

	s.	d.
Dates, hand picked, lb	0	6
Dates, packets	0	8
Dates, Special Desert	1	3
Dates and Walnuts, packets	1	3
Walnuts (Sorrento), lb.	1	6
Barcelonas	1	2
Brazils	1	4
Poplar Nuts	1	0
Soft-shelled Almonds	1	6
Salted Peanuts, bags	0	3

	s.	d.
Diabetic Rolls, boxes	2	6
Gluten Meal, packets	2	9
Peaches, 2 lb. tins	0	9
Peaches, 2 lb. tins	0	11
Peaches (4 Crown), dried, lb.	1	0
Apricots, 2 lb. tins	1	2
Pineapples, 2 lb. tins	0	10 1/2
Apricots (3 Crown), dried	1	6
Lima Beans, best, lb.	0	4 1/2
Red Lentils	4	1/2

	s.	d.
Soya Beans	0	5
Olive Oil, bottles, 1/3, 2/-	3	6
Quart Tins, 5/9; Half Gals.	10	9
Gallons, 20/-; 2 Gal. Tins	30	0
Wine, pints	1	6 and
Wine, quarts	2	3
Mixed Nuts, small, 10d.; large	1	6
Crystallised Cherries, bottles	1	6
Crystallised Fruits, drums	2	6
French Prunes	1	3 and

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A JOURNAL OF NATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND PROHIBITION

VOL. XVII. No. 39. Twopence.

DECEMBER 13, 1923.

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INCREASE IN BANK DEPOSITS ALSO TRACED TO ECONOMY INDUCED BY PROHIBITION ACT.

CHURCHES GAIN MEMBERS—WORKERS' WELFARE CITED.

(By COMMISSIONER HAYNES.)

The Eighteenth Amendment has cut the number of arrests for drunkenness more than in half.

It has reduced the arrests for drunkenness among women by more than one-third, in some localities as much as 80 per cent.

It has cut heavily into the number of arrests for offences against chastity.

It has reduced by half the deaths from alcohol and alcoholic insanity.

It has lowered the national death rate to an extent that cannot now be measured in figures.

It has materially cut down the populations of State penal farms, prisons and almshouses, releasing thousands of citizens for useful work.

It has had a marked influence in the reduction of the number of cases of juvenile delinquency as shown by court records, bespeaking not only the force of example at home, but an increased sense of responsibility and exercise of restraint on the part of parents.

Those are but some of the remedial effects; and this healing process is proving but the forerunner of great constructive and reconstructive processes whose true import we can but inadequately measure.

There has been a steady falling off in industrial accidents and an increase in the worker's efficiency.

There has been a rapid improvement in school and college attendance.

EFFECTS ON HOME BUILDING.

There has been a continuously increasing activity in home-building which can be attributed only partially to the housing shortage caused by the war. Over 6000 new homes were built in each month of 1922, representing a total investment of 112,285,000 dollars for each month of the year. The volume was five times greater than that of 1918, the last wet year.

There were, during the single month of April, 1923, over 1,137,000 new life insurance policies written, exclusive of renewals and revivals, increases or additions by dividends. This was 287,000 more than the highest previous record, of March, 1922, when 850,000 new policies were issued. The face value of the new policies issued in April, 1922, was 727,179,000 dollars. The same month also broke all records in industrial life insurance, held mostly by wage-earners, with a face value of 208,105,000 dollars.

There has been a definite movement toward more wholesome forms of social life and recreation. During each month of 1922 there were social and recreational buildings constructed that represented an expenditure of 9,164,000 dollars, or an outlay for these

purposes of 2,200,000 dollars per month greater than in 1919.

There was, as shown by figures given out by the Controller of the Currency on 623 mutual savings banks, an increase in savings bank deposits during 1921 of 338,336,000 dollars over the previous year and a gain in depositors of 173,933.

CHURCHES AS THE GAINERS.

There has been an astonishing increase in the strength and membership of our churches since Prohibition enforcement became a fact. In 1921 church membership increased 1,200,000. In 1922 there was an increase of over 950,000 over the previous year. For every day of 1922 three thousand persons joined the church, twelve ministers were licensed or ordained, and seven congregations were organized. During the year an average of 7,172,000 dollars was expended each month for the erection of churches and other religious or memorial buildings.

Broad statements, some of them, to be sure, especially those that relate to what I have termed the curative influences in Prohibition enforcement. But let us look at them more closely. They will be found to be abundantly borne out by the detailed facts and figures accumulating daily from every section of the country.

Do not misunderstand me. I do not claim these results are the exclusive product of Prohibition, but they have in Prohibition their most dominating and determining force.

THE CASE OF DETROIT, MICH.

Michigan is a border State. The greatest city in Michigan is a border city. Any border territory is in its very nature the most difficult for the enforcement agencies, if for no other reason than the proximity to foreign supply.

Detroit, too, is a city of great fortunes, quickly made. It is still in its boom period. It is a city of free spending. Characteristic of all communities of this nature is a tendency toward a not-too-meticulous observance of laws and regulations.

Michigan, and especially Detroit, have been difficult territory from the beginning. The figures from this section, then, may reasonably be regarded, even by the most sceptical, as furnishing, if not a below-normal, at least a fair cross-section of what is going on in this country as the direct result of Prohibition enforcement.

In 1907 the doors of 9207 saloons were swinging night and day in Michigan. Today, in virtually every city and town in the State, business locations are at a premium. Where saloon, grog-shop and dive once stood there now stand business houses that

are contributing their share to the wealth and happiness of the State.

Before Prohibition became effective there were sixty-one breweries making beer in Michigan. Twenty breweries are in operation to-day for the manufacture of near-beer and soft drinks. Of the forty-one that went out of business, some have been torn down to make way for new properties and others have been turned into cold storage plants or factories.

RECORDS FROM MICHIGAN.

A recent report of the Attorney-General of Michigan shows that arrests for drunkenness have been nearly cut in half. Figures on this type of cases formerly were compiled every year. A new law requires such a compilation only once in every two years. In 1917, the last year the State was wet, there were 14,806 cases of drunkenness in the Michigan courts. For the year ended June 30, 1920, this total had been cut to 8961 cases. And the total for the next two years was 21,061. It must be recognised, too, that in the old days of the open saloon, an offender had to be creating a nuisance or a disturbance, or in such a condition as to be unable to take care of himself before an arrest would be made, whereas now intoxication means an arrest. So the figures of the wet year are for disorderly conduct and excessive drunkenness.

Figures are dry and uninteresting things, sometimes; but not when they bear directly on the life and health of a nation—its citizens of to-day and the citizens of to-morrow.

In 1917 the percentage of infant mortality in Michigan stood at 8.9. In 1922 it had fallen to 7.3. The chances of a baby living had been raised 1.6 per cent. under Prohibition.

Before 1919 there were twelve hospitals and homes for alcoholics. To-day there cannot be found one such institution in the State. When the saloon went the institutes, cures and other establishments for the wrecks that came through the swinging doors went with them. For the occasional case that arises to-day the general hospital is ample.

Four hundred and ninety-two cases of alcoholic insanity were reported in Michigan for 1916, 556 cases for 1917. In 1921 the rise in this society-destroying disease had not only been stopped, but the figure for 1917 had almost been cut in half. There were 285 cases reported in 1921, and it is predicted that when the full figures for 1922 are compiled, the total will be below 200 cases.

The effect of these curative influences of enforcement is indicated unmistakably in such available figures as touch the material welfare of the State.

(Continued on page 15.)



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Foreign Liquor Interests Unite with American Wets to Break Down Dry Morale.

CONSIDER STRUGGLE FOR MODIFICATION AS THEIRS—RENEWED DRIVE AGAINST 18TH AMENDMENT REVEALS VICIOUS METHODS OF ATTACK AND CHICANERY OF OPPONENTS.

"BEER AND WINE SPELL SAFETY FOR NATION'S CHILDREN" IS LATEST PRODUCT FROM CHICAGO'S PROPAGANDA PLANTS WHICH APPEARS TO WIN SOME SUPPORT.

