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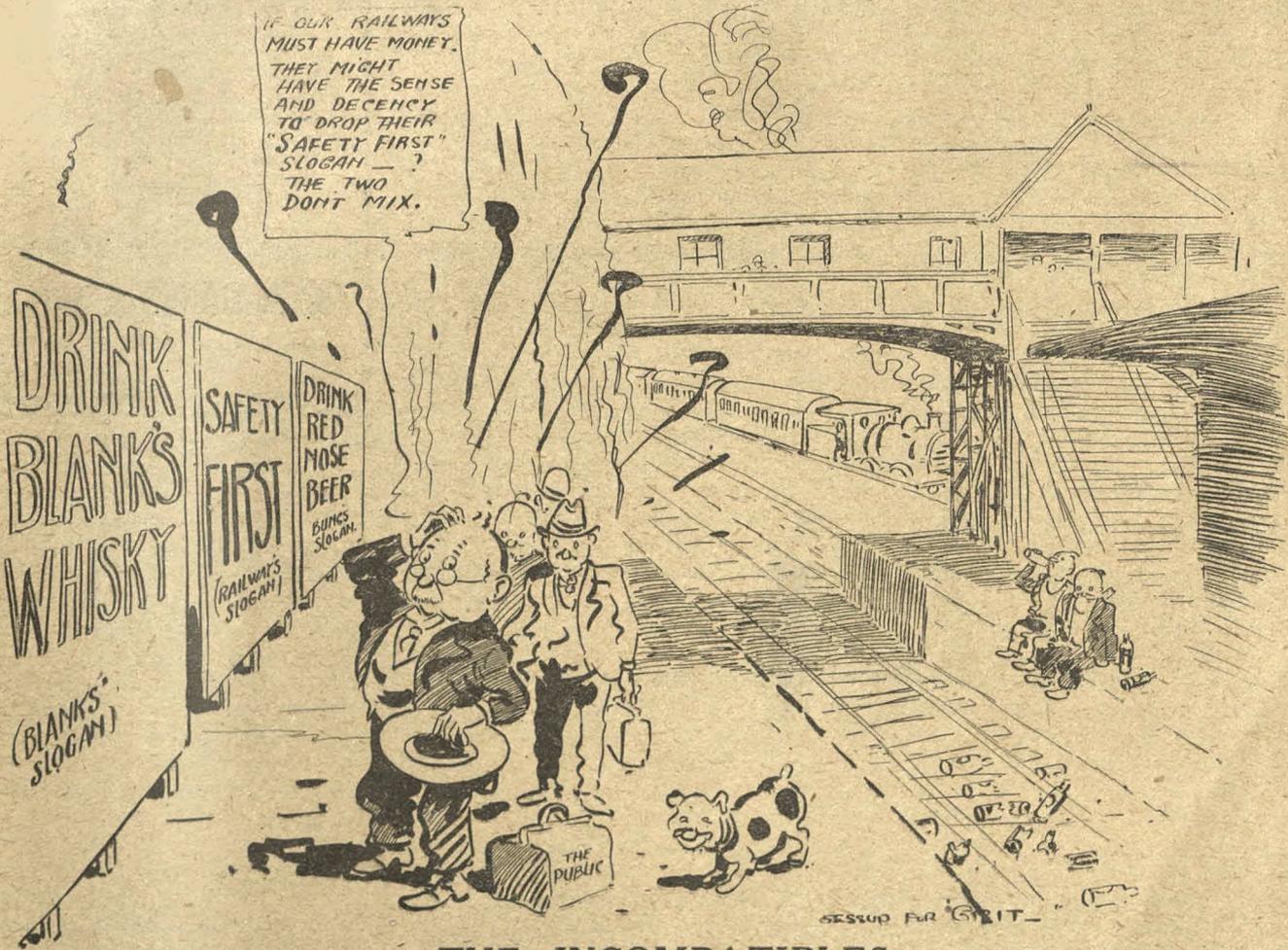
# Grit.

A JOURNAL OF NATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND PROHIBITION.

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## THE POLICEMEN IN THE PUB.

It is believed that uniformed police are much too frequently seen in-and-out of hotels. Has the law anything to say? Undoubtedly. Listen to this, which is the essence of Section 163 of the Liquor Act, No. 42, 1912:

"If any licensee knowingly harbors, or suffers to remain on his premises, any constable during any part of the time appointed for such constable to be on duty—unless for the purpose of keeping or restoring order, or in execution of his duties—or supplies any liquor or refreshments, whether by way of gift or sale, to any constable on duty (unless by the authority of a superior officer of such constable), or bribes or attempts to bribe any constable, he shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding for the first offence five pounds and not exceeding for the second or any subsequent offence fifty or less than ten pounds."

And notice, too, that apparently if a constable on duty is found to have been handed liquor, that is sufficient. For Section 175 of the same Act says:

"The delivery of any liquor shall be evidence of sale within the meaning of this Act so as to support a conviction, unless satisfactory proof to the contrary is adduced to the court or any justices hearing the case."

## HOW PROHIBITION WORKS.

### CRIMINALITY IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF PROHIBITION.

The 29th annual report of the State of New York Prisons Commission which has just appeared contains interesting figures on the admissions into penitentiaries and State prisons from 1914 to 1923. Although the population increased during this period by about one-tenth, the prisons received, for the year 1922-23, half the number of men and two-fifths the number of women that were admitted, on an average, in 1914-15.

The report does not state whether during this period the dispositions concerning the enforcement of the penalties had been modified. Even if this were the case, if, in particular, conditional liberty had been granted much oftener than formerly, it is undeniable that criminality has notably decreased in the State of New York. The decrease, according to the report that we are analysing, dates from 1916, when the United States entered the world war. It reached its culminating point in 1920 (first year of Prohibition). From that time a certain increase is noted in the number of delinquents.

In 1914 and 1915 17.3 per cent. of the male and 26.6 per cent. of the female inmates of penal establishments were imprisoned for drunkenness; in 1919-20 the proportion was 5.6 per cent. for men and 5.9 per cent. for women; in 1922-23 it was 12.4 per cent. for men and 10.3 per cent. for women. Thus we have here also a very distinct diminution manifesting itself especially during the first year of Prohibition. However, the latest proportional figures (1922-23) are much lower than those of 1914-15. The absolute total of individuals imprisoned for drunkenness represented, in 1922-23, for men one-third and for women one-sixth of the figures for 1914.

The penitentiary statistics for New York thus provide visible proof of the favorable effect of Prohibition, although its enforcement is more difficult there than in most of the States of the American Union.

### JUGO-SLAVIA.

The Jugo-Slavian Government, to the great consternation of temperance workers, has just revoked the ordinance of the Minister of the Interior of 1919, commonly called the "Pribitchevitch" law, from the name of the Minister who had signed it, and which obliged licensed houses to supply meals even for people who consumed no liquor, which forbade the serving of alcoholic beverages to young people and intoxicated persons, and which, above all, forbade the sale of strong drinks (spirits and liqueurs) from midday on Saturday till Monday morning. Although the enforcement of the ordinance was very often lax, a real improvement had been noted and the scenes of drunkenness, so frequent formerly on Saturday night and Sunday, had almost completely ceased. It is therefore much to be regretted that, under pressure from interested circles, the Government should have yielded. The Jugo-Slavian temperance workers, however, preserve the hope that the backsliding is but momentary, and that the wise dispositions which have just been abolished will be recalled.

### AN INTERVENTION FROM SENATOR BORAH.

The President of the Commission of Foreign Affairs of the Senate who, in point of fact, shares with the President of the United States the direction of foreign policy, protested lately against the liquor smuggling from Great Britain which is carried on without interference from the British Government. To the great scandal of the English press he declared that England, who had been so strongly moved by the famous Zinovief letter, was acting in the United States no differently from the Bolsheviks, since she was favoring, in a way, the violation of the Prohibition law. Doubtless the analogy between the Zinovief letter and the attitude of the British Government with regard to the smugglers is not very exact. Let us hope, however, that the intervention of the Ameri-

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can Senator will serve to draw the attention of the British authorities to the necessity of taking steps against smuggling.

### CLANDESTINE DISTILLING IN ITALY.

When a clandestine still is discovered in Finland or in Norway the whole world immediately hears of it. Must it not be proved that spirits prohibition is an impossible measure favorising the illicit consumption of alcohol? No journal, so far as we know, has mentioned the discovery, in the commune of Ponticelli, near Naples, of a large clandestine distillery which manufactured so much liquor that it entailed a loss to the Treasury of 25,000 lire a day. The raw material employed, moreover, was of deplorable quality. This little fact shows that Prohibition is not the only factor in provoking illicit manufacture. Let the legislator, from fiscal or hygienic motives, restrict or tax—as it is duty to do—the manufacture of alcoholic beverages, and there will always be found unscrupulous people eager to make money, who will do their best to defraud.

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IS PROHIBITION WORTH WHILE?  
 THE EFFECT OF ALCOHOL.

(By EUGENE LYMAN FISK, in "The Nation," 14/1/25.)

Can it be said that civilised man is a good animal? Does the physical state of civilised man, as we find him on the average, inspire us with confidence in the sanity and wisdom of all his time-honored and established customs?

