteen thousand refugees living in tents, and forty-five thousand living in barracks. Men, women and children, regardless of age or sex, are of necessity huddled together. Whole families are without any covering apart from sacking. The supplies of blankets only permit a distribution in the proportion of one to every four persons. This in weather which is intensely cold, with bitter winds and driving sleet.

The Duke of Atholl, President of The Save the Children Fund, London, in forwarding Dr. Kennedy's report, adds:

"Australia would rise and help could she picture one-hundredth part of the agony of the little children."

Donations and contributions of clothing and blankets should be sent to the office of the Fund, 38a Pitt-street, Sydney.

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## WEST AUSTRALIA PREPARES FOR 1925 FIGHT.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO "FREEDOM FAIR."

BIG PREPARATIONS BEING MADE.

"Freedom Fair." That is the name of the big West Australian effort, which will be held in Perth during February 19, 20 and 21. The St. George's Hall, in Hay-street, has been engaged, the stalls and sections are allotted, and there is every indication that this function will be the biggest and best thing of its kind yet held in Perth. The slogan of the fair is: To open the gate to Prohibition. "Grit" wishes our friends in the West great success in this big undertaking.

### FIRST SHOTS ARE FIRED.

Since the last West Australian notes appeared in "Grit" political events have moved rapidly. The Premier (Mr. Collier) has made a public statement that he will, this session,

liberty. And although he made the best of very poor material his letter was certainly no credit to his undoubted cleverness as a journalist.

### PROHIBITION LEAGUE ACTIVITY.

The united body, the West Australian Prohibition League, is making great headway. Old branches of the West Australian Alliance and Anti-Liquor League are now reformed, and have become branches of the new League. New branches are being formed each week, and it is difficult for headquarters to keep pace with the requests for meetings. The League is fortunate in having secured the services of Mr. A. A. Shapcott to do the outside organising. As evidence of how well the League is progressing we quote



### WHY NOT PLAY FAIR?

introduce an amending bill to the present Licensing Act to provide for the 1925 poll being decided by a bare majority. This statement has caused a flutter in the press dovecots. The "West Australian," which has a monopoly in morning journalism, is horrified at the suggestion of the principle of a bare majority being applied to Prohibition. Mr. Leake, in a letter to the editor, calls upon all moderate drinkers to rise in their might and form a "Liberty League." Mr. Leake is now sorry he spoke, because the day following his letter the President of the Prohibition League, the Rev. George Tulloch, took notice of Mr. Leake's arguments, and dealt with them so effectively that Mr. Leake retired hurt and left the field to Mr. Wallace Nelson. Mr. Nelson is visiting West Australia as the guest of the Liquor Party, and, according to the "Sunday Times," he is soon to begin a lecture tour in favor of the continuance of the Trade. Mr. Wallace Nelson is well and favorably known in the State. The time was when he had a seat in the Legislative Assembly, and his rich Scotch brogue was one of the most pleasant sounds in the Chamber. We would rather see the "Wee Scot Orator" with a better cause to espouse! Mr. Nelson's first public appearance as the official Liquor Advocate was a rather feeble attempt to cry: Beware of losing personal

the latest report, which shows that from October 1 to November-23 the Campaign Director (Mr. R. J. C. Butler) has attended no less than thirty-one meetings in connection with the work of the League. These include public meetings, church services and other functions.

The President of the League (the Rev. George Tulloch) is giving much time and energy to the work, and is proving a tower of strength to the united body.

Big changes have been made at the headquarters of the League at Temperance Hall. A large public office has been opened, which is for the use of visitors. The latest papers and literature are available, and friends are made to feel it is their office.

### ESSAY COMPETITION.

£10/10/- offered in Senior Division.  
£3/3/- for Boys and Girls.

The President of the West Australian Prohibition League has issued the conditions of the essay competition which the League is running in connection with "Freedom Fair."

### OPEN TO "GRIT" READERS.

This competition is open to "Grit" readers. Read the conditions carefully, and then have a go at winning the prize.

### ESSAY COMPETITION.—SENIOR DIVISION.

Subject of essay. "Is the prohibition of the liquor traffic beneficial to the human race—morally, physically and industrially?"

1. The essay, which must not be more than 2000 words, is open to both sexes and all ages.

2. The examiners will give special attention to the construction of the essay, and will award marks on the basis of the best arguments adduced from the largest number of reliable sources and countries in support of the questions.

3. The essay must be written or typed on one side of the paper only.

4. The prize for the best essay is £10/10/-, and said essay becomes the property of the Prohibition League of West Australia, and may be published by the said League.

5. The competition will close on January 20, when all essays must be in the hands of the President of the League at the Temperance Hall, Museum-street, Perth.

6. The name and address of the essayist shall be written on a separate sheet and enclosed in the envelope containing the manuscript, which must be sealed.

7. The result will be announced at the opening of the "Freedom Fair" on February 19, 1925.

Examiners: Cecil Andrews, Esq., M.A., Director of Education, W.A.; Dr. J. Dale, Medical Officer of Health, W.A.

All persons entering this essay competition must agree to accept the decision of the examiners as final and binding.

GEORGE TULLOCH,

President W.A. Prohibition League.

### ESSAY COMPETITION.—OPEN TO ALL BOYS AND GIRLS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE.

Subject of essay: "Is the prohibition of the liquor traffic beneficial to children?"

1. Essayists shall be under 16 years of age at the 31st day of December, 1924.

2. The essay shall be written on one side of the paper only, and shall be entirely their own effort.

3. The following, among other text books, may be used: "Prohibition in the U.S.A. and Canada," by Hon. Thomas Walker, M.L.A., and "35,000 Miles of Prohibition," by Gordon Bros.; also "Alcohol and the Human Body," by Horsley and Sturge. These books can be purchased at League Office, Temperance Hall, Museum-street, Perth.

4. The essays shall consist of not more than 750 words.

5. The prize for the best essay will be £3/3/-.

6. The winning essay becomes the property of the League, and may be published. All competitors who gain 75 per cent. will be awarded a "certificate of merit."

7. The date of the closing of the competition is January 20, 1925, on which date all essays must be in the hands of the President of the Prohibition League at Museum-street, Perth.

8. Do not write your name on the essay, but write your name and address on a separate sheet, and enclose with essay for identification purposes.

Joint Examiners: The Hon. Thomas Walker, M.L.A., Speaker Legislative Assembly, and J. F. Ward, Esq., M.A., Headmaster, Wesley Boys' College.

### MR. JAMES MATHER.

A statement appeared in "Grit" to the effect that Mr. Mather had resigned the position of Organising Secretary of the West Australian Alliance. This is misleading. There is now no West Australian Alliance. Mr. Mather has not resigned from the Movement, and holds a responsible position in the new Prohibition League. At present Mr. Mather is on a three months' holiday.



# 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, DECEMBER 7.

- 11 a.m.: Hornsby Anglican Church.  
Mr. C. W. Chandler.  
3 p.m.: Wilberforce Anglican Church.  
Mr. C. E. Still.  
11 a.m.: Killara Methodist Church.  
7 p.m.: Hornsby Methodist Church.  
Mr. H. C. Stitt.

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14.

- 11 a.m.: Sutherland Methodist Church.  
3 p.m.: Caringbar Sunday School.  
7.15 p.m.: Carinbar Methodist Church.  
Mr. C. W. Chandler.  
11 a.m.: Bexley Methodist Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Balmain Methodist Church.  
Mr. H. C. Stitt.  
7.15 p.m.: Redfern Presbyterian Church.  
Mr. Wm. Bain.  
3 p.m.: Hexham Methodist.  
7.15 p.m.: Morpeth Methodist.  
Mr. C. S. Still.

