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A JOURNAL OF MORAL REFORM AND NO-LICENSE.

VOL. VIII. No. 4. Price One Penny. THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1914.

Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for
transmission by Post as a Newspaper.



THE UNSATISFIED PUBLIC.

The Reduction Court favored the Liquor interests in every case and reduced the minimum number of bars in each Electorate.



RUSSIA'S PROBLEM.

A new Prime Minister has just been appointed in Russia for one purpose only—to head the great effort which is to be made to prevent the demoralisation of the Russian people by drunkenness. Five weeks ago, on a Wednesday morning, the then Russian Premier received a message from the Czar informing him that his past services were greatly valued, but that he would be relieved of further duty on account of the breakdown of his health. As a matter of fact the Premier was never more vigorous in his life. His whole heart was bound up in his life's work as Minister of Finance. He was not altogether in love with the Premiership, and would not have been surprised at its transference to another; but he was also relieved of his duties as finance minister. Dr. Dillon, telegraphing to a London newspaper, states that this came as a bolt from the blue. But the meaning of it was known within a day or two. A fierce political struggle had been going on over the methods of raising Russia's revenue. The Premier, whose instincts were all those of a financier, was holding out strongly for the maintenance of the present basis of revenue, which was the Government monopoly of the sale of strong drink. His opponents, including Count Witte, who first introduced that monopoly, were opposing it bitterly owing to the enormous spread of drunkenness that had recently occurred through Russia. The revenue from the sale of vodka has risen from £50,000,000 to £100,000,000. Demoralisation and hooliganism were growing at a tremendous rate in all the cities; even school girls were acquiring the drink habit. Russia's greatest soldier, General Kuropatkin, wrote in the press an article on what he called "The Drunken Budget," in which he said of the state of affairs in the Japanese war:—"Such an indecent and disgusting picture as that presented by the transport of drunken reservists to the front was never before seen anywhere else in all history. When the military authorities asked to have the dram shops closed along the route followed by the troops they received a categorical refusal. It was a drunken mobilisation." The Czar was strongly impressed by the degradation and misery which he himself saw in the Russian villages. The result was the appointment of a new finance minister, M. Bark, and a change of Premiers, with this colossal reform ahead of them. The finance of Russia is no longer to be dependent on the amount of liquor consumed by the people. There is to

be, as Dr. Dillon puts it, "a systematic endeavor to combat drunkenness and kindred vices among the masses by all means accessible to the rulers of the Empire. The alcohol monopoly, however, remains in the hands of the State, all parties being convinced that to abandon it to private individuals would be a ruinous mistake."

Some Russians are for and others are against these proposals; but all accounts agree that they have greatly increased the popularity with which the Czar is regarded by the Russian people. The whole movement appears to mean that the Russian people realises two outstanding things: That if the people is to retain its strength firstly the control of the drink traffic must be in the hands of the State; and, secondly, it must not be in the interest of the agent who sells intoxicants that intoxicants should be consumed. It is curious that the Scandinavian race, which some time ago had to face the same danger, came to the same solution. The Swedes, amongst whom, not many years back, drunkenness was a national curse, have to a large extent reformed their race by means of the Gothenburg system. The principle of that system is that the State or the municipality gives a contract to certain private firms to supply all the liquor within a given area for a certain number of years. The contract is given on most stringent conditions. The liquor has to be of a certain fixed standard; the managers of the places where it is sold must have no interest in encouraging the sale of it; drunkenness must on no account be permitted on the premises; and all profits over a given percentage must go to public purposes. These terms are enforced with a strictness which is apt to come as an unpleasant surprise to the visitor to Sweden. If contractors fail to observe them their contract may be immediately cancelled, and they cannot hope for a renewal. Consequently there are many stories of visitors to Swedish inns who, when innocently raising their second glass of Swedish punch to toast some of their neighbors, have suddenly realised that a tall figure is making its way towards them between the tables, and find themselves, before they are well aware of it, laid out in a special cooling shed at the back of the hotel.

The remedies which have been forced on Scandinavian countries have not been adopted in Australia. A similar system to the Gothenburg plan has been established



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privately in England, largely by the efforts of Earl Grey and the Bishop of Chester. The State has taken no steps to resume the places where liquor is sold, but the Public House Trust is doing this, and is running the hotels which it conducts on the Gothenburg system. The remedies so far existing in Australia are the reduction and abolition of licenses—which involve a different principle. The attitude of the real majority in this country is probably that whilst many of them enjoy a glass of beer, and see no harm in it taken temperately, yet, if by foregoing those pleasures they could rid the whole country of drunkenness it would be well worth the sacrifice. There is probably not an Australian living who does not know many cases of men who would be living useful lives if only one condition were absent—the possibility of obtaining strong drink. The lives of those men and of their wives and children are a tragedy. If there were some land to which they could be sent, and in which strong drink did not exist, they would be living lives as useful as their neighbors. If any country could be made free of strong drink there are few who would insist that for the sake of continuing facilities for themselves and their friends all this misery must also be allowed to continue. The argument which divides the majority is as to whether any of the reforms generally put forward would have the effect of freeing the country or the district of intoxicants. The proposal which claims to fulfil that end is prohibition. Many people, whilst they do not disagree with the result aimed at by prohibition, yet vote against it because in their opinion it will not secure that result. On the other hand, many others are convinced that something must be done to cure this disease, and vote for No-License, if for no other reason, because it is the one main active step which is being taken to deal with the problem. If it does not accomplish everything, at least it does something. It may not be very effective in depriving existing drunkards of their drink, but it should ensure that the coming generation will have no desire for drink. At any rate, whatever opinions are held, no thinking citizen would assume the position that our country could afford to take no steps at all to fight this curse of Western civilisation. Any Western nation which takes up that attitude, which simply sits back with folded arms and lets this vice develop itself, is dead.—Leading article, "Sydney Morning Herald," 28/3/14.

A vain young woman is like a confirmed drunkard, for neither are content with the moderate use of the "glass."

YES, WHY?

A PROBLEM IN TEMPERANCE WORK.

It was in a conversation overheard on a tramcar that the bewildered and anxious "Why?" was so often repeated, by one who evidently resented his own treatment of himself, and was endeavoring to unravel the puzzle of his personal doings.

