

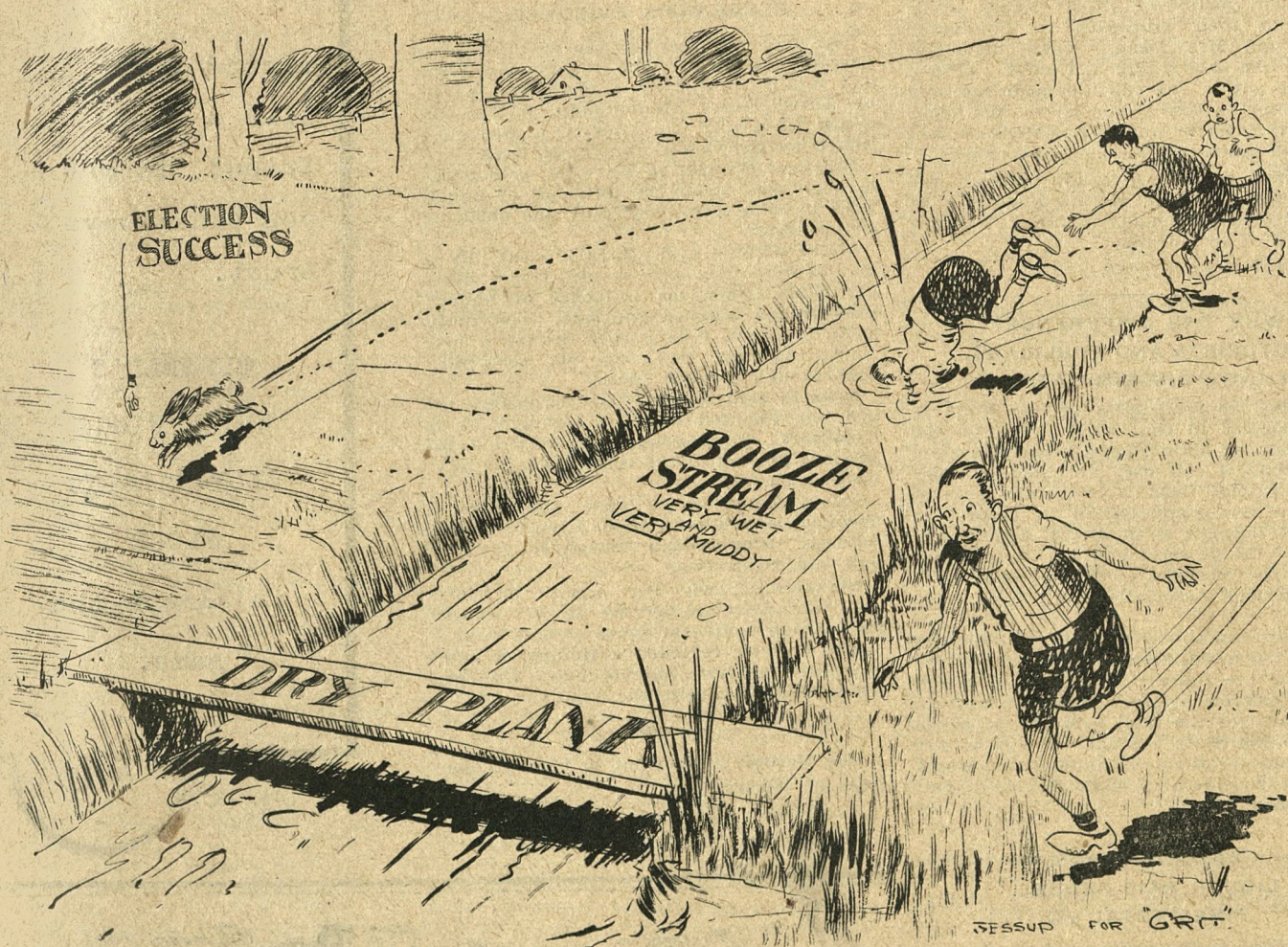
Grit.

A JOURNAL OF NATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND PROHIBITION.

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LABOR TRIES THE "WET" WAY.

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SAMPLES OF "WETNESS."

OUR DAILY OUTRAGES.

Very few people know, let alone realise, that 1000 drink cases pass through the Courts of this State each week. Three-fifths of these are "plain drunks"; the balance are of the kind illustrated by the following clippings from the daily press:

PASSENGER'S JEWELS.

A TAXI-CAB STORY.

On a charge of stealing a diamond brooch, a diamond ring, a string of pearls, and other articles, of a value of £245, the property of Lena Dean, Edward McMullen (32), taxi-driver, was committed for trial at the Central Police Court last week.

Mrs. Dean stated that she engaged McMullen's taxi to drive her to Coogee. She asked defendant if he could get her a drink. He returned with a glass of whisky and some lager, portion of which witness drank. "The cab then proceeded to Centennial Park," said Mrs. Dean, "where defendant alighted and said a tyre had burst. After a while he got in the cab alongside me, and I told him to leave, and drive me home. The next I knew was that defendant had gone, and taken my jewellery and money."

According to the police, the taxi-cab was found with Mrs. Dean sitting alone in it at an early hour on Sunday morning. She appeared to be very drunk.

Defendant was allowed bail in £200.

WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

MOTORISTS AND PUBLICANS.

LANG'S DISCRIMINATION.

"To rob the road-users of this State of about £650,000 in the current year on the score that the Main Roads Board has more money than it can use, and then to remit the collections from hotelkeepers because the fund for compensation in respect of cancelled licenses is in credit, amounts to an act of the grossest political immorality," declared the president of the National Roads and Motorists' Association (Mr. J. C. Watson).

"The discrimination against the motorist is made the more intolerable because of the refusal of the State Government to accept £552,000 offered by the Commonwealth in part return for the total paid by the petrol users of this State through the special tax of twopence a gallon—an amount that would represent considerable work for the unfortunate unemployed."

ASTORIA FLATS.

LIQUOR RAID SEQUEL.

FINES TOTAL £80.

The sequel to the police raid on the Astoria Flats, Kirribilli, was heard at the North Sydney Police Court last week.

Ernest Warburton Jeanes pleaded guilty to having allowed liquor to be sold on the premises, he not being the holder of a license. He was fined £50, in default six months' jail.

A plea of guilty was entered by John Cuneen, an employee of Jeanes, to a charge of having sold two bottles of beer to a man who was described as a resident at the flats. Cuneen was fined £30, or three months' jail.

Evidence was given by Sergeant Russell that a large quantity of beer and a number of bottles of wine were found on the premises when the police made the visit.

WOMAN FINED £100.

"OBLIGED THE CONSTABLE."

Violet Broad, alias Howchol, alias Smith, alias Wilson, was fined £100 at the Central Police Court last week on a charge of selling liquor without a license in Lower Campbell-street.

Sergeant Asquith stated that defendant sold a bottle of beer to a constable on Saturday night. The constable, who was in mufti, asked defendant where he could procure some liquor, and the woman was seen to enter a house in Campbell-street, and return with the beer.

Defendant, it was said, had been convicted of a similar offence in 1911.

GIRL'S DEATH.

MOTORIST FOR TRIAL.

SERGEANT'S EVIDENCE.

The inquest concerning the death of Joan Lorraine Barron (6), who was knocked down and fatally injured by a motor-car driven by Alfred Henry Stanborough, on the Old South Head-road on January 7, was continued by the City Coroner last week.

Sergeant Prowse, of Waverley, said Stanborough was under the influence of liquor, thick in his speech, incoherent, and unsteady on his legs.

When witness said, "It is a great pity a man of your experience should drive a motor car while under the influence of liquor," Stanborough laughed and said, "Yes, that's right, sergeant, I have been driving a long time, and have had only six accidents." Stanborough laughed again.

Witness said to him, "Do you realise the girl you knocked down is seriously ill in hospital?" Stanborough laughed, and replied, "I am not aware that I knocked anybody down."

"How many people have you knocked down since you have been driving?" asked witness. Stanborough thought a moment, and said, "Only two."

Stanborough, who was present in Court, and was defended by Mr. J. W. Abigail, elected not to give evidence at that stage.

The Coroner recorded a finding of manslaughter against Stanborough, who was committed for trial to the Criminal Court.

The Nordic: "Aye want to take dis book from de library."

Librarian: "This 'Ben Hur'?"

The Nordic: "Yas, dat ban she."

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is a picture!

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look nice but it's
very little trouble
when you use
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SAND SOAP

NINE O'CLOCK—AND AFTER.

POLITICAL PRINCIPLE AND THE LIQUOR ACT.

The Liquor Act Amendment Bill, now before Parliament, is destined to become law. We are under no illusions in that regard. In the light of a long and saddening experience, we dare not lay the flattering unction to our soul that anything we may say on the matter at this stage can have the slightest effect upon the issue. The venality of public life in New South Wales has at last come to this pass, that all appeals to consistency and sincerity of purpose in political action fall, like the prophecies of Cassandra, upon deaf, or at any rate unsympathetic, ears. Expediency has definitely dethroned principle as the motive force in politics in this State.

Nevertheless, we should be false to our duties and responsibilities were we, merely for the reasons stated above, to permit this measure to go on the Statute Book of the country without placing on record against it a reasoned and emphatic protest. For this bill raises issues which altogether transcend the mere question of how it affects the fortunes of the liquor trade. The time and the manner of its introduction, as well as its form, strike at the very roots of public morality.

BLUDGEONED THROUGH—WHY?

At the fog-end of a stormy and overcrowded Parliamentary session, in the course of which the Government itself only succeeded in retaining office by devices which have left an unpleasant impression on the public mind, the Minister of Justice brings down a bill making valuable concessions to the liquor interest. There was no urgency for such a measure at this particular time. No public agitation had demanded it, no press campaign advocated it. Other bills of greater urgency, and already on the Order Paper, must join the "slaughtered innocents" for lack of time to deal with them, but this one, unheralded and unsought, must be bludgeoned through Parliament at all costs. Why?