Long before the war the Life Extension Institute, in its examination of people in all walks of life, made clear the serious deficiencies of the adult population. In an original analysis of 10,000 industrial and commercial workers actively engaged at their tasks, and supposedly in good physical condition, 83 per cent. showed evidences of nose and throat defects (17 per cent. marked or serious); 53 per cent. showed defective vision uncorrected; 21 per cent., flat feet; 56 per cent., defective teeth; 62 per cent. of mouths X-rayed showed root infection; 12 per cent. of those examined showed well-marked changes in the heart, blood vessels and kidneys; 9 per cent. showed marked lung signs requiring observation for possible tuberculosis.

During the war the veil was lifted, and well-groomed, well-clothed, supposedly well-fed man stood forth in his nakedness to be measured for his fitness to fight. In the British population only 36 per cent. (ages 18 to 42) qualified for active service. The British worker of 45 was described as an old man.

Since then the examination of 350,000 people by the Institute has confirmed the earlier testimony as to man's physical inadequacies and his needlessly shortened health span and work span. Such conditions of widespread physical inadequacy are not incompatible with a decreasing death-rate brought about largely by the conquest of tuberculosis, epidemic disease, and diseases of children.

Accepting, then, without further debate, the overwhelming evidence as to man's gross physical deficiencies, as measured by a reasonable standard of animal excellence, we may proceed to consider alcohol. This is a problem in pharmacology and not in demonology. The personification of alcohol as the Demon Rum has obscured the consideration of alcohol, the drug. There is no reason why we should study alcohol in any other way than we study carbolic acid or chloroform or arsenic or morphine. One service that Prohibition has rendered to society

has been to strip the mask from alcoholic indulgence and reveal it for what it is, a drug indulgence.

When Prohibition went into effect and it became difficult to procure ordinary intoxicating beverages, the nonconformists proceeded to manufacture a drug mixture of absolute alcohol and extract of juniper berries and called it "synthetic gin," the formulas for which were matters of parlor conversation. Later, the bootlegger got into the game and produced the horrible stuff which he now markets. In pre-Prohibition days, many people sipping their beer, wine, or whisky had persuaded themselves that they were drinking normal, thirst-quenching, refreshing beverages and did not classify these products as being merely dilutions of alcohol. The procedures involved in making synthetic gin, however, reveal a frank confession that the consumer is after the drug, and nothing else.

We are now well posted as to the drug effects of ethyl alcohol; that is, the alcohol found in beverages made and marketed under normal conditions. The painstaking and thoroughly unbiased scientific investigations of Benedict, Dodge and Miles of the Carnegie Institution have confirmed the previous testimony of other investigators that alcohol is a narcotic drug contributing nothing to the organic efficiency of the body, even when taken in moderate beverage doses. On the contrary, it impairs the protective machinery of the body, even in 2.75 per cent. dilution, as shown in Miles's recent study. Such dilutions are toxic, if not intoxicating in the popular sense.

At this point I want to emphasise the importance of taking into consideration one of the most serious effects of alcohol, which is never measured in the laboratory and never could be so measured, namely, habit formation and increasing indulgence. That is what is most feared in life-insurance practice. Alcohol, through its effects on the nervous and mental mechanism, lowers the guard of the individual physically, mentally and morally. The highest quality which it has to recommend it for human service, that of blunting the sense of worry and releasing the play instincts, likewise renders it a most dangerous instrument to be employed for such service in lieu of constructive recreational and character-building

measures. The laboratory man and animal are under strict control; in society, a man who uses alcohol is placed in many situations where the lowering of his mental, moral and physical guard by alcohol impairs his life adjustments.

The effect of alcohol on large masses of lives has been cold-bloodedly investigated by life-insurance experts. The first in this field were certain British companies which separated their policy-holders into two distinct classes, abstainers and non-abstainers, the latter including only temperate users acceptable for life insurance. The difference in favor of the abstainers was so marked—38 per cent.—over a long period of years that this excited a great deal of actuarial investigation and discussion. Formerly these figures were questioned by experts in this country, the difference in favor of the abstainers being explained on the hypothesis that they were peculiar people, clergymen, health cranks and other unusual types who would naturally follow conservative habits of living generally. This was denied by the actuarial experts who compiled the British statistics and who had no reason to be personally biased. It was maintained that the abstaining policy-holders were the same general type of people as the drinkers.

In 1912, forty-one American life-insurance companies investigated their mortality experience, covering two million lives. They were not able to give any experience on total abstainers, but they classified their policy-holders with regard to the degree of indulgence and found the following increase in death-rate over that shown by policy-holders generally:

	Per cent.
Steady, moderate drinkers, but accepted as standard risks .....	86
Giving history of past excess, now temperate .....	50
Very moderate drinkers .....	18

(In the steady drinking group the death-rate from cirrhosis of the liver was five times the normal and from diabetes, tuberculosis, pneumonia and suicide twice the normal. Deaths from Bright's disease and accident were also in excess.)

Following this study the life insurance experts, both medical and actuarial, generally acknowledged the life-shortening effect of even moderate drinking. The groups studied were for all practical purposes homogeneous, except for their varying use of alcohol, and proper groups for comparison. To weed out those increasing their indulgence as the observation continued—as was done in Pearl's investigation—would be to exclude one of the most important effects of so-called "moderate" drinking and destroy the practical value of a study having for its object an estimation of the risks of moderate drinking.

(Continued on page 12.)

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## FIELD DAY APPOINTMENTS.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 15th.

- 9.30 a.m.—Blandford Anglican Church.  
11 a.m.—Murrurundi Anglican Church.  
7.15 p.m.—Murrurundi Methodist Church.  
—Mr. C. W. Chandler.  
11 a.m.—Murrurundi Methodist Church.  
3 p.m.—Willowtree Presbyterian Church.  
7.15 p.m.—Murrurundi Presbyterian Church.  
—Rev. H. Putland.  
11 a.m.: Scone Methodist Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Scone Presbyterian Church.  
Mr. William Bain.  
11 a.m.: Country appointment.  
7.15 p.m.: Scone Methodist Church.  
Mr. C. E. Stitt.  
11 a.m.: Waterloo Congregational Church.  
7 p.m.: Mascot Congregational Church.  
Mr. H. C. Stitt.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 22.

- 11 a.m.: Muswellbrook Anglican Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Aberdeen Anglican Church.  
Mr. C. W. Chandler.  
11 a.m.: Muswellbrook Presbyterian Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Muswellbrook Methodist Church.  
Rev. H. Putland.  
8 a.m.: Muswellbrook Methodist Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Aberdeen Presbyterian Church.  
Mr. C. E. Stitt.  
11 a.m.: Hornsby Presbyterian Church.  
4.30 p.m.: Hornsby Presbyterian Church.  
7.15 p.m.: Asquith Presbyterian Church.  
Mr. H. C. Stitt.

### OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.

- Friday evening, March 13, 8 p.m.  
Botany Road and King Street, MASCOT.  
Messrs. H. C. Stitt and Wm. Bain.

### PUBLIC MEETING.

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, at 8 p.m.

- Hurstville, Church of Christ Hall.  
Great Prohibition Demonstration.  
Speaker:—Mr. H. C. Stitt, State Supt. Alliance.

## ALLIANCE NEWS AND NOTES.

### HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

(H. C. STITT).

**CHURCH SERVICES.**—On Sunday, March 1, the Rev. H. Putland and Mr. C. W. Chandler visited the Toronto and Teralba Districts where good meetings were held. The Alliance speakers report that there is a strong Prohibition sentiment in the district, and that hope was expressed that a Prohibition poll would be granted by the next Parliament at an early date. Mr. William Bain conducted services at Mortdale, and also reports good attendances.

**VICTORY PLEDGES.**—During the past few days a further quantity of 18,000 of these pledges have been posted. We would urge that those who hold any of these cards endeavor to have them completed as early as possible, or hand them on to a reliable person who would be responsible for securing

signatures. The quantity that is being returned is highly satisfactory, and the objective of 100,000 pledged first preference votes appears to be reasonably attainable.

### BRANCHES AND COMMITTEES.

Within the next few weeks we purpose visiting a number of the branches. Would all secretaries kindly reply as early as convenient to our correspondence. Where there is no branch the Alliance will endeavor to create one, or form a Victory Committee. The reports to hand all indicate and speak hopefully of Prohibition being a potent factor in the next elections. If Prohibition is to be attained we must be prepared when the elections arrive and cast a solid first preference vote for candidates who can be trusted to give the people the opportunity of expressing their opinion on the Prohibition question. If every supporter of this reform would agree to place principle before party, for only one election, the liquor question would speedily be settled.

**NO LIQUOR.**—The Lithgow May Day Celebration Committee are to be congratulated on their decision not to allow liquor on their grounds or at the official social. The determination to place nothing on the tables "which could not be enjoyed by the members' wives" is very commendable. Booze should be driven from the grounds of every recreation and public function, and not be allowed a resting place outside its own home hell.

**THE IRRIGATION AREA.**—Leeton is evidently making history since the introduction of booze into that part. Those who favored the introduction of the liquor bar should feel satisfied with this result, which we take from the local paper: February 20, two police court cases, drunk and offensive behaviour, fines £2/5/-; February 23, three cases indecent language, fines £9; February 24, four cases drunks, language and disorderly conduct, fines £16; February 25, one drunk, fine 30/-; February 26, three cases, all drunk and indecent language, fines £10 10/- . . . A very disgraceful record for one week, but only what one would expect from such a trade.