The forces enlisted in the fight to break down Prohibition enforcement in America have shifted their front. No longer do they expect to sweep the people of the nation off their feet by shouting loudly just before election time. That a Congress opposed to the Volstead Act cannot be elected by such noisy tactics was the lesson they learned after the votes had been counted in 1922. The new plan of battle calls for a linking up of the elements in every nation of the world opposed to Prohibition. It calls for a subtle, whispered campaign, designed to exaggerate the amount of lawlessness and to beat down the morale of the law-abiding through reiteration of the phrase, "Prohibition can't be enforced." In this article "The Christian Science Monitor" uncovers the political and other activities undertaken to prevent enforcement, with nullification efforts, which reveal, by the similarity of their methods and arguments over the country, a well-planned campaign.

(Special from "Monitor" Bureau.)

CHICAGO, September 24—"Beer and wine spell safety for American children!"

Stripped of verbiage, this is one of the statements that the wets of this city and elsewhere are using, with some success, today. Here and in other great cities the sanctity of the home, the welfare of the people, the integrity of the law and safety of children are all being invoked by former saloon-keepers, former bar keepers, distillers, brewers and drinkers, to weaken Prohibition morale.

The new campaign is laid on national and "liberal" lines. Under the cloak of beer and wine the wets—backed by foreign liquor interests which see the fight in America as

their own—are filled with a fervor that convinces many and perhaps some of the wets themselves. Here, as elsewhere, the "whisper" campaign is on, exaggerating lawlessness and the difficulty of law-enforcement, and reaching a climax in such assertions as that, for the children's sake, Prohibition must go.

PROPAGANDA FACTORIES.

Chicago is one of the great branch factories for anti-Prohibition arguments. The firms handling the business are the National Association Opposed to Prohibition (known in some States as the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment) which distributes a line of goods, though temporarily eclipsed by the other business house, the National Retail Liquor Dealers' Association (so-called "Veterans of Liberty," the organization of former saloon-keepers) whose members can tell very harrowing tales of the evils of bar and brass rail, which they assert they never want to see return, because of their former close connection with them.

These propaganda plants are turning loose into the stream of thought a brand new batch of sophistries this year in eight-hour shifts, under a fresh scheme of attack. The new campaign is meant to give moral tone to the "cause," and the impression that a strict law can't be enforced, but must be "liberalised."

A. D. Plamondon, President of the State division of the first-mentioned group, offers specimens of wet arguments in an interview, going to prove, as he puts it, that "Prohibition is doing no good." He says:

"Prohibition has not lessened drinking. "Everybody is making gin at home—everybody.

"The whisky that is being bought now is nothing but poison, and it can be bought anywhere.

"The Prohibition law cannot be enforced." **LAWLESSNESS OVERPLAYED.**

Relentless repetition of these statements induces a picturisation of overwhelming lawlessness: of an army of bootleggers, and rivers of "hootch" tumbling into a sea of smuggled goods. More liquor, it is implied, is smuggled in now than ever was brought in legally before the Eighteenth Amendment.

The United States Statistical Abstract for 1920 (pp. 232, 233) indicates the 1916 liquor consumption in the country was 19.4 gallons per capita. Taking 20 gallons as the former New York consumption, Orville S. Poland, New York counsel of the Anti-Saloon League, points out that to satisfy the pre-Prohibition thirst of 10,000,000 New Yorkers, 200,000,000 gallons would be needed, and that it would take 6,666,666 touring cars speeding down from Canada, each carrying 30 gallons (which would give no room for passengers and would hardly allow concealment) to supply the demand. This number of cars, Mr. Poland explains, is about six times as many as there actually are in New York. Placed bumper to bumper they would reach 13,000 miles, or four times between Atlantic and Pacific. It is easy to see what truth there is in the assertion that "Prohibition has not lessened drinking."

Mr. Plamondon reports what is being said all over the country at widely removed points by wets under direction from national headquarters in the campaign on public thought in the following representative arguments. He says:

FAVORS CANADIAN PLAN.

Crime is on the increase.

The people had no vote on national Prohibition.

The law cannot be enforced, and the only way out is to modify the law.

The Canadian plan appears to offer the best solution. They are paying for their roads from the tax on liquors and you never see a drunken person in Canada. (A soldiers' bonus is also commonly mentioned as a possible result of "a tax on liquor").

I should like to see this law strictly enforced for one year. Then I think you would have a much bigger demand for modification. The reason I think so is because the man who can afford to buy liquor from his bootlegger or make it himself is not interested in modification.

The Prohibition law cannot be enforced.

(Continued on page 16.)

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FIELD DAY APPOINTMENTS.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16.

7 p.m.: Congregational Church, Epping.
Mr. R. J. C. Butler.
11 a.m.: Corowa Methodist Church.
3 p.m.: Country Appointment.
7.30 p.m.: Corowa Presbyterian Church.
8.30 p.m.: After Church Rally, Band
Hall, Corowa.

Mr. Chas. W. Chandler.

11 a.m.: Culcairn Anglican Church.
3 p.m.: Morven Anglican Church.
7.30 p.m.: Culcairn Presbyterian Church.
Mr. W. D. B. Creagh.
7 p.m.: Balmain Baptist Church.

Ex-Senator David Watson.

11 a.m.: Walla Sub-Division Presby-
terian Church.
3 p.m.: Walla Walla Presbyterian Church.
7.30 p.m.: Culcairn Methodist Church.
Mr. Chas. E. Still.

MR. HERBERT CARROLL'S FIXTURES— Australia's "Dry" Comedian.

Monday, December 17: Town Hall, Lane
Cove.
Tuesday, December 18: Holmcroft Hall,
Blakehurst.
Wednesday, December 19: Redfern Town
Hall.
Thursday, December 20: Mascot Corona-
tion Hall.

PROTEST CAMPAIGN MEETINGS.

Monday, December 17: Henty Public
Hall at 8 p.m.
Tuesday, December 18: Yerong Creek
Public Hall, at 8 p.m.
Thursday, December 20: The Rock
Public Hall at 8 p.m.
Mr. W. D. B. Creagh.
Thursday, December 20: Uranquinty
Public Hall at 8 p.m.
Friday, December 21: Holbrook School
of Arts at 8 p.m.
Messrs. Creagh, Chandler, and Still.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

Ex-Senator David Watson has now taken up duties at Headquarters, and his work will be directed now from Sydney instead of from the City of Black Diamonds (Newcastle). To say that ex-Senator Watson is an acquisition to the City Prohibition forces would be superfluous, as everyone knows what a valuable acquisition Mr. Watson is in any particular district.

Australia's "dry" comedian is just concluding a very successful tour of Southern Districts, and his fixtures for next week will be in the metropolitan area, where city dwellers must hear the guips and cranks which go to make his Prohibition story so interestingly funny, whilst it still remains instructive.

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OUR YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT.



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

The work of the Y.P. Prohibition Council is being reviewed, and shortly we will be able to publish in these columns the various additions to the work which the Council contemplates carrying on. The outlook for the coming year is very promising, and the work in this State among young people ought to be very successful.

THE NEW DAY CRUSADE.

The Crusade is booming in the North Coast, and Pastor Pond, from Lismore, reports that the signatures are mounting up. We are sure that the district will continue to work hard in this direction.

Enquiries have reached us from several distant localities in the State from friends who are interested in the "Crusade." We believe that it will be the means of starting at least two new societies.

MASCOT CONGREGATIONAL BAND OF HOPE.

The ninth anniversary of the Beckenham Congregational Band of Hope was held recently. Songs, recitations, and action pieces helped to pass a very enjoyable evening. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were both heartily received and showed what a great work is being carried on in this district. Miss Low, the superintendent, is to be congratulated on having such a fine society under her care.

Mr. E. Spurgeon Gilbert, Hon. General Secretary of the Band of Hope Union (N.S.W.), was present, and gave a short talk, coupled with greetings from the Union.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

We would be pleased if, when any society presents an annual report, they would forward a copy to the Secretary for record purposes.

EXECUTIVE MEETING.

Members of the Executive are reminded of the next Executive meeting to be held on December 17 in room 32, N.S.W. Alliance.