## APPOINTMENTS.

### REV. HENRY WORRALL.

The itinerary is now being finalised for the Rev. Henry Worrall, Platform Lecturer for the Australian Prohibition Council, together with the Alliance Staff, to conduct special Prohibition Services in the churches on the Blue Mountains on Sunday, January 4th, 11th and 18th.

Public meetings will also be held in those towns on week nights during that period. A number of other public meetings are being arranged, including Newcastle and Maitland.

## ALLIANCE NEWS AND NOTES.

(By H. C. STITT.)

Special Prohibition Sunday Services were conducted by the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond, at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Newtown; ex-Senator David Watson spoke at the Woolahra Congregational Church; Mr. H. C. Stitt was the preacher at the Newtown Methodist Church and Rockdale Church of Christ; and Mr. W. Bain was at Blacktown Presbyterian Church. All meetings were well attended, and the presentation of the message urging the need for national sobriety and the prohibition of the liquor trade was appreciated.

Mr. Duncan McInnes, of Toowoomba (Queensland), who has been on an extended holiday to Sydney, has returned to the Northern State. While in Sydney Mr. McInnes rendered valuable assistance on numerous occasions to the Alliance as an open-air speaker. He possesses an impressive personality, speaks with conviction, and presents his matter in a clear-cut manner that grips and holds. We understand that the ex-footballer and pugilist has inclinations towards the upholstered benches in the "House."

From the far West Mr. Jas. Mather has called on his way to New Zealand, whither he has gone for three months' rest—that is, if an old campaigner like the West Australian General Secretary can make it possible to rest.

Mr. Pinkerton, of Launceston, Tasmania, is another Interstate visitor whose acquaintance we were pleased to make, and who is a well-known Prohibition worker. We are always delighted to meet Interstate visitors.

The many friends of Mr. David Watson (who has been a lecturer for the Alliance for over three years) will regret to learn that he is an inmate of the Lewisham Hospital, where he is to undergo a serious operation. Mr. Watson will probably be out of action for five weeks.

We had the pleasure of representing the Alliance at the Five Dock Citizen's Meeting of Protest against the removal of the hotel site. The meeting which was well attended, as highly representative of all the various organisations and churches of Five Dock. Motions of protest and indignation were unanimously carried, and determination expressed to resist the transfer at the Licensing Court. The Rev. J. Boardman is putting up a splendid fight to keep the public-house out of the respectable portion of the business centre. Quite right! These "shicker" shops should be allotted a place of their own, similar to any other nuisance.

The Rev. Henry Worrall will continue a further Prohibition campaign in this State, commencing on the 3rd January, and will continue for four weeks. Preliminary plan of itinerary appears on this page. We regret that the limited time does not permit of a wider range of meetings being spread over the State, but would advise all interested to make a special point of attending where possible.

We have drawn the attention of the Postmaster-General—by way of protest—to the liquor advertisements appearing in the Telephone Directory. It does seem extravagantly inconsistent to recommend a Savings Bank on one cover and a whisky bottle, corkscrew and glass on the other. However, the main point is that the Directory of a Commonwealth Government public utility is being used for "booze" advertisements, and subscribers are accessories, inasmuch as they display the bottle, corkscrew, glass and drawn cork at the home or office telephone.

Last Friday evening the open-air campaign was continued by a meeting at Chatswood where Messrs. C. W. Chandler, L. Carrington, B.A., and the writer addressed about 150 people. Heavy rain fell previous to the meeting; otherwise the attendance would have been considerably larger.

We are in receipt of a letter from our Seventh Day Adventist friends, setting forth the anti-liquor resolutions carried at their recent annual conference. The resolutions (which commence thus: "Conscious of the tremendous evil of the liquor traffic, and as a people who are unitedly opposed to all forms of intemperance") voice a determination emphatically for the prohibition of the liquor traffic without compensation; simple majority decision on a poll within 12 months of election, and restoration of local option clauses.

It will be cheering news to have been assured by the Premier at the opening of the press reported "magnificently appointed Hotel Robertson" that the workmen from the great industrial centres will be able to visit Robertson with their wives and families for the week-ends. Sir George Fuller also stated that "they (the workmen) will be able to go as giants refreshed to their daily toil." The press did not report the attendance of any "giants." Presumably they were spared from listening to such arrant rubbish. Surely this will yet be a wonderful nation. There is apparently no necessity for the Premier to stress the point that the Government "functioned to further the interests of private enterprise," because that is very obvious at numerous city hotels

after the legal closing hour of 6 o'clock, which the people carried by a majority over all other hours combined of 138,485.

The Goulburn press is smarting under the lash which the Rev. R. H. Campbell so capably administered to the "by arrangement" advertisements at his open-air meeting of protest. Mr. Campbell seized the opportunity which presented itself owing to the publication of a "wet" sermon. The result has been of the finest educational value, and attention pronouncedly focussed on the sum total of reliance which may be placed on matter which Mr. Campbell very ably described as "published by arrangement with the liquor interests, and supplied by them."

The following report which has been supplied by Mr. W. H. Mitchell Hon. Director of the Alliance Young People's Department, speaks for itself, and we commend Mr. Mitchell for his successful enterprise:—

"Our friends will be pleased to know that during the past few days matters have been finalised with the Department of Education in connection with the examination in Health and Temperance which is to be conducted in the public schools of this State.

"This examination (the first of its kind in New South Wales) is by approval of the Minister for Education. We are not the first of the Australian States to have such an examination. The Department of Education in Victoria, for instance, has sanctioned a similar examination in its schools for years past, the Rechabite Order being responsible for the prize list, and a very fine list it is, scholarships, etc., being among the rewards to the successful examinees. We are starting out humbly—a gold medal by the Director of the Young People's Department of the Alliance and book prizes by the Alliance itself, in conjunction with the W.C.T.U., while the Rechabite Order will supply the certificates. A pass of 60 per cent. gains an illuminated certificate, one of 75 per cent. a book prize, while the very best paper brings to its writer the gold medal for the State. Mrs. S. Strang contemplates supplementing this by donating a silver medal, which doubtless will be awarded for the second best paper.

"There are 2200 examinees for this, our first examination, which may be regarded as a very satisfactory response to our effort at establishing this examination as an annual one. We trust that our friends will lend their countenance and active support in this interesting and most important work."

## "THE DAWNING OF THAT DAY."

Everybody should read "The Dawning of That Day"—an inspiring and arresting book, dealing with the world's fast approaching and most stupendous crisis. Send 1/7 to your bookseller for a copy, or to the author Rev. H. G. J. Howe, Rectory, Gladesville N.S.W.

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## GREAT WHITE FAIR

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## Great Crowning Ceremony

SYDNEY TOWN HALL [BASEMENT]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th, at 8 p.m.

Wonderful Pageant :: Wonderful Pageant

### PROHIBITION A CHRISTIAN ENTERPRISE.

(By R. B. S. HAMMOND).

The Bible believes in prohibiting; for the Ten Commandments which lay the eternal foundation of our moral conduct are unequivocal prohibitions. The Bible also lays down the principle of consideration for others, even to the point of self-sacrificing abandonment of lawful things if they be dangerous. This necessitates total abstinence for the individual, and justifies Prohibition for the community.

There cannot be found in all Scripture any sanction for a trade that prospers on the moral degradation of any portion of its customers. The drunkard is excluded from Heaven, and the drunkard maker has no place in a civilised Christian community. If the drink-seller fails to make drunkards of all his customers, it must be remembered that no one makes any drunkards but himself. Whatever sanction may be found for drinking, the Bible prohibits drinking more definitely than it does slavery or gambling.