That he was drunk—very drunk—was at once apparent; but with that peculiar drunkenness which in some men seems to sharpen the wits, and render the mind more than usually keen. His eyes were glittering with intense excitement—a half-madness, indeed, and his fingers were twitching; yet he had full possession of his faculties. It was the advanced, but by no means helpless drunkenness which is sometimes seen, and which is so difficult of analysis or explanation. He was sitting alone on the front bench of the "smokers' " upper deck, when a burly, bluff-looking parson mounted the steps of the car and advanced along the gangway, taking a seat a couple of rows behind the intoxicated man. The latter, turning his head at the footfall, and sighting the newcomer, patted the vacant seat beside him, and said, "You're a clergyman, aren't you? Come here." No heed was taken, and, with increased importunity, the invitation was repeated. "Come here, I tell you." This evoked the response, "Thanks; I am all right where I am."

"But I want to speak to you."

"Well, I can hear."

"Come here, I tell you; I want to talk to you."

"I do not intend to come. I am quite near enough—you are drunk."

On this, the man thus bluntly accused, got up, and, with a glare, lurched across to the cleric (who half prepared for assault), and, plumping himself down opposite, advanced his face to within a few inches of that of the other, and roared: "Drunk, am I? Yes, I am—beastly drunk; and I want you to tell me why."

"You know that better than I."

"No, I don't. I'm drunk because I've had too much to drink, of course; but why have I had too much? Tell me."

There was an intense earnestness about his manner which impressed the person addressed, who said:—

"There must have been some reason for your taking too much; what has it been?"

"Business worries, I suppose I might say, and I've had enough of them to drive a man to anything; but they didn't do it. Why am I drunk? I want to talk to somebody, I want to know. I'm going home; how am I to face my wife? That's the hell of it, I tell you. How can I face her?"

"Well, whatever the cause has been," said the parson, "you have not made matters better by getting drunk."

"Better!" replied the other, very bitterly, and with manifest scorn for himself. "No,

worse—a hundred times worse. Why have I done it? Tell me; I want to know." He continued quite coherently: "I've not touched drink for over six years. I had none on Saturday, and none on Sunday, though I wanted it as badly as to-day. I told my wife I should be home by five, as usual; and now it's this time of night—and I'm drunk—beastly drunk! I know that as well as you do. How am I to face her? What am I to say? I left home for the city this morning as fully determined as any man could be not to touch the drink; and now look at me—I'm full of it—full of it, I tell you. I've had between thirty and forty whiskies during the day—and I'm going home like this. I'm drunk—drunk! Why am I drunk?"

The cleric, who was endeavoring to measure up his man, plainly felt that the usual talk, half blame and half exhortation, would not meet the case. Said he, in a refreshingly human tone for one of his cloth:—

"My dear fellow, take yourself in hand when you become sober. You haven't the appearance of one who need go under to drink. Your face is not bloated; the white of your eye is white; you look like a man. Tackle this thing. As for to-night, go home to your wife; explain to her; she'll help you—women always do. And have no more of this."

"You mean she'll forgive me," replied this problem to himself; "yes, she'll do that—all that's the very hell of it; that she should have to forgive me. I'm drunk, I tell you. Why am I drunk? Shall I go under—hadn't I better pistol myself and be done with it?" And his hand went under his coat, as if he were in actual search of a weapon—and the parson kept a wary eye on him, ready to grab his wrist if needful.

"Pistol yourself? No. What good would that do? Be a man. God only knows what your temptation must have been to-day. I do not know. I can have no idea. I may humbly thank God that I don't know. I was never so tired, or I might have been more drunk than you are. But pluck up, man, and fight this thing."

He who was the worse for drink took a long look at the other; then he said, "You seem to be able to see the other side of this. Fight it, you say—Fight it! Shall I try? I say, do you think there's a devil?"

The parson did not look as if he were prepared for a theological debate just then, so he hedged a bit, and said, "Well, there's evil, anyhow, is there not? I tell you something more; devil or no devil, there is another."

The other interrupted him. Raising his hat reverently (considering his condition), and pointing upward, he said, "You mean there—"

"No, I mean here. And, mind you, He knows all about this business a great deal better than I do—or you do. He knows, as I do not, your temptation to-day. Very likely you have struggled against it harder than I have ever had to struggle; and put up a better fight before you went down than I could possibly have done. Well, if I can recognise that, He knows more than I do; and, depend upon it, you'll get more consideration there than anywhere else—and a Help which you can get nowhere besides."

"What?" almost jeered the man. "He care about it? Why should He care? I'm drunk."

"That's precisely the reason. He cares because you are drunk, and therefore in need. He always cares most, not when a man deserves it most, but when he needs it most."

The parson was warming to his work. Both voices were strong and uplifted, but the two were too much interested in each other and in their talk for either to heed whether he was heard or not. By this time nearly all the seats were occupied, and the passengers were listening—though some of them tried to look as if they were not. However, they were quite unobserved by the speakers.

"You seem to have a deal of faith," said the one. "Yes," replied the other, looking straight into his eyes, "and I have faith in you."

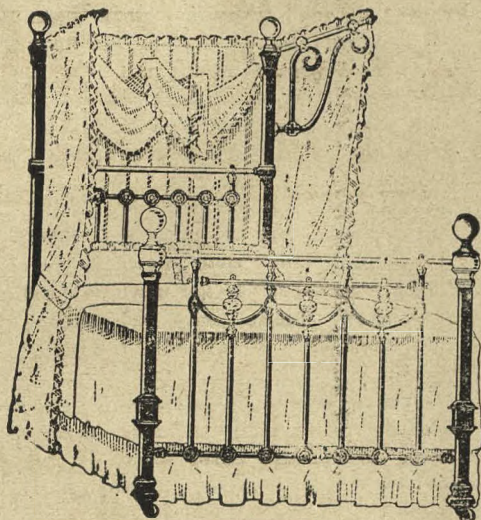
"What!" very derisively, and plainly in self-contempt, "faith in me?"