An examination of the measure itself supplies the answer. The bill makes two alterations in the existing law: it proposes to legalise the sale of liquor with meals in hotels up to 9 p.m., and it proposes to remit the existent payment of 3 per cent. towards the compensation fund administered by the Licenses Reduction Board. No Government is ever at a loss to find plausible excuses for doing what it wants to do and the Government of which Mr. J. T. Lang and the Hon. J. McKell are the bright particular ornaments in the present matter is no exception to the general rule. Thus, then, the Minister of Justice informed the House that there is already in the Compensation Fund a much larger sum than will suffice to complete the work of the Reduction Board, and he conceives that this is a valid excuse for remitting further contributions. As for the nine o'clock clause, he justifies this on the ground that it brings our law into conformity with the law in other States and removes existing anomalies.

A GIFT TO AN ALLY.

However plausible these arguments may appear when considered superficially, they will not survive critical examination. We need not dwell at length upon the financial clause. It ought to be obvious that a continuance of the 3 per cent. payment would in time furnish a reserve which would solve in a very simple fashion the problem of compensation in the time when a more enlightened public opinion will demand a further

and much more drastic reduction, if not the total prohibition of the liquor traffic. For though we ourselves are opposed to the principle of monetary compensation in the suppression of a public nuisance we recognise that a compromise in some shape may eventually be found necessary—that it might even hasten action. But it is of the very essence of our local "statesmanship" to consider it of more importance to placate a powerful ally in the present than to safeguard the public interest of the future. The future can look after itself.

THE "LABOR DAILY" PROTESTS.

The arguments in favor of the nine o'clock clause are even less convincing. Since when has the Government of New South Wales conceived so tender a regard for the law in "other States"? Why is it necessary or desirable that we should bring our liquor law into conformity with that of Victoria, or Queensland, or Tasmania? And if that is desirable, why do we not do so thoroughly? There are other directions besides that under review, in which our law differs from theirs. There are other matters besides liquor dealt with in our State laws. If conformity is a valid argument in the one case, why should it be less valid in those others? Why not have identical Statute Books in all the States? And then, why have State Governments at all? Why not entrust the whole government of the whole country to the sages of Canberra? We were always under the impression that the merit of State government consisted in the very diversity to meet local requirements which that system permits. And we say without fear of contradiction that the local requirement in New South Wales, as declared unmistakably in a public referendum, is that the six o'clock rule shall be made absolute and effective. Without consulting the public in any way, however, it is the expressed intention of the present Government to render the six o'clock rule not more but very much less effective than it is at the present time. Mr. McKell complains of existing anomalies. Of course there are anomalies: have we not repeatedly complained of them in these columns? But why is it that in dealing with the liquor laws anomalies must ever be removed in a sense favorable to the liquor interest, and never in a sense favorable to the public interest? It is impossible for Mr. McKell to contend that he is serving the public interest in this matter, for, as the Government's own especial organ, the "Labor Daily" trenchantly remarked in its issue of the 29th ult., "The average worker is not in the habit of dining at fashionable hotels—he could not afford to. Consequently he will seek the reason why the Government, with all variety of important Labor legislation hanging fire, has found time to introduce an amending Liquor Bill."



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CHARGES OF BRIBERY.

This measure ministers to the convenience of a class politically opposed to the present Government; it is the product of no general demand either amongst the people or in the press. But it favors the liquor traffic by relieving it of a present financial burden and by driving another nail into the coffin of an already moribund six o'clock rule. Under these circumstances, only one conclusion is possible: this Government is in the pocket of the liquor interest. Knowing what we do of political methods in this country, the conclusion is well-nigh irresistible that a "quid pro quo" of some sort has either been offered or already received. Charges of bribery are easy to bring and notoriously difficult to prove, but assuredly all the circumstances surrounding the introduction of this measure seem to lend verisimilitude to the allegations made on the floor of the House by Mr. Albert Lane and Miss Preston Stanley.

THE STOMACH BRIGADE.

But, in conclusion, what are we to say of the division list which authorised the first reading of the bill? We find there the names of men—Ball, Bavin, Chaffey, Evatt, Stuart-Robertson, and others—whose past utterances ought to have made them stern opponents of any tinkering with the expressed will of the people—valiant champions of law enforcement. Instead of that, they vote with the Government, though in several cases not even the call of party loyalty necessitated their doing so. There was a time when political principle refused to recognise that widespread evasion of constituted law justified its amendment or repeal. To-day, however, when politicians themselves conspire with privileged people to break the liquor law after hours it is not, perhaps, surprising that they should also conspire to set at defiance the will of the people in order to minister to their own convenience and the financial profit of their friends. To such a pass has political life in New South Wales at last come.

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LONGER LIQUOR HOURS.

ALLIANCE CHALLENGE.

The meeting of the Alliance, held at the Chapter House on Monday last to protest against the Liquor Bill, was necessarily a hurried call to arms. In spite of Mr. McKell's definite promise that he would hear the Alliance representations before making any change in the Liquor Bill, the measure was suddenly sprung upon Parliament, breaking all records in its passage through the Assembly.

The meeting was thoroughly representative and intensely in earnest. It was not a public gathering, but a conference representing Churches and temperance organisations with a united membership of some 200,000 adherents. Such a gathering could not lightly be ignored by Parliament.

Bishop D'Arcy Irvine, whose kindly courtesy is blended with a keen sense of public duty, referred to early closing as one of the greatest social reforms ever enacted. Its results, he said, justified him in making such a statement. Though it had not been completely enforced, it had been sufficiently well to make them feel that a retrograde step was being taken in the proposed new law. It would be very difficult to enforce. He moved the following resolution: "That this meeting of the New South Wales Prohibition Alliance and of representatives of the allied Churches and temperance organisations calls upon members of the Legislature to oppose the attempt of the Lang Government to overthrow the 6 o'clock closing of liquor bars by allowing the sale of liquor with meals up to 9 o'clock. We urge that there has been no public demand for any extension of liquor trading hours, that the proposed change violates the will of the people as expressed by referendum, and that before any extension becomes law it should be submitted to the electors for their decision."

OTHER SPEAKERS.

The resolution was seconded by Miss Preston Stanley, M.L.A., and supported by Rev. W. Pearson (representing the President of the Methodist Conference), Rev. A. M. Barnett (Moderator-Elect of the Presbyterian

Assembly), Mr. J. R. Firth (Congregational Union), Madame Wolfcarius (President of the Women's Consultative Committee), Mrs. Jamieson Williams (President of the W.C.T.U.) and Colonel Fisher (Salvation Army).

THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.

Mr. Foreman, referring to Mr. Bavin's speech in Parliament, said that if the present law was not being enforced the remedy was surely not to surrender to the law-breakers, but to compel them to obey. As an ex-Attorney-General and a member of the Bar Mr. Bavin should adopt that policy. He should be asked to prove his statement regarding heads of Churches joining in dinners at which liquor was served after 6 o'clock.

Summarising their position as opposed to the bill, Mr. Foreman said there had been no demand for it by the people. It was in defiance of the will of the people as expressed in the referendum of 1916, and violated the principle of the referendum, which was supposed to be the policy of the Labor Party. They wanted to know what pressure had been brought to bear to cause the Government to introduce the bill. They wanted to know what affinity there was between a Labor Government and a monopoly like that of the brewers, who owned 90 per cent. of the licensed houses. Six o'clock closing was the result of a 60 per cent. majority, and no Government had any right to alter it without authority. If it was difficult to enforce, the new law would present the authorities with a superhuman task.

ARCHDEACON BOYCE.

The resolution was carried, as also was the following motion, proposed by Archdeacon Boyce, seconded by Mr. Wheeler (Church of Christ): "That copies of the first resolution be forwarded to members of Parliament, that steps be taken immediately to make the attitude of parliamentary representatives known to members of every allied Church throughout the State, and that petitions be circulated throughout the State and presented to Parliament."

CLASS LEGISLATION.

LABOR'S LIQUOR AMENDMENT BILL.

One question being asked in many quarters is, "What is the Government's reason for bringing in a bill which, in addition to being a present to the liquor trade, is a class measure of the worst kind?"

With balanced reasoning the "Sydney Morning Herald" dealt with this in a leading article, from which the following is an extract:

"Several members of the Labor Party in Parliament have sought without success the reason for the introduction of the Liquor Amendment Bill now before the House. They assert that other Labor proposals for legislation call more urgently for consideration. It is not improbable that some of those proposals were foreshadowed in Mr. Lang's policy speech at Auburn on May 1, 1925, whereas this matter of liquor law amendment was not indicated. On that occasion the

Labor Leader said he asked the electors when thinking of the coming Parliament to consider only the policy he had outlined that night, for that was what, if returned to power, he would try to do—no more and no less. Now, Mr. Lang did not make any mention in his speech of the liquor laws. If promises made on the hustings counted for anything with him and his friends they would feel, therefore, that they were in honor bound to abstain from asking Parliament to pass a bill like that read a second time in the Legislative Assembly yesterday. In respect of even more important matters, however, it has been shown that Labor's promises are not to be relied upon. In quite another way also the Liquor Amendment Bill must be regarded as remarkable. It involves a heavy remission of taxation at a time when Ministers are at their wits end to discover additional sources of revenue. Hotel and wine shop licensees have, by means of a levy on their trade, been compelled to contribute to a fund for the compensation of those of them whose licenses have been

This page is devoted to the activities of the N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance—Edited by Henry Macourt, Publicity Officer.

terminated by the Reduction Board. In the course of seven years the Board has granted compensation to the amount of £610,000, yet at the end of last year the fund was in credit over £900,000. The contributions from the trade must, therefore, have amounted to about over £200,000 a year. If the bill now before Parliament is passed the liquor trade will be relieved of the duty of paying that large sum to the Consolidated Revenue. The trade will in effect be made a present of £350,000 a year—for what? The collection of the money is not creating an economic disturbance, nor is the public at large likely to benefit from the omission to collect it in future. That must be said, however, about other taxation which the Ministry in its extremity has imposed. Mr. McGirr yesterday contended that the special taxation of the liquor trade should go on, and that the proceeds should be devoted to the reduction of unemployment. If there must be public expenditure on unemployment there is something in such a demand. But many legitimate uses could be found for the money at a time when a shortage is held to justify some of the Ministry's grossly improper financial schemes."