A great moral harm is being done—shall we devote ourselves to repairing an infinitesimal portion of the harm, or shall we remove the cause? Our commonsense emphatically answers: "Remove the cause."

If no one ever got drunk, if no social disasters ever followed drinking, it would still be a patriotic duty, necessary and worth while, to have Prohibition for the sake of one's country. It preserves child life; it protects the home; it nourishes business; it safeguards the health of the community, and promotes its physical development. It makes necessary the reinvestment of capital that will give more employment and pay higher wages. No Christian can be indifferent to these things.

It increases efficiency and eliminates accidents. In the face of this, Prohibition is as worthy of Christian support as a hospital or benevolent society. Our Spiritual leaders in the House of Lords have established the Churches' right to promote legislative enactments, and none the Bishops have ever voted for can show results equal to those following Prohibition.

Liquor sellers cannot insure their lives as other people can, because the dangerous nature of their occupation gives them a much shorter expectation of life. Prohibition prolongs life as surely as the doctor so often does, and it saves life as certainly as does the hero who rescues someone from danger. It is a humane measure in harmony with Christian ideals. While Prohibition is not needed by everyone, nor does it safeguard everyone, yet as a safety-first enactment it abundantly justifies itself.

We pray: "Lead us not into temptation," and it would be gravely inconsistent not to close what has been to a countless host a door of temptation, such as a liquor bar, when we had the opportunity.

### HOW CRIME IS COUNTED.

In the City of Detroit, Michigan, over twelve hundred persons were recently charged with violating the traffic laws of that city. These crime statistics are being used as if they were a demonstration of the failure of Prohibition.

### THINKING OF BUILDING ?

Put your money into a structurally sound concrete home. Concrete is the building material for this age.

### DAMPNEY CONCRETE COTTAGES

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## GOVERNOR OPENS A NEW PUB.

### STRANGE LAPSE OF SIR GEORGE FULLER'S MEMORY.

#### MR. LOXTON, M.L.A., SAYS EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT LEY BROKE PLEDGE.

**How Victorian Police Behaved.—Profits of Breweries.—Great Australian Thirst.—Where Whisky is Called Tea.—Anzac Day Bill.—Audacious Bohemians.—Sunday Booze in North Sydney.**

#### GOVERNOR OPENS HOTEL.

Last week the Hotel Robertson was opened in state by His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Vice-Admiral Sir Dudley de Chair, who was presented with a gold pencil for his trouble and closed the proceedings with the remark that "this is a lucrative business." As one of the newspapers declares, there is some advantage in being merely vice-regal; you can collect souvenirs, whereas they are always declined by royalty. However, that is merely incidental. It is assuredly not often that a new hotel, established by private enterprise for private profit, is honored with a "kick-off" by a State Governor, who is not merely the King's representative, but also an avowed teetotaler. It would be interesting, indeed, to know what are the precedents for such an action. Subject to correction, we venture to assert that there is no precedent so far as royalty is concerned. We do not think the King would agree to open a new "pub" however luxurious, which, of course, goes again to show that the prerogatives of vice-royalty are more extended than those of royalty. In strict constitutional law and practice, by the way, a State Governor is not a viceroy, but something less, the difference being that a full-blown viceroy exercises all the royal prerogatives, whereas a governor only exercises such of them as are specifically delegated to him in his Commission and Letters Patent, but that is a subtlety which need not exercise the lay mind. The point is that the Governor is the King's representative, and, as we remarked last week, we doubt the propriety of his opening a new hotel. It does not seem to us to be consonant with the dignity of his office.

#### SIR GEORGE FULLER'S MEMORY.

Several Ministers of the Crown were present at the ceremony, including the Premier, Sir George Fuller, and the Chief Secretary, Mr. Oakes, and, of course, the usual large gathering of "swells" who always flutter round about Moss Vale when vice-royalty is in residence at Hill View. Sir George gave his benediction to the hotel by announcing that a railway would be built from Moss Vale to Robertson, and Mr. Oakes congratulated the directors upon their pluck and enterprise in coming into the district. Sir George said that his Government believed in leaving the development of a tourist resort to private enterprise. All this makes us wonder about Sir George's memory. When, as we pointed out last week, Sir George was asked in Parliament whether he had seen an advertisement which everybody else had seen to the effect that a hotel was to be opened by the Governor, attended by himself and other Ministers, he professed to have no knowledge of the matter. Such professed ignorance is incredible, and we make no bones about saying so. We do not doubt for a moment that Sir George knew all about it, and that when he said he did not he was telling an untruth. Why should he do so? Was there anything to be ashamed of? Did Sir George realise the impropriety of associating the King's representative in his official capacity with the opening of a "pub,"

and was he determined, for reasons best known to himself, to stifle any discussion of the matter in Parliament? We do not hesitate to say that the whole business from beginning to end was derogatory to the office and prestige of the State Governor, and we are surprised that Sir Dudley de Chair lent himself to it.

#### THE LEY-LOXTON INCIDENT.

"ratted" on their promises in connection with the Liquor Bill, and with none of them more so than with Mr. Ley, Minister for Justice, who gets "the jumps" (as well he may) every time the subject is mentioned. The Ley-Loxton incident, to which we referred last week, had a sequel in wordy warfare in Parliament last week when Mr. Ley and his henchman, Mr. Bavin, got decidedly the worse of the deal. It will be remembered that Mr. Ley had declared that Mr. Loxton had denied the accuracy of a report of a speech in which he had declared that ten Nationalists could put the Government out of office for pledge-breaking, and he would make one of them. Mr. Loxton indignantly rejected Mr. Ley's declaration as being contrary to fact, and Mr. Ley then called in Mr. Bavin as a witness. Mr. Bavin, who did not appear to be clear as to what had been originally said by Mr. Loxton, nevertheless supported Mr. Ley. Thereupon Mr. Loxton gave both Ministers the lie direct by declaring that the report of his speech was substantially accurate, and that the statement that he had repudiated it to the two Ministers was absolutely false. An uproar ensued upon this, but Mr. Loxton stuck to his guns and did not help to pour oil on the troubled waters when he declared that "he had said that some members of the Government had broken their pledges. He had not withdrawn that statement, for they all knew that Mr. Ley had broken his pledge." The uproar at this stage, says the "Herald," was so great that nobody could be heard. The chickens are coming to roost, Mr. Ley.

#### SPOOKS AND LAXITY.

Inspector-General of Police Mitchell before the Royal Commission in the Victorian police strike. The New South Wales head said spooks were subversive of discipline, and for his part he would scorn to employ them to supervise "a few constables." As we pointed out at the time, Mr. Mitchell has no compunction about using spooks against criminals or casting his own men in the role of spook for that purpose. But, lest anybody should fondly imagine that policemen are above suspicion (we don't suppose for a moment that any sane person imagines any such thing), it is interesting to take note of the evidence tendered to the Commission by Mr. Nicholson, the Victorian Chief Commissioner of Police, who advanced the strongest reasons for supervision. Men are much alike wherever you find them, and we do not doubt that the New South Wales police are no more lily-white than others of their persuasion. "I saw men idling about the streets,

Pledge-breaking is still a sore point with those Ministers and their followers who

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leaning against lamp-posts, gossiping, and actually smoking in uniform in daylight," he said. "At night I saw them drunk. I repeatedly travelled in the Melbourne district and in the suburbs for long distances without seeing a sign of a constable. There were many burglaries, house-breakings, and shop-breakings, and only very rarely did the police know anything about them until the owners reported the offences next morning. Even when front doors in main streets were broken in the police never found them. Another serious type of offence," said Mr. Nicholson, "was being committed by constables at stations who refused to act on complaints on the ground that the offence was not committed in their district. The constables would reply, 'That is not in my district,' and hang up the telephone. I punished men severely for that offence."