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"GRIT" SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Received to 7/12/23, and where not mentioned the amount received is 10/-: C. Still, 11s. 6d., 30/4/24; D. Cameron, 30s., 30/12/25; A. T. Bunyan, £2 7s., 30/12/25; J. G. Snow, £1, 30/10/25; W. L. Purves, 30/9/24; Prof. Taylor, 30/6/24; Thos. McBride, 30/9/24; H. D. Beer, 9/4/24.

The following are paid to 30/12/23: Arch Boyce (£1), Rev. B. Frederick, Miss D. Hawkins (£1), O. H. Parker (30/-), Rev. G. McLean, H. S. Ranford, Mrs. A. Wenham, Mrs. Kirkwood (2/10), E. Appleby, Miss M. Simpson, Rev. G. E. Johnson, Eric D. Lane.

The following are paid to 30/12/24: Mrs. Brownlow (£1), T. J. Loveday, Mrs. Richardson, C. W. Smith (£1), Mrs. Joseph Waples (£1), J. E. Pendlebury (£1), H. H. Harris (£1), Miss E. M. Slade (£1), Mrs. Berry, Rev. F. Lade (£1/18/2), Mrs. Crane, A. J. Pollard (£1), S. Whitbread (£2/8/6), J. G. Symonds (14/-), W. G. Shipton (£1), R. J. Boyd (£1), Miss B. Young (19/2), F. C. Bell (£1), J. Morgan (£1), Miss Wulfin.

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the coconut oil,
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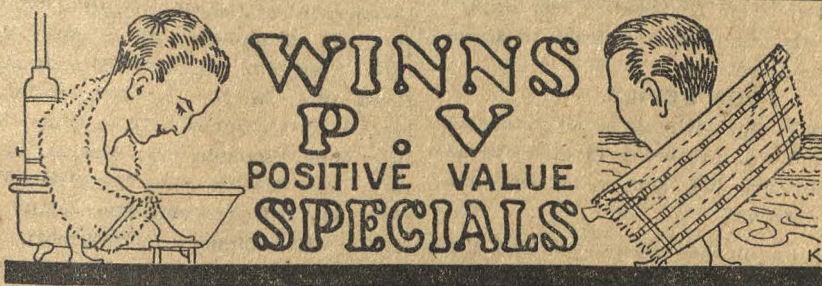
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CHRISTMAS AND THE POOR.

CHRIST WAS KIND TO THE UNTHANKFUL AND EVIL.

BE WISELY GENEROUS.

By ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

Helping the needy ones is always a difficult job, and it becomes ever more difficult under the special circumstances of Christmas time.

There are the Lord's poor, the devil's poor and poor devils.

There are cheerful givers, selfish givers and those too mean to give at all. This is not the end of the story, for there are other troubles waiting us on the threshold of the Land of Want. There are those who exploit charity and make a business of being poor. They are ingenious, plausible, persistent and astonishingly successful.

The "best" of them think they are having a "lean" time if they don't get a pound a day.

As a set-off to these exploiters there are those who are in the charity effort because it ministers to their vanity; they also exploit charity for social advantages and newspaper notoriety.

Getting rid of a social distress is like getting rid of a rubbish heap of stones, etc., in one's garden. If you dig a hole to bury it, what will you do with the earth you took out to make the hole?

If you cart it away and dump it somewhere else it merely becomes someone else's trouble.

Those who ask are frequently the least needy. Those who don't ask are the hardest to minister to, however great their need.

Helping the poor is not simple; it is not easy, and it cannot be done once for all; it is a long and difficult process.

Help must be given in spite of the fact that some to whom it must be given do not deserve it.

Many will not be even grateful.

Some will make a wrong use of your help.

Let us set out with the following guiding principles:

First, is the need real?

Second, the one who is willing to be carried must not be carried; every effort must be made to only help them to help themselves.

Third, don't spoil the gift by any pettiness, meanness or unpleasantness of spirit.

Lastly, there are times when sheer goodwill must be the only reason for giving.

For children and old folk, just big, loving, even unreasoning generosity should be the dominant feature of the gift.

This is God-like giving, uncalculating big-ness. "He so loved that He gave."

THE LORD'S POOR.

Those of the Household of Faith who are poor in this world's goods should be our special care.

I know of beautiful and saintly old souls who are cheerful and saving on fifteen shillings a week. They say to themselves:

"Heart, thou must learn to do without. That is the riches of the poor."

They silently, without intending to do so, rebuke us for the dozen indulgences to which we cling as to dear life.

Their whole life is a triumph over selfish desire, and they are so little conscious of the wonder of their achievement. When you give them anything they plan to give it to someone more needy than themselves. Let them do so; it is their joy to do it. They belong to the widow's mite family, and while so poor have wonderfully enriched the world. No generosity in the day of our Lord is so remembered as the widow's mite, and no rich person so much to be envied as the widow who gave her all.

Look out for such folk, take them to your heart and your home—it is your chance of "entertaining angels unaware."

THE DEVIL'S POOR.

These have no consoling faith, no simple joys, no compensations in their necessities.

They are most of all poor, because their need is so much the greater, because that on which they have set their heart cannot satisfy them but grows more imperative with every gratification. They have no clothes, but much worse they have no character. They have no food, but much worse they have no hope. They have no shelter, but much worse they have an uneasy conscience.

Then there are times when the devil gives them in abundance, clothes, food, shelter and the means to indulge, and then mocks them as they find they have lost the power to enjoy, and to them the best is less enjoyable than the simplest and least to those who are the Lord's.

POOR DEVILS.

There are humans who have never trusted the Lord and who are never favored by the devil. They are his "empty bottles," his "squeezed lemons."

Poisoned by alcohol, blear-eyed and illy clad,

Cursing his fate as he shuffles along;

Crushed and bereft of the once earnest will he had,

Penniless, homeless, jeered by the throng.

Friends have assisted him,

Pastors have prayed o'er him,

He has been rescued and lost o'er and o'er.

Oh, do not give him up;

Pull from his lips the cup;

Speak to him kindly and try him once more.

Very few people realise how many thousands of this kind of human derelict there are and how our present liquor system guarantees to turn them out in increasing numbers.

They are by no means solely to blame, since their poor equipment has been insufficient to overcome social customs entrenched behind legal opportunity.

Master, they come, poor, broken, guilty men,

The refuse of the race, their kindred's shame—

Debtors, delinquents, hiding from the ken of lynx-eyed law; they bring a shadowed name

And offer it to Thee; Thy boundless grace Is their last hope of any hiding place.

Yet e'en from these Thou dost not turn Thy face,

And seeing it, despair begins to die:

With long, rapt gaze Thy loneliness they trace,

Till hope is born from sorrow's deepest sign.

Slowly but surely, these, the sons of shame, Shall find a place in Thy bead-roll of fame.

OUR APPEAL.

The holidays to the out-of-work are a nightmare, and to those who are battling with temptation they are full of danger.

We are glad to see that folk have enough to eat, but their stomach need is not their greatest need.

Our help is the "tiding over" help until they are able to help themselves.

We aim to provide the help that makes further help unnecessary.

Tools or clothes out of pawn, fares to jobs, room-rent till the first pay, a little stock for trading, and other "first-aids" to the desperate, and some "goodwill token" for Christmas.