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Our Weapons: Education and Legislative Action.

This Page is devoted to the activities of the Prohibition Alliance—Edited by Henry Macourt, Publicity Officer.

THE BREWERS' ENDOWMENT BILL.

POINTS FROM THE DEBATE.

Mr. Bavin's attitude on the Lang Liquor Government's Bill to endow the Liquor Trade was more than disappointing. As in the case of the proposed Federal Constitutional Amendments, the Leader of the Nationalists proved himself incapable of carrying the bulk of his party with him. A few irreconcilable "wets," like Messrs. Ball, Murray, Lee, etc., went over into the Lang liquor camp, but to their honor 28 Nationalist and Country Party men refused to join with Mr. Bavin in abrogating the will of the people as expressed by referendum on the Six O'clock Closing Law. Mr. Bavin has simply proved once more that he is temperamentally unsuited for leadership. There is a growing conviction in Nationalist circles that he can never lead the Nationalists to victory. Honesty of purpose is Mr. Bavin's strong point. One does not question his honesty, nor his ability, but on this great moral issue both of these qualities are mistakenly directed against us.

WHAT IS MR. BAVIN'S ALTERNATIVE?

The Nationalist Leader made a frank and characteristic confession when he said that if he believed that there was no alternative between our present licensing system and Prohibition he would vote Prohibition, but he believed there were other acceptable alternatives. If words have meaning at all this declaration commits Mr. Bavin to a definite alternative to the present liquor system. Are we to understand that he favors replacing liquor bars by the Canadian system of sale under Government permit? If not, what does he propose? The public have a right to know, and to know at once what is the remedy which the Nationalist Leader apparently has up his sleeve. Mr. Bavin has now gone too far or not far enough. He admits the present system is intolerable, and that he would vote Prohibition if there were nothing better offering.

MISS PRESTON STANLEY.

Unquestionably the finest speaker in Parliament is Miss Preston Stanley, and never were her abilities more severely tested nor more brilliantly displayed than in her speeches on the Brewers' Endowment Bill. Every point she made a winning point, for even when Mr. Bavin expressed the opinion that Miss Stanley had been misinformed on the matter of the surplus Liquor Trade Fund being earmarked for compensation under Prohibition, Miss Stanley's retort was that if that were so both Parliament and the N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance had been not only misinformed, but fooled and betrayed into the bargain. Miss Stanley figures amongst the few brilliant minds in a Parliament that is especially distinguished for its mediocrity.

MR. MCKELL AND THE DUKE.

It would need the cynical pen of the author of "Erewhon" to do justice to the Labor Minister's concern for the alleged thirst of

the Duke of York. His Royal Highness will no doubt be surprised to learn that a bill, making the liquor interests an annual gift, according to the "Sydney Morning Herald," of £350,000, and violating the whole principle of Six O'clock Closing, was passed largely in order to allow the Duke to drink alcoholic liquor at the State banquet. We are convinced that His Royal Highness, who has crossed the seas mainly to attend functions at Canberra where liquor will not be served, will regard this as anything but a compliment. He will probably object to being made a stalking horse for the liquor interests, and to his alleged alcoholic requirements being used to cover up a political steal of £4,000,000. As a matter of fact, no one knows better than Mr. McKell that under Mr. Justice James' decision, against which he declined to appeal, banquets can be given in licensed premises with liquor flowing like Niagara, provided the simple precaution is taken of the host taking a bed in which he need not sleep. The deep concern of Mr. McKell for the Duke's gastronomical requirements is more touching than convincing.

LABOR UNIONS AGAINST THE BILL.

A bomb was thrown into the Labor camp when Dr. Evatt informed Caucus that both the Hotel Employees' Association and (we understand) the Shop Assistants had protested against the Brewers' Endowment Bill, because it would lengthen the hours of labor. Mr. Stuart Robertson also dropped a naked light amongst explosive material when he asked why the Government saw fit to give this Liquor Bill for lengthening trading hours right of way over its declared policy of shortening trading hours by eliminating Friday night trading for shops. Mr. Gosling in evident fear and trembling mustered up enough courage to propose to exempt wine-bars from the right to serve liquor with meals up to 9 p.m. Mr. McKell, having counted noses, finally accepted this amendment, although that one-time temperance reformer Mr. George Cann, insisted in dividing the House against his fellow Minister.

OUR FRIENDS IN PARLIAMENT.

Our friends, Dr. Arthur, Messrs. Albert Lane, Arkins, Hoskings, Ness, and others, fought well against the liquor Caucus, which did not scruple to use the gag. The bill was not only given a clear right of way over legislation promised by the Premier on the hustings, but it was railroaded through the Legislature at express speed on a non-stop run. Members saw the bill for the first time on Tuesday, and it was through the second reading by that afternoon, and through Committee on Wednesday. Neither Miss Stanley nor Mr. Albert Lane was allowed to speak on the second reading. We mean to make known to every Church allied with us the names of those who voted for this iniquitous measure.

A FLAMING SWORD.

Miss Stanley rightly characterised the bill as a Flaming Sword which Prohibitionists would carry to the uttermost parts of the State. The measure will awaken and unite the temperance forces which have too long been somnolent. It will do much to lead men to put Prohibition before Party, and to arouse the temperance Labor forces to a realisation of the truth of the quotation published below:

THE ENEMY WITHIN THE GATES. LIQUOR TRADE AND POLITICIANS.

(From the Brisbane "Courier.")

Maryborough Sept. 9.

The Press Committee of the local Railwaymen's Union has just issued for publication a rather remarkable statement regarding the drift of power, in which they accuse the liquor trade of using the Labor Movement. It is stated: "The sacrifice the workers will have to make, if they wish to control the political machine, will be money. If all the workers contributed £1 per year per head for fighting funds the workers would have control. Instead of that, what do we have now? The political machine is run by publicans and money-lenders. The Licensed Victuallers' Association contributes well to the fighting funds all over Queensland, and for that it expects to have some of the spoils."

(Continued on page 12.)

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VOTE PROHIBITION BEFORE PARTY

FROM RESTRICTION TO PRIVILEGE.

By S. R. DODDS, M.A., LL.B.

It is not easy even for a lawyer to understand all the intricacies of our complicated system of liquor licensing. But the difficulties should not be attributed alone to the lawyer and the legislator: they are due to historical evolution of somewhat uneven movement, because the law has reflected the fluctuations of popular opinion and has, therefore, not proceeded from precedent to precedent, but has rather left the impression of a dubious and uncertain trail. Various motives have struggled for expression, sometimes sordid and occasionally sublime; but the changes in our system of liquor control have been more often based upon expediency than upon principle. A slight knowledge of history shows that our present system of monopoly and privilege to the licensed victuallers cannot be attributed to the deliberate intention of the legislature, at any rate up to recent years. Restriction has gradually turned into privilege, and the casual character and inorganic growth of our licensing system is responsible for the creation of a valuable monopoly in the hands of a privileged few.

A TRADE OF POTENTIAL SOCIAL RISK.

The liquor trade has always been recognised as one differing from all other trades, as one entailing great evils if left uncontrolled, as entailing, in its effects upon the community, special and heavy and largely unnecessary expenditure, in short as a trade of great potential social risk. It offers a legitimate field for fiscal taxation, as being a luxury common to every class of the community. We thus get an age-long struggle between two opposing lines of governmental interference; the desire to check a potential social evil over against a desire to encourage it, and to exploit it for revenue purposes; and as a result of the struggle there emerges a result not consciously anticipated, a lucrative monopoly, created by the action of the State, but remaining the private property of individuals or of trading groups; an unearned increment, a huge vested interest, created largely by repressive legislation. Truly has this been described as a "perplexing paradox," and it is a paradox the meaning of which should be studied, in order the better to frame our policy for the future. The practical question for the present day is constantly raised in various forms. "How is it that every public-house, however small and incommensurable, has a value which can only be referred to in terms of thousands of pounds?" "Why cannot a license, even if admittedly not required by the community, be got rid of except by payment of thousands of pounds, or some equivalent return?" "How have we come to allow the way of reform to be thus definitely blocked?"

LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

Keeping to the broad highway of modern history, we may regard Henry VII. as the monarch who began the policy of restriction, though we may note that he did it rather in the interests of militarism than of sobriety, and because the taverns diverted to handball, football and quoits (all regarded as idle pursuits) the energies which should be devoted to the patriotic pursuit of archery. Justices were therefore given power to suppress unnecessary ale-houses. Henry VIII., "who meddled with everything from religion to beer-barrels," took the matter a stage further when, in 1552, he limited the keeping of ale-houses to those authorised to do so at Sessions by two Justices. This practically began the restriction and established the monopoly, though the power was not

exercised very vigilantly, and the monopoly remained precarious so long as a license was simply an annual permit and nothing more. For two centuries the magistrates administered the licensing law very indifferently (in the modern and not the Prayer Book sense of the word) and not always impartially; but when they did act, their decision was final. They could be punished for acting corruptly, as two Justices found in 1765 when they suffered fine and imprisonment for refusing an ale-house license to an inn-keeper on the ground that he had voted for a candidate for Parliament whom they were opposing. They painfully realised, no doubt, in jail that their mistake was in stating their reasons, and hence the discreet brevity of modern magisterial decisions in licensing matters. The history of magisterial control bears little resemblance to a straight line, for it varies from periods of intense restriction to times of laissez faire and free trade. Not seldom, magistrates, in their efforts to control, received little or no backing from the community; and whatever the Home Office of the day might do, the Treasury looked for substantial revenues from the sale of liquor.