#### POLICE AS CRIMINALS.

Mr. Nicholson declared that complaints made about the police by citizens were mostly found to be authentic and well-founded, and he had come to the conclusion that only strict supervision could correct this laxity. But laxity of discipline was not the only or the most serious charge which the Victorian Commissioner levelled against his former men. "Very serious offences," he said, "were being committed by police constables themselves. One constable was found in uniform in a warehouse, having broken in with the watchman. Another constable was found in possession of stolen property. Two other constables went to Werribee in the motor car of a notorious criminal. The car was insured for three times its value. While at Werribee they went a little distance away from the car, and it went up in flames. These two constables sent a report direct to the insurance company, instead of through their officer, certifying that the fire was genuine. The genuineness of the fire was very much questioned, and I directed an investigation. The two constables were suspended and fined heavily. The criminal with whom they went to Werribee was an associate of 'Squizz' Taylor, and used to drive him about. One night," continued the witness, "I went into Cobb's Cafe, Bourke-street, about 1 o'clock

(Continued on page 10.)



MORE THAN SATISFIED WITH

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TEA

OUR NATIONAL DRINK.

IMPORTANCE OF BEER.—24,000,000 GALLONS.

You spent £5/2/8 last year in drink.

It is no use your indignantly denying it.

The State Statistician says so; he knows.

And now your wife knows!

He saw you sidle into that hotel; he was at your counter lunch; he had his note-book ready at that little dinner to the boys; he was at your lodge meeting; he was peering in at the window at your mid-day dinner on Sunday; he followed you to Randwick; he kept tab on the supper at the jazz party; he knew just the amount that was in your hip flask.

It seems a lot for your yearly consumption of alcoholic beverages to amount to £5/2/8, but it is really, sad to say, much more. In your patriotic endeavors to swell the Customs receipts and keep the excise up to a healthy standard, you had to make up for the chap who wouldn't shout, the Prohibitionist, and the children and babies who have not acquired the taste. And you did it, cheerfully.

When we contemplate the huge drink bill for this State, which last year was £11,349,000, which was 11d. each more than that of the preceding year, we wonder how the Bureau of Statistics works it all out, including that long whisky which you took to ward off influenza.

It is all a matter of statistics, which never take it lying down. It is merely a simple little sum.

There are three factors in the sum. First, you take the quantity of imported spirits on which duty was paid for the year ended June 30, 1924. Secondly, you total up the excise received by the State derived from the local manufacture of alcoholic beverages. Thirdly, you compute the Interstate importation from other States, and exported to other States, and discover the net difference, plus or minus. Adding these three factors you arrive at the total consumption of alcoholic beverages in New South Wales for the year. The figures are available to all.

Having thus obtained the total consumption for the 12 months, you divide this by the population, and thus get the average consumption per throat.

#### PRICE OF A NOBBLER.

To find out the amount of money spent in the State on liquor, the first thing is to settle the average price. Such delicate questions as the number of nobblers that go to a bottle or a gallon, and the average retail price of a gallon of the accursed stuff, have to be carefully inquired into. The same procedure is applied to wine and beer. Inquiries from leading hotelkeepers and responsible persons in the trade are made and carefully verified. It is not part of the Bureau of Statistics, however, to sample it personally; but otherwise every pains are taken to arrive at an accurate estimate.

Though none of the last 10 years may be regarded as a dry one, some were not quite as wet as others. The driest year in that decade was 1916-17, when only a mere £6,667,000 was spent in alcohol. There were less men to drink it in that year, for our soldiers had departed. Yet the price of drink per head was also the lowest in that year, the absurdly small amount of £3/10/5 per gullet. A sort of sympathy strike.

The expenditure on delectable liquids jumped from £7,275,000 in 1918-19 to £10,251,000 in the next, and the price per drink jumped too. This was not due to an increased thirst, but to an increased price. Nobblers showed an upward tendency, a bull movement that heartened the publicans. Since then there has been a steady slow rise, with one set-back in 1921-22.

The prices ruling last year remained steady at the preceding rate, and the increase was one of thirst, not of cost. The new tariff in 1920 had increased the price of a spot, though there were fewer spots than of yore. In 1921-22 there was the lowest consumption of imported spirits.

#### PREFERS IT IN A BOTTLE.

Last year imported spirits and beer became more popular, and there was a slight increase in bottled beer, but less Australian wine and draught was consumed. The Australian prefers it in a bottle. He objects to carrying a cask about with him—it goes too quickly.

During the last decade the liking for Australian-made spirits has slightly increased, though not that you would notice, since the average citizen has favored the local stuff by the small percentage increase of .04 of a proof gallon. The stuff that comes "fra the

Hielan's" was much more popular in 1914-15 than it is now. In 1914-15, .72 of a proof gallon was required per throat, while last year the percentage was .28.

Beer is in a bad way. In ten years Australian-brewed beer has gradually dropped from 12.30 gallons per neck to the present percentage of 10.75, yet there has been no revolution. And imported beer has become almost a drug on the counter. When, a decade ago, the individual drank per year .49 of a gallon, now he puts away only .05 of a gallon. Amazing as it seems, we drink less beer, though doubtless beer bottles have found other uses.

Australian wines show a slow upward tendency. From .45 of a gallon apiece per year in 1914-15 there is an increase to .61; while imported wines, which never had any appreciable influence on the market, have in that decade dropped from .03 of a gallon to .01. Seems hardly worth tasting.

The results of these official statistics are that we drink more Australian whisky and brandy; we drink less imported liquors; we drink less Australian beer, and much less imported beer; and we are very slowly becoming a wine-drinking State, with hardly any imported wine at all.

When, however, we take the actual amounts of these varieties of drink consumed last year, beer leads the way, bottles ahead of the other two competitors. You, I, and the other chap put away 23,759,000 gallons of beer last year; and only 1,335,700 gallons of wine, and a mere trifle of 1,072,900 gallons of proof spirits. N.S.W. remains faithful to beer.

It is all very statistical and sad.—"The Sun."

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#### TO PARENTS.

For some time past we have inserted a paragraph in this paper asking if you have realised the importance of sex instruction for your children in a clean wholesome manner. The response has been to a certain extent satisfactory, but we feel we have a sacred duty to try and reach thousands of other parents for the sake of the rising generation. You can by sending 1/- in stamps or P.N. obtain a 24 page instructive Report for 1923/24 and eight more booklets to help parents, boys, girls, youths and maidens.

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W. E. WILSON, Hon. Secretary.

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# A Personal Chat with my readers

## WANTONS OF EXCITEMENT.

Mrs. Hartley is an Englishwoman who has written some remarkable books. In her latest, "Women, Children, Love and Marriage," she has something to say about "wantons of excitement." What she says is all the more remarkable since she is very much a woman of the world, with a broad outlook and a daring programme for better sex relations.

She says: "Many girls to-day try deliberately to keep love light. Shrewd enough to understand the heavy claims of serious love affairs that lead to marriage, they prefer flirtations of weeks only—episodes that are a secret and, as it were, a detachable part of their lives."

"A new diet of excitement must always be provided. The object of life is to cheat time and to crowd out boredom."

"There is a turning away from duty, a hatred of anything dull. Girls want love as an experience and to provide the always desired excitement."

"These wantons of excitement have no consciousness of womanly responsibility. Each new affair affords an eagerly snatched tribute to a colossal and restless vanity."

"Girls of profound and steadfast emotional nature are rare. The great majority of girls certainly are not entirely light-minded, but they are less serious, more noisily determined to do what they want, to get what they can, both out of men and out of life."