**OPEN-AIR MEETINGS.**—As previously announced the Alliance is now in a position to carry out a vigorous open-air campaign and would be pleased if the Branches and Suburban Committees would co-ordinate in this work in order to make this educational campaign highly successful. Please communicate with headquarters in order that a definite fixture may be arranged.

**COUNTRY MEETINGS.**—During the next two months a plan of country visitations is being arranged, when the west and south-western portions of the State will be visited. It is also hoped to cover a very large portion of the State during the next six months. Public and open-air meetings will be a feature of the itinerary.

**TEST QUESTIONS.**—The matter of test questions to be submitted to Parliamentary candidates is under consideration, and when finally drafted and adopted will be communicated to all affiliated organisations.

**BEER BOTTLES.**—Owing to the frequent assaults in which beer bottles play a prominent part, it has been seriously suggested that the shape should be altered, as it provides a dangerous deadly offensive weapon. Why blame the bottle? The logical suggestion is cut out the booze.

**WITHIN AND WITHOUT.**—On several occasions in these notes we have cautioned

our supporters to beware of, and mark well, those who are designedly and treacherously performing the devilish tricks of trying to destroy the Prohibition Movement. If they are not actually in the pay of the liquor trade, nevertheless they are doing its work. Fortunately we have always been able to identify them with their fiendish actions. Their spiteful forecasts, which have no foundation but are only the throbs of a depraved mind and soulless character, fail as often as repeated. The Prohibition Movement still advances under the guidance of and in the personnel of the Alliance, composed of delegates from all the churches and temperance organisations. The foundations were well and truly laid by the great R. B. S. Hammond, and one may as well attempt the blasting of the "Rock of Ages" as to think that the Alliance is affected by lying, scurrilous paragraphs sent to the daily press by the Modern Judas. Contemptible is the only description rightly applicable to the one who endeavors to break friendships by twisting the names of gentlemen in the public press into incidents, the truth of which does not permit of such interpretation.

**LICENSING.**—The Alliance is kept very busy so far as the Licensing Department is concerned. Recently two wine licenses and one hotel license were defeated. One hotel objection was lost, and at present another stands adjourned. No less than three applications for a publican's license are reported as being on the tapis for the same suburb, Campsie, which is a dry area, and one of the most popular and prosperous residential suburbs, because there are no liquor bars there, will have its happiness disturbed in a few days owing to an attempt which is being made to force a liquor bar into that community. There is a strong and determined local committee working hard to defeat the attempt to create unhappiness and misery in that bright centre, which is probably the most prosperous suburb around Sydney.

## "GRIT" SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Received to 6/3/25, and where not mentioned the amount received is 10/: A. E. Fairbrother, 30/12/24; Geo. Gray, 11s. 6d., 30/12/24; Mrs. King, 28/2/26.

The following are paid to 30/12/25: Mrs. McDade, W. C. Dixon, 11s. 6d., C. W. Finch, 15s., Rev. D. A. Gilsenan, A. Thomas, W. D. Pfeiffer, Miss McDonald, 7s. 6d., Mrs. Cherry, Mrs. Parkes.

## How an Old Toper Voted.

The story is told of an old village "toper" who went to the polls one polling day declaring that he was going to vote for Prohibition. The bystanders scoffed and sneered at him when he cast a temperance vote.

"A pretty temperance voter you are," said one. "Why, if there was a bottle of whisky at the top of that pole, and if you could have the whisky by climbing the pole at the risk of your life, you know you'd climb."

The drunkard straightened himself up as best he could, and said: "Know it! Oh, yes, I know it! And I know another thing, gentlemen: If the whisky wasn't there I wouldn't climb."

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# THE "LEY" ACTS.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

By A SOLICITOR.

The Honorable Thomas Ley had his chance, in more than one way.

(1) He could—as one thinks—have honored his pledge for an early referendum. But what he has written he has written. According to Ley the date is now the first Saturday in September, 1928. Wet, hail, earthquake, commotion, public mourning, whatever new factors that year and day bring into operation—be they what they will, the referendum "shall" be held. If it is impracticable from any such reason to hold it, WHAT THEN? This—to wit—that the whole referendum is smashed, irretrievably. In default of a fresh Act, drafted by some fresh or hostile Ley, the referendum just can't be held. Selah.

(2) Or Ley (a lawyer, flower of an astute city firm, of ancient vintage) could have, anyway, simplified the liquor laws. He didn't. He made the liquor laws much more complex—and they were murky enough. Not pouring new wine into new bottles; no, sir—he sewed a patch on one of the old ragged Acts—and let it go at that!

The writer is a lawyer, not very clever, but yet not pure ivory from the neck up, and that writer is compelled to amazement when asked to solve any simple problem under Ley's Acts. They ARE "Ley's Acts." He had a chance to consolidate them into one simple and comprehensive statute. He left that nettle, like the task of coping with the referendum itself, to be grasped by some other more stalwart hand. And so the name of Ley promises to go into history, if it goes at all, tinged with the distaste which one great poet associated with that "One who made the great Refusal"—and that is sad for Ley, immeasurably sad and bad for Ley—damned with faint praise! (Yet more than sad for Reform.)

Now here is a list of the principal Acts affecting liquor. I have collected them, not without pain, from the statutes at large. If you are a Prohibitionist, with a taste for facts and not rhetoric, cut this out, or put in the hands of whatever lawyer you think favorable to your cause—he may find it handy in emergency:

### LIQUOR ACTS IN FORCE.

No. Year.	Short Title of Act.
42 of 1912	Liquor Act, 1912.
5 of 1913	Liquor (Local Option) Amending Act, 1913.
7 of 1915	Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1915.
14 of 1916	(S.2) Naturalised Subjects Franchise Act, 1916. (Subject of enemy origin can't hold license.)
68 of 1916	Liquor (Amendment) Act, 1916.
45 of 1918	Liquor (Refund of Rent) Act, 1918.
42 of 1919	Liquor (Amendment) Act, 1919.
42 of 1922	Liquor (Amendment) Act, 1922.
51 of 1923	Liquor (Amendment) Act, 1923.

### REGULATIONS.

Note.—On top of these Acts there are (so the officials tell us—we have not checked it) a flock of Regulations which have the force of law, viz.:

Date of Regulation.	Gazette No.
8th Nov., 1913	161
6th Oct., 1916	169
22nd Dec., 1916	223
30th July, 1920	139
5th Nov., 1920	195
8th Dec., 1922	169

[And, by the way, it reflects no credit on the Crown Law Office that these Regulations have not been consolidated. The Regulations are rusty and inapplicable to the new Acts.]

Now again (to take a specimen procedure) let us consider what the Acts say about getting a new license. Not a transfer, but a wholly new license, the most important (and disastrous) step which Ley's laws still render possible in this happy State—for these years yet to come. For still the red flowers of new license grow on the accursed tree.

A new license, then, is only attainable after a petition—Act 42 of 1919 (Sec. 6).

The petition must be (a) signed by a (b) majority of the (c) adult residents living in an area of (d) one mile from the premises.

The petition must show (a) a large and permanent increase of population in the mile area, computing from first day of January, 1919, (b) that there are insufficient licensed premises in the area, and (c) that no transfer of an existing license has been applied for in the area.

The petition is to the Governor himself. Then the Governor refers such petition to the Licensing Court for inquiry.

The Licensing Court is composed of three specially appointed magistrates, and apparently (Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 5 (10) the whole three magistrates must sit. (In other than new-license cases a less number is competent.)

If the Court refuse to recommend the petition no fresh petition may be received for any premises within a mile of the rejected site, unless there has been an abnormal increase in the population.

Now note, if the Court thinks that the petition should be granted it "recommends" accordingly to the Governor, who SHALL grant the petition, and SHALL say so in the "Gazette." Oh, the Act can be virile and positive when it likes! "SHALL." But you see it used to be "MAY" (vide Act 42 of 1919, Sec. 6). That meant that the Minister, despite the Court's recommendation, might formerly use his discretion (if he thought the Court was in error) and refuse to advise the Governor to issue the license. But the magnanimous Ley surrendered away all Ministerial discretion, put in "shall" for "may," and the Licensing Court's decision is omnipotent. (When you say your prayers put in a little "petition" on your own that Ley may be forgiven this concession to Bung!) And all this reference to the "Governor" is so much guff. It is not complimentary to his nibs to be mixed up with Bung—and be sure that "Governor" means, really, the Minister of the hour.

To get on. The petition of the majority of the adult residents is now before the Court. Ahem! "Adult . . . majority . . . residents." Pish!—likewise tush! What happens is that people en masse sign, there is no valid method of ascertaining whether they are indeed adults or a majority, and from what I have seen the Court has no time to check the names. It takes a risk. The collection of petitions is a joke—a ghastly joke. I knew one case—Sydney district—where the patients, some hundreds, in the local hospital were duly signed up!

Then the Court hears the case, according to the rules of law and evidence. You can oppose it. This is how: You can get up a petition by three or more residents of the licensing district. The most practicable grounds of objection (Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 29) are:

1. That the reasonable requirements of the district do not justify the granting of a license.
2. That the premises are in the immediate vicinity of a place of public worship, hospital or public school.