LAXITY AND STRICTNESS ALTERNATING.

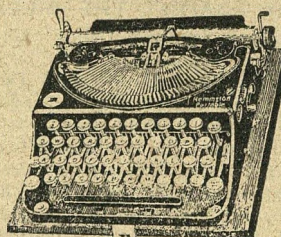
Drunkenness was tackled by James I. in the first Tippling Act (1603), and men no doubt thought that the rights of individuals were being heavily encroached upon when drunkenness and permitting drunkenness

became penal offences. But the Tippling Acts were allowed to be forgotten in the relaxation of discipline which followed the Restoration, and the period of laxness continued well on into the eighteenth century. Spirit-drinking, too, was prevalent in the eighteenth century, following swiftly upon the abolition of the monopoly of the manufacture of spirits in 1690. In 1700 the sale of spirits was brought under the licensing system, such as it was, and in 1735 it was found necessary to pass a very highly restrictive measure, amounting almost to Prohibition, if it had not proved too stringent to be operative. That the licensing system of the day was not very restrictive is shown by the note which Defoe made on Shrewsbury in 1714: "The most coffee-houses round the Town Hall that ever I saw in any town, but when you come into them they are but ale-houses, only they think the name of coffee-house gives a better air." The system of control however, was tightened up by the middle of the century, when all licenses were, more or less, brought under magisterial control, the aim being licensing rather than restricting, for there was little difficulty in obtaining a license, and little danger in ignoring the restrictions imposed. In 1773 when the population numbered about eight millions, there were stated to be 40,000 licensed houses, a statement considered to be well under the mark.

DESTRUCTION OF MONOPOLY.

So far restriction had been too light to create privilege; but a burst of magisterial energy in the country during the last two de-

(Continued on page 10.)



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DELICIOUS
COFFEES

ARE ROASTED AND GROUND DAILY.

THE WONDERFULNESS OF GODLINESS.

A MESSAGE GIVEN ON ANNIVERSARY DAY.

While Sydney generally sought the beaches and pastimes, many hundreds spent from 12.30 to 3.30 in the great united prayer meeting held each Wednesday in the basement of the Town Hall.

A lady has written the following impression of one of the messages given to the gathering fully conscious that no written word can possibly convey the spirit, fervor, and power that made the message so impressive.

Paul urges Timothy, his son in the faith, to pray "That he may lead a life in all Godliness." With all the urge of his being Paul here solicits Timothy to make "Godliness" the theme of his prayer, the goal of his ambition, the earnest of his desire, inasmuch as a life so infused can alone become equipped for the best service of the King.

Paul further pleads for a full, a complete baptism of Godliness. It is to be "all"—the whole—not a decimal fraction nor a half, but the embracing "all," else potentialities would be only half-developed. So thought, feeling, impulse must alike be subject to its consecration of purpose, and thus will character reveal the beauty of the Master Himself.

Moreover Godliness is inseparable from good works. They cannot be divorced, for God has so joined and enjoined. And He has provided a thousand ways whereby opportunity is afforded for rendering small, unobtrusive services to buffeted and tired men and women. And He still affords occasions whereby gifts, talents, even self, can be spent to ease burdens and brighten lives, and help this old world Godward.

But knowing the grace of Godliness does not come by chance, by accident, Paul enjoins "his son" to exercise himself thereunto. Though we are dense scholars, we realise that as the prima donna, the prize-man, the successful athlete, all trained to their maximum, so must the seeker after Godliness exercise himself constantly, regularly, steadfastly. A hurried three minutes' prayer in the morning and a tired two minutes' one at night are not conducive to proficiency in prayer, or to quickened spiritual impulse. God knows human nature is capable of Godliness. He knows it can only be acquired by exercise in prayer, so the injunction is to "pray without ceasing, always, to pray, and not to faint."

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OPEN WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS TILL 9 O'CLOCK. Phone: MW 1420.

MY DAILY MESSAGE

By M. PRESTON STANLEY.

2/6, Posted 2/9.

Miss Preston Stanley sets out in words as clear as a voice on a frosty night a simple yet sufficient philosophy of life. It deals with life as it is lived by the multitude. Full of friendly, helpful words.

Gilmour's Bookshop,

141 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY.

Phone: CITY 8905.

The mystery (or wonderfulness) of this Godliness affected Paul strangely, for he characterises it as "great." To think of poor erring humanity being linked up with God Himself, to try to grasp the idea that His strength is round our weakness, "round our restlessness His rest," is almost beyond conception.

The wonderfulness of this Godliness is inexhaustible; it has satisfied the needs of millions upon millions, and still there's enough for millions more. Its beauty is ever unfolding, its freshness ever entrancing, its satisfying power ever unfailing. And the best—yet to be, for when the dim light of time is lost in the fuller Light of Eternity it shall be said, as did the master of the wedding feast, "Thou hast kept the good wine until now."

The "gain" of this Godliness is not computable. Its assets are incalculable, its dividends ever increasing, for we read when joined "with contentment" it is "great gain," it is profitable for this life, and for the life to come. A thousand things we engage in here are unprofitable, but Godliness with contentment ensures buoyant hope, peace, joy, satisfaction ungivable and untakable by the world.

Yet we read, "If all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." The servant is not above his Master. "If they persecute Me they will also persecute you." Criticism, misunderstanding, is the common heritage of the godly. Christ was spat on, reviled, crucified. Paul was stoned, imprisoned, martyred. The list of those who suffered for conscience sake is almost beyond human computation. Yet there has ever been in the hearts and lives of these heroes of the Holy Ghost the deep central reality which they proved to the point of demonstration that Christ's last legacy of peace was more than sufficient for all these "light afflictions."

And so the counsel of Paul to Timothy, his son in the flesh, written centuries ago, comes to us to-day with new revelation, new purpose, new power:

"That we may lead a life in all Godliness, a Godliness inseparable from good works, that is acquired by constant exercise, whose wonderfulness is unfailing, whose gain, despite all the persecutions of time, is for all eternity, and will be far beyond the possibilities of human conception for the half has never been told."

A Personal Chat with my readers

A 21st BIRTHDAY.

On March 10 next, should we survive, "Grit" will celebrate its 21st birthday. Let us have a celebration—surely the occasion warrants it. Without capital, without a staff, without a single thing deemed essential for the success of a paper, "Grit" has yet lived on. In spite of the fact that it always carries the burden of hundreds of pounds owed by friendly subscribers, and that it has been edited and managed without a cent of expenses on this account, yet it has been read and quoted all over the world, and has never had reason to be ashamed to take its place beside similar papers that have had both capital and a paid staff.

However, the story of "Grit" must keep till March 10. The question now is, how can we celebrate? Have you a birthday present? Have you a message of encouragement? Have you a suggestion for the future?

Have any of my 2000 Ne's or Ni's anything to say? However, there is to be a celebration even if the celebration is to be like the production of the weekly issue, a lonesome undertaking.

* * *

THE DIGGERS AND THE DUKE.

League.

"Intoxicating liquors barred!

"It will be in an atmosphere of the greatest decorum that the Diggers will assemble on March 29, at their luncheon in honor of the Duke and Duchess of York.

"Not a single voice will be raised in revival of the old songs of the route marches and rest billets.

"It takes a liberal ration of vin blanc to bring 'Mademoiselle from Armentieres' to its proper gusto.

"The Prohibition on intoxicating liquors was decided by a meeting of the State Executive of the Returned Soldiers' League, which is organising the luncheon.

"There will be two toasts, 'The King' and 'The Duke of York.'

"These may be drunk in lemonade, water, or weak tea.

"Two representatives from each Sub-Branch in the State will receive an invitation to the luncheon."

Liquor never helped a single soldier.

Liquor started many a fight, it never helped to win even one.

Liquor has defeated the splendid generosity that lavished hundreds of thousands of pounds on Returned Soldiers.

Liquor alone has tarnished the honor of thousands of the bravest humans God ever created.

Hats off to the League that keeps the filthy poison from the Royal banquet.

* * *

A DEBT THAT SHOULD SHAME US.

Time was when men of high integrity were ashamed to be in debt. Time was when young folk were launched out into life with the words "Out of debt out of danger" ringing in their ears.

To-day debt causes no disquiet. We have lost our noble spirit of independence and boldly declare, "Let someone else foot the bill."

Speaking in Adelaide, S.A., last week, the Acting Prime Minister (Dr. Earle Page), at the Commonwealth Club luncheon, said that the only way to reduce taxation was by attacking the management of the public debt.

Australia owed £1,000,000,000, and if they could reduce the interest one-half per cent. they would save £5,000,000 a year.

Co-operation in connection with the raising of loans and in providing sinking funds for the redemption of loans would undoubtedly reduce the rates of interest.

He urged the necessity for a uniform railway gauge, the lack of which was costing Australia as much as the interest on the war debt.

Now it does not require much thought to see that one must go back much further than "co-operation in borrowing."

At present we are borrowing millions at 5 1/2 per cent. to pay off other millions that we borrowed at a smaller interest. Ever does the debt assume staggering proportions.

The Commonwealth debt borne by 6,000,000 people is far greater than the British debt in 1913 borne by 37,000,000 people. We must inculcate the principle that it is wrong and dishonest to indulge in luxury so long as our debts remain unpaid.

Economy, thrift—even Spartan severity—alone can reduce a burden of debt destined to always handicap even if it does not fatally crush us.

* * *

POLITICIANS AND PARASITES.

The "Daily Telegraph" is responsible for the following statement:

"Although no official announcement has been made, it is learned on good authority that Saturday trotting meetings in Sydney are to be cut out.

"A bill is to be introduced by Mr. Lazarini, Chief Secretary, at the next session of Parliament, asking that the N.S.W. Trotting Club and Australian Trotting Club be allowed to discontinue racing on Saturday, and that each be granted five extra racing days during the mid-week.