She concludes one chapter by saying: "Women are the custodians of manners in love. The future rests with them, and this responsibility cannot safely be set aside. Yes, woman has laid upon her the sacred necessity of seriousness in all that is connected with love. It is a duty imposed upon her by nature, and one that she cannot escape. That is why there is so much danger in these restless neurotic days, when girls are too excited to be serious."

If women shirk this responsibility they will pay a tremendous price.

In her chapter on "The Seduction of Men," she says things that most thoughtful men have acknowledged but lacked the courage to state. Coming from a woman, these sentiments and judgments are very significant.

In the High Courts of England a wife proceeded against a woman for the seduction of her husband.

She lost the case.

Mrs. Hartley, in her comment, says: "It seems to be forgotten entirely how tremendous is the power of the woman in all

love relationships. Why a man under the influence of a woman he loves is as easily led and as devoid of all willpower as a young child. Indeed, he becomes the child of the woman, as soon as and for as long as he loves her. He is hers to make or destroy.

"It is she who leads him, not he who leads her into the easier ways of love.

"Yes, it is women who shape the souls of men as it is women who gave them birth. That is why the view of the man's responsibility in love being greater than the woman's is so singularly untrue.

"If we inquire at all truthfully in this question of seduction it is obvious that not the man, but the woman, is the more responsible. For one thing, she knows so much more about love, from the beginning, and without being taught, than a man ever knows.

"Most often it is the woman who takes the first step, breaks down the first barrier. Always there is the invitation which unceasingly she gives, whether consciously or unconsciously expressed, 'Come and love me.'

"Her dress, her movements—all invite love. To be provocative is the one fixed simple rule of her life. In the end and indeed sometimes very soon, the position may be reversed, but at the start assuredly the woman holds the cards, and can make the first move in the love game. She is the pursuer, far more often and far more truly, than the pursued.

"With women love is an affair of excitement, and as such is not so serious or so deep as for the man, to whom it is a matter of passion."

She says in another chapter: "Men are the most faithful creatures alive. After all, almost in every case of unfaithfulness the man has only given away what his wife has shown him she does not want for herself. As long as she desires him, indeed often as long as she will put up with him, her man will stick to her—yes, stick with the closeness of the proverbial burr."

It has seemed to me good to quote at some length for while there is much in the book with which I do not agree, yet it is so frank, so courageous, so penetrating, so informative that I commend it to thoughtful folk as a contribution to our long neglected education.

## A SENSE OF VALUES.

Pick up the daily paper and you will find infinite care devoted to the trivial, great prominence to the insignificant, and trifling personalities are

# GRIT

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SYDNEY, THURSDAY, DEC. 4, 1924.

pictured and over-emphasised. Cricket has been my pastime, and I have delighted in it, but since it has been made an object of worship I have lost all interest in it. Thirty thousand drunks in the court seem to me more worthy of comment than 30,000 loafing at a cricket match. A marvellous cure of a real doctor is vastly more important than the big fortune of a quack—yet the quack will get all the publicity.

Save a man from drowning in water and you are a hero; save him from drowning in beer and you are a wowser. Sacrifice yourself and you are dubbed a fool; sacrifice your country and you become a Cabinet Minister. A statesman serves his country and is dropped; a politician makes his country serve him and he is knighted. We laugh at the ignorant savage for trading his treasures for calico and beads, and it would be difficult for us to show where our choice of "treasure" was more sane or sense of value more discriminating. Real religion is manifested in a sense of values a right emphasis, "a putting first the Kingdom of God."

The birthday of Jesus  
CHRISTMAS. Christ, in whom centre all our hopes—will you commemorate it in a truly Christian way?

Will you give it a spiritual significance? If you give to those who give to you, what thanks have ye? Even sinners do that.

Will you devise some gift for the poor and needy?

Love ever gives,

Outlives,

Forgives,

And ever stands

With open hands;

For while love lives

It gives.

For this is love's prerogative—

To give, and give, and give.

The Editor



## ONE METHOD OF "STATE CONTROL" DISPLAYED IN BREWING TRADE.

(By G. WINTER, from the Records of the Labor Research and Information Bureau.)

The "Labor Daily" says:

Last week we showed how Tooth and Co., Ltd., having succeeded in disguising a 23 per cent. profit, and barring future investors from participation in profits at the same rate, flung open its doors to the investors, with the object of rapid expansion.

This may be said to indicate something brewing, and an investigation of a few other companies will give an idea as to the meaning of a monopoly of one industry in a single State.

Turning first to New Zealand, we find that the N.Z. Breweries, Ltd., was registered last year to take over the businesses of ten other companies. The share capital of the company was only £500,000, issued as fully paid, but upon its back the new business carried what appears at first sight an overwhelming weight—to wit, £1,000,000 in debenture stock at 10 per cent. interest. Nevertheless the net profit for nine months ending March 31, 1924, was £85,641, which is equivalent to £114,188 a year, or 23 per cent. on capital.

Now, when we look at the balance-sheet of the company, we find that the capital account is exactly balanced by an asset specified as "goodwill." If we take the tangible assets from "Land and buildings" to "Cash at bankers and in hand," and further include even the item of £14,435, "preliminary expenses," and deduct therefrom the sundry creditors and the debenture stock, there is nothing left except the nine months' profits.

### DIVIDEND 21½ PER CENT.

Here are the figures: Total assets, not including goodwill, £1,278,537; debenture stock and sundry creditors, £1,192,896; difference, being balance due to shareholders, £85,641.

If the shareholders and the debenture holders are not the same persons, then the former have put nothing whatever into the company, except an intangible asset called "goodwill." It appears, however, on the face of it, that shareholders and debenture holders are virtually the same persons, i.e., the vendors of the ten sets of property which have been amalgamated.

Debentures offered to the public for subscription do not pay 10 per cent. free of debenture tax—except perhaps in South American republics. What the present owners really put into the company was the assets of the original companies, into which we may safely assume they never put more real capital than the £1,000,000 now represented by debenture stock. The profits for the year may be set down as £114,188, plus 10 per cent. on a million—that is to say, £214,188—which makes the rate of profit 21½ per cent.

Pretty good for a new company, just beginning to establish control of the brewing industry!

### TO BREW OR NOT TO BREW.

The Castlemaine Brewing Co., Ltd., of Melbourne, has just reported a net profit of £23,277 for the year ending September 30. On a capital of £175,000 this works out at 13½ per cent., but taking into consideration £62,228 capitalised since 1921, it becomes 21½ per cent.

Among its assets are plainly specified shares in Carlton and United Breweries, Ltd., £119,805, the preference shareholding having increased from 5125 shares in 1923 to 14,869 in 1924. Its directors are W. M.

Hyndham, of Carlton and United Breweries, Ltd., and Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.; R. W. S. Dickson and A. G. Creswick, of Carlton Brewery, Ltd., Carlton, and United Breweries, Ltd., and the Bank of Victoria. The Castlemaine Brewery Company brews no beer—and thereby hangs a tale.

The Carlton and United Breweries, Ltd., was formed in 1907 to take over the businesses of "Carlton Brewery, Ltd.," "McCracken's, Ltd.," "City Brewery, Ltd.," "Victoria," "Castlemaine," "Shamrock," and "Foster" breweries, four of which were closed under the contract, and received £2500 a year each to brew no beer. Of these the Castlemaine brewery was one, and this accounts for £2500 of its annual profits, while a further £17,971 is accounted for by its holdings in the C. and U.

The directors of Carlton and United are S. B. Joske, of Carlton Breweries, the W. M. Hyndham and A. T. Creswick before-mentioned, Col. H. Cohen, of Carlton Breweries, and the Standard Mutual Building Society, and others.