3. That the quiet and good order of the neighborhood will be disturbed.

This third ground is laughable. The Act is full of weird humor. Did you ever know of a pub. which did NOT disturb "quiet and good order"? That one ground of objection, alone, would be sufficient, if taken literally, and sensibly, to bar any license in this State for ever! But the Court doesn't act on that theory, bless you!

In one typical and hard-fought case there were four "parties" before the Court—(1) the applicant; (2) the police, as objectors; (3) the other existing pub. financing a group of "objectors"; (4) the Alliance objectors.

When the Licensing Court has given its decision either party may appeal. The appeal is (Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 170) to the Court of Quarter Sessions, and the case is heard under Section 122 of the Justices Act, 1902. The case may be heard by the Judge of Quarter Sessions all over again, and, moreover, fresh evidence may be given.

A rough summary of the possible steps in a "new pub" case is as follows:

### THE STEPS TO A NEW LICENSE.

1. Petition to Governor by majority adult residents within a mile.—Act 42 of 1919, Sec. 6.
2. Governor refers petition to Licensing Court.—Act 42 of 1919, Sec. 6.
3. Applicant delivers notice to clerk fourteen days before quarterly meeting of Licensing Court, also notice to District Inspector.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 24.
4. Applicant affixes notice on entrance of Court and on land.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 24.
5. Applicant gives seven days' notice in newspaper.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 24.
6. Clerk posts notice inside and outside Court House.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 24.
7. Applicant delivers application and testimonials to clerk.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 9.
8. Ten days before quarterly sitting district inspector reports to clerk on application.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 9.
9. District inspector makes "searching investigation" as to character and testimonials, and reports to Court.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 9.
10. Applicant deposits plans of building.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 9.
11. Clerk gives 21 days' newspaper notice of Licensing Court sitting and posts notice of same outside Court.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 11.
12. Clerk reports whether applicant has previously been an applicant.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 9.
13. Objectors to character must give three days' notice.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 167.
14. Court "inquires" on application—(i.e., hears the case).—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 6.
15. Court gives recommendation to Governor.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 6.
16. Governor publishes result in "Gazette" if favorable.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 6.
17. Applicant then goes to Quarterly Court held next after 30 days from date of "Gazette" in No. (16).—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 6.
18. License issues.—Act 42 of 1912, Sec. 6.

And at this stage open the bar! Enter Death and Hell and all their merry crew. Set the whisky flowing, open the vials. Sensuality, profligacy, impoverishment, crime—Four Horses of a new Apocalypse—draw your grisly chariot!

### AUSTRALIAN CASH ORDERS, Ltd

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PASS "GRIT" ON.

## DRUNKEN DRIVERS AND THE LAW.

### SLY-GROG CASES AND A "ROUGH JOINT."

#### THE EVILS OF NIGHT CLUBS IN LONDON AND SYDNEY.

##### Report of Victorian Police Commission.—Crime in Melbourne.—Sunday Observance and "The Mad Thirst for Pleasure."

**DRUNKEN DRIVERS.** Mr. Camphin, S.M., has been imposing heavier penalties than heretofore on drunken drivers. Last week a person with a suspiciously German name—Kurt Lange—was fined £10, in default two months' imprisonment, and had his license suspended for twelve months, for having driven a motor car whilst under the influence. He collided with a bus in Cleveland-street. When he collided with the magistrate, he had the audacity to suggest that his brakes must have failed, "as he had only had eight drinks that afternoon." In another case Thomas Ballard was also fined £10, or two months, for driving a lorry whilst drunk. At the Parramatta Court George Ferris was fined £5 for driving a motor whilst under the influence. The police stated that after his name was taken the accused drove off at a speed of fifty miles an hour. As he passed he waved his hat to the constable. Under the circumstances it is hard to understand how he came to get off so lightly.

**HAD NO DOUBT.** In a case which came before him a week or two ago, Mr. Gale, S.M., also imposed a fine of £10, or two months in jail. The accused was Charles Clarkson, 42 years of age, proprietor of a wine saloon, and he was charged with driving his car in George-street whilst under the influence, as a result of which he knocked a man down at the intersection of Bathurst-street. The man was severely injured in the head and had to be removed in an unconscious condition to the Sydney Hospital. The accused said his car was slightly defective, and it was raining on the day in question, so that he skidded. He had only had four drinks. Counsel asked the magistrate to give him the benefit of the doubt. The police said that accused smelt strongly of drink and was staggering about when his name was taken. Mr. Gale said that if he entertained any doubt the accused would get the benefit of it, but he had no doubt whatever about the matter. The offence was a serious one, and the penalty named would be imposed.

**NEED FOR SEVERITY.** These cases show that whilst some magistrates are beginning to take a more serious view of this type of offence, there is no uniformity in the penalties imposed. There can be no question that the £5 penalty imposed at Parramatta was totally inadequate, whilst even a fine of £10, coupled with suspension of a license, does not seem to reduce the number of these cases. The crop of week-end motor accidents does not diminish, and 95 per cent. of these are undoubtedly attributable to drink. Our magistrates really should consider the advisability of sending delinquents to jail without the option of a fine. If our law will not permit of this, an amendment should be put through Parliament. Imprisonment is the only deterrent which will prove efficacious. Drunken motorists are a serious danger to the life and limb of other people, and in view of the frequency of serious accidents the most drastic measures are necessary. To suspend a license is no absolute safeguard; these people will take a risk and drive without a license.

#### BORROWED A LORRY.

If, being inebriated, it suddenly occurs to you that it would be a fine thing to go for a joy ride on somebody else's motor lorry without first asking permission to do so, don't give way to the feeling, for it may get you into trouble. The other day, at the Glebe Police Court, Thomas James Wood, a baker, 18 years of age, was committed for trial on a charge of having illegally taken and used a motor lorry valued at £450, the property of Alexander Cook and Sons, of Wattle-street. The lorry was found by the police in Dacey Avenue, Moore Park, and then had sustained damage estimated at £30. It seems that Wood and two friends had been imbibing and then went for a joy ride. The other two men told the magistrate that they had understood that Wood had permission to use the lorry, and they were discharged. They ought to consider themselves lucky. This trick of borrowing other people's cars is becoming common, but if for doing that a man must be committed for trial, mere fines for driving whilst under the influence seem doubly inadequate.

#### SLY-GROG CASES.

Sly-grog cases continue to occupy the time and attention of the police. Before Mr. Gale, S.M., at the Central Police Court, Frederick Seale, 29 years of age, a laborer, was charged with having sold beer at the corner of Druitt and Sussex streets without holding a license and was fined £30, in default three months' imprisonment. Thomas Hutchinson, 36 years of age, got the same penalty for selling beer at 109 Albion-street. For having sold liquor in a quantity not authorised by his license, Reginald Wilson Austen, grocer and spirit merchant, was fined £100, or six months' imprisonment. The evidence was that he had sold a single bottle of wine over the counter. The greater activity displayed of late by the police against sly-grog vendors goes to show its extraordinary prevalence in Sydney. Under the circumstances, the stock argument that Prohibition will lead to the sale of sly-grog, fails to impress us. It would be impossible for more sly-grog to be sold under Prohibition than is at present sold under license.

#### "A ROUGH JOINT."

At the Central Police Court recently Walter Henry Sammon, a dealer, was fined ten shillings and ordered to pay 21/- damages for having maliciously

broken five bottles of wine and eleven glasses, the property of Charles Stenhouse, licensee of a wine bar in Elizabeth-street. Stenhouse said that the damage was the result of his refusal to serve the accused with more liquor as he appeared to have had enough. Sammon told a different story. "There was a bit of a row on when I went in," he said, "and it developed into a big one. Someone bumped me and knocked two glasses out of my hand. It is a rough joint. I was having a drink and a girl wanted to know me, but I didn't want to know her. I have been robbed there before." This story squares with much that has been written of late about wine bars by impartial investigators. We commend it to the careful consideration of the managing director of Caldwell's Wines, Ltd. It ought to make him reflect.

#### NIGHT CLUBS.

Recent cable messages indicate that the English police have been actively raiding night clubs in London, Brighton and elsewhere, as a result of which batches of boozing "dancers" have been hauled before the magistrates and fined. These night clubs are a feature of life in the demimonde and the underworld of Europe, and they are veritable dens of iniquity. Most of them—notably Ciro's in Orange-street, off Leicester Square—were suppressed or closed up during the war, and Ciro's was used as a Y.M.C.A. hostel for the troops. But since the war these places have sprung into existence again and the modern dancing craze, coupled with the desire for drink and other forms of vice, has secured them large patronage. Recently the Bishop of London headed a deputation which asked the Home Secretary to re-enact some of the war-time legislation prohibiting the harboring of undesirable, and it is no doubt as a result of this that the recent raids were effected. There are night clubs in Sydney which urgently call for the attention of the police.

(Continued on page 10).

#### PARCELS FOR THE POOR.

A railway regulation says: "Left off clothing consigned to charitable institutions will be charged at quarter rate."

Now, if you address parcels to me personally they will charge them full rates; if they are addressed to St. Barnabas' Poor Relief Department, George-street West, Sydney, and marked "Left off clothing," they will come at quarter rates.

Thank you.

ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

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## SCHOOL SAVINGS BANK

The Government Savings Bank has taken over from the Education Department the accounts of depositors in the School Savings Banks.

#### NEW ACCOUNTS

Opened for any pupil who can sign his name.

#### DEPOSITS

Accepted at the Schools only, from 1d. upwards.