GRIT

A JOURNAL OF
NATIONAL EFFICIENCY
AND PROHIBITION.

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

Editor—ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.
Address: Box 390F, G.P.O., Sydney.
Office: N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance, Macdonell House, 321 Pitt-street, Sydney.

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SYDNEY, THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 1927.

"At present each club is licensed to hold 15 meetings a year and is forced to race on five Saturdays. The attendances at trotting fixtures for some time past have not been too large, with the result that each club is having an up-hill battle to keep on the right side of the ledger. The Saturday meetings attract only a few hundred people, and are always a losing proposition, with the result that the prize-money for the week-end days has been considerably reduced.

"Should the bill meet with the approval of Parliament, both clubs will be licensed to race on 20 days a year. This will probably be responsible for each body launching out with bigger prize money, which in turn will attract better horses and larger crowds."

The "D.T." might have completed the programme and said, "More loafers, more crooks, more corruption and a stranglehold on a few more politicians."

* * *

"The way of the transgressor is hard." Of that we have abundant evidence, but it invariably has a few minutes of exhilaration as a compensation for years of regret.

Now the way of the reformer is also hard. Ridicule, treachery, penury, and the burden of some friends that are futile and some that are disloyal, and seldom is their any compensation—for a panegyric at his grave-side is hardly a compensation. A fulsome tombstone at his head when he is dead is a poor substitute for a balance at his bank while he is living.

My friend and colleague, C. W. Chandler, has written the following wholesome lines, which I commend to the discouraged reformers:

(Continued on page 14.)

PROHIBITION AMERICA VERSUS NON-PROHIBITION ENGLAND.

LOS ANGELES HAS GREATEST DAY OF BUSINESS IN HISTORY

All Records Broken for Volume of Christmas Trade, Total Running into Hundreds of Millions.

The present holiday season has already broken all records for retail business in Los Angeles, according to a consensus of down-town merchants. December 23rd probably established the high-water mark in volume of turnover and cash value, though Monday also saw every store jammed to capacity and many buyers actually turned away because they could not get in.

There is no accurate means of estimating the amount of money Los Angeles is spending for her Christmas this year, but it will run into hundreds of millions. The banks alone are clearing an average of close to 40,000,000dol. a day in cheques alone, and for the six days preceding Christmas the clearings will exceed last year's record by about 30,000,000dol. The 1925 figure, which itself set a new record, was 201,000,000dol., which, it must be remembered, represents only cheques travelling through the clearing-house. Most Christmas shopping is done in cash, but this cash in many instances has been drawn from the banks by means of cheques, and thus figures in the clearings.

RECORD IN SIGHT.

Judging from the bank figures, this holiday season will exceed in volume of business all preceding ones by about 15 per cent. This estimate is borne out remarkably by individual expressions of leading merchandise men, who independently declare that the volume of their particular business is exceeding by from 15 to 20 per cent. their business of December, 1925.

The observation of George L. Binder, general manager of Coulter's, which is the oldest dry goods store in Los Angeles, is that the stores of the city are enjoying more than 15 per cent. some of them as high as 20 per cent., more business now than last year. Last year, he said, showed the greatest increase ever recorded over the preceding year, and, he added, this year will top them all. He said buyers are taking exceptionally high-quality merchandise.

The Broadway Department Store, according to C. C. Clay of that institution, has had such a volume of business that a traffic force had to be organised in the store to hold back at the doors the tide of buyers at times.

BETTER TASTE.

"A tremendously successful season, greater even than last year," was the comment of Henry McKee, president of Barker Bros., Inc. He said there is now more evidence of sophistication among buyers, and buying is proceeding along lines of better taste.

Representatives of Bullock's pointed out that calendar conditions caused a situation where three days of this year are being compared daily with four days of last year, but that in spite of this comparisons show this year to be running considerably ahead of last year. This, it was declared, is general all over the store, and is not the result of business increases in any group of departments.

Wilbur May, vice-president of the May Company, said its store is enjoying an unprecedented holiday business. "There seems to be a confidence among the buyers and an optimism about their outlook that has set them buying as never before in our experience." He also noted that the better class of merchandise is moving across counters.

T. C. Palmer, vice-president of Walker's Fifth Street Store, is another who observed that the great increase in business is not coming from any particular group of store departments, but is general.

THRIFT CLUBS HELP.

A number of executives ventured the opinion that Christmas thrift clubs have added greatly to the buying power of the general public this year as never before. The business, it was generally said, started about the same time this year—that is, after November bills were paid, and began to grow at a rate that made some of the shop operators believe that it would slump just before Christmas. They began to believe that the "shop early" campaign had produced the result. However, it was unanimously declared, the increase in business has continued to increase steadily.

LONDON HIT BY HOLIDAY SLUMP

CHRISTMAS TRADE DECLARED POOREST IN HISTORY.

LONDON, December 23.—Business men of London, discouraged and dejected, will remember Christmas of 1926 as a "Black Christmas." Never in their memory, they say, and probably never in England's history, has there been so little Christmas buying.

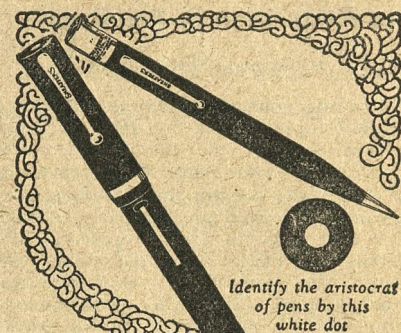
Crowds of shoppers have filled the London department stores during the last three weeks. It was not a happy throng, imbued with a spirit of Yuletide. The crowds were sad and gloomy. They looked over the merchandise, which was sent out as brilliantly as ever, as one looks over a shroud for the dead, pondered a bit as though making mental note of their finances, then dejectedly turned away.

"People wanted to buy," said the head of one of London's biggest stores, "but had they been on a general strike they could not have purchased less.

"Our shops are crowded with thousands of people," he said, "but they only look at things, enjoy the warmth and comfort of our places, and one in ten makes a purchase. Not only are few buying, but the individual purchases seldom exceed 10dol. or 15dol. Our sales have not reached 30 per cent. of the estimate for this year, and because of this fact many of the larger shops have inaugurated sales that have heretofore never been conducted before New Year's.

"A well-known London jeweller, whose business in ordinary years would run into huge amounts daily, declared that there has been days during the last week when sales did not exceed 35dol.

"I would have to close my store were it not for my connections in the United States, where I am selling a fair amount of antique silver," he declared.



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YOU HAVE A SPARE PAIR OF
PANTS AND, MAYBE, HALF A
DOZEN SHIRTS.

I PERSONALLY KNOW OVER
ONE HUNDRED MEN WHOSE
PANTS ARE TOO WELL VENTI-
LATED FOR DECENCY, AND WHO
FEEL LIKE WALKING ABOUT
SIDEWAYS WITH THEIR BACK TO
THE FENCE.

THEY HAVE NOT ENOUGH
SHIRT TO MAKE A THUMB
BANDAGE.

Please send to

Rev. R. B. S. HAMMOND,
St. Barnabas' Church, George St. West,
Sydney.

From Restriction to Privilege—

(Continued from page 6.)

acades of the century, unsupported, however, by public opinion or by the metropolitan magistrates kept the licenses down while the population increased. The reforming energy died away during the Napoleonic Wars, and there was then no Temperance party to foster and educate public opinion. It had, nevertheless, begun the tied-house system, through the demand of the Justices for better houses, and the consequent introduction of brewers' capital into the consequent introduction of brewers' capital retail business. This, in turn, produced a reaction. The Tories courted popularity, and disliked interference with the pleasures of the poor; the Whigs resented the arbitrary interference of the Justices as being undemocratic and often corrupt; and both parties disliked the brewing rings, and their growing control of the retail activities of "the trade." Monopoly had been growing, and the fight was really against combines. Monopoly was therefore destroyed, by making licenses available to all who would pay a couple of guineas for them: and over 24,000 new licenses were taken out in six months. Sidney Webb states that in Liverpool alone there were opened more than fifty additional beer-houses every day for several weeks; and altogether the Beer Act of 1830 was responsible for the creation of over 50,000 on-beer-house licenses. For a brief time the Tories were pleased at the encouragement given to the growth of hops and barley the Whigs were pleased at the destruction of monopolistic privilege, and the brewers were pleased at the opportunity of vending their goods. But whilst as manufacturers the brewers gained by Free Trade, as public-house owners they were hit, for the freedom had taken away their monopoly.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT: MONOPOLY RECREATED.

But the orgy of intemperance produced a reaction, and by the middle of the nineteenth century public opinion was becoming not only vocal but also organised. Temperance membership despite derisive cries of fanaticism sprang up, and increased theirism, and the United Kingdom Alliance dates its origin from 1853. In the 'sixties the pendulum definitely swung against Free Trade and towards restriction. The legislation of 1869 and 1872 marked a turning point, and the magistrates were again placed in effective control. After 1869, new licenses were only to be granted at the option of the Justices; but the ante-1869 beer-houses were specially safeguarded, and such licenses could not be extinguished except upon four specified grounds mainly concerned with disorderly houses and disqualified persons. This privilege continued to exist until 1904, when it was merged in the wider privileges extended to all on-licenses by the Licensing Act of that year. Thus it comes about that every on-license created before 1904 is a valuable monopoly—something which, generally speaking cannot be taken away except upon compensation of considerable value. And therein lies our present-day problem: the existence of a large number of public-houses, many of them admittedly redundant, which cannot be closed because there is not the money available to compensate the owners. In England and Wales there are still some 80,000 on-licenses, 21,000 beer-houses, and 22,000 off-licenses; and on the average it takes nearly £2000 to extinguish an on-license or a beer-house license. The value is rising yearly, and the monopoly value in the hands of the licensees is obviously tremendous.