"Yes, in you. If you'll only pull yourself together. To-morrow morning you'll have a 'head,' and you'll long for 'a hair of the dog that bit you,' but fight it. And if you do get drunk again to-morrow, try again the next day; and if you fall then, try once more the day after; until you've scotched the thing. You can do it, God helping you; you are man enough for that."

And a great many other things the parson said, very sympathetically and humanely, telling of old acquaintances who had struggled and fallen, and struggled and fallen again, but who had prevailed in the long run, thus trying to hearten up his present patient to effort. The latter fell silent; and when the would-be giver of encouragement had to leave the car, he took the offered hand, and grasped it very heartily, and somewhat shamefacedly. It was the warm grip of two men, who, strangers half an hour before, had come close together in a sort of fellow-feeling which has many sides.

The above is as nearly the actual conversation as a fairly good memory can convey it. What struck one most was the fact that the poor fellow was a problem to himself—the pathetic, "Why am I drunk?" asked in varying tones, from that of shame and indignation to one of hopeless perplexity, was no mere maudlin reiteration by a sodden understanding. There was a world of wonderment and suggestiveness behind it. Here was a man, well-dressed, educated, evidently not a long-standing victim to drink; knowing the futility of it as a means of escape from

(Continued on Page 14.)



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New South Wales Alliance.

NEW AND AGGRESSIVE FIGHTING PLATFORM.

After much careful deliberation, the State Council of the Alliance has issued a new and fighting platform of an aggressive character, and its features will immediately become a matter of public agitation.

The three outstanding reforms are the bare majority, State option, and earlier closing.

THE NEW PLATFORM.

The aim of the Alliance is to create and direct an enlightened public opinion in favor of the suppression of the liquor traffic, and to unite all churches and temperance and moral reform agencies in judicious effort for the attainment of this end.

With State and National Prohibition in view it works for local option and all available limitations and restrictions of the liquor traffic.

In its prosecution of this end the Alliance is interdenominational and non-partisan. It deals with one issue only—the suppression of the liquor traffic.

Resolved that a continuous agitation be inaugurated to secure amendments of the Liquor Act, embracing the following:—

- (1) Reduction of three-fifths majority requirement to that of a bare majority.
- (2) The abolition of the requirement that 30 per cent. of the electors must vote for No-License before it is carried.
- (3) The time limit for cancellation of licenses be reduced to one year from the date of the taking of the poll.
- (4) That in addition to local option a vote on State Prohibition be provided for.
- (5) The earlier closing of liquor bars.
- (6) That power be given licensing magistrates to refuse renewal of licenses on the ground that the reasonable requirements of a district do not justify their renewal.
- (7) That when an applicant desires to secure a new license it shall be necessary for a poll of electors to be taken in such neighborhood instead of a petition, as at present, and that the expenses of such poll be borne by the applicant.
- (8) Elective licensing benches.

GRANVILLE FIGHT BEGINS.

On Monday, 6th, the opening shots of the Granville extraordinary local option contest were fired simultaneously at Auburn and Granville, the local town halls being en-

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS BOOK DEPOT.

CHAS. C. MIHELL,
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gaged for the meetings. At Auburn Rev. R. B. S. Hammond spoke and at Granville Mr. Albert Bruntnell. Both speakers imparted considerable enthusiasm, and called upon the local workers to organize and work for victory.

Open-air meetings are being held nightly. The Liberty League advocates are also delivering addresses in the street. All the old fallacies are being unloaded. For downright lying one or two of the addresses delivered by the Liberty Leaguers would be hard to beat. The fight will grow warmer as polling day draws near. This will be on April 25, between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

It is to be a fight for No-License, and again friends of the movement are invited and entreated to assist in canvassing, speaking, or giving. Especially are we in need of motor-cars for polling day.

DEATH OF REV. JAMES WILLIAMS.

Rev. James Williams, general secretary of the Queensland Alliance, died in Adelaide on Saturday, 4th inst. Mr. Williams, accompanied by his wife, attended and participated in the Australasian Temperance Conference. He developed pneumonia with fatal results. The funeral took place in Adelaide the next day. At the Conference Mr. Williams took a keen interest in the deliberations, and delivered some remarkably fine addresses.

The greatest sympathy is felt for Mrs. Williams and also for the Queensland Alliance in the loss of this temperance warrior. At the meeting of the State Council a resolution of sympathy was carried.

NEWCASTLE BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Newcastle Branch of the Alliance was held last week. The report and balance-sheet revealed a healthy state of affairs.

Rev. W. J. Richie, who presided, said that an aggressive move was contemplated, and it was expected that an organizer would be appointed for Newcastle. Mr. James Marion delivered an address, in which he reviewed the recent poll, and urged all present to agitate for the bare majority.

ANNUAL MEETING OF ALLIANCE.

It is expected that the date of the annual meeting of the Alliance will be fixed within the next few days. In addition to the usual business meeting, a convention will be held and a public demonstration arranged. Negotiations are now proceeding with a view to securing certain outstanding speakers for the annual public meeting.

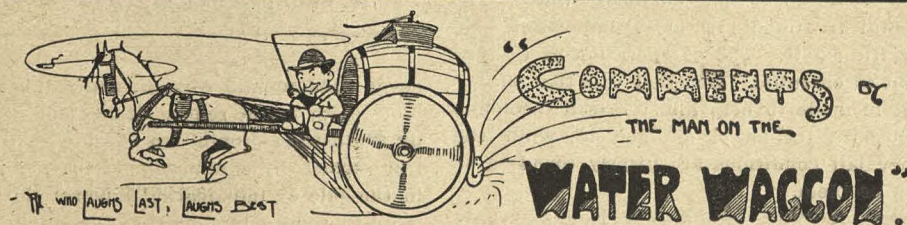
GRANVILLE.

The poll has been fixed for Saturday, April 25. Donations for the expenses of this unique opportunity should be sent at once to Box 390, G.P.O., Sydney.

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WORK OF THE REDUCTION COURTS.