I am deeply grateful for the following gifts: Miranda, 20/-; Miss Small, 21/-; E. Graham, 10/-; Mrs. A. W. Pulsford, 20/-; Mr. Boesser, 10/-; Miss Godson, 10/-; "Snubbed," 10/-; H. Templeton, 20/-; Mrs. Wallace, 10/-; Miss Glanville, 20/-; Mrs. R. A. Carr-Boyd, 10/-; M. F., 4/-; Nth. Sydney, 5/-; Mrs. J. S. Colquhoun, 10/-; Miss Wulfin, 10/-; Mrs. Simonds, 5/-; Mrs. A. S. Crane, 10/-; Mrs. McConochie, 5/-; Miss McKern, 20/-; G. Hill (special Queensland child), £2/2/-; Mr. Rigney ("Grit" cot), £2/2/-; "Orange," 20/-; Miss E. L. Ashwood, £5; E. Cranfield, 20/-; E. H. Chesswell, 10/-; J. G. Symonds, 6/-; Mrs. C. C. Walker, 20/-; E.C.S., 10/-; Mrs. Eyles, 20/-; Mrs. A. Young, 5/-; Mrs. Luth, 5/-; Rev. J. W. A. Watkinson, 20/-; Mrs. Best, 20/-; W. Byrne, 21/-; Anon, 5/-; T. Grant, £2; Mrs. Elliott, 20/-; Mr and Mrs. Betts, 20/-; Miss Betts, 10/-; R. Beer, 21/-; Miss Herring, 20/-; B. Brown, £2; Mrs. Howell, 20/-; W.C.T.U. (Bathurst), £5/5/-; Mrs. Lynch, 20/-; D. Cameron, 30/-; Mrs. S. J. Webb, 20/-; Mrs. McCrea, £2; Mrs. Isaac Winn, £10; Mrs. Evan Jones, 20/-; Miss N. Simpson, 10/-; Miss Brown, 7/-; "One-tenth," Auburn, £5; Dr. W. H. Read, £5.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

"OH BEER, WHERE IS THY STING?"

OH, COUNCILLORS! WHERE ARE THY BRAINS?

By W. B. D. (JACK) CREAGH.

While the future of liquor is making people anxious, the future of the drinkers is of secondary importance.

Evidence is available to prove this. The financial, and appetite, end of the stick is the one that is in the grip of those who can alter things. Money and appetite rule; commonsense and public welfare have to stand aside, while greed and selfishness hold sway.

AUCKLAND COUNCIL MOVES.

News comes from New Zealand that the Auckland Town Hall is to be closed to those who, in the past, have held boxing matches there. Why? Because of the disgusting exhibitions of the boxers? No, because of the unruly conduct of the audience.

This information came to light—that, after the exhibition, chairs were broken and other damage done; the attendants collected over 250 beer and other alcoholic liquor bottles. Result, sport gets another setback, not because sport is bad, but because booze inside those looking on causes trouble by taking away the normal control.

Sydney Town Hall, also other suburban halls, has had the same trouble. Especially is this so where the halls are being used for dancing.

PADDINGTON COUNCIL AGAIN.

Last week I mentioned the great interest of some Paddington councillors re the patrol waggon collections. The Council has had another meeting, and one councillor (Alderman Thwaites) made a progressive suggestion. This was published in the "Evening News" of December 4:

"The only way of popularising a Town Hall, according to Alderman Thwaites at Paddington Council last night, is to have a liquor license for it—or else a sly-groggery."

So there you are. If Alderman Thwaites is serious, I would like to tell him this truth: The reason large numbers of decent people, surely the ones needed, refuse to go to this and many other Town Hall functions, is because they have previously had their sense of decency outraged by witnessing drink-sodden men and women losing control of themselves.

BEER v. TEMPE PARK.

While on the subject of councils and liquor, St. Peter's Council has a problem also. At a recent meeting the council deal with a beer matter.

Recently a new pavilion had been erected in the park. A police constable had predicted to them that it (the pavilion) would be used as a sly-grog shop.

Alderman Nicholls asked the Mayor if many complaints had been made regarding beer being carried into the park on Sundays. The Mayor (Ald. Rowswell) admitted that the police had complained of men having taken five barrels of beer into the park.

Ald. Nicholls said: "That's it; we give them permission to play cricket in the park

on Sundays, and they go over the odds."

The Town Clerk said that the beer had been brought from outside the district.

Meanwhile the brewery shares continue to rise, and they rise at the cost of good conduct and morals of those in the various municipalities.

LIKE KISSING YOUR SISTER.

Kuringai Council Have Alcoholic Tremor.

Recently the Kuring-gai Council had to decide if they would grant a publican's booth at the St. Ives Show, to be held on January 11 and 12. An assurance was given that spirits would be prohibited, but the council turned down the whole proposition. No booze at that show. Two councillors, President McIntosh and Councillor Taylor, voted

SYDNEY'S RECORD OF SHAME.

Last two months, October and November, 1923.

Convictions for drunkenness at the Central Court were:

1704 Males
358 Females

Total ... 2062

Week ending 5th Dec., 1923:

189 Males
37 Females

Total 226

Previous weeks total, 228.

in favor of booze, and President McIntosh made use of these words:

"I don't know that there is much harm in light beer; there is not much kick in it; it is like kissing your sister."

I would like to ask Mr. McIntosh if he would like to have his daughter, or near relations, married to someone who were constantly full-up of the so-called light beer?

Most of the drunkards going through the Central Police Court are beer drunkards, and the most disgusting crimes, including the Willoughby murder and outrage, was committed by a man turned into a fiend by so-called light beer; in fact, the murderer had a few bottles on him when he arrived home. Yes, this and other crimes have been committed by disciples of booze.

The beer that Mr. McIntosh so flippantly talks about may not have a kick in it "for brainless fools," but those who go down can vouch for it robbing them of the kiss of wife, children, etc.

ASHFIELD TOWN HALL.

Ashfield councillors have their beer problem also. On October 21 young people assembled in the Town Hall, the occasion being

to celebrate the close of the football season, and 55 gallons of beer were consumed. At the Court next day the magistrate, Mr. W. S. Arnott, fined Walter Crawford, Leslie Davies, Kenneth Priestley, James Ainsley, and Bruce Hall £1 each, with 8/- costs, for offensive behaviour.

No matter where one looks trouble is coming from drinking. Monday saw the usual week-end horrors. The papers give a trifle of evidence.

I would advise councillors of all municipalities to get their brains brushed up on this alcohol question, especially the beer branch of it.

To help in the brain-brushing process I give Walt Mason's opinion:

WHAT IS BEER?

Beer is a good and harmless drink, if you but let the stuff alone;
While bottled up like purple ink, it never causes a sigh or groan.
But if you pour it down your throat it starts right in to get your goat;
This drink in which such virtue lies will fill your head with aches and sighs;
And give you puffed and crimson eyes, and scatter cobwebs through your brains.
On energy it puts the crape, in useful work you hate to launch;
It puts new outlines on your shape, until it leaves you mostly paunch.
It spoils your appetite for food—beer, beer alone is all you beg,
The good old brew from glass or wood—until you are a human keg.
And when your love for beer you lose, because it fails to hit the spot,
You fondly turn to stronger booze, and drink it "till your inside rots."

Another question I would like to ask councillors: Did it ever cross your mind when you see the hotel being made bigger, and brighter, that this is the sure sign that many homes in your districts are getting smaller, also unhappier?

THE MODEL AND THE MOUSTACHE.

"Oh, she's lovely now, I grant you," my friend admitted when I had shown him Dolores, the little Spanish model I had brought back from Seville.

"But in five years' time," he sneered, "she will be useless. Fat. And she will have a moustache."

"I shan't let her get fat," I protested. "I shall work her much too hard. And she won't have a moustache. I'll see to that."

"How are you going to prevent it?" he asked, unconvinced.

"That's my secret," I replied.

Well, it's a fairly open secret, among women at anyrate. Too many of us incline to what is euphemistically known as "superfluous hair." It is the penalty of the type that has dark luxuriant hair and incredibly long eyelashes. Nature is an extremist. Either she is too prodigal with her favors and gives a moustache and beard in addition to these beauties, or—"relenting, mends too much with naught," and dowers the rest of us meagrely with scanty hair and invisible eyebrows.

However, it is fortunately easier to cut down superfluity than to produce abundance. The most obstinate growths of unwanted hair can be so easily removed nowadays—not by shaving, which only makes the growth reappear more vigorously in a few weeks' time—but by the easy and effective application of pure powdered pheninol. You buy a package from the chemist, you make it into a thin paste with water, apply it to the unwanted hair, and let it dry. In a few moments you can scrape away the paste, and the hair comes away with it—absolutely easily and painlessly. There is no soreness or irritation of the tenderest skins. You just wash and powder as usual; the skin is perfectly soft and smooth as if the hair had never grown there.

A Personal Chat with my readers

WHAT DO YOU TALK ABOUT?