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SINGLE BED 1-YD. U.B. SHEETING

54in. PLAIN UNBLEACHED SHEETING, a fine strong quality that will give good wear. Usually 1/6.
SALE PRICE, per yard 1/-

Our RENOWNED "WINWEAR" SHEETING, a heavy quality plain unbleached cloth that gives good wear and soon bleaches.

Regular Value— 52in. 68in. 78in.

SALE PRICES— 1/11 2/6 2/11 per yd.
1/6 1/10 2/4 1/2 per yd.

Fine Quality 35in. WHITE LONGCLOTH. A nice soft-finished cloth. Usually 9d.
SALE PRICE, yard 7d.
6/11 DOZEN.

BED SPREADS 3/9 WORTH 4/11 FOR 3/9

Special Value PRINTED BEDSPREADS for Single Beds. Light grounds with good, clear printed designs in various colorings. Size. 48 x 68. Usually 4/11.
SALE PRICE, each 3/9

SATIN CENTRE DOUBLE BED JAVA-DOWN QUILTS 24/11 A BARGAIN TO BUY FOR THE FUTURE



DOUBLE BED JAVA DOWN QUILTS, with full Satin Centres, well filled. Colors: V. Rose, Saxe, Blue, Morone, Black or Helio. Satin Centres. Usually 27/11.
SALE PRICE, each 24/11

53in. WHITE TABLE DAMASK, very good value. Usually 1/11 1/2.
SALE PRICE, per yard 1/6 1/2

54in. Strong UNBLEACHED TABLE DAMASK, excellent value. Usually 1/9.
SALE PRICE, per yard 1/3

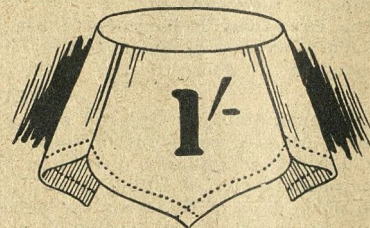
WHITE DAMASK SERVIETTES, assorted designs. Size, 18 x 18 inches. Usually 6d.
SALE PRICE, each 4 3/4 d.

3/6 Hemstitched Linen Finish PILLOW SLIPS Real Good Quality 1/11 Sale Special 1/11 Per Pair

1/3 PILLOW SLIPS, 11 1/2 d.

250 Dozen Extra Large Size Good Quality HEAVY LINEN-FINISH PLAIN PILLOW SLIPS, 20 x 30 inch, with deep hem and taped. Regularly 1/3.
SALE SPECIAL, each 11 1/2 d.

Also Size 17 1/2 x 28 inch. Regularly 10 1/2 d.
SALE SPECIAL, each 7 1/2 d.

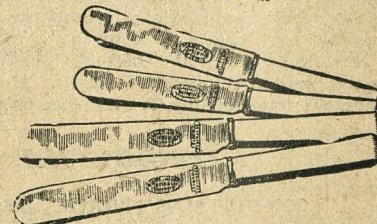


Plain Good Quality HEAVY LINEN-FINISH SUPPER CLOTHS, size 32 x 32, with good hemstitched hem. Worth 1/6.
SALE SPECIAL, each 1/-

10 1/2 d. Tea Towels, 8d.

OR 7/11 DOZEN.
STRIPED TEA OR KITCHEN TOWELS, Fawn and White Stripe with Blue Line, Wypo Design. Size 21 x 30 inches. Worth 10 1/2 d.
SALE PRICE, each 8d.
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STAINLESS KNIVES
FROM 7/6 PER 1/2-DOZ.

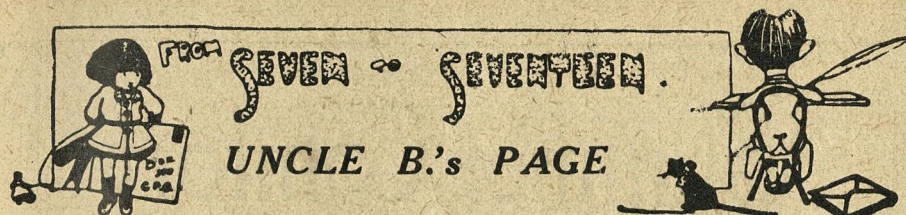


FIRTH'S STAINLESS KNIVES, superior quality, good cutting edge, secure xylonite handles.
DESSERT KNIVES. Usually 1/7 1/2 each; 9/6 per 1/2-dozen.
SALE PRICE, 1/3 1/2 each; 7/6 per 1/2-dozen.
TABLE KNIVES. Usually 1/11 1/2 each; 11/3 per 1/2-dozen.
SALE PRICE, 1/7 1/2 each; 9/6 per 1/2-dozen.

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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 390F G.P.O., Sydney.

FROM THE POOR HOUSE TO WORLD-WIDE FAME.

We often pity poor people and we may well do so, but we very, very often make the mistake of thinking them poor just because they have no money. Now there are rich poor people and there are poor rich people.

You would pity a man with a wooden leg but quite overlook the man with a "wooden head"; yet he is very much more to be pitied.

You can't be poor so long as you have God for your Father, so long as you have the Lord Jesus as your Friend.

These are real riches:

Commonsense.

Willingness to do.

Friends who love you.

They make a fortune in three figures, anyhow. All this comes to my mind because I have just read that Lady Stanley, wife of Sir Henry Stanley, the journalist, who found Livingstone, has died in England. He was a poor workhouse boy, who grew to world-wide fame; she was the daughter of a country squire, and an artist of great ability. One of her pictures, of a street arab before a magistrate, was familiar to millions of people. Their marriage took place in the Abbey, and Mr. Gladstone was there, with Lord Balfour and Sir John Mills and a gathering of famous people.

UNCLE B.

OUR LETTER BAG.

BACK FROM ENGLAND.

Betty Marr, Woodside Avenue East, Burwood, writes: By now I will be a very bad scallywag, considering last time I wrote to you I was in England. I had a lovely trip out, much better than going home. We came right through the Suez Canal in daylight, and it was very interesting. We had to moor up alongside the bank to let another boat pass. We had a good walk round Colombo, but did not go ashore at Port Said. We had to go in a small motor boat to go ashore at Colombo from our ship to the Jetty. We went up to Perth by train from Fremantle and had a good look around, as we were all in bed with the 'flu going over and didn't see it. We didn't go up to Adelaide this time, as we saw it when we went away. We stayed with my auntie in

Melbourne while the boat stopped there. I was glad to get back to Sydney, although I had a good time in England and did not want to leave school. We went over on the Moreton Bay and came back on the Jervis Bay, and liked the Jervis Bay best. I forgot to tell you I didn't see your answer to my last letter till I arrived back in Sydney. Now we have had our trip to England father has to find another farm, as we sold our other one. I will be glad to get back to some animals other than dogs and cats. We had three bicycles when we were in England and father brought them with us. We spent Christmas in the Bight and had a very jolly time. We had a lovely dinner and tea, and breakfast too. The children had a Christmas tree, and my brother and I each got a lovely big book. They all had beautiful things given them. None over 12 got any. There are many more things I could tell, but I think this will do this time, so I will say good-bye now. With best love and wishes for a happy New Year to yourself and all your Ne's and Ni's.

(Dear Betty,—Your letter makes me wish I had been on that old ship; we would have had a good time, and you would have had to have risen very early in the morning to beat me at quoits, tennis or bull-board. I am so glad you are safely back and so glad to be back. Do not be long before you write again.—Uncle B.)

LOVELY MANLY.

Leslie Storey, 476 Burwood-road, Belmore, writes: We had a very nice time at Manly. Every morning we went for a dip. The change did every one of us good. One day we went to Shelly Beach, and we had our tea out. After we went for a walk around Fairy Bower. One day we went to Deewhy. It is nice round the rocks at Deewhy. We arrived home on the 16th of January.

(Dear Leslie,—I am so glad to hear you enjoyed and benefited by your visit to Manly. I wish I had seen you on the sand, I would have had some fun with you.—Uncle B.)

OUR PET NE.

Leslie Adams, 11 Fry-street, Chatswood, writes: I would like to become one of your Ne's if I may. I love to write poetry, and I was advised by a kind friend who is a reader of "Grit" to send something in. I thought that if you would kindly find time to read my little effort I would be deeply grateful to you. Trusting to hear from you.

REVERIE.

I was a baby once!
A fat, dimpled darling, with curly hair
And soft eyes that opened in wondrous stare.
From the depths of a bonnet with silken
bows

I smiled on the world, like a fresh pink rose;
I smelt no scent than the best of flowers,
And thus did I pass my baby hours.

I was a toddler once!

A fat little cherub, just three years old,
With cheeks like apples, and locks of gold,
And a score of toys that were all my own;
And I sang in a child-like treble tone,
And I romped in the warmth of the sun's
bright rays.

Ah! those were such happy, carefree days.

I was a schoolgirl once!

A bright little creature that skipped to school

With bag, slate, pencil, book and rule.

I had schoolmates plenty, and secrets too,

There was hardly a day that I'll live to rue.

I had always a plan each holiday,

And thus did I while the years away.

I was a lover once!

And I lived in the sunshine of my love's smile.

Then the church bells rang for a little while,

And then we were mated—mated for life.

We were bride and bridegroom, man and wife.

Then I had my house to keep in command,

And I was the happiest in the land.

I am a grandma now!

With wrinkles, and thin hands, and pale grey hair,

With grandchildren flocking around my chair,

With my life behind me, but memories fond

That grow, like the ripples in a pond,

But a happy memory you'll agree.

With naught to regret in my reverie.

L. ADAMS (aged 13).

(Dear Leslie,—I am sure all your "cousins" will be very interested in your verses. I am very pleased to have you in my family, and hope you will soon write again.—Uncle B.)

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PASS "GRIT" ON

The Brewers' Endowment Bill—

(Continued from page 5.)