The work of the reduction courts in the metropolitan area has resulted in the licenses of 10 hotels out of a total of 72 concerned being ordered to cease. The Act gives power to the courts, where the vote says "reduction," to remove one license in every four. Mosman and Dulwich Hill have only two hotels each, and therefore the Courts had no power to disturb the number of licenses in these electorates. In Ashfield, where there are four hotels, only one license was ordered to go. The Ryde electorate has 11 hotels, and although the Court had power to wipe out two licenses, only one has been placed on the "index." Hurstville, with 13 hotels, has only lost a couple of licenses, notwithstanding that under the statute three could have been removed. Petersham and Drummoyne each have eight hotels. This number gave the Courts power to place **their veto upon two in each electorate, but** the licenses are to be lessened by only one in each case. That the Courts did not make reductions up to the full limits is explained by the fact that the convenience of the public was a factor that weighed largely in their determinations. Of 32 wine licenses in the 11 electorates only three were ordered to cease. The Courts did not close any clubs.

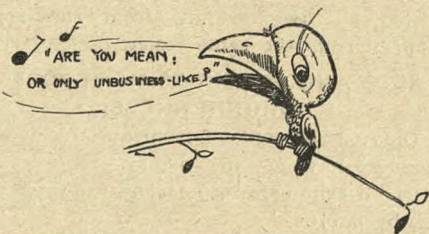
The Court was more concerned to safeguard the drinker than to give expression to the will of the people. In eleven metropolitan areas, containing 72 bars, the reduction vote was 54,149, the continuance vote 43,708, and the result, owing to the extraordinary sympathy of the Court for thirsty souls, is that only 10 bars are to be closed after another three years. If 54,149 people are going to be satisfied with this we will be very much surprised. Seven of these **electorates gave a majority vote for the closing of every bar, and yet the Court gives them no consideration.** In America this year four great States will vote on State prohibition, to be carried by a bare majority, and to go into effect in five days. Oh, for a little of this same American impatience and power of action.

"DOES HE DRINK?" "NO, SIR!"

Frank Picato, the prize-fighter, is a full-blown boniface to-day in Surry Hills.

Tommy Burns, the one-time champion, gave evidence at the Central, and fixed the matter for the modest, well-behaved American. The police wanted evidence regarding Picato's reputation in the United States, and they got it. Tommy knew him well there. The question "Does he drink?" was put. Burns smiled. Mr. Payten, S.M., interjected, "I should not think he would have been a success as a boxer had he been addicted to drink, would he?" The ex-champion heavy-weight of the world beamed again, and answered, "Certainly not, sir." "Granted," said the magistrate, and the thing was done.

So the man who has won his money and his world-wide reputation by cutting liquor out of his life is now going to serve out this poison by kind permission of the Government, who will provide him with police to carry away his customers if they are troublesome, and will also provide them with pensions and benevolent homes when they have further enriched our abstaining friend and pauperised themselves. It is a queer world, indeed!



THE GOSPEL OF GETTING ON.

Lillian Crockett, in "Life," is responsible for what to some may seem almost blasphemous, since it is a parody on Scripture, and yet it is so sadly, aptly true that I cannot but reprint it. She says:—

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and give not flattery, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and perceive all chicaneries and wire-pullings; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove deadheads and give not flattery, I am nothing.

"And though I bestow all my work to pamper the idle, and though I give my brain to be turned and give not flattery, it profiteth me nothing.



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"Flattery schemeth long and is com-
plaisant; flattery envieth not—because she
is sure to keep ahead. Flattery vaunteth not
itself—but its superiors in office; is not
puffed up—but knows whom to puff.

"Does not behave with unseemly self-
respect, but stoopeth with becoming
humility; seeketh not her own dignity; is
not easily provoked at being patronised;
thinketh no evil—of the rich and powerful.

"Beareth all things, fawneth in all things,
cringeth in all things, endureth all things—
essential for aggrandisement.

"Flattery never faileth; whether there be
enthusiasm it shall fail; whether there be
advisers they shall cease; whether there be
knowledge it shall vanish away—clear out
of sight.

"When I was a child I spake as a child
and said I was going to work faithfully and
pluck bright honor from the pale-faced moon,
and tell the truth and hitch my waggon to
the stars and finally drive it through Elysian
fields of middle-aged affluence. I under-
stood as a child, I thought as a child that
success is the reward of diligence. When I
became a woman I put away childish things
and learned that if you indulge in the luxury
of honor you've got to pay for it by living
on a back street.

"And now abideth vanity, ignorance, and
flattery, but the greatest of these is flat-
tery."

LAMB'S LINOLEUM CREAM.

What Shall We Do With the Drunkard?

The Massachusetts legislature created a commission to devise "the best means of correcting the evil of drunkenness in that State, which has recently reported. In the following editorial the Boston "Herald" puts the matter before its readers.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE DRUNKARD?

Massachusetts has just had a special commission at work on drunkenness. It was authorised by the Legislature to devise "the best means of correcting and controlling the evil." The report points out that intoxication is increasing and that our laws have been totally ineffective in checking it. Last year there were more than 100,000 arrests for drunkenness in the Commonwealth, a larger number than ever before. This is an increase of 88 per cent. in twelve years. It represents, of course, but a small fraction of the intoxication.

FINE NOT A DETERRENT.

Excepting the first or second offenders, who are placed on probation, and the comparatively small number sent to the State Hospital for Inebriates at Foxboro and the State Farm, practically all who appear in court are either fined or sent to jails or houses of correction. The fine rarely acts as a deterrent. The offender rarely pays it.

JAIL SENTENCE INEFFECTIVE.

The commission condemns the sentencing of persons convicted of drunkenness to jail—now in most cases the only possible course. The ineffectiveness of this policy has been demonstrated by experience. The stay in jail will sober the offender. It will not reform him. It but pushes him further down. He must find another place, a task rendered doubly difficult. The welcome of his family—suffering from the cessation of his income—is not likely to be encouraging. The man naturally drifts back to the saloon. Two-thirds of the persons imprisoned for drunkenness during 1912 had been previously committed—over 3000 between six and fifteen times. More than a thousand had served from sixteen to thirty and several hundred nearly fifty, sentences.

THE COST TREMENDOUS.