Is conversation a lost art? It may be the noise of the train and the tram is responsible, but few people talk to each other in these public conveyances. In society it is not good form to talk "shop," and when the subject you know most about and are most interested in is debarred, what is there left to talk about?

Just gossip, just persiflage, just rumor.

Is it any wonder that many a mind is ill informed and many minds poisoned? Why not try a few experiments? Ask your neighbor if they consider the Ten Commandments have any value. It was cabled lately that an effort was to be made to re-write them; however, it is much more necessary to re-read them.

It is generally accepted that the devil finds some mischief for idle hands, but he also finds much work for idle rumors.

Did you ever read Edna Lyall's "Autobiography of a Slander"? It is a very powerful little story and is known to have kept some scandal-mongers quiet for several days.

The real cure for idle gossip is to restore the art of conversation. This could best be done by promoting conversation classes and giving prizes for the one who can sustain the conversation with the greatest amount of interest.

Omit to shake hands with a church-goer at the church, fail to give him a prayer book, even if he left his own at home and took the one you gave him away on the occasion of his last visit, and he will never go to church again and never lose a chance of saying a nasty thing against the church.

On the other hand, when a man has spent his last sixpence on drink and been kicked out and insulted, he will, with tireless purpose, seek to borrow a shilling and go back to the place that despised him and does not want him and spend the borrowed shilling there. Human nature is a queer thing.

Profiteer has been a term of contempt for quite a while and applied indiscriminately to everyone except the biggest of all profiteers.

In a recent advertisement boosting a city hotel in Queensland, the hotel broker boldly proclaimed that in this particular hotel the bar profits were equivalent to 93 per cent.

No profiteer measured up with the booze dispensers during the war and they still stand alone.

The Melbourne Rechabite papers say:

A wealthy proprietor of wine and spirit stores in Melbourne was charged at the City Court last month with having made a false income tax return for the year ending June 30, 1919. He admitted an income of £5000, whereas the real figure was £39,000, an understatement of only £34,000. The police magistrate, in imposing the maximum penalty of £100, expressed the opinion that the penalty was not sufficient. A newspaper, in commenting on the case the following day, pointed out that for stealing a few shillings from a person one can be sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment, but the temptation to defraud the Government of thousands will not be lessened by the knowledge that the worst that can happen is the fine of £100. We wonder whether the correct amount of income has been returned since 1919. The profits made by the proprietor in question give an indication of the enormous trade that is done in bottled liquor in Melbourne.

A COURAGEOUS ACTION.

The Sydney Rescue Work Society has been in existence for over forty years. It has brought into existence and maintained the South Sydney Women's Hospital, and admitted 509 women during the year.

The out-door department and the midwifery training school are both of the greatest service. A very kindly and unique provision is made in the Bethesda Home, in which 140 women and 52 children found a real haven. This home is for waiting patients, and cares for them prior to their going to the maternity home, and after they leave it. The open-all-night refuge provided 2327 beds during the year, and, as the report says: "Here all the flotsam and jetsam, the tempest-tossed, the tempted and the failing, have from time to time found shelter from a cold and pitiless world."

Add to these agencies a babies' home, police court visitation, relief agency and evangelistic effort, and you have the most unique effort of its kind in Australia. I doubt if there is anything better in the world. It is a monument to one man's indomitable purpose to serve the unfortunate and the needy.

No other man in Australia has built up such a net-work of philanthropy as Mr. G. E. Ardill, who has for all these years been the forceful, capable, prayerful, purposeful factor in this enterprise for God.

This work has hitherto received a substantial assistance from the United Charities Fund, which has, however, yielded to the prevailing degenerate craze of gambling and run chocolate wheels and such other gambling devices. The Hon. Treasurer of the Mission, Mr. W. E. Wilson, is also Vice-

GRIT

A JOURNAL OF
NATIONAL EFFICIENCY
AND PROHIBITION

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

Editor—ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.
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SYDNEY, THURSDAY, DEC. 13, 1923.

President of the United Charities Fund, and, having failed to win the Committee to eliminate this method of money-raising, Mr. Wilson has resigned, and the Mission has declined to receive any further share of the income of the funds.

Thank God for such a courageous decision. I hope those who approve of the moral courage that involved the Mission in the loss of this "easy money" will pray more earnestly and give more generously than ever, as a small appreciation of a step that is of the greatest public value.

When I first came to Sydney as a boy cricketer, the steam tram and a drink called "Multum in parvo" were the most evident things. Many American papers cultivate the "news in a sentence" style, and it has advantages.

Take the following as samples:

Russia can get along without God, of course, if she prefers travelling in the direction she is going.—"Passaic News."

Perhaps modern dancing is called dancing for the same reason that modern dance music is called music.—"Princeton Tiger."

The explanation is that public indignation endures but for a day, while lobbying goes on forever.—"Rochester Times-Union."

The poet who sings of "the shade of night and the eloquent palm" knows the great American porter all right.—"Princeton Tiger."

Try your hand at a few "multum in parvo" sentences for "Grit."

The Editor

What Did the Compromise Mean?

"IMMEDIATE," "VERY MUCH NEARER," "GREATLY SPEED UP."

By R. B. S. HAMMOND.

We reprint the compromise to which the responsible officers of the various organisations aiming at Prohibition attached their signatures:

A UNITED APPEAL.

The various organisations seeking Prohibition are concerned to urge the friends of the movement to avoid any confusion of thought through which they may misunderstand the intentions of the Government.

We regard the decision to make the closing of 300 liquor selling places, if brought about immediately by the operations of the Reduction Board, antecedent to the taking of a referendum as in no way a breach of the pledge given for an immediate referendum or opposed to the best interests of the Prohibition cause.

The completion of the work of the Reduction Board before the referendum is desirable so long as that does not deny the people their right to express themselves at the ballot box at as early a date as possible.

A reasonable time must be allowed, but we look to the work being greatly speeded up, thus bringing the date for a first vote under the proposed Act very much nearer.

ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND, President, N.S.W. Alliance.

M. PRESTON STANLEY, President, Business Women's Prohibition League.

ALICE M. STUPART, President, "Next Step" Movement.

GEO. A. STEWART, President, Business Men's Efficiency League.

RUBY RICH, Vice-President, Representative Women's Prohibition League.

THE BUSINESS MEN'S EFFICIENCY LEAGUE.

As though the statement in "Grit" were not sufficiently reliable, the Business Men, without consultation of any kind, obtained the original document from the Hon. T. J. Ley, and had it photographed, sending a copy to members of Parliament.

This was, of course, in defiance of our claim to be working unitedly and had unfortunate results.

I immediately sent the following statement to the press and members of Parliament:

THE ALLIANCE AND THE DATE OF THE REFERENDUM.

That there may be no misunderstanding as to the attitude of the Alliance in relation to the date of the promised referendum, the Alliance again states that while it was anxious for an immediate referendum, which it holds to be in the life of this Parliament, it will be prepared to accept a date not later than about November, 1925, which time was

the basis on which negotiations were conducted leading to the signing of the memorandum embodying the compromise. In that compromise we agreed to the continuance of the Reduction Board on the specific assurance of such a speeding up of its work as would bring the date of the referendum "very much nearer" than 1928. Should there be no speeding up, then the essential condition of the compromise has not been fulfilled.

THE RESULT.

Mr. Ley is reported as being astonished that I should now superimpose some fresh conditions, and Major Foxhall, on behalf of the Business Men, makes an ambiguous statement in which he used the word "jesuitical."

Several members wrote in terms which prove conclusively that they had not read carefully, or in the light of known facts, my statements.

I then prepared and sent to the members and the press the following further statement:

THE MEANING OF THE UNITED STATEMENT.

It appears that the Business Men's Efficiency League signed the memoranda requesting Mr. Ley to greatly speed up the work of the Reduction Board without knowing all the facts or realising all it involved.