Can any fair-minded worker say that the members of the L.V.A. are true Labor men? Our answer is: "No." The majority of them are voting Labor to-day—what for? Because the Labor politicians are looking after the interest of the L.V.A. No one can deny that all the L.V.A. is after is a certain thing, and we say that they will get it before many months pass by, and that is the alteration in the hours of the liquor trade."

HUMANITY AND GOLD.

These throbbing lines are particularly commended to the reading and conscience of the 52 politicians who on January 28th, in the N.S.W. Parliament voted to break down the law which provides (at the affirmed will of the people) for "six o'clock closing for liquor selling."

Hear the cry of the clamorous Millions,
All shouting for Silver and Gold!
They are eager for Money and Mammon;
For gain they are zealous and bold;
But they heed not the cry of the Human
That rises from suffering hearts,
They see not the shame and the sorrow
That shadow the busied marts.
Gold! Gold!
Silver and Gold!
This is the battle-cry,
Ringing and bold,
That millions are making,
Tho' souls may be aching
And hearts may be breaking,
While manhood is murdered for Silver and Gold.

Hear the prayers of the sisters and mothers,
Go pulsing with pain upon high,
From the homes where they kneel in their anguish,
And weep in dishonor and die;
But the chorus of gain echoes louder
Than the pleas of the smitten can rise;
While millions go shouting for mammon,
And manhood in misery dies!
Gold! Gold!
Silver and Gold!
Hear the battle-cry,
Ringing and bold,
That millions are making,
Tho' souls be aching,
And hearts may be breaking
With pain and sorrow that cannot be told!

By the Cross in the Churches uplifted,
In sight of the sinner and saint;
By His death who perish upon it
In love that knew never complaint;
By the hope of the world in a manhood
Well worth such a death to redeem,
Let men be more precious than Money,
Let manhood be counted supreme!
Gold! Gold!
Silver and Gold!
Shame on the shouters for
Mammon so bold,
Their Saviour forsaking
Tho' souls may be aching,
And hearts may be breaking,
While Christ is dishonored for Silver and Gold!
While Manhood is murdered for Silver and Gold!

There's always a bright side. Since the bob came in fewer barbers eat onions.

A woman's idea of good luck is to find a pair of her husband's socks in the wash that don't need darning.

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We want you to send to our office and ask for "HELPS TO PARENTS IN EXPLAINING MATTERS OF SEX TO THE YOUNG," issued by the Bishops and General Synod, together with 10 White Cross booklets suitable for parents, boys and girls.

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Some secret sins are not so much of a secret as the sinners think.

People are much alike, after all. Even the wets enjoy water the next morning.

The difference between a lover and a husband is that one comments on the looks of her dress and the other on the cost of it.

A WEAK BROTHER.

"Look at that pall-bearer. His knees are giving way."

"Yes, he never could hold his bier."

UNKIND.

Percival: "That sure was a dirty dig."

Percy: "What's that?"

Percival: "I showed her a picture of me as a little boy sitting on my father's knee and she said, 'My, who is the ventriloquist?'"

AN AMBIGUOUS PETITION.

Asked to pray for warm weather, so that her grandma's rheumatism might pass away, a five-year-old girl knelt and said:

"Oh, Lord, please make it hot for grandma."

GETTING ONE OVER.

The young maiden was indignant, accusing the grocer of charging her too much.

"You're a very small potato, is what I think," she snapped.

"Perhaps," the grocer remarked, "but I never let myself be skinned."

MILK AND BUTTER.

"No," replies the "Pathfinder" to an inquiring correspondent, "the milk of all mammals will not produce butter. For instance, no butter is furnished by the milk of the camel, no matter how much it is churned." That's too bad. But what about the dromedairy?

"Were you ever in love?"

"No, but I've been in a lot of other tough places."

Man may possibly have sprung from the monkey, but the average woman will spring from a mouse.

"Wonder what time it is? I'm invited to a dinner at 6.30 and my watch isn't going." "Why, wasn't your watch invited?"

UNCLE CAN BUT HE DOES NOT.

The following was written by a boy of twelve years of age:

"When I returned home and opened the door the scene that met my eyes was enough to make a cat burst into laughter. Standing upon a chair and flourishing a large spoon in all directions stood my aunt, whilst uncle, his body bent almost double, and with a poker clenched in his grasp, was making violent cuts and slashes at an invisible victim beneath the sink, which, in answer to my inquiries, I found to be a mouse. At length his efforts were rewarded and with a squeal the mouse ran out from his retreat. The poker descended but missed the creature by at least a foot. Without pausing, it ran straight towards uncle, and he naturally jumped, but this only served to frighten the mouse, and it ran right up inside uncle's trousers. But he never lost his presence of mind. He caught it just as it climbed over his knee and held it a prisoner. Aunt thought she would throw things at it, but, after she had tried two fireirons, uncle begged her to desist. Then she got some cheese to coax it down, but uncle did not care to let it go for fear it would run further up. Then uncle happened to trip, and lost his hold and the mouse fell to the floor as dead as a door-nail. Now when mice run into the kitchen uncle leaves at once. He can kill a mouse, he says, but the fun isn't worth the trouble."

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DAILY INSPIRATION.

By FAIRELIE THORNTON, author of "The Southern Cross," etc.

SUNDAY.

"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters."—Isa., 32, 2.

A kindly word and a kindly deed,
A helpful hand in time of need,
With a strong, true heart
To do his part—

Thus went the sower out with his seed,
Nor stayed in his toil to name his creed.

No coat of arms, no silken crest,
No purple or linen about his breast,
But royally true
To the purpose in view,
Was his ceaseless search, and his constant quest
For suffering souls in need of rest.

Feeling for others, bearing their pain,
Freeing the fetters, undoing the chain
From sorrow and tears,
He wrought the years—
Still unknown to rank and unknown to fame,
In letters of light God writeth his name.
—Ella Dare.

MONDAY.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."—2 Tim., 3, 16, 17.

If the Bible were of human origin, it must have been written by men who understood every need of the human heart. No man could so thoroughly have searched its inmost recesses, been so intimately acquainted with every phase of character, every sorrow which afflicts mankind, every sin to which he is liable. It bears the image and superscription of the Creator on every page. No other book in the universe is like it. The poetry in it is sublime, and has never been equalled. Some preachers seem to be in doubt whether Paul knew what he was talking about when he said that ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God. If the enemy of souls can only get people to believe that, the Bible might as well all go; for everyone can pick out just what he chooses to believe is inspired. The exact verbal translation may be sometimes at fault, but that has nothing to do with the inspiration of the whole of Scripture.

TUESDAY.

"FOLLOW ME."

'Tis sweet when Jesus leads the way,
To follow Him from day to day.
My footsteps then can never stray.
He'll keep me safe from every harm,
And nothing shall my soul alarm,
For every storm will turn to calm,

If I follow Jesus.
He'll surely walk and talk with me,
He'll keep my soul and spirit free,
His road leads on to victory.
My every weakness He doth see,
I love Him, for He first loved me.
His precious blood hath set me free,
So I will follow Jesus.

—Flora Dalburn.

WEDNESDAY.

"Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth."—Col., 3, 2.

Your honors here may serve you for a time, as it were for an hour; but they will be no use to you beyond this world. Nobody will have heard a word of your honors in the other life. Your glory, your shame,

your ambitions, and all the treasures for which you push hard and sacrifice much, will be like wreaths of smoke. For these things which you mostly seek, and for which you spend your life, only tarry with you while you are on this side of the flood.—Beecher.

THURSDAY.

"The fear of the Lord tendeth to life, and he that hath it shall abide satisfied."—Prov., 23, 19.

Satisfied because I know Thou art near;
Satisfied to trust my all to Thy care.
Satisfied to put aside every fear.
Satisfied to take each task from Thy hand,
Satisfied to just obey Thy command.
Satisfied to do Thy will, watch and pray,
Satisfied for Christ my Lord leads the way.
Satisfied to serve or wait, praise or pray,
Satisfied to follow Jesus all the way.
Satisfied when I awake, Lord, with Thee,
Satisfied from sin and sorrow to be free.
—Flora Dalburn.

FRIDAY.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord."—Zech., 4, 6.

It is a grand thing to train the human mind in the academy and in the college and university to great intellectual achievements. It is a grand thing for you to leap, as it were, by the lightning of your thought, from crag to crag of discovery. It is well to make paths for tender feet through the morasses and over the mountains of study. These bring honor and power. But it is also well to remember that the diplomas of colleges and universities can never bring pardon for sin; that all the scholarships and all the titles in the world can never bring peace to the dying. Oh, brethren, it is this discipleship with the Man of Galilee who trod the winepress alone and carried His cross up Calvary's hill; this discipleship with the Man Christ Jesus, that constitutes the moral and spiritual power in our work. That power it is yours to impart to the children under your care. Aye this is grander than all human achievements.—F. Clement French.

SATURDAY.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."—Prov., 22, 6.

Parents of the future race
None on earth can take your place.
God entrusts to you alone
Work which will be left undone
If you fail in this great task.
Greater work you could not ask
In your hands the future lies
Of that child which you so prize.
Not a plaything to be dressed,
Petted, fondled and caressed;
But a true immortal soul
You have under your control.
You are sowing now the seeds
Of his future words and deeds.

BOOKS THAT HAVE HELPED.

By Fairelie Thornton.

"SOUL REST" (3rd thousand); "LOVE DIVINE" (2nd thousand); "LOVE" (2nd thousand).
Just published:

"THE SOUTHERN CROSS OR WORLD UNSEEN."

1/6 each. METHODIST BOOK DEPOT, 135 Castlereagh-street, Sydney, and other religious booksellers.

A Personal Chat with My Readers—

(Continued from page 8.)

On the anvil of sorrow I've lain,
And been struck by the hammer of loss,
Then beaten and thrust in a furnace of pain,
Then lifted with tongs to the anvil again
Just as though my poor life were mere dross.