The capital of £1,100,000 is offset by an item of £800,000 on the assets side, specified as "Purchase consideration, including goodwill, trade and business connection of vendor brewing companies." This means, in a word, goodwill, and shows that the assets taken over by the company in 1907 were valued at £300,000 net.

The value of net assets exclusive of goodwill on June 30, 1923—the last available balance-sheet bears that date—was £1,037,077. The net profit for the year was £253,811, which is 23½ per cent. of the capital allegedly paid up, or 84½ per cent. of tangible asset values handed over by the vendors.

### FOSTER "BREWING" CO.

Turning to the Foster Brewing Company, Ltd., we find that it is in the same position as the Castlemaine, being subsidised by the Carlton and United for producing no beer. Its directors are M. Cohen, H. E. Cohen and M. H. Baillieu. Its latest dividend was 20 per cent. on paid-up capital, and amounted to £11,520, leaving £843 to be placed to reserves.

The total of shareholders' funds on January 31, 1924, stood at £92,794, or 163 per cent. of paid-up capital. The assets are purely financial items, and the company employs no productive labor whatever. Its principal holding is its shares in Carlton and United, the nominal value of which is £76,125. These were given in consideration of tangible assets worth about £33,000, and at present market price they would be worth about £126,000.

The Shamrock Brewing and Malting Company, Collingwood, Limited, is in the same position as the Foster Company. It carries on no brewing operations whatever, and its "office furniture, £54," is an indication of how little work is done on its premises. Its directors are H. E. Cohen, E. L. Baillieu and J. T. Teulon. The shareholders' funds amounted to £104,440 on December 31, 1923, and its net profit for last year was £12,134. Its shares in Carlton and United amount to £81,939, nominal value, and its rate of profit is just above the rate of dividend on these shares.

### PROFIT 198 PER CENT.

The Carlton Brewery, Limited, was one of the companies taken over by Carlton and United; nevertheless it maintains its position and carries on its works. Moreover, it has taken over the Victorian Brewery

Pty., Ltd., which was one of those subsidised not to produce. Its total paid up capital on December 31, 1923, was £47,847, and its net revenue was as follows:

From shares in Carlton and United	£60,000
From Victoria Brewery	25,997
From other sources, deducting expenses	8,607
<b>Total</b>	<b>£94,604</b>

Or 198 per cent. of paid up capital.

One may well ask, how is it done? The dividend upon Carlton and United shares is the principal source of revenue, and it is a 15 per cent. dividend upon £400,000 in shares—which, by the way, are worth at least £660,000 on the market. How does it come about that this amount is a mere item in the balance sheet of a company with a paid up capital of £47,847?

It means that prior to the formation of Carlton and United, the capital of Carlton Brewery, Ltd., stood not higher than its present figure, but its assets, including goodwill, were such as to entitle it to shares of an nominal value of £400,000. Since then, its profits have accumulated until in March of this year a capital of £47,947 is represented by assets of a net value of £357,428, including an interest in Victoria Brewery Pty., Ltd., amounting to £249,115.

With such an enormous disparity between paid up capital and net asset values—even with the latter greatly understated—it may be wondered how the rate of dividend on paid up capital is concealed.

In 1922 there was a sum of £42,323 distributed in dividends, while £56,032 was added to reserves. The rate of dividend was 88 per cent.—but it was not called an 88 per cent. dividend. It was called a 5 per cent. dividend and a 2/- bonus per share.

### DIVIDEND 173 PER CENT. CALLED 5 PER CENT.

In 1923 the amount of dividend was £82,298, or 173 per cent. of paid up capital, but it was not called a 173 per cent. dividend; it was called a 5 per cent. dividend, and a 4/- bonus per share. As 80 per cent. of the shares are paid up to 2/- only, it will be seen that a 4/- bonus per share is more than it looks at first sight. In March of this year the market valuation of a share paid up to 2/- was 53/6—a rough indication of a 2700 per cent. accumulation of power to appropriate wealth.

It seems remarkable that this company has not capitalised its reserves long ago. Since the December balance-sheet came out, in August of this year, it was decided to water the stock and the paid up capital of less than £50,000 was increased by a transfer of £770,000 from reserves.

Thus we see that Carlton Brewery, Ltd., is a sort of clearing house for the combine. It holds the largest number of shares in Carlton and United, and controls the Victoria Brewery Pty., which again holds shares in Carlton and United.

Its directors are S. B. Joske, Clive Baillieu, E. S. Watson, A. T. Creswick, and Col. H. E. Cohen—five men who beyond shadow of doubt control the beer traffic of Victoria.

### FOR SALE—HOUSES AND LAND.

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Phone: U7229.

PASS "GRIT" ON.



## Governor Opens a New Pub—

(Continued from page 6.)

Two constables in uniform entered. The woman, who was serving, took out a piece of paper, and asked, 'What are your numbers?' They told her, and she said, 'Another one came in here a little while ago, and I gave him his supper. You must have a very good senior constable to let you come in here when you like.' The constables said, 'Yes, we have a bonzer. He lets us do what we like.' Those men should have been on their beat. They added: 'But our Chief Commissioner is a ———.' In fact, they called me everything that was bad. They did not recognise me, although I was sitting quite close to them. I took no action against the men, because I did not make myself known as soon as they came in."

## PROFITS OF BREWERIES.

A week or two ago attention was drawn in this page to the very respectable profits—disclosed profits, that is—of Tooth's Breweries. The subject of profit from beer has been engaging the attention of a writer for the "Labor Daily," who examines somewhat closely the finances of several breweries in Victoria incorporated in the concern known as the Carlton and United Breweries, Ltd. The net profit for the year on this concern was 23½ per cent. on the allegedly paid-up capital, but, in reality, it amounted to 84 per cent. of tangible asset values handed over by the vendors. The Carlton Brewery, Ltd., one of the companies incorporated in the combine, deserves especial attention. Its total paid-up capital at December 31, 1923, was £47,847, and its net revenue was £94,604, or 198 per cent. of the paid-up capital. In 1922 a dividend of 88 per cent. was paid, but it was not called a dividend of 88 per cent. It was called a 5 per cent. dividend and a 2/- bonus per share, the paid-up capital having been swollen with an amount, not paid-up, representing shares in the combine. In 1923 the amount of dividend was £82,298, or 173 per cent. of paid-up capital, which was called a 5 per cent. dividend, and a bonus of 4/- per share. "As 80 per cent. of the shares are paid up to 2/- only," says the writer from whom we quote, "it will be seen that a 4/- bonus per share is more than it looks at first sight. In March of this year the market valuation of a share paid up to 2/- was 53/6—a rough indication of a 2700 per cent. accumulation of power to appropriate wealth. . . . Since the December balance sheet came out, in August of this year, it was decided to water the stock, and the paid-up capital of less than £50,000 was increased by a transfer of £770,000 from reserves." Ab uno disce omnes.

## GOULBURN SPORTSMEN'S EYEWASH.

Amongst the non-elect Goulburn has a reputation for being very proper and very dull, but it would seem that this is only a mask and that, in reality, it is no more respectable than the rest. The only difference between Goulburn and Bathurst, for instance, seems to be that in Goulburn whisky is called tea. This came out during a discussion of an item of £3/10/- for breakfasts in connection with the refreshment booth run by the Goulburn Race Club, or, rather, by Red Cross ladies on behalf of the club. The chairman, we don't quite know why, mentioned that at the previous annual meeting of the club somebody had queried an item of £14 for afternoon tea. "We all felt ashamed of ourselves," he added, "knowing that it was for whisky." But a committeeman named Bracher thought it "jolly hard lines" if committeemen could not have their drop of whisky at the club's expense, and urged that the cost of this might again figure as tea-money. It is only in a town

like Goulburn that "sportsmen" would make such a mystery over their whisky. Red Cross ladies dispensing whisky to sportsmen and calling it tea does seem a very Goulburnesque idea. Why is it that so many people want to make a mystery about taking a little something stronger than tea? Isn't it a respectable thing to do? Is there something wrong about booze after all?