The cost—both direct and indirect—of the present system, is tremendous. At least a third of all crime (aside from public drunkenness) is directly caused by the use of alcohol. Massachusetts prison statistics show that 96 per cent. of all inmates of our prisons in 1912 were intemperate by habit. In inanity, which also exacts a heavy burden, alcohol is the primary cause in fifteen per cent. of cases, and a contributory cause in about five per cent. more. The economic loss is great. The men between the ages of 17 and 50 imprisoned last year for drunkenness lost 300,000 working days. The efficiency of alcoholics when they return to work is also vastly impaired.

Hospital methods should reform the drunkard. Physical defects, often responsible for

his first fall, should be treated. Good health should be restored through regular living, wholesome diet and out-door work. The mental treatment is most important. No specific exists. The co-operation of the patient is essential. He must feel that an effort is made to help him. Prison discipline arouses a feeling of antagonism, while the other jail conditions are utterly unsuited to this problem.

The recently established Norfolk State Hospital, with grounds of over 1000 acres, is a most hopeful enterprise. The buildings should be made adequate, and branches established in other portions of the state. Provision for women inebriates should be made. A special branch should be devoted to the treatment of delirium cases, refused in most hospitals and forbidden treatment at the Psychopathic. Where they are now taken in, the treatment is wholly inadequate. The patients are usually restrained, and their chance for recovery materially lessened.

STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF LAW.

Stricter enforcement of the present laws regulating the liquor traffic, limiting of drug stores to strictly medicinal trade, substitution of the suspended sentence for imprisonment, for non-payment of fines, education as to the dangers of alcoholic excess, and a follow-up system after the hospital treatment, should, in the opinion of the experts who compose the commission, go far to remedy this pressing evil. Their recommendations deserve most careful consideration.

The following summary of the report was taken from the Boston "Post," and is followed by five Sections from the report clipped from the same paper.

FACTS AND FEATURES IN REPORT ON DRUNKENNESS.

Only 62 per cent. of inebriates received at Foxboro have a court history.

Of all criminals 96 per cent. are intemperate by habit.

Loss was 300,000 working days last year.

Of all arrested in 1912 there were 41,590, or 42 per cent. released by the probation officer.

The payment of fines should be ordered with great care.

Imprisonment for fines should be reduced or abandoned.

A large number of cases can be cured by hospital treatment.

There is lack of curative treatment for women.

It is inexpedient to apply State-wide prohibition as a remedy.

It is unwise to try elimination of private profit as a remedy.

Local option approved.

General remedies are public demonstrations of evil of drunkenness and "neighborhood centres" as a substitute for the saloon.

PREVENTION OF DRUNKENNESS.

"Prevention should take precedence over cure at every point in a rational social policy for the control of drunkenness. There are

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20 BROADWAY (near Grace Bros.),
GLEBE, SYDNEY.

seven fundamental ways in which this Commonwealth might reduce drunkenness: First by State-wide prohibition of the liquor traffic; second, by elimination of private profit in the sale of intoxicating liquors; third, by more thorough enforcement of existing legislation regulating the sale of liquor; fourth, by amendments to the existing liquor laws; fifth, by increasing and improving public instruction on temperance; sixth, by competing with the saloon as a club through public provision of wholesome recreation for all persons; seventh, by the gradual elimination of those factors in the environment and heredity of the individual which may predispose him into excessive use of alcohol as a drug.

STATE PROHIBITION INEXPEDIENT.

"In theory the most direct way to prevent drunkenness is by the enactment of State-wide prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. At the hearings held by this commission prohibitory legislation of this sort was several times urged as an ideal policy. Many of its advocates, however, questioned its immediate practicability within this Commonwealth because of the large numbers of our population who are accustomed to the daily use of intoxicants, who would oppose prohibitory legislation as an infringement of their personal liberty.

"In the light of existing public sentiments the commission is convinced of the inexpediency of attempting State-wide prohibition of the drink traffic in this Commonwealth.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

"The pathologic inebriate should be determined by expert medical examination, and should either be placed on probation, on condition that he go to the Norfolk State Hospital for treatment, or should be committed directly to that hospital.

"In addition to the above measures, which are designed primarily to increase the cure or reform of persons arrested for drunkenness, we believe that large provision should be made for the prevention of drunkenness. We believe that temperance could be more effectively promoted than it now is in license towns and cities if the licensing authorities made more liberal use of the powers now given them under the law. We especially urge the adoption of local rules to prohibit treatment of patrons by saloon-keepers and bartenders.

IN SCHOOLS AND BY POSTERS.

"We urge a more careful and systematic policy for the instruction of school teachers at the State normal schools and at teachers' conventions on the best means of outlining the alcohol problem to school children. We urge a liberal public use by municipal governments to posters prepared by experts,
(Continued on Page 10.)

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

ON THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.—ALCOHOL THE GREATEST FACTOR IN THE DETERIORATION OF HUMANITY, SAYS EXPERT.—IT IS A NARCOTIC, NOT A STIMULANT.

THE TWO GLASSES.

There sat two glasses filled to the brim,
On a rich man's table, rim to rim.
One was ruddy and red as blood,
And one was as clear as the crystal flood.

Said the glass of wine to his paler brother:
"Let us tell tales of the past to each other.
I can tell of banquet and revel and mirth,

Where I was king, for I ruled in might,
And the proudest and grandest souls on earth

Fell under my touch as though struck
with blight.

From the heads of kings I have torn the crown;

From the heights of fame I have hurled men down;

I have blasted many an honored name;
I have taken virtue and given shame;
I have tempted the youth with a sip, a taste,

That has made his future a barren waste.
Far greater than any king am I,
Or than any army under the sky.

I have made the arm of the driver fail
And sent the train from its iron rail.
I have made good ships go down at sea,
And the shrieks of the lost were sweet to me.
Fame, strength, wealth, genius before me fall,

And my might and power are over all.
"Ho! Ho! pale brother," laughed the wine,
"Can you boast of deeds as great as mine."

Said the glass of water: "I cannot boast
Of a king dethroned or a murdered host.
But I can tell of hearts that were sad
By my crystal drops made light and glad;
Of thirsts I have quenched and brows I have laved;

Of hands I have cooled and souls I have saved.

I have leaped through the valley and dashed
down the mountain,

Slept in the sunshine and dripped from the fountain.

I have burst my cloud-fetters and dropped
from the sky,

And everywhere gladdened the landscape
and eye.