But all thanks to the Smith who with strength
Hath reshaped my poor life to His will,
And were all my days more than double the length
I'd pray this one prayer, to be given the strength
Just to trust to His infinite skill.

* * *

WITHOUT LOGIC.

The liquor gang are to be pitied since they are without facts to support their contentions, but as they are seemingly without logic they may not miss the facts so tremendously, they may indeed find their consolation in their bank balance. They have yet to learn the severe limitations of money, and that however it may talk it has never been able to speak peace to any man's soul or hope to any man's heart. Opponents of Prohibition concede it to be a failure, reasoning that the law is so bad that "nobody" will obey it, and that since "nobody" will obey it the law must be bad.

They remind me of the fellow to whom the judge said:

"You weren't satisfied to eat a dinner at the complainant's restaurant without paying for it, you pocketed his forks and spoons besides."

"Prisoner: I know, yer honor, but I took 'em from honest motives. I was goin' to raise money on 'em to pay for the dinner."

The Editor

A BIRTHDAY GIFT.—"The Southern Cross," by Fairelie Thornton. 1/6. Wm. Tyas, 558 George-street, Sydney. Better than a birthday card.

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72 Years' Faithful Service
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THE BLIGHT ON U.S.A.

VISITORS AND FOREIGNERS.

The Las Angeles "Times" in an Editorial says:

The best blood of America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries sailed away from Europe to escape from class dictation and also from rubbing their noses into the dirt in the presence of folks made of the same clay as themselves.

These independent and enterprising spirits came over to America and started a country where they had room enough in both the open spaces and ideas to stand upright. They would bow down to Deity only. They came to rid themselves of the iron heel and outgrow its marks upon their characters. They came to get the creases and wrinkles out of their souls.

In a recent issue of the Saturday "Evening Post" a cartoonist caught the present generation unawares kow-towing to a shipload of European celebrities as they came down the gangplank making uncomplimentary remarks about us.

The first was a big, blustery, long-haired, flat-hatted, butterfly-tied personality with a huge bundle of lectures for money, books and plays for money in his right hand and a fat grip in the other with "fifty-seven ways to get American money." His mouth was stretched inordinately wide with this sentiment, "America is a nation of dollar-chasers. You have no sentiment."

Tramping on his heels was an anaemic under a turban orating as follows, "You have no art, no taste, no ideals."

Crowding him from behind was a bumptious opera singer who looked as if she ought to reduce. She bore in her arms a monkey and also a portfolio filled with concert engagements. Out of her mouth issued "Americans are money mad. You have no music, no appreciation."

Then came another open-mouthed individual who sounded this alarm, "America has no literature. You are money-grabbers." He carried in his hand a capacious valise which appeared to be empty.

Following came a high-hatted, bewhiskered, long-coated, solemn-jowled specimen who rolled his eyes and mustachios heavenward and expostulated, "You have no heart!" He bore in his hand a suitcase filled with debt cancellation pleas.

Bringing up the rear was a mob and the burden of its howlings seemed to be, "No soul!"

They accuse us of being money-grubbers and then come to get the grub. They accuse us of being Shylocks and then we turn our pockets inside out and show them that we not only have ducats but idiots. Some of us are a funny bunch!

The impudence, cupidity and arrogance of visitors to U.S.A. is one of the seven wonders of the age.

The shame of it is that too often Britishers are numbered with this motley crowd. The Dean of London, Lord Reading, Margot Asquith, Chesterton and Co. abused the hospitality of America, defied its laws and then added to the outrages articles and books in which they presumed to criticise what they so evidently knew next to nothing about.

THE CRIMINAL ALIEN GANGS.

Following is a list of those indicted by a U.S. Grand Jury in Chicago on charges of making a farce of the Prohibition and vice laws in this city.

Frank Rydzewski, Thomas J. Coughlin, Joseph Chemma, Morris O'Donnell, Joseph Zuchowski, Lottie Ziolkowski, Anton Powalski, Charles Anzoe, Stanley Swirz, Katherine Lazik, Stanley Wilinski, Leo Bastalk, Frank Kabubowski, Martin Sobierajski, Joseph Kukus, Stanley Potacki, Julius Sordini, Michael Mazgaj, William Wojciorowski, Stanley Naguszewski, Peter Vrdyolak, Stanley Wysocki, James Fortuna, Salvatore Fasone, Jim Ingret, Sam De Salva, Peter Selintus, Jack De Guisti, Sante Asquino, Joseph Chiaporri, John Papiro, Angelo Zannette, Ignats Yasilus, August Farone, Joe Digange.

Names like these were not found among the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

In spite of the twin pests, visitors and foreigners, there is a fruit of Prohibition that is truly magnificent.

IN EVERY DEPARTMENT OF LIFE.

Health Improvement:

"This year every important cause of death showed a decrease from the year before. The health of the nation is in all probability better than ever before."—Mutual Life Insurance Company, 1926 Report.

"One million lives saved, as shown by the death rate. Infant mortality showed a definite decline."—U.S. Census and Children's Bureau, Dept. of Labor.

Crime Decreased:

"Every age group has fewer commitments in proportion to population in 1923 than 1910. Rate of decrease in commitments for all crimes is 37.7 per cent."—U.S. Census, Bulletin 8-5503A, 1926.

Drunkenness Decreased:

"Commitments to prison for drunkenness decreased 53.3 per cent. Arrests for drunkenness decreased 500,000 per year . . . Alcoholic insanity reduced 66 per cent. in first three years."—U.S. Census Bulletin 8-5503A, 1926.

"Six thousand fewer deaths from cirrhosis of the liver in 1923 than in 1915. (This disease is due chiefly to alcohol)."—U.S. Census, Bulletin 8-5503A, 1926.

"Salvation Army drink cases reduced from 50 per cent to 1 per cent."—Comm. Evangelical Booth.

Drinking in Colleges Decreased:

"The poll of college publication editors, and that of College Presidents, indicate decrease in drinking in the colleges and by the youth at large. Only six editors of almost 100 report an increase . . . Two hundred and thirteen Presidents report improvement."—Literary Digest, July 17, 1926.

Economic Conditions Improved 1920-1925:

"Savings Banks depositors increased by 23 million persons. Amount in Savings Banks increased by 8 billion dollars. Increase in Life Insurance 1913-24, 37 billion dollars. 1918-1925 the country's Wage Account increased 8 billion dollars."—Girard Trust Company of Philadelphia.

More Homes:

"The sale of small houses has tripled since 1919. Building and loan association assets increased 2 billion dollars."—Report of Com. on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic of 68th Congress.

Better Homes:

"Homes are better furnished. Wives and families, not the saloon, get the income.



There is only one best.

Mortein

LIQUID SPRAY OR POWDER

Non poisonous Non staining.



Children better clothed. Sanitary and Health conditions improved."—The Salvation Army from a report from thirty cities.

Less Poverty:

"Applications for relief reduced 50 per cent."—The Salvation Army, from a report from thirty cities.

More Food (Not Wine and Beer) Milk and Meat:

"Milk—Year's consumption increased 600 million gallons.

"Meat—Per capita consumption increased from 139-165 pounds.

"Sugar grapes," vegetables, grain report similar increases.—Illinois Agricultural Association, from a nation-wide poll.

The President of the J. C. Penny Co. sent a questionnaire on Prohibition to 695 managers of general merchandising stores of that organisation reaching 47 States. Five hundred and forty-six opposed the restoration of beer and light wines and only 39 approved it, while 563 expressed the opinion that Prohibition has bettered conditions financially, socially and morally, and 438 to 190 declared that the majority of the people in their communities were opposed to so-called "modification."

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CASH ORDERS FOR EVERYTHING.
ICE CHESTS FROM 2/6 PER WEEK.

PROHIBITION AND LIFE INSURANCE.

New life insurance written during the first seven months of this year by forty-five companies having in force 81 per cent. of all the old line legal reserve insurance outstanding in the United States totalled 6,599,000,000 dollars, which is an increase of 9.8 per cent. over the 6,010,000,000 dollars reported in the like period of last year, according to a report filed by the Association of Life Insurance Presidents with the Department of Commerce.

New ordinary insurance for the period totalled 4,623,000,000 dollars against 4,341,000,000 dollars, a gain of 6.5 per cent.; industrial insurance was 1,479,000,000 dollars against 1,314,000,000 dollars, an increase of 12.6 per cent.; group insurance reached 496,000,000 dollars against 354,000,000 dollars, a gain of 40 per cent.

During July total new insurance was 931,000,000 dollars against 877,000,000 dollars in July, 1925; ordinary amounted to 659,000,000 dollars against 639,000,000 dollars; industrial was 194,000,000 dollars against 183,000,000 dollars, and group reached 78,000,000 dollars against 55,000,000 dollars.

Women Oppose Liquor's Control of Politics.

The determination of women to settle the drink question was ably expressed by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, internationally known suffrage leader, in New York, September 11, when she said, "We are going to keep at this problem if it takes 21,000 years to settle it."

"I hold it to be the height and depth and width of hypocrisy and silliness for people to advocate removing from the Constitution an important law which it has taken 125 years of work to obtain, until time has been given to test that law fairly," she said of the Eighteenth Amendment. "Twenty-five years ago the liquor interests of this country controlled politics, bought votes, sent members to Congress, had their lobbies in State Legislatures. It is against this control of our politics that many of us fight who never had the problem of drink to meet through misfortune in our families."

Sacramental Wine Need Not Be Alcoholic.

A very important announcement about the requirements of the Jewish law in regard to the alcoholic content of sacramental wine has been made by the "American Israelite." The statement is made in this journal that unfermented grape juice serves every purpose of the synagogue for sacramental wine, and that there is no need of withdrawals of alcoholic liquors at all for the Church. This harmony of the Jewish law and our Prohibition secular law removes all problems, it would seem, about diverting sacramental wine to secular uses, for no permits need be given for withdrawals from Federal storehouses for sacramental purposes.

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* * *
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