#### INTEREST

Paid at 4% on every £ up to the usual limit.

### GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

## LABOR AND PROHIBITION.

**PRESIDENT J. F. GREER WRITES TO HON. THOMAS WALKER,  
SPEAKER, W.A. PARLIAMENT.**

### THE FACTS AND EXPERIENCE THAT CONVERTED LABOR.

Writing from Shreveport, Louisiana, on March 8, 1923, Mr. J. F. Greer, President of the Louisiana State Federation of Labor, U.S.A., says:

"In treating this subject in this article I must be brief, and will not go into a detailed statement of the Prohibition question in all its phases here in America, but will confine myself to its effects on Labor.

"I will begin by saying that for years I fought Prohibition, believing that it would have a bad effect on industrial conditions. I believed all the 'tommy-rot' of the liquor people that it would put the workers out of employment, and many other fallacies preached by them. In the first campaign here in my home city to vote Prohibition I was among the liquor forces fighting the Movement. I was very much opposed to Prohibition taking effect in our city. However, the Prohibition forces carried the election by a small majority. I then began to observe the results, and found that of all the people benefited by Prohibition it was the working people of our community. One of the first results was that Labor organisations began to increase in membership, and workers in trades we had never been able to organise became anxious to be organised. As a result of sober labor we had in the first two years of Prohibition more than doubled our membership, and had raised the wage scale in every trade in the city. I noticed that there was a much better attendance at the Labor meetings, and that the men were all well dressed, and discussed their problems with much more dignity and intelligence than they did when they came to the meetings under the influence of drink. The next observation was that many of our workers who had lived only a hand-to-mouth existence were buying and owning their own homes, and many of them owned automobiles, and the bank statements of the various banks showed an enormous increase in savings accounts since Prohibition became effective.

#### FAMILY BENEFITS.

"I especially noted three families who had, in the old saloon days, lived in the same block with me. It was seldom that the father or wage-earner ever got home on Saturday night with any money. The result was that the families suffered for the necessities of life, and many times I had helped to feed the children. Not long after Prohibition became effective all three of these families owned their own homes; they sent their children to the public school, and several of the children have since attended

college. They are all in splendid shape at this time. Soon after Prohibition became effective our school attendance increased by more than one-third, and that was before we had a compulsory school attendance law in this State.

#### WONDERFUL PROGRESS.

"Seeing the effect it had on our own people locally I began a systematic investigation of the conditions in other cities and States as to its effects on the workers, and I found that what had been true in our city had been true in every other place in the country. Nothing has ever happened in America that has put Labor forward as much as taking them away from the saloon. During the saloon days it was the loafing and hanging-out place for the workers, and the liquor interests took advantage of this condition, and, much to the shame of Labor, the saloon very largely controlled the vote of the workers of this country; and it was very largely due to this pernicious control of politics that the people resented. On the part of the liquor interests they had such a control that they could in most places violate the laws with impunity, and kept Labor the political slave of the liquor traffic. It not only kept them slaves to the liquor traffic politically, but kept them slaves to the low-wage system of the employers, because the man who spends his wages in the saloon, and is always broke on Monday morning, is forced to accept the conditions that are offered. He is never financially or morally strong enough to assert himself, and as a rule has not the desire or moral character to join with fellow men in an organised attempt to better his own conditions. To prove that this is the case I refer you to the enormous growth of the American Federation of Labor since Prohibition became effective. The Federation has more than doubled its membership in that time; in fact, has grown more than it had in all of its previous 41 years of effort. This does not include the many independent organisations that have been organised during this time which do not belong to the American Federation. Organisation took hold of many classes of workers that had never attempted to organise before. Labor in all its organised branches in America has grown from a little more than TWO AND THREE-QUARTER MILLION before Prohibition to approximately EIGHT AND ONE-HALF MILLION now organised in this country.

#### WAGES.

"Wages scales have reached an unprecedented high rate in that time, notwithstanding

ing Labor has been called on to fight a national open-shop fight during the last three years.

"I can say without fear of contradiction from any truthful or reliable source that had the saloon been in operation in this country during this open-shop drive Labor would have been torn asunder; but with the leaders and the rank and file sober they have been able to think and to handle their problems in a way that no drunken people can or will ever be able to do.

"Another phase of this matter is that men made sober have a different outlook in life. It gives them self-respect and self-esteem, and they are given courage to try for a better life and higher ideals. The ideals of many workers of the old days was no higher than the slums of the common saloon, in which he spent most of his time. It also makes for much better home life, therefore giving the children of the worker another advantage they did not have in the old saloon days. It may not be amiss to say here that the Labor Movement in this country has never, as a Movement, voted on this question. Several of our largest national organisations have voted in favor of Prohibition, but the rank and file have never voted as a body on it.

#### LEFT TO LABOR.

"However, it is safe to say that an overwhelming majority of American Labor will at this time, if left to a vote of Labor on this question, vote against the liquor traffic in America. Notwithstanding the Convention of the American Federation of Labor passed a resolution asking for the modification of the Prohibition law, that, by no means, voiced the sentiments of Labor. I was a delegate seated in that Convention, and when the vote was put by a viva voce vote, out of more than 500 delegates, I am quite sure not more than 50 voted, the others keeping silent. In the localities where we have any liquor sentiment of note in the ranks of Labor is where the foreign element is predominant. The native American and Anglo-Saxon, both in and out of Labor, are against the liquor traffic. This will perhaps account to those who do not know for the idea that all Labor in America is in favor of liquor. I do not think the present liquor laws will ever be changed in America unless it is to make them more stringent. In fact, I believe that all Anglo-Saxon people of the world will outlaw the liquor traffic in the next very few years. Labor is much more effective sober, a much more powerful productive power, and a much higher consumer of food, clothing and housing under Prohibition than it is under liquor; therefore it will eventually force all the leading peoples of Anglo-Saxon blood to adopt Prohibition. It is purely an economic question, and when a people look at it from that angle there is but one answer, and that is that liquor is a liability to any man, any country or any nation. It cannot stand the searchlight of economic reasoning."

## Drunken Drivers and the Law—

(Continued from page 6.)

### VICTORIAN POLICE.

From time to time attention has been directed in these columns to the extraordinary evidence concerning the Victorian police disclosed during the sittings of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the notorious Melbourne police strike. The report of the Commission has now been published, and, curiously enough, it rebukes the chief of the police, Mr. Nicholson, on the ground that he was too old to undertake the duties of his post, and that the appointment of "spooks" was a mistake. "Anything that is in the nature of spying is likely to be repugnant to a body of men," says the report. Perhaps so, but when one recalls the extraordinary evidence of a total lack of responsibility and discipline amongst the men, it is a little difficult to know how the situation was to be coped with. It is, no doubt, repugnant to the feelings of us all to spy upon honorable and conscientious men, but many of those who were employed in the Victorian force appear to have been neither conscientious nor honorable, and there is a wise adage about setting a thief to catch a thief. The Commission was appointed by a Labor Government, and most people will conclude that Mr. Nicholson has not had a fair deal at its hands.

### CRIME IN MELBOURNE.

Meanwhile, crime does not seem to abate in Melbourne, where hold-ups and offences against women are of almost daily occurrence. So bad has the position become, that a special warning has been issued to the banks. The detective force is said to be making a special effort to effect arrests of men responsible for many cases of housebreaking and shop-breaking, the number of which has increased rapidly in recent weeks. It is stated that organised gangs are at work with a proper network of receivers who dispose of stolen property through small retail shops in the suburbs. The criminal record of Melbourne during the past year or two is not an enviable one. It is the most lawless town in the Commonwealth. We used to hear a good deal about the iniquities of Sydney, but, really, Sydney is a mere amateur in crime compared with Melbourne. Which reminds us that a year or two ago a Melbourne native had the audacity to tell us that when you went to Melbourne you went into a community of gentlemen! The fact seems to be that it is the abiding place of all the violent crooks of Australia.

### SUNDAY GAMES.

There is some question of the City Council legalising Sunday games in the parks of Sydney. The matter has already provoked some heated debate in the Council, and it seems that the City Solicitor entertains some doubt as to the powers of the Council in this regard. As usual, of course, the opponents of the innovation are being dubbed "wowsers," but we do not know that abuse will settle the matter one way or another. The whole point involved is not so much whether it is morally reprehensible to play a game of tennis or some other outdoor game on a Sunday, as whether it is advisable to encourage the secularisation of that day. It will be admitted that for religious people, Sunday possesses a peculiar significance. It is the Lord's Day—the day set apart, in accordance with Divine injunction, for religious observance. It will also be admitted that all history testifies that popular abandonment of religious practice has in all ages brought about the decay of civilisations. Such being the case, does it not seem a very sane and reasonable course to preserve the sanctity of Sunday and to discourage innovations which will still further encourage

the modern tendency to overlook religious duties altogether? We hope that the City Council will resist this demand as a matter of public policy. There is plenty of time for play on other days of the week.