I have eased the hot forehead of fever and pain;

I have made the parched meadows grow
fertile with grain;

I can tell of the powerful wheel o' the mill
That ground out the flour and turned at my will;

I can tell of manhood, debased by you,
That I have uplifted and crowned anew.

I cheer, I help, I strengthen and aid;

I gladden the heart of man and maid;

I set the chained wine-captive free,

And all are better for knowing me."

These are the tales they told each other,
The glass of wine and his paler brother,
As they sat together, filled to the brim,
On the rich man's table, rim to rim.

* * *
Edwin F. Bowers, M.D., has been telling his readers about the interesting experiments of Dr. Emil Kraepelin, of Munich, on the effects of the temperate use of alcoholic drinks. He says:—

"The most eminent living authority on nervous and mental diseases, himself a drinking man, predisposed in favor of liquor, has reached the conclusion that alcohol is the greatest and most potent of all factors in the deterioration of humanity. Approaching his subject with the calm, unbiased mien of a true scientist, Dr. Emil Kraepelin, professor of mental diseases in the University of Munich, has demonstrated that alcohol is a narcotic first, last and always; that the stimulation is merely imaginary, and that one does less and poorer work under its influence, although, curiously enough, he thinks he is turning out more and better work than usual.

"Kraepelin, and his co-workers have also demonstrated that it is not the fourth or fifth drink that intoxicates; it is the sum of the first, second, and third. On direct evidence and supporting testimony they have made out a very strong case indeed against alcohol."

These studies in exact science, conducted under the strictest test conditions, indicate that alcohol is a depressant, an anaesthetic and a narcotic, and that its first effects on the sensory and motor nerves are to diminish acuteness and pervert activity. The first noticeable effect of sending the blood to the head and surging through the brain with increased velocity is not increased vigor, but increased irritation, which comes just before anaesthesia and diminution of power. In other words, the drinker deludes himself. He only thinks he is thinking; for his very first drink has produced a definite, measurable degree of intoxication.

Dr. Bowers is doing a good work in spreading broadcast the results of this remarkable experiment in Munich.

It will do more good for the world to read these scientific facts than can be done by all the total abstinence lectures and sermons in the world.

Here is one incident of these tests:—

"The daily exercises began at 8 a.m. The subject's hand was connected with the apparatus, and the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 were written twice with pencil at top speed. Then the sequence reversed—10, 9, 8, 7, 6, etc.—was twice written; then the German letters 'inm' also twice. These were repeated ten times, and the total

average time consumed by each man was measured. Then he received his allotment of wine, as with the other experiments.

"After five minutes they resumed their writing, carrying out their appointed task in scribbling as before, and proved that, while the spirit was willing, the flesh and its controlling nerve pulses was weakened; for they had, every man of them, measurably slowed up. The degree of retardation, after writing 1 to 10 under the influence of the small amount of alcohol administered (about what the ordinary drinker would take with his dinner) amounted to 5.6 per cent. In writing 10 to 1 the retardation was greater, amounting to 7 per cent. This was accounted for by the increasing complexity of the stunt, it being a more novel combination than the straight progression of numbers. With the 'inm' the deviation from normal was even more apparent, averaging 7.3 per cent. Again and again these same general results were secured, though new crews were used for each demonstration.

"The chief physiological action of alcohol was strikingly shown when the leucocytes (the 'White Soldiers of the Blood') were subjected to its influence. Under the microscope it was demonstrated that even a moderate quantity absorbed into the blood paralysed the white corpuscles (phagocytes). They behaved like drunken sots, they couldn't move fast enough to catch the disease germs, and when placed in the midst of a clump of malignant microbes were unable to kill and devour them. In a chronic alcoholic the microscope shows that the fighting powers of the white corpuscles are permanently reduced. This accounts for the lowered vitality of heavy drinkers and explains why pneumonia, typhoid or grave infectious diseases are so fatal among them."

In fact, after continued heavy drinking, the microscope reveals that the phagocytes have lost their real nature, have returned to a condition of savagery and, instead of defending their host and his body cells, have become degenerate cannibals, feeding upon the tissues and organs like disease germs.

The favorite food of these alcoholised corpuscles is the tender cells of latest development, the highest and most delicate in the surgical scale. These are the brain cells.

Here is an interesting statistical statement to accompany this experiment in Munich:—

From 1890 to 1910 the insane persons in the asylums of the United States increased from 74,000 to 250,000, the number of criminals increased from 82,000 to 115,000, juvenile delinquents increased from 15,000 to 23,000, paupers increased from 73,000 to 85,000, eleemosynary patients increased from 112,000 to 250,000, institutions for the insane increased from 162 to 372.

Four per cent. of our population belong to this class of insane, idiots, feeble-minded, etc., and the care of them is one of our heaviest economic burdens. We are spend-

(Continued on Page 14.)

GRIT.

A Journal of Moral Reform
and No-License.

"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.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Subscriptions may commence with any issue.

The paper being posted for 52 weeks for 6/-, outside the Commonwealth 7/6.

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Editor—ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

Manager—J. BRADFELD.

Address: Box 390, G.P.O., Sydney.

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One year's subscription to "Grit" is 7/- in advance.

To save the trouble of money orders, you may send postal notes, accompanied by name and address, marked for "Grit," c/o Rev. J. Dawson, N.Z. Alliance, 113 Willis-st., Wellington; Mr. J. H. Fountain, Dentist, Christchurch; Mr. J. E. Frost, Dunedin.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 1914.

MECHANICAL DRAWING

For the Ambitious Mechanic.

If you want to push ahead in your trade you should take a course of Mechanical Drawing. It will be a great help. The course at the M.B.C. is practical throughout. The instruction is individual, and you will be taught to develop originality and resource. Write to-day for details of evening or postal tuition.

METROPOLITAN BUSINESS COLLEGE,
337 Pitt Street, Sydney
(Two Doors from Liverpool Street.)

ADVANCEMENT IN WALLPAPER DECORATIONS.