It was prepared by the N.S.W. Alliance, and submitted to Mr. Ley, who made various suggestions. It was resubmitted to him, being returned with one slight alteration, which we accepted. The compromise was the result of a conference on November 10, when Mr. H. M. Hawkins and myself discussed the matter very fully with Mr. Ley. Bear in mind the Government had fixed 1928 as the date for a referendum. This clashed with the pledge of many members for an "immediate" referendum, and with the request of an overwhelming number of the party for 1924, and also the resolution of the National Conference for 1924. When the Alliance asked for 1924 it was assured the Bill would become law early in 1923, and we also had every reason to assume that the Bill would restore the triennial polls provided in the suspended 1905 Act. The delay on the one hand and the Government's determination to make the work of the Reduction Board of greater importance than the granting of an immediate referendum led to an effort to compromise.

The compromise begins with an "if" and says: "We regard the decision to make the closing of 300 liquor selling places if brought about immediately." Whatever may be the interpretation of the word "immediately" it most certainly must mean a date very much earlier than 1928.

This work of the Reduction Board, the

compromise goes on to say, "is desirable so long as it does not deny the people the right to express themselves at the ballot box on 'as early a date as possible.'"

After a long discussion it was pointed out to Mr. Ley (1) that 287 licenses had been reduced in less than four years, and the outside limit of reduction was only another 300, therefore it ought not to require more than another four years to complete the work.

(2) That if one Board could do it in even five years, the time mentioned by Mr. Ley, two Boards could do it in 2½ years, or less, which gave rise to November, 1925, as a possible date. While this date was not promised by Mr. Ley, it was actually mentioned by him in the following way.

I remarked, "If the Board can be duplicated that would mean 1926," and Mr. Ley said, "Why not 1925, or an earlier date if the work can be completed?" And there is no doubt that he was agreeable to an even earlier date if the reduction work could be "greatly speeded up," which he believed was possible and for which he is making provision.

The difficulty of several Boards cannot be insuperable, since provision is already made for several Boards in the event of Prohibition being carried.

(3) It was further urged that if the work of the Reduction Board was so desirable and a "great social reform" it ought to be done in a year. Therefore the compromise concludes:

"A reasonable time must be allowed, but we look to the work being greatly speeded up, thus bringing the date for a first vote, under the proposed Act, very much nearer."

Since the date fixed was 1918, "very much nearer" could not mean 1927, nor could it reasonably be construed to mean 1926, therefore I was only using Mr. Ley's own words when I suggested 1925 and not superimposing anything but only rightly emphasising the crux of the whole compromise, which was a "speeding up" that would give us a poll at a very much earlier date than at present in the Bill.

When Mr. Ley accepted this wording, I signed it on behalf of the Alliance, and when the Business Men, who were not present during the negotiations, and had no hand in framing the "formula" of the compromise, signed it it was because they were satisfied to sign what Mr. Ley had approved of.

"There is scarcely a crime comes before me that is not directly or indirectly caused by strong drink. Among all causes of crime, intemperance stands as the unapproachable chief."—Judge Noah Davis.

A CHAPTER FROM ONE HUMAN LIFE.

AT THE CENTRAL COURT

TAKING THE PLEDGE.

By T.R.H., specially for "Grit."

I had been "winning not wisely but too well," with the result that I was collected by the police patrol, which has an objection to useless rubbish lying about the streets!

I woke up to find myself in a huge cell with a cement floor and plenty of big iron bars. Realising where I was, I also saw that it was a case of "all bars and no beer."

I had a throat on me like a lime kiln and eyes like burnt holes in a blanket! There were nine of us in that lions' den. Some of us, at any rate, went in like lions and came out very much like lambs.

The loud "swank," the boastfulness, the daredevil spirit had all gone. We looked at one another with bleary eyes, sadder and wiser men.

By and by the cell door opened and we had to fold up our blankets and carry the heavy "bed boards" into the yard.

The atmosphere was full of gloom, but, towards 8.30, a gleam of light came in the shape of Mr. W. D. B. Creagh, representing the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond and the N.S.W. Temperance Alliance.

Mr. Creagh, better known as "Jack" Creagh, had no reproaches to offer. He—like Mr. Rowe, who occasionally acts in Mr. Creagh's capacity—convinced us of our folly by a descriptive account of their own experiences. The attitude was not one of

"superiority" but that of a fellow-feeling, and we have it on good authority that "a fellow-feeling makes us wondrous kind."

We were invited to sign the pledge, but until the pledges were signed we were not told that that act would secure our release. It was not a question of "sign or go to jail." There was no suggestion of a threat about it.

How much better is the work of sympathetic men than that of any—however sincere—who, probably from their inexperience and not from any lack of goodwill, would treat alcoholism as some strange disease requiring hypnotism or some other recent medical discovery for its cure.

The cure lies in the patient himself, with the aid of sympathetic men who know the ropes.

The work of such men as the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond cannot be over-estimated—I doubt if it can be estimated at all. To my own personal knowledge he has helped lots of men on to the better path. If I can name several, how many must he and his lieutenants helped altogether?

The work of the reverend gentleman, even at the Central Court alone, is incalculable—at any rate its results are. He must believe with Tennyson that:

"Men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves to higher things."



THE MAN ABOVE THE CROWD IS THE MAN WITH THE TRAINED MIND

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H. T. Lovell, M.A., Ph.D., Sydney University.

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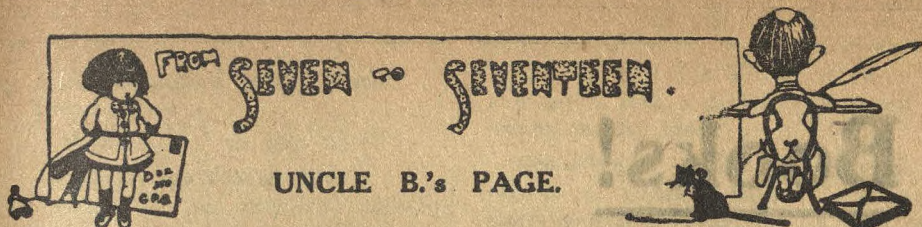
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"The number of prisoners who have been committed to the prison with which I have been connected during the last fifteen years amounts to 22,000. Among them I have come in contact with ministers of the gospel, and others from prominent walks in life, but I never met with a prisoner being a teetotaler."—Mr. Simmons, Governor of Canterbury prison.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.



UNCLE B's PAGE.

OUR PHOTOGRAPHER.

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.

FATHER CHRISTMAS.

Dear old Daddy Christmas will be very busy just now fixing up his list of all he is due to call on.

You know, he is like the postman—he only calls on those to whom someone sends him.

Fathers and mothers keep him very busy, but what of those who have no father and mother? Who is going to tell Father Christmas about them?

Will you do a little planning, and if you want to go into partnership with Daddy Christmas, hurry up and let me know and I will see what I can do about it.

It is lots of fun being his partner.

You talk it over with mother, she knows.

UNCLE B.

OUR LETTER BAG.

A GOOD START.

Donald Thorn, North Dandalup, W.A., writes: Will you accept me as a Ne? I was seven on August 10, and I am in Second Class (Infants'). Our pig has eight little ones. We have about thirty fowls. We have three cows and three calves. We have three horses and a foal. I will close now, with love.

(Dear Donald,—You have made a good start, and I hope you will often write. How far is Dandalup from Perth?—Uncle B.)

HANGING UP THE STOCKING.

Thelma Dunlop 38 George's River Road, Croydon Park, writes: It does not take long for three months to pass; but I am sure it is easily three months since I last wrote. We have been very busy preparing for examinations. I don't start mine till the week after next; but several of our family have either been for one, or are having it now. Did you go to the song festival in the Sydney Town Hall in October? I was one of the four thousand children in it. Everybody said it was a great success. We will be having our Sunday School picnic soon, but they have not yet decided where to go. Well, Uncle, it will soon be time for us to hang up our stockings again. Have you thought what you would like in yours yet? I am awfully sleepy to-night, but I have another letter to write yet, so I must close.

(Dear Thelma,—It is lovely to have someone looking for your stocking at Christmas, but it is even more fun and nicer to find an empty stocking and be a little Father Christmas on your own.—Uncle B.)

Billy English, 4 Belmore-street, Goulburn, writes: I wish to join your family of Ne's and Ni's. I am 11 years of age, and my birthday is on the 3rd of February. My father takes "Grit," and I enjoy it very much. I do hope Prohibition conquers it. N.S.W. We have one cat and three kittens. The kittens are about six weeks old. I have a camera, and take quite a number of photos.