## WORKERS' DEADLY ENEMY.

In the course of an address to workers on the evils of drink, Mr. W. R. Heaton, speaking in Wynyard Square last week, declared that nothing out of hell could tread the workers more deeply into the mire than booze. The abolition of the liquor traffic would solve the problem of unemployment in this country. The speaker went on to refer to the burden of taxation which the drink traffic imposes upon the people of this country. The drink traffic, he said, had reduced wages by increasing taxation, in that the workers were taxed to support the criminals and the insane caused through its excessive use. The workers were further called upon to support charitable institutions, the inmates of which were made up to a large extent by men and women who had become degraded through the use of liquor. He claimed that with the abolition of the drink traffic in America had come the abolition of unemployment, for, in 1920, America had five million "out of works" and a year later there was no unemployment in the land. By way of comparison, England had over two and a half million out of work. "She still has her liquor, and the workers are taxed up to the hilt to pay out unemployment doles," said Mr. Heaton.

## THE ANZAC DAY BILL.

The Chief Secretary, Mr. Oakes, has introduced into Parliament a bill "to make certain provisions as to the observance of Anzac Day, and for that purpose to amend the Liquor Act, 1912, and the Gaming and Betting Act, 1912, and certain other Acts; to authorise in certain circumstances the proclamation of half-holidays under the Banks and Bank Holidays Act, 1912, and for that purpose to amend that Act." It is a short measure of four sections which aims at bringing Anzac Day into line with Christmas Day and Good Friday insofar as hotels and race meetings are concerned. The Chief Secretary has thus kept faith with the deputation which waited upon him recently in regard to this matter. Indeed, he has gone further than he actually promised to do by providing by law what at first was to be left to the discretion of the Government. The bill will satisfy all those who wish to see Anzac Day observed in the reverent spirit which the circumstances that Day recalls demand, but there are indications that the measure will meet with violent opposition, and it is by no means certain that it will pass through in its present form.

## BOHEMIANS TOO AUDACIOUS.

The Bohemia Cafe, in Hunter-street, is (or was) directly opposite Police Headquarters, and that fact, you may think, would have made it responsible. But apparently the proprietor took for his motto the precept: "De l'audace, encore de l'audace, toujours de l'audace," and as a result is charged with having carried on a sly-grog business under the very nose of the law. One night last week the police, who had had the place under observation for some time, decided to raid it. Two constables—dressed no doubt as "spooks"—went in and bought two bottles of beer at half-a-crown a piece and later some of their colleagues arrived and arrested no less than seventeen persons upon a charge of having been found drink-

ing on unlicensed premises. The proprietor, one Robert T. Jolley, is charged with having controlled unlicensed premises, and a waiter named Edward Gittos is charged with sly-grog selling. At the time of writing the cases have not been disposed of. These sly-grog shops are all over Sydney. The profit is so good and the risk of detection so small that sly-grog selling can be carried on with almost perfect impunity. On Sundays, if you are in the know, you can get drink all over the place. One hears a good deal about sly-grog under Prohibition, but it would be impossible to sell more under Prohibition in this State than is already sold under licence.

## SUNDAY BOOZE IN NORTH SYDNEY.

A couple of weeks ago, according to the "Labor Daily," the Sunday morning thirst of that rising suburb gave the police quite a lot of exercise which ultimately resulted in good revenue for the Treasury. Last Monday week Frank Good, aged 30 years, a barman, residing at 10 Milson-street, pleaded guilty at the North Sydney Police Court to having "saved the lives" of twelve men and four women in the early morn of November 16. The prescription was beer to the extent of three dozen bottles, flanked by several whisky flasks. Sergeant Travers stated that the place was disgracefully conducted, and had been so for two years. Defendant exercised so much strategy that it had been difficult to catch him, but a police agent did the trick. Mr. Camplin, S.M., decided on a fine of £40, and ordered a moiety to be given to the police fund. A regrettable feature of the case was that two young men under 18 years were in this drinking den at the time of the police visit, and were accompanied by two women under 20 years.

## PROHIBITION SUCCESSFUL IN AMERICA.

According to a cable message from New York, dated November 18, Mrs. Rachel Don, National President of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union, delivered the principal address at the jubilee convention of the W.C.T.U., which was attended by delegates from every part of the world. There was a unique banquet in honor of the overseas delegates, every item on the menu having been manufactured in delicensed breweries. Mrs. Don informed an interviewer that during six months' travel in the United States she had only seen four drunken men, and all classes of citizens, from State Governors to the greenest police recruit, were unanimous that America would never renounce Prohibition. "I am convinced," she added, "that only by Prohibition can we account for the great impetus in home-building, the tremendous number of automobiles, the increase of savings bank deposits, the universal prosperity and the decrease of crime, as evidenced by empty jails, and the decrease of poverty, proven by the decline of many charitable institutions."

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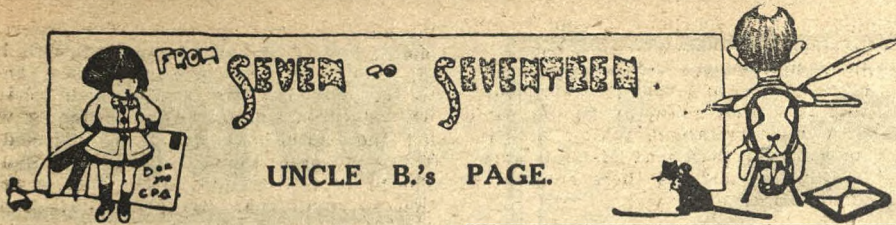
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All boys and girls between the age of seven and seventeen are invited to join the family of Uncle B. Write only on one side of the paper. Send the date of your birthday. There is no fee to pay. If you do not write for three months you are a "scallywag." Address all letters to Uncle B., Box 390, G.P.O., Sydney.

### THANK YOU.

Just at present I am overwhelmed—papers, letters, requests, promises, questions—and I am proud of all those dear Ne's and Ni's who have come to my assistance and supplied my stall with lovely things.

How I wish all my country friends could pop in and see it all, and join in the fun!

I can't write to you all and thank you for your help, so please accept this big thank you, and know your help has put a glow in my heart and a proud look in my eye. Again, thank you.

UNCLE B.

### OUR LETTER BAG.

#### A NEW NI.

Edna Richards, 65 Bruner Road, Hamilton West, Newcastle, writes: I would like to join your big family. I am eight years old; my birthday is on the 26th of May. I go to Adamstown public school. I am in 4th class. I go to the Adamstown Methodist Church and Sunday School. I am a member of the Young People's Worshippers' League and a Junior Christian Endeavorer. We have a new church, into which we are going in two weeks' time. I will tell you about that after. I am very fond of reading and sewing. My little sister Phyllis, who is six, and I are making you a dresser runner for the White Fair.

(Dear Edna.—You have made a great start. Your letter and your help for the Fair make me proud of you. I am wondering whatever a "dresser runner" is! I will soon know, I suppose.—Uncle B.).

\* \* \*

#### A MATE.

Robert Baker, Baptist Manse, Leeton, writes: Since I wrote to you last we have been for a holiday to Blackheath. We enjoyed it very much. After we came home my brother Gordon started to go to school, so I have a mate to go with me now. We saw some snow while we were on the mountains. We liked to watch it falling. We saw the Grand Canyon and Govett's Leap. I wouldn't like to leap down there, would you, Uncle? We had our Sunday school picnic, and I ran in a race and won a toy horse. Gordon won a pair of scales and we played shop.