Wonderful advancement has taken place during the last few years in the production of high-class wallpapers. There is no doubt that the present great demand for this method of decorating has brought great competition into the field, so that to-day we have wallpapers designed by some of the leading art masters of the world. The blending or colors in frieze is undoubtedly beautiful, and is a great addition in the art of decorating. To meet this demand, James Sandy and Company, Ltd., of 236-8 George-street, Sydney, have installed on their premises for the use of their customers an "electric cutter for cutting away the backgrounds of Applique Friezes," medallions, pendants, and borders, previously done by shears. This treatment leaves a serated edge, thus considerably improving the appearance of the design, and giving a gracefulness which is lacking in ordinary method.

A Personal Chat with my readers

EASTER.

His Grace the Archbishop has again appealed to Christians to recognise the fact that the only reason why the Friday before Easter Sunday is a holiday is to enable Christian people to commemorate the greatest incident in the world's history, viz., the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a close holiday to all business people, places of amusement recognise the day, and it has been left for the Royal Agricultural Society to pervert the use of this day and outrage the religious feelings of the whole State. In defence, Mr. Somers says, the people have so few holidays that they are entitled to make any use they like of this day, irrespective of the fact that it is specially given for religious purposes. It is, of course, sheer nonsense to say we have few holidays. We lead the world in the matter of holidays. You might as well argue that a man having so few shillings of his own he is at liberty to convert to his use the pounds given by his master for a definite purpose. He also argues that the Show being open for eight days, it would be absurd to close it for the one day—and yet it is closed on Sunday, which I have no doubt, Mr. Somers thinks is absurd. While we are all free to make what use we like of Good Friday, the freedom of all decent people is limited by consideration for others and the original purpose of the day. Let the Show be ever so educational and ever so harmless, it becomes much more an offence on Good Friday than the continuance of Parliament would be after the news was brought to the chambers of the death of the Premier.

ONE-TENTH DRUNK.

A few weeks ago I drew attention to the important statement lately made in England that the first question to ask was not "Is the man drunk?" but "Has he been drinking?" Opinions differ very widely as to when a person is drunk, and the persons own opinion is, of course, quite worthless. I heard a man say in the court lately, "I could not have been drunk, I am quite sure I wasn't, because I had only been drinking port wine." He was quite ignorant of the fact that it contained very much more alcohol than beer, and produced a worse type of drunkenness.

Increasingly stringent measures are being taken by railroad officials to protect the public from accidents which occur as a result of the use of strong drink on the part of their employees. Recently at the Iron Mountain yards at Dupo, Illinois, the official breath smeller charged an engineer about to start on his run with having had a drink that morning, says the Trenton (Mo.) "Republican." "Sure," replied the engineer, "two beers."

Upon inquiring how many "beers" would make the engineer drunk and receiving the answer that it took about twenty, the official replied, "You can wait until to-morrow to go out, you are one-tenth drunk now." "We have quit trusting the lives of our passengers with even moderate drinkers," the official who conducted the test said to a reporter inquiring as to the rule of the road.

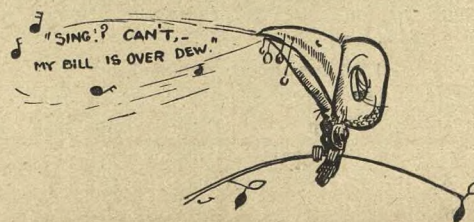
MEAT NOT NECESSARY.

The meat strike did more to convince people that meat is unnecessary than all that has been written and said on the question by vegetarian enthusiasts. But while we are almost tired of being told we eat too much and quite convinced on the point, yet we go on eating because it is really too much trouble to change our menu, or because we do not know how. It is well worth while to pay a visit to the Sanatorium Health Food Company's rooms at 45 Hunter-street, or 283 Clarence-street. If the meat strike had only lasted a bit longer, necessity would again have proved herself the mother of invention, but failing that, go to the Health Food Company's large and dainty rooms and learn. The places are crowded with healthy-looking, happy people, the variety of food is bewildering, and the question of cost will be a pleasant surprise.

ARE YOU LOADED?

A person without an intimate knowledge of facts is not loaded—they are harmless. Such people are without doubt a drag on any cause they profess to support. All workers for the cause of Temperance should have a copy of "The Liquor Act, 1912, No. 42, and Regulations. This book of 250 pages, edited by S. Ernest Lamb, K.C., L.L.B., and H. M. Cockshott, L.L.B., is not only interesting, it is indispensable to all who would intelligently follow the Liquor problem. Its notes of decisions are shot and shell for the Reformer. Your bookseller will get it for you, or "Grit" will do so.

The Editor



Australian Temperance Conference.

(By JAMES MARION.)

WEDNESDAY—THIRD DAY.

The Conference was opened in its ordinary sessions at 2 p.m.

GREETINGS FROM NEW ZEALAND.

Mrs. Lee-Cowie conveyed to the Conference the heartiest good wishes of the New Zealand Alliance. She said the temperance party of New Zealand thoroughly sympathised with the efforts which were being made in the Commonwealth to grapple with the liquor problem.

BARMAIDS.

Mr. R. T. Chenoweth (V.) moved—"That in the opinion of this Conference it is highly objectionable to have women employed as barmaids, and that legislation should be enacted to secure the abolition of such employment." This was seconded by Mr. J. G. Barrett, and carried.

MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

Pastor J. E. Thomas reported that forty ministers had attended the Ministers' Conference that morning, which was presided over by the Right Rev. Bishop Wilson. Addresses were given as follows: The Rev. A. H. Melbourne (S.A.), "The minister as a leader in temperance reform"; the Rev. M. L. Murphy (S.A.), "The Church as a factor in temperance reform"; the Rev. J. Williams (Q.), "Some problems we must face."

The following resolutions had been carried:

"That this meeting of ministers at the first Australasian Temperance Conference urges the churches everywhere to prayerfully consolidate in further and more effective organisation in opposition to the liquor traffic."

"That we especially urge our fellow-ministers that they seek by public pronouncement and prayer from the pulpit to cultivate a keen conscience on temperance reform and unite in earnest effort to carry a vote for the closing of liquor bars in the State at 6 o'clock."

"That we urge the formation of Early Closing Liquor Bar Leagues throughout the State."

THE CHURCH AND THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.