### THIRST FOR PLEASURE.

At the ninth triennial assembly of the Congregational Church Union of Australia and New Zealand, held in Hobart recently, the Rev. George Rayner, President, described the present age as one of doubt in which nothing was accepted and the cry was for truth and reality. We doubt the accuracy of this diagnosis. We have less objection to an age of honest doubt, such as that which produced a Matthew Arnold and a Huxley, than to an age of indifferentism, and this

present time is one rather of indifferentism and heedlessness than of honest inquiry and doubt. The spirit of inquiry and doubt always carries us back sooner or later to the fundamental religious verities, whereas indifferentism inevitably involves the people in a moral and spiritual chaos. Mr. Rayner notes "the mad thirst for pleasure evident everywhere," and that supports our view of the position. Honest doubt and a "cry for truth and reality" imply a spirit of earnest inquiry which is inconsistent with the mad thirst for purely material and carnal pleasures which Mr. Rayner deplors. "The Church," he says, "must show people that true pleasure or happiness can only be found through it." It would not be necessary to postulate such a task for the Church if this were not an age of indifferentism.



## Good Australian Towels

Signalise the establishment of Cotton Manufacturing in Australia.

THE Announcement that you can now buy Australian-made Towels does not only mean that yet another of our needs is being produced locally. Its real significance lies in its indication of the pregnant fact that COTTON MANUFACTURING has been established in Australia.

Cotton is the material of the millions. The possibilities associated with its manufacture are limitless. Each year Australia spends upwards of £13,000,000 on imported Cotton goods. You can help to keep this money in your own country by buying Bond's Souvenir Towels.

Made from Cotton spun in Australia, Bond's Souvenir Towels are "GOOD AUSTRALIAN" through and through. In Quality and Value they at least equal any foreign-made towels at similar prices. Containing no "dressing" they actually improve in the wash.

SOLD IN THREE SIZES:

White with red border, fringed. Size 21in. x 45in. Each ..... 2/6  
4/11 Pair.

White with fringe, fancy heavy red border. Size 22in. x 46in. Each ..... 2/11

White with red border, fringed, heavy weight. Size 23in. x 48in. Each ..... 3/3

EVERY DRAPER WHO HAS AUSTRALIA'S INTERESTS AT HEART STOCKS BOND'S SOUVENIR TOWELS, AND WILL GLADLY SHOW THEM TO YOU. ASK TO SEE THEM.

## Bond's SOUVENIR TOWELS

Made in Australia by GEO. A. BOND & CO. LTD. All States and New Zealand Manufacturers of Bond's Hosiery, Half-Hose, "Tru-Size" New Zealand. Manufacturers of Bond's Hosiery, Half-Hose, "Tru-Size"



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.

**A KIND WORD.**

A dog is very responsive to a kind word—if it is not it is because someone has treated him unkindly.

Speak sincerely to a dog and he will wag his tail.

Now humans are very like dogs—of course, they are not as nice or as loyal, but still we are like dogs in some ways.

We do not always respond to a kind word because we, like the dog, have our fears and our doubts, but when we detect the unmistakable note of sincerity, our eye lightens up as unmistakably as the wag of a dog's tail.

It is not easy to speak kind words to some humans any more than to speak them to a fierce looking dog or an angry bull. It can be done with practice. Please start practising at once. When you get older it will be so much harder—perhaps impossible.

In the book of Proverbs it speaks of having "the law of kindness in our tongue."

How much happier we would be, as well as others, if this law was operating in us! Loving words will cost but little,

Journeying up the hill of life;  
But they make the weak and weary  
Stronger, braver for the strife.

Do you count them only trifles,  
What to earth are sun and rain?  
Never was a kind word wasted,  
Never was one said in vain.

UNCLE B.

**OUR LETTER BAG.**

**A GOOD SHOT.**

Den Weaver, Weaver's P.O., Weavers, via Windsor, writes: I saw Noel writing very energetically to-night to Box 390, so I thought I had better write also. My instinct told me from evident signs on his careworn forehead that his little epistle contained something concerning his affectionate brother, so I decided to correspond with "Grit" immediately as a safeguard to my dignified character. Our local Debating Society is holding a social evening in place of a debate at its next annual meeting. A prize will be given for an account of the most humorous personal experience; and the appointed committee are requesting contributions for the stage. I had exceptionally good luck the other day. I have always wanted to learn

all I possibly could about America, and I thought, to gain practical knowledge, my best idea would be to correspond with someone in America. Now, the question came, how to do it? I wrote a few letters to different places in America, among them was one to Toronto. As you know, Toronto is a very large town, but I was silly enough to address my letter to "The School, Toronto," and my letter reached the editor of a paper called "The School." You cannot imagine how delighted I was when I received a very nice letter from his son.

(Dear Den,—I am delighted with your letter. That was great reaching that paper with your first shot. I love Toronto; it is a very splendid city. I am very much tickled at your effort to counter-balance anything your brother may write.—Uncle B.)

**THE FROG CROAKED.**

Marjorie Barrie, Nambucca Heads, writes: I am going down to Sydney somewhere about Easter, and I hope to see you. Mother heard a frog croaking on Tuesday. She had a look, and saw a big black snake. A man came in and tried to kill it, but it got away. The next day it came again after a frog, and my grandfather shot it. It was about 4½ feet long. We had a very happy Christmas. Santa brought me a lot of nice things, including a bike, and I had a birthday just three days before Xmas, and then my auntie's wedding. I acted as bridesmaid at auntie's wedding, and received a signature ring. We went out to the beach for our holidays this time, and also to Deep Creek. But did not go into quicksands again. When is your holiday coming, so you will come up here.

(Dear Marjorie,—I hope I am in when you call. I just love my Ne's and Ni's to come and see me. Poor old frog—he would have croaked all right if Mr. Snake had got him. Now be sure and come and see me.—Uncle B.)

**EIGHT MILES A DAY.**

Ethel Irene Gardner, Comboyne, writes: I am on the scallywag list again, but please cross my name off, as I started a letter some time ago but never got time to finish it. We have started school again after the Christmas holidays. It has been raining a lot lately, and the roads get very muddy, but the grass is nice. We have a lovely lot of fruit ripe, and it is nice and sound this year, without any flies in it. I had three days' holiday at Christmas time. We have 23 cows to milk lately, and my brother and sister and I have to help milk them and carry the milk to the dairy and feed calves and pigs. My sister was seven years old a month ago. She will have to start school

as soon as she can ride the pony better. We have about four miles to go to school.

(Dear Ethel,—I expect you think when the weather is not nice that four miles to school is a long, long way, but it is healthy, and when you grow old you will look back on this eight miles a day as "a jolly good thing."—Uncle B.)

**THAT LETTER.**

Ellen Hawke, "Lynton," Gunningbland, writes: I was disappointed when I didn't see my letter in "Grit." Did you receive it or not? There was a handkerchief which I made for the Great White Fair in it and a letter. We have had some rain, about 102 points. Father measured 138 points this morning, and we have had some very heavy falls since. It is still raining now. There was no afternoon service to-day as far as we know. We are having Church of England service at Gunningbland now on every second Sunday. The Church of England minister was supposed to come out to-day, but owing to the rain he did not come. The service is in the morning and our Sunday school at 2 p.m. and our service at 3 p.m. I will close now, as it is lunch time and I couldn't do without it very well.

(Dear Ellen,—If you saw all that goes through the post office you would not be surprised if some things go astray. If you knew all I had to do you would only wonder that I did not overlook more things. I am sorry about your letter. I do not know who was to blame, but I am willing to be forgiven.—Uncle B.)

**LEFT UNCLE B. OUT.**

Eileen Gray, 18 Wyrallah-road, Lismore, writes: I hope I am not on the black list yet, and if so, please cross my name off. In my last letter I said it was no use wishing to go to Sydney, but after all I did go. We left Lismore at 10 o'clock on Saturday before Christmas and got to Sydney on Sunday in the afternoon. We went to Gerringong. On Monday we went back to Sydney, the next day we went to the Zoo, the Gardens, the Museum, and Grace Bros. Then we came back to Lismore.

(Dear Eileen,—You are a scallywag. Fancy being next door to my church and perhaps passing my "den" in the city and never popping in to see me! That was not very nice at all. I just love a visit from my Ne's and Ni's.—Uncle B.)

**A NEW NI.**

Merle Gray, 18 Wyrallah-road, Lismore, writes: I would like to join your large family of Ni's and Ne's. I am 9½ years old, and my birthday is on July 26. We went to Ballina for three weeks and had a good time. My other sister is writing to you also. I go to school now. I was at Gerringong for a year, and did not come back till this year. Eileen is writing to you to-night also.

(Dear Merle,—You are very welcome among my Ne's and Ni's. They are a lovely lot. True, they are mostly scallywags, but they are the very best in the world, and I love them all and am truly proud of them.—Uncle B.)

**Is Prohibition Worth While—**

(Continued from page 3.)

On the basis of this study the New York Life Insurance Company, the Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company checked up the findings among their policy-holding bodies and added a greater weight of testimony as to the life-shortening effect of alcohol. The experience of the Northwestern is particularly valuable, in that they were able to produce a study of total abstainers as compared with drinkers classified as to their varying degrees of indulgence. The study covers 286,000 lives over a period of thirty years (1885-1915), and shows the following results:

	Per cent.
Increased death-rate among moderate, occasional users of alcohol	19
Increased mortality among daily users of beer	33
Increased mortality among daily users of spirits	66

(These percentages represent the excess mortality as compared to that among total abstainers.)

These life insurance figures have been questioned by people who are not familiar with the mechanism of life insurance selection and the actual practices of the offices. It is well for the public to keep in mind that these figures were compiled and interpreted by medical men, actuaries and statisticians having a heavy business responsibility, and that there was no propagandist motive behind the study.