(Dear Billy,—You are welcome to my family. If you send me an interesting photo, taken by yourself, I will put it in "Grit."—Uncle B.)

THE LAST NIGGER BOY.

Wallie Johnston, Rose Valley, Gerringong, writes: I saw my letter in "Grit." The Gerringong public school had a concert and I went to see it. What I enjoyed most was the ten little nigger boys item given by the little boys. My cousin, Bruce Sharpe, was the last little nigger boy and got married. He looked so funny with his black face, white coat, gloves and red shirt on. Mother and Nelson have just been on a visit to Blackheath. Eric and myself stayed at home with Dad to help with the milking and cooking.

(Dear Willie,—So you liked the nigger boys. I have seen that little piece done in many ways and it always amused the audience.—Uncle B.)

PRIZES.

Eric Johnston, Rose Valley, Gerringong, writes: It is raining here to-day and it will do a lot of good to the gardens and crops. Mother won several prizes for her vegetables at the recent flower show. My brother won first prize for the recitation, "Clancy of the Overflow." The school doctor paid us a visit lately. He is very nice and is a great cricketer. Wishing you a Merry Christmas, and that Santa Claus shall not forget to pay you a visit, as I am looking forward for him to come.

(Dear Eric,—You have reason to be proud of mother and your elder brother winning those prizes. I wonder have you won any prizes. I expect you have, and that you are sure to win some more. I hope so.—Uncle B.)

WHERE THEY FELL IN.

Sylvia Waters, Holly-road, Burradoo, writes: I am going to write to you again. I saw my letter in "Grit." Miss Norman took our class up to Bundanoon one Saturday to get wild flowers for our wild flower books. We went to Bundanoon Creek to have a paddle. I went in the water where it was slippery and fell in. Then my brother went in the same place and fell in, too. We had to wear our wet clothes, and I got a cold. There were nine children who fell in there. One of them was Thora Wheeler; she fell in

and had to take her dress off and put a coat on. The Saturday before last Miss Norman took us to Mittagong to get more wild flowers. It was very nice down at Mittagong, and it was also very nice at Bundanoon. The little people in second and first and the infants had a concert and they invited the school children up to sixth class. It only cost threepence to go in; it was for the B.D. Hospital.

(Dear Sylvia,—You certainly had a wet outing. Fancy nine of you falling in. I think it must have been accidentally done on purpose. I wonder how many wild flowers you have in your collection.—Uncle B.)

A LITTLE BLACK BOY.

Owen Waters, Burradoo, writes: I saw my letter in "Grit." We are having some rain now. There are some young fruit on the trees. I am learning to play the piano. There was a concert last week and I was a little black boy, and we had to sing "Ten little nigger boys went out to dine."

(Dear Owen,—So you were all blacked up. I expect you had great fun. I do not mind how black a fellow looks if his mind and heart keep clean, because he can wash his face but he can't wash his mind or his heart. That is a great big serious undertaking which only God can do.—Uncle B.)

A BETTER APPLE STORY.

Ella Hendy, "Bona Vista," Bolong, via Nowra, writes: This is the first time I have written to you, but I have written to Uncle A. several times. If my name is on the scallywag list, please scratch it off. I don't think you can have many good writers in your large family of Ne's and Ni's when Uncle A. called me the champion. I live on a farm, but would much rather live in the country than in the city. I went up for the Sunday school examination and passed with honors, gaining eighty-six marks. During the last couple of weeks the interior of the Nowra Methodist Church has been repainted, and it looks quite nice now. The Shoalhaven Methodist circuit, that is, the district round about Nowra and Shoalhaven River, have a motor car for their minister, and have lately bought a large pipe organ for the church. The church anniversary services were held to-day, and the members of the Ladies' Church Aid Society are organising a tea meeting for next Tuesday night, which will be followed by a public meeting in the church. It will be more than the seventieth anniversary. I went for the Q.C. and hope I pass. I know a better one about Adam and Eve eating the apples than you published. Eve ate one for to (8142) know how it tasted. Adam ate one too (812). Total, 8954. Why, that is more than ten times your quantity. I will close now, wishing yourself, Auntie and all the Ne's and Ni's a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(Dear Ella,—Thank you for going one better than I did with the apples. I agree with Uncle A. about your writing. I am sure the printer will be sorry when he comes to the end of your writing and begins on mine. I think he is a wonder to read some of it.—Uncle B.)

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(Continued from page 2.)

BANK SAVINGS UP.

The total of savings and bank accounts for the wet year of 1916 was 252,337,507.55 dollars. For 1917 the figure stood at 269,434,809.86 dollars. The dry year of 1921 returned a total from the same sources of 484,700,438.31 dollars, and in 1922 the figure reached 538,938,467.81 dollars.

No doubt it is true that the exact responsibility of Prohibition enforcement for these astonishing figures can never be absolutely fixed without an interview with every individual depositor. But the fact remains as a fact that in 1922, and including a period of depression and unemployment, savings and bank deposits were double those of 1917, the last wet year. A great number of people had a wider margin between income and personal and family expenditures. My own belief, and it is backed up by investigators who have made a special study of this phase of Prohibition, is that the money that formerly went for alcoholic beverage of high and low voltage made up a large proportion of this margin.

The Michigan figures on insurance all point in the same direction. Insurance in force throughout the State increased from 664,896,239.33 dollars in the wet year of 1916 to 1,383,907,171.25 dollars in 1921, and will be found to be even higher for 1922.

And there was enough of the margin left to keep additional thousands of youngsters in school. School attendance, according to reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, has shown an increase over the wet years that is not to be accounted for by increase in population.

CONDITIONS AMONG WORKINGMEN.

The State Welfare Department has reported greatly improved home conditions. The report of the Commissioner of Labor shows that general satisfaction is expressed by employers, and that they report greater efficiency and fewer accidents. The storekeepers declare that bills were never paid so promptly as at present, and they credit this to Prohibition. Credit men in general are strong in their statements that Prohibition has worked marked changes in the dependability and credit of the average citizen.

Not typical, this booming Western State, of the great congested districts like New York, with its slums, its gangs, its sordid night life, its teeming foreign population?

Perhaps not. Yet the clean, wholesome areas left in the wake of the advance of Prohibition are no less discernible than in the section we have just examined. And there is a startling similarity in the benefits that have come.

Arraignments for drunkenness in magistrates' courts in New York City show a decrease of 66 per cent.

During the wet days over 4326 women were arraigned annually for drunkenness. The average for the dry years has been but 820, less than one-fifth as many.

Arrests for assaults have fallen from an

average of 5574 during the wet years to an average of 2482, a decrease of 55 per cent. during the dry years.

Alcoholism is rapidly disappearing. The records of Bellevue Hospital confirm the police and court evidence. In none of the five years preceding Prohibition enforcement did admissions for alcoholism fall below 7843. In 1911, 1912 and 1914 there were over 8000. In 1920 there were 2312; in 1921 only 1857. Deaths from alcoholism in Bellevue averaged 237 a year before Prohibition. There were only ten in 1920; eight in 1921.

The figures of the Chief Statistician of vital statistics of the United States Census Bureau on the death rate from alcoholism for the whole State per 1000 population show that the rate has dropped from the high mark of 8.2 to 1.2 for 1920. The exact figures are: 1913, 7.3; 1914, 5.9; 1915, 5.2; 1916, 8.2; 1917, 6.4; 1918, 3.0; 1919, 2.0; 1920, 1.2.

"Plenty of men will die for their country, but the man who will live for his city and state every day is the man the Government needs."—Joseph Folk.

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SUNDAY.

SEEMING CONTRADICTIONS.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him, but God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit."—1 Cor., 2, 9, 10.

Some say the Bible is full of contradictions; but they are only seeming, and if people will use a little of that common-sense which is so exceedingly uncommon they will find that they are only parts of the same truth. There are the same contradictions in every writer, sometimes unintentional, but in God's Word there is always a reason for them, and if we will "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the truth, we shall find they are no contradiction at all. Too many take one part of a text and leave out the rest.