(Dear Robert.—I like your saying your little brother is your mate now. Stick together. Your own folk make better friends in the long run than others do.—Uncle B.)

\* \* \*

### ALL NEWS.

Doris Bennett, Forge Creek, via Bairnsdale, Victoria, writes: I hope I am not a scallywag by now. We had a week's holiday, and I went down on my brother's farm. There is a sow with nine little pigs. I am in the fifth grade. There are fourteen children coming to school now. I have a ewe with a little lamb. We girls and boys play tennis with our teacher. The little birds are building their nests. We have a tennis court and a swing at school. I have a flower garden at school. I have a hen and she has a lot of little chickens.

(Dear Doris.—Your letter is all news. Every sentence tells a fact. You say more on a page than many others say on a dozen pages.—Uncle B.)

\* \* \*

### TOP.

Reg. Nock, Gunningbland, writes: When I looked at "Grit" not long ago I was surprised to see my letter in. I had forgotten it. I came top of my class in exam. I like reading, poetry, arithmetic and dictation. I am on holidays at Mrs. Gamble's now. Mrs. Gamble has a new typewriter, so I will address the envelope with it.

(Dear Reg.—Hurrah! I wonder did you say that when you came top or are you used to such victories? I wonder what poem you like best.—Uncle B.).

\* \* \*

### AN AUNTIE NI.

Edith Newman, "Lenwood," Rous, writes: I hope I am not on the scallywag list this time. So I had better write to you, or sure enough I will be there. We had a little drop of rain here to-day. We needed it. We are having our anniversary next week, and are having a tea meeting and concert. Our school had a concert in aid of Mrs. Farrel and children. We held it in the Amusu Theatre at Alstonville, and the proceeds were £23/9/6. We are having our holidays now, but they will soon be over. We heard a wireless concert the other night, only there was a storm on between here and Sydney. Only for that it was very nice. My sister Olive (Mrs. Ellis) has a dear little daughter, only one day old. Do you remember getting letters from her? Long ago she used to write to you for "Grit." I suppose when the baby is old enough, she will be one of your Ni's. Mother went to see the baby to-day, and she said it is such a lovely baby. It has

long dark curly hair and dark blue eyes. So you see, Uncle, I am up to you now, as you are Uncle and I am Auntie. But of course I am not as old as you.

Dear Edith.—Yes, I remember when Olive was a Ni, and now she is a mother, and I am a Granduncle, so you have not caught me yet.—Uncle B.)

### \* \* \* A BUSY TIME.

Edna Goddard, 26 Alfred-street, Mascot, writes: I was glad to see my last letter in "Grit." We had our monthly social down at the Girl Guides. We held anniversary services on two Sundays. The first Sunday morning we had the Congregational minister in the afternoon. The second Sunday we had Mr. Little in the morning, Mrs. Thomas in the afternoon, and Mr. Thomas in the night. We had our presentation of prizes last night. Our singing was a great success, and the decorations were too. Our Sunday School picnic will be held on November 1. We are going to Yarra pleasure grounds. We are going to send some things to the orphans at the Fiji Islands for a Christmas box. Major Mrs. Holman came out to see us, and she told us a story of a boy who found some diamonds.

(Dear Edna.—You seem to have had a very busy time with anniversaries and picnics and things. It is most interesting to hear about them all.—Uncle B.).

### \* \* \* THE WHOLE POPULATION.

Marjorie Barrie, Nambucca Heads, writes: Would you please send me three books for your Queen's Competition? I suggest you have a fish pond for your Great White Fair. Ask through "Grit" would the Ne's and Ni's each send some presents for the fish pond. I hope it is a success. All the time I have been writing to you I have never told you about the town in which I live. There are about 600 people, counting the aborigines who live on Stewart Island. They have a school of their own and one teacher. We have three mills. Hundreds of logs are brought down to these mills, and are cut up into timber and sent to Sydney on the Elsie and the Nambucca. In the town are three Churches—Roman Catholic, Church of England, and Presbyterian. Church is held on Sunday in the Presbyterian and Church of England. There are two grocers' shops, two fruit shops, and a hotel, which has electric lights, and two butchers' shops. The beach is a lovely place—no sharks, but plenty of fish. It's the place to come to. There were two swings, but one is broken. There are also dressing sheds for ladies and men, and two shelter sheds. Many people from all parts of the river come to bathe. Plenty of mosquitoes and a few sandflies. Hope Prohibition is soon won. If I were rich I would give ever so much money to Prohibition.

(Dear Marjorie.—Your letter is fine. I think you left out some of the population. What about the dogs? They are good members of every community, and pay taxes.—Uncle B.).





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#### NEW YORK CHURCH DISCONTINUES CHARITY FUNDS; SAYS PROHIBITION RESPONSIBLE.

"Above all, the closing of the saloons and the increase in wages have so swollen the deposits in the savings banks that those who formerly were relieved by the Loan Association are now independent," says the 1924 year book of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church (New York), explaining the reason for the discontinuance of one of the oldest charity funds in the church. The Benevolent Society and the Loan Association of the Church, the former of thirty years' standing, and the latter of twenty-eight, have been discontinued, according to the rector, Rev. Dr. Leighton Parks, because "there has been a relief of poverty, and the demand for

workers and increased wages have lifted from many women the burden of partial support of the family."

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Proud Father (to bank manager): "Ah, Mr. Clark, I want to see you about opening an account for the new arrival at our house. How shall we describe it, to distinguish it from mine?"

Manager: "Suppose we call it 'The Fresh Heir Fund'?"

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The Prince of Wales when he comes this way next month will be masquerading as "Lord Renfrew," which may kid the public for a time, but everybody'll recognise his peculiar style once he alights from a horse. —American paper.

**FLYING ANGEL.**

"Do angels have wings, mummy?"

"Yes, darling."

"Can they fly?"

"Yes, dear."

"Then when is nurse going to fly, 'cause daddy called her an angel last night?"

"To-morrow, darling."

**SAFE.**

A bright little girl, aged four, and her brother, aged six, were spending the night with their aunt. When bedtime came the aunt asked them how they said their prayers. The little girl answered: "Sometimes I say them on muddy's knees and sometimes to the side of the bed."

"And how about you, little boy?" asked the aunt.

"Oh, I don't need to pray. I sleep with daddy."

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Received to 28/11/24, and where not mentioned the amount received is 10/-: Miss H. Baker, 21/11/25; Mrs. Marcroft, 17/6/25; Rev. S. J. Kirby, 15/2/25; W. A. Shepherd, £1, 30/6/25; Master Kenneth Hensman, 25/11/25; C. Vaughan 5s., 25/5/25; Thos. C. McBride, 30/9/25; W. L. Purves, 30/9/25.

The following are paid to 30/12/24: Mrs. G. Cousins, Mr. J. McKern, Miss Howie (6s.), A. W. Lane, Mrs. Renton (8s.), G. H. Lock (£1), Mrs. James Graham, A. Johnston, Rev. N. S. Millar.

The following are paid to 30/12/25: Rev. J. Bidwell (£1), Mrs. Hollamby (11s. 8d.), W. Lloyd (£1), W. L. Levy (£1), Cyril Cooke (15s.), C. H. Pratt (15s.), Rev. Dixon Hudson (£1 18s. 4d.), V. H. Collins (£1), O. J. Howard (£1), H. J. Weeks (£1), John Bridgeman, senr. (18s. 6d.), C. H. Derrick (15s. 6d.), Miss N. E. White (15s.), Miss B. Dickinson.

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