On the other hand, certain critics of these studies, writing from an academic rather than practical standpoint, have advanced some extraordinary contentions. Professor Raymond Pearl has constructed some life-tables on groups so small as to have no statistical value, even if they were homogeneous in regard to original health and other characteristics; for example, there were 276 excessive male drinkers in one group and 26 excessive female drinkers in another. To construct life tables on such groups derived from the family records of inmates of hospitals and dispensaries and those brought into delinquent courts, and cast out the records of more than 2,000,000 lives that had been medically examined and accepted for life insurance and were of the average class that applies for life insurance, is to severely stretch the license that is accorded to statisticians.

On the basis of life insurance experience it may be said that while we cannot predict exactly what alcohol will do, even in great excess, to a particular individual, we may confidently say what it will do, used even in moderation, to any large group of individuals.

Everything that has here been said with regard to the effect of alcoholic beverages

made and marketed under normal conditions must be multiplied with regard to bootleg or moonshine whisky. Bootleg whisky is, as a rule, badly made and contains certain types of poisonous substances termed "aldehydes." Acetaldehyde, said to be a common product of these faulty distillations, is a highly poisonous substance. The effect of these moonshine liquors is to bring on more quickly the state of intoxication, to cause greater mental disturbance, and proportionately at least to produce a high alcoholic death-rate.

It is interesting, with this in mind, to trace the course of the death-rate in the registration area in the past fifteen years:

**DEATHS FROM ALCOHOLISM.**

Per 100,000 of Population.			
1906-1910	5.6	1919	1.6
1911-1915	5.1	1920	1
1916	5.8	1921	1.8
1917	5.2	1922	2.6
1918	2.7		(Reg. States.)

It will be observed that the first reaction to Prohibition was to reduce the death-rate from alcoholism to about one-fifth that of pre-Prohibition days. As various ways were found to market substitutes for conventional alcoholic beverages, the death-rate began to rise slightly; but it is now about one-half of what it was before Prohibition, and in the first quarter of 1924, according to life insurance reports, it is again going down.

Keeping in mind the high toxicity of the liquor now in circulation, we must assume that the actual consumption of intoxicating beverages for the country at large is small compared to what it was under Prohibition. We are also entitled to congratulate ourselves on the low death-rate for the country at large which has been maintained for the past five years, and to conclude that the reduction in the consumption of alcohol has been one factor, among others equally important, at work. Is it necessary for human happiness or desirable for human advancement that a powerful drug like alcohol should be used on the initiative of the individual and without medical control, as a means of life easement? The human race is in its infancy with probably several million years ahead in which to work out its destiny on this planet. The constructive optimist will face human frailties and insufficiencies with high hope that the spirit and intelligence of man will find a more dependable and rational means of attaining happiness and life adjustment than that of simply buying a drink.

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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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**INSTALMENTS EVERYWHERE.**

"Ed's buying an automobile on the instalment plan."

"Yes, and if he doesn't drive more carefully than he has been doing, they'll take him to the hospital on the same plan."

**VIOLENCE WINS.**

Albert: "What's the difference between a drama and a melodrama?"

Bernard: "Well, in a drama the heroine merely throws the villain over. In a melodrama, she throws him over the cliff!"

**MORE CROSS-WORD STUFF.**

Judge: "Why did you throw the dictionary at your husband?"

Woman: "Oh, well, I was trying to work a cross-word puzzle and asked him several times to tell me a word of five letters, meaning domestic happiness, and he wouldn't do it!"

**THE BEST GROUNDS.**

"I shall go to your father and ask his consent to-night, darling. There are no grounds on which he can throw me out, dear, are there?"

"Not in front of the house, dearest; but there's a potato-patch at the back which looks nice and soft."

**ONE RESEMBLANCE.**

His Wife: "A writer here explains why some husbands consider their wives angels."

Her Brute: "I suppose it is because they are always harping on something."

**WHEN TIME STANDS STILL.**

"I hear you gave a party last night, old chap. What was it to celebrate?"

"It was for my wife. It was the tenth anniversary of her thirtieth birthday."

**AN EFFECTIVE LETTER.**

Is life in Parliament, with all its worries, late hours, endless talk, often futile divisions, and ever-increasing demands of constituents worth living? To this Sir Arthur Griffith-Boscawen, in his "Memories," looking back over 33 years of political life, answers emphatically "Yes!" and says that if he had the chance he would live it all over again—with improvements. He confesses that the happiest time in his political career was the seven months he spent at the Pensions Ministry. Certainly he seems to have derived some amusement from the correspondence. Here are two of the specimens: "In answer to your letter, I have given birth to twins, hoping this will be satisfactory." "My Bill has been put in charge of a spittoon; shall I get any more pay?"

**THE DEAD INDIAN.**

Captain Herbert Hartley, of the Leviathan, was talking about France and Germany.

"France," he said, "would like to treat Germany as the Nola Chucky Judge treated the dead Indian.

"A dead Indian was found on the outskirts of Nola Chucky with 75 dollars and a revolver.

"This here corpse," said the Judge, "is fined 3 dollars 25 cents for carrying concealed weapons. His revolver, of course, is confiscated. The costs in the case are 71 dollars 75 cents, which just settles the estate."

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## DAILY INSPIRATION.

(By FAIRELIE THORNTON, author of "Love Divine," etc.)

### SUNDAY.

"Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."—2 Pet., 1, 21.

"The prophecy in old time came not by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." Is it not wonderful that we should have a Book in which God speaks to us, a Book which has a larger circulation than any other book, a Book which has survived all attempts to banish it from the earth, and which will last as long as the sun and moon endures, and will still be as fresh as when first given? "For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven." Holy men, chosen men, were inspired by God Himself, and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. The Book grew with the growing ages as God gradually unfolded His will to man. The Old Testament, which was so valued by the saints of old, led up to the New. "Think not I am come to destroy the law and the prophets," said Christ. "I am not come to destroy but to fulfil." How David loved the Scriptures! In the longest chapter and psalm in the Bible, the 119th, which contains 176 verses, you will find reference to the word God in every verse. Have you ever noticed this? If not, go through the psalm and observe it. He refers to it as "Thy Statutes," "Thy Testimonies," "Thy Law," "Thy Precepts," "Thy Commandment," "Thy Judgments," "Thy Way," "the Word of Truth," "the law of Thy Mouth," "Thine Ordinances," "Thy Faithfulness," "Thy Word." Let us look at a few of these.

### MONDAY.

"Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law."—V. 18.

"Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord."—V. 1.

"My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto Thy judgments at all times."—V. 20.

"Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage."—V. 54.

"The law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver."—6 V. 72.

"I will meditate in Thy precepts."—V. 78.

"Unless Thy law had been my delight I should then have perished in my affliction."—V. 92.

"I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies."—V. 59.

"For ever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven."—V. 89.

"I will delight myself in Thy commandments which I have loved."—V. 47.

"The entrance of Thy Word giveth light, it giveth understanding to the simple."—V. 130.

"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."—V. 105.

### TUESDAY.

"The Lord sent to them by His messengers."—2 Chron., 36, 15.

Messages from the Master, messages of His love,

He sends them to His children: love-letters from above.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit flashes them on our view

When we are sorely tempted and scarce know what to do.

Sometimes a golden promise which we before passed by

Comes with fresh love-light shining, a message from on high.

And oftentimes He giveth a word of healing balm

To soothe us in our sorrows, our troubled hearts to calm.

Sometimes a word of warning He gives in tender tone

To draw us closer to Him and make us all His own.

At times in tones more urgent He bids us vigil keep,

And often stirs to labor when we would idly sleep.

At times we will not heed him—these messages of love.

We have no time to listen or lift our thoughts above;

And then He sends some sorrow and we are glad to hear

His messages of mercy allaying all our fear.

### WEDNESDAY.

"Look Thou upon me and be merciful unto me, as Thou usest to do unto those that love Thy name."—Ps., 119, 132.

There is this one verse in the 119th Psalm which does not seem directly to refer to God's Word. Yet the Psalmist was doubtless referring to the worthies of the Scripture when He speaks thus. He wished to be dealt with as God had dealt with those of whom he had read in the Scriptures—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the men of God who had preceded Him. He continues His prayer by saying, "Order my steps in Thy Word, and let not any inquiry have dominion over me." The whole Psalm is a prayer to God, "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?" He asks, and answers in the same verse, "By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word." The words of God were more to him than his necessary food, and he prays that God would deal with him as kindly as He had dealt with all who loved His name. David was a man after God's own heart because the words of God were written upon the tablet of his heart. "In the multitude of my thoughts within me Thy comforts delight my soul." They were His songs in the night season. In them did He meditate day and night. A Bible unread means a soul that is dead. Dust on the Bible means a dusty heart. Every child's mind should be stored with God's Word, and it would be his most priceless heritage, strength in temptation, comfort in sorrow, a help in every time of need, and a passport to the life above.

### THURSDAY.

"We are ambassadors for Christ."—2 Cor., 5, 20.

Ambassadors for Jesus!

Oh! grand and holy call

To help to swell the army

Once ruined by the fall!

Sowing the seed He gives us

Scatt'ring it all around,

Sowing beside all waters,

Though oft on thorny ground.