This verse is taken from a prophecy by Isaiah, and is generally taken to refer to the next world. St. Paul had been speaking of the wisdom of this world compared with the wisdom of God, the mystery of spiritual things, which to the natural man is foolishness. These things are past the comprehension of man's finite mind, yet God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit. Thus in the one verse he tells us we cannot possibly conceive of these things, and in the next that we may know them, and enjoy them. "Canst thou by searching find our God; canst thou find out the Almighty to perfection?" asks Zophar of Job. Yet in the fuller light of Gospel day Christ says, "He that hath seen Me, hath seen the Father."

Yet we need not narrow down the meaning of words like these. We can also take them as referring to the greater knowledge yet to be attained. There are heights and depths we have not yet reached of the knowledge of God; for here "we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face." "Now we know in part, but then shall we know even as we are known." We can only get a glimpse of the glory yet to be revealed. If all were known we should never be content on earth a single moment. All the things which men count of priceless value on earth are taken to symbolise some of the glories of heaven, but all we need to know is that "The Lamb is the light thereof."

"My knowledge of that life is small,
The eye of faith is dim,
But 'tis enough that Christ knows all,
And I shall be with Him."

MONDAY.

IF WE KNEW.

"It doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."—1 John, 33, 2.

If we knew what joys await us
In the land beyond the sun,
Then the thought might so elate us,
That our work were left undone;
If a glimpse of heaven's splendor
Were within our vision brought,
Then earth's ties so true and tender
Might seem scarcely worth a thought.

O'er the future hangs a curtain
Which we may not try to lift,
But of this we may be certain,
That this curtain is God's gift,
With this promise He doth greet us,
When we would the future see,
That whatever there may meet us,
As our days, our strength shall be.

—From "Love."

TUESDAY.

"PATIENT CONTINUANCE."

"Who will render to every man according to his deeds. To them who by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honor, eternal life. But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath."—Rom., 2, 6-8.

"Well begun is half-done," they say. But it is not always so. "It is just this patient continuance in well-doing," which is so hard to manage. Many a man named Pliable sets out for the Celestial City, and turns back because of the discouragements of the way. Who that has reached middle life, on looking back, can say that he has realised all his ambitions? Who is there that has not been disappointed in some of his hopes, who that feels he is all he hoped to be, and has done all he intended to do?

Ah! we set out in our youth, perhaps, with the staff of Hope in our hand, full of high ideals, with the banner waving over our heads. "Excelsior!" eager for the venture—some steep we believe we can attain, but before long our feet grow weary, the path which had looked so possible at first seems like a precipice of ice which mocks our endeavors. The farther we climb the steeper it appears to rise before us, and when we come to some pleasant resting place we listen to the enticing voice of Pleasure or Ease, and stay awhile to rest. Time speeds, and we heed it not. The flag has been dragged in the mire, or blown to the winds. The staff of Hope is broken, and we forget the "vision splendid" which called us in youth. We settle down upon the plains of ease, and leave those mountain heights for bolder spirits to climb. Has it been so with us? Then let us

"Arise, and leaning on His strength,
Our weakness shall be strong,
And He will teach our hearts at length
A new perpetual song."

And by patient continuance in well-doing seek for glory and honor, and gain the City where we shall find the reward well worth all the pain, and exclaim: "That were a well-spent journey, though seven deaths lay between."

WEDNESDAY.

"Cast not away therefore thy confidence which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that after ye have done the will of God ye might receive the promise."—Heb., 10, 35, 36.

For there are joys awaiting thy reception,
To which earth's sweets were bitterness indeed,

Eternally awaiting thy reception
When once thy captive soul from earth is freed,

And when thou once eternal joys dost gain,
Thou'lt pine for earth's lost joys never again.

Cast not away therefore thy confidence,
Which hath such recompense of great reward;

When thou dost leave the joys of time and sense,
Thou shalt be then for ever with the Lord,
And with Him there are joys a boundless store,

And in His presence pleasures evermore.

THURSDAY.

"Arise ye and depart, this is not your rest."—Mic., 3, 10.

How little satisfaction after all is there in the best joys this earth can afford. When we gain our heart's desire, it soon ceases

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to satisfy us, and like a child with a toy of which it quickly tires, we fling it away for something fresh. "Man never is, but always to be blest." Only He Who made the human heart can satisfy its cravings. On all the fountains of earth is written "Whosoever shall drink of this water shall thirst again." "On this world's best we read 'This is not rest.'" The world's poets have all testified to this fact. One writes:

"We look before and after, and sigh for what is not,
Our sincerest laughter with some pain is fraught."

The same truth runs through them all. Byron says:

"There's not a joy the world can give like that it takes away."

Shelley has the same thought:

"What is the world's delight,
Lightning that mocks the sight,
Brief even as bright."

There is always a craving for some bliss yet unenjoyed, a sighing of the spirit after rest, until it finds its rest and satisfaction where alone it can be found. "Come unto Me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me," says the Master, "and ye SHALL find rest unto your souls."

FRIDAY.

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."—Matt., 11, 28.

O sinner who art drooping
Beneath thy load of sin,
Come to the heart of Jesus,
And He will take you in;
For, wondrous condescension,
He saith in words how blest:
"Come unto Me, ye lost ones,
And I will give you rest."

"Come all who toil and labor,
And weeping sow the seed,
My grace is all sufficient
To help in every need;
Come, lay thy head, if weary,
Upon thy Savior's breast,
For I will be thy Guardian,
And I will give you rest."

Oh, wait not till the morrow,
But come at once to Him,
Who longs to bid thee welcome,
Who longs thee to redeem;
Then through the gates of glory,
In robes of whiteness dressed,
Thy Master soon shall lead thee
To thine eternal rest.

—From "Soul Rest."

SATURDAY.

"THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE."

When we meet our best Beloved,
Nevermore to leave His side,
When we grasp that hand once pierced
With His likeness satisfied,
As, made one with Him forever,
We His glory shall behold,
And shall walk with Him in white
Talking of the days of old,
Loving Him with love made perfect,
All His love He shall unfold,
Then I think we'll say: "Ah, never
Has the half to us been told."

—From "Soul Rest."

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Foreign Liquor Interests Unite, Etc.—

(Continued from page 7.)

SOME OF THE LATEST.

The latest salesmen's samples of the wet factories' output are the assertions that the prosperous bootleggers are all in favor of Prohibition, that the liquor interests want merely to "liberalise" the law, not to revoke it, and that it would be better to change the Act slightly than to have it repealed entire, "because it can't be enforced."

James C. Espey, Missouri publicity director of the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment, gives variants of these arguments. Some of them follow:

The bootleggers are all against us. Our girl organiser out in the city told me that a banker had refused to sign one of our cards because he said if the bootleggers depositing in his bank heard of it they would withdraw their funds and probably ruin the bank.

St. Louis is divided into zones by the bootleggers, and woe betide that bootlegger who trespasses on the other man's territory.

I should like to see them enforce Prohibition 100 per cent. Then the public would see what it really was like and would hasten to modify the law.

I never want to see the saloon come back. But with modification of the Volstead Act, so as to allow light wines and beer, the Eighteenth Amendment will be enforceable. We will then turn to and help enforce it. This terrible moonshine will then disappear.

"REGENERATION DOUBTED."

Prohibitionists charge that the Eighteenth Amendment was brought about because those engaged in the liquor traffic violated the laws. If this was true, why? Simply because the enforcement of the laws was vested in men. These men were elected to office. These same men and their successors are still in office. Prohibition hasn't regenerated a single man. If the liberal liquor laws were not enforced by men, how in the name of commonsense can you expect the same men under the same system to enforce a more drastic set of laws? Therefore, the consummation of real Prohibition is impossible.

If this kind of argument should strike popular favor among the foes of Prohibition it would get into general circulation and become part of the armament of the wets, organised and unorganised. People in San Francisco and New York far remote from any connection with the organised fight to overthrow Prohibition would voice it as their own, never knowing that the thought was that of a professional wet publicity man.

There seems a direct connection over the country between the amount of law-breaking from resistance to Prohibition and the activities of wet organisers.

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