Ambassadors for Jesus!

Spreading His words, not ours;

Spending for Him our moments,

Using for Him our powers.

Not for the sake of glory,

Not for the praise of men,

But for Christ's sake we offer

Our gifts of tongue or pen.

Ambassadors for Jesus!

Oh! grand and holy call!

The Master's Spirit in us,

And Jesus all in all.

Oh Saviour who hast purchased

These lives by blood divine,

Make all Thy ransomed servants

Ambassadors of Thine.



Give all a dauntless courage,  
A purpose true and high  
To bear Thy message truly  
To souls condemned to die.  
Give all the power to utter  
The truth which makes men free,  
And O! impress them with the worth  
Of souls redeemed by Thee!

### FRIDAY.

"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."—Ps., 23, 4.

Yes, God's Word is both a rod and a staff, and even when walking through the valley of shadows they bring comfort. David says: "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, it is only the shadow, not the substance. That has been destroyed by Him who came to destroy him that had the power over death, and now there is only the shadow left where God has promised His presence, and His rod and staff to comfort. No doubt David was thinking of the sheep he had so often led with his staff in his hand, that staff which kept all enemies at bay. Our rod and staff are God's precious promises, and how many a lonely soul when treading this valley has been comforted by them. "Comfort one another with these words." Pass on these precious promises, for "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

### SATURDAY.

"A word spoken in due season how good is it."—Prov., 15, 23.

God's words What gems are there on earth more precious,

Yet what of smaller cost?

When have such failed to comfort and refresh us,

Or save when well-nigh lost?

God's words. They fall like sunshine on earth dreary,

Making the desert bloom.

Comforting sad ones, strengthening the weary,

Dispersing clouds and gloom.

How much of good has sprung forth bearing fruit immortal,

And evil been deterred,

How many joyfully have pass'd death's portal,

By God's own living Word!

And who shall say what blossoms have been blighted,

How many hopes deferred,

What lamps extinguished which this world had lighted,

For lack of one such word?

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**The Best People Aren't Drinking—**

(Continued from page 9.)

**DRYS WIN MAIN STREET.**

I saw liquor power, before Prohibition came, lifted from the throats of business in my home town, a booze town, two to one booze, on the vote.

The liquor crowd told the merchants on Main-street to back booze or the liquor crowd would blacklist them. Then three women drys went to Main-street and asked the merchants if they preferred the trade of the wets to that of the drys. Darn hard place for the merchants, but they stopped fighting the drys and some turned around and helped, to the extent of putting their names on a petition for a local option election. We lost that election, but since Prohibition came the gin-mills went from a business of 600,000 dollars a year to less than 100,000 dollars bootleg, and a town of 12,000 that couldn't support a restaurant in liquor years now has at least three restaurants. The saloons are occupied, now, by shoe and grocery and clothing and other stores.

Tell me that Prohibition isn't enforced?

Where's the Home Brew contingent?

For a time everybody made home brew. They've quit. There are fewer liquor law violations than short weighing, short measuring, price-fixing and other crimes of the great middle-class merchants right now. You wouldn't say repeal the petty swindling laws because they are violated. You wouldn't say repeal the game and fish laws because they are violated.

The analogy between game law and liquor law violation is almost exact. Good sports, their fun and fury interrupted, they wouldn't stop killing God's own wild creatures, nor stop drinking when it interfered with their personal liberties. I saw the beginnings of game law enforcement in New York, reared around some on that proposition on both sides the fence myself.

**TEN MILLION WOMEN DRY.**

And don't think any large percentage of people want liquor to come back. If the Women's Christian Temperance Union could put Prohibition over—what do you think 10,000,000 dry federated American women are going to do about it? What did they do in the Republican National Convention—what are they doing, right now, to the old Barbary Coast in California, to the road-houses of California, to the largest cities and smallest hamlets of the country, right now?

More than 80 per cent. of the women voters are dry, absolutely. 50 per cent. of them have the political spirit of Carrie Nation (who will some day have a monument like the Statue of Liberty erected to her, with her hatchet in hand), and I'll tell you that there is in all the educational world no such terrific and significant exposure of the futility of the lurking, furtive and clandestine attacks on the Constitution of the United States as the fact that booze could find one, and only one, college president, Nick Butler, to support it.

**DRINKING AND THE SCHOOLS.**

Of course, this is talking some. I didn't start out dry. Mighty few drys did. I'll agree that bootleggers are hypocrites, where they used to be licensed saloon-keepers, and their patrons are hypocrites where they used to be merely ordinary drunks.

I am not so poor a reporter that I couldn't make out a case for the wets, for lack of law enforcement, for school children hitting liquor. When I was a reporter fifteen years ago we had fraternities going to booze. In one school attic two bushels of half-pint whisky bottles were found. Schools were,

on the average, shot through in booze towns with drunken pupil streaks. \* You can't find one, now, where you could find twenty fifteen years ago. I've inquired about this. And I found enough to fill a page with the booze scandal and other scandals in high schools, in society, "among people who ought not to drink." But I've a sense of proportion. I can balance fifteen years ago against current conditions from my own personal experience in observation. My experience includes more than thirty States of the Union.

**SIX MILES OF SALOONS.**

I covered Bellevue Hospital, Gouverneur Hospital and Hudson St. Hospitals in New York. I know what conditions used to be—when the saloons of New York were enough, if placed in double row, I think, side by side from the Battery to above the Harlem, via Third Avenue. Six miles, was it? Thousands of them. Each one had to take in 20,000 dollars annually to get by. Hundreds of millions of dollars. It is a physical impossibility to manufacture one-tenth of the bulk of the liquor formerly supplied New York alone by the breweries. You remember the hundreds upon hundreds of brewery trucks needed to transport the liquor. Do you really believe moonshine stills could make up the supply from Maryland, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee, and other distilleries under the Government licensing system? All the moonshine stills in the country to-day running full tilt couldn't turn out 10 per cent. of the bulk of the licensed stills. In Europe the whole industry is failing, for lack of American market.

I can take you to towns and prove that English isn't the language of the United States. I can take you to certain places and prove that American women are immoral. I can take you to certain restaurants, show you a certain college president, point out sundry loose-living people and prove that the United States is rum-soaked, wet, booze-fighting, all that stuff.

But I'll tell you this, that if I did any of those things I wouldn't be worth a whoop as a newspaper man, as a writer as a gatherer of facts. I know all about the game of proving a whole lot by a little bit. You can't prove a thing squarely, with regard to the United States, without taking a cross-section from ocean to ocean, and from border to border—and I've done both on this liquor question. You can ignore millions

while picking and choosing among a lot of yappers who claim to be "the people."

\* \* \*

But Prohibition has driven liquor from Main-street; it has taken it from the best business corners of the country; it has made a criminal of the bootlegger, and it has showed up the booze-fighters for what they are—poor, weak, sick men who need a man's pity, precisely as dope-fiends do.

The best people aren't drinking. A few excuse their drinking by saying Prohibition drove them to it. I don't know a man who drinks now who wouldn't have drunk far more if we didn't have Prohibition. The brag of wets that Prohibition makes drunks is all poppycock. I know dozens who quit drinking. I can show you a town where thousands quit drinking, men and women, when liquor was taken from under the noses of all the high school children and put into bootlegs.

By hand-picking conditions, you can prove anything about the United States. I can make, probably, a better case for liquor than any man you know. I can name places, localities, conditions—but what kind of a reporter would I be if, picking these several localities, I ignored the vast areas where Prohibition, even under crooked enforcement, has cleaned the streets of saloons and put a complete end to drunkenness?

I count not only the places where liquor is, but where it isn't that I know it used to be—which the wets don't.

\* \* \*

All the increase in bootleg production wouldn't make a week's run of the license distilleries, the huge breweries of St. Louis, Milwaukee, New York, the open liquor producers—of 1912.

Just read the old U.S. Treasury reports on liquor production, the hundreds of millions of gallons consumed by American liquor drinkers. Compare the bulk with the bulk of bootleg. Can't you see that the old whisky railroad tank cars, the beer special trains, the wine ship loads are gone? In place of liquor ships, 10,000 and 20,000-ton steamers, we have a few hundred ton, perhaps 300-ton liquor runners. We have a string of four or five automobile loads where we formerly had whole train loads. The million tons or so of grain used in licensed liquor production—I doubt if there is one per cent. the production now, that there were before Prohibition.

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### Erin Takes Temperance Step.

FREE STATE CUTS HOURS OF SALE;  
WILL SEEK TO REDUCE LIQUOR  
SHOPS.

An Associated despatch, carrying a date line of December 25, says that the Irish Free State Government's bill to regulate the sale of drink has passed the Senate. In other words, it has restrained the hours of sale to thirteen a day and puts clubs of all classes on the same basis as all drink saloons as far as the serving of liquor is concerned.

An interesting provision of the new law is standardising the size of porter bottles. These bottles formerly average twelve to the gallon, but many publicans, while charging the same price per bottle, have recently been putting a gallon into sixteen bottles.

This is the Government's first attempt to promote temperance. Its next move, it is announced, will be to diminish the number of drink shops. There are 15,000 of them in the Free State, or one to every 250 citizens. In England the provision is one to every 415, and in Scotland one for every 695. It is hoped to reduce the State's 15,000 by at least one-half and a commission is being set up to determine how it can be done and how compensation is to be provided.

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