Pastor J. E. Thomas gave an address on "The Church and the Liquor Traffic." He said the Church must offer ceaseless and unrelenting opposition to evil in whatever form it confronted them. The Church had to deal with the product of the liquor traffic, therefore it must work to close up the business that destroyed the bodies and souls of men. When the politician came to realise that the churches had the votes and the people, the drink traffic would die by the will of the people. They must, however, place emphasis on the importance of changing the individual. They had the message which would change the soul, and this they must deliver. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. Williams (N.S.W.) moved—"That this Conference recognises with great gratification the Conference held by the ministers in this hall this morning, and trusts that the requests contained in the resolu-

tions carried will result in consolidation of church and temperance forces throughout the State."

Mr. A. Rosenberg (Broken Hill) seconded the motion.

Considerable debate took place, in the course of which Mr. J. Delehanty (S.A.) pleaded for practical sympathy. If every church congregation in the State would contribute £1 per year to the Alliance that organization would be able to finance its work with dignity, efficiency, and honor. The churches ought to rally up to the fighting forces arrayed against the liquor traffic.

Mr. A. B. Millar (V.) was pleased that the ministers of South Australia had shown that day that they were definitely co-operating with the Alliance and other temperance organizations. The motion was carried.

POLICE COURT PLEDGES.

On the motion of Mr. C. A. Burglund (V.), seconded by Mr. F. McClean, it was resolved—"That the Pollard system of pledge-signing at police courts is recommended for adoption; and if possible, to be taken by officers connected with the staff of the police courts."

REFERENDA MAJORITIES.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. P. W. Bowey (S.A.), seconded by Mr. F. McClean—"That this Conference requests political associations of Australia to place upon their platforms a declaration in favor of giving electors full power by referendum over the liquor licenses by a simple majority."

CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENT.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. A. Rosenberg (Broken Hill), seconded by Mr. J. Atkinson (S.A.)—"That this Conference recommends temperance workers to take a keener interest in political movements, with the view to the selection of temperance and moral reformers as candidates for Parliament."

THURSDAY—FOURTH DAY.

On this, the last day of the Conference, the morning session was in committee. During the day the President occupied the chair, being relieved occasionally by Mr. John Vale (Vice-President). After the devotional proceedings and confirmation of the minutes valuable papers on campaigning, financing, publicity, and detail management were read by Mrs. Lee-Cowie and Mr. James Marion. These papers are to be duplicated, and copies sent to the General Secretaries of the several Alliances.

The following resolutions were passed:—Moved by Mrs. Dowling (V.)—"That this Conference strongly recommends all total abstinents to unite with some temperance organisation, so that the anti-liquor party shall be rendered numerically strong enough successfully to urge Governments to initiate temperance legislation."

To replace the resolution originally introduced by Rev. J. C. Kirby—"That this Con-

ference rejoices to know that the Government of South Australia is pledged to give the electors of the State an opportunity of voting for the early closing of liquor bars, including the option closing at 6 p.m.; and urges that in view of the fact that the open bars during the hours of leisure tend to defeat the objects for which early closing was secured, steps be taken in each State, in the way which seems best suited to its circumstances, to apply the same principle, both in the interests of the community and of the employees of the trade."

The afternoon session was open to the public.

A FEDERAL ALLIANCE.

Mr. J. Delehanty (S.A.) moved—"That we recommend that a Federal Alliance be formed of representatives from the various Australian Alliances, the headquarters to be at the seat of the Federal Government; and that a committee of General Secretaries of State Alliances be appointed to draw up a constitution to be submitted to the various Alliances."

Mr. J. Marion seconded the motion, which was supported by several delegates.

Mr. J. Vale (V.) mentioned that when the Federal Parliament was constituted in Melbourne in 1901, a constitution of a Federal Alliance was brought into existence. A constitution for it had been accepted by the different State Alliances. He was Secretary for the Alliance Federal Council, which existed for three years, and had done good work. Subsequently the Victorian Alliance had carried on the work.

The motion was carried.

AN OFFICIAL HAND-BOOK.

On the motion of Mr. J. Delehanty, seconded by Mr. J. Mather (W.A.), it was resolved—"That it is desirable that an inexpensive Australian temperance hand-book be prepared, and that a special committee for the purpose be appointed, to consist of the secretaries of the various Australian Alliances."

A WEEKLY PAPER.

On the motion of Mr. J. Delehanty, seconded by Mr. J. G. Barrett (V.), it was resolved—"That we recommend to the consideration of the proposed Federal Alliance the subject of a temperance weekly paper for Australasia."

THE NEXT CONFERENCE.

It was resolved that the next Federal Temperance Conference be held in Melbourne in 1916.

VOTES OF THANKS.

It was resolved that the thanks of the Conference be tendered to the W.C.T.U. for allowing the free use of the Willard Hall for the purpose of the Conference. Votes were also passed thanking the press for the fair and full reports given of the proceedings.

The Conference also thanked the President, Secretaries, and Committee of Details, and then the time came to close.

The final hymn was sung, and then several members engaged in prayer, thus fittingly bringing to its close the Australasian Temperance Conference, Adelaide, 1914.

What Shall We Do with the Drunkards?

(Continued from Page 6.)

giving publicity to scientific information concerning the effects of alcohol upon the body and mind, and bringing to public attention the statistics of the annual cost of alcoholism in poverty, crime and insanity. We urge the development of substitutes for the saloon, especially that buildings be equipped by municipalities throughout the State for daily use as social, civic and recreational centres for all persons."

JAMAICA GINGER SALES.

(7) That the sale by druggists (holders of licenses of Sixth Class) of intoxicating liquors, Jamaica ginger, ethyl alcohol be prohibited, except upon the prescription of a duly registered physician practising within the Commonwealth. Such prescription should be filled only once, and should not be refilled. Sale of intoxicating liquors or ethyl alcohol by druggists for mechanical purposes should be expressly prohibited.

(8) That provision be made for examination by the State Board of Health of all intoxicating liquors suspected of adulteration, submitted by the licensing authorities, Board of Health, or police department, of any city or town, such analysis to be made to ascertain the presence of any poison, drugs, or other substances dangerous to the health of the user. The annual appropriation to the State Board of Health should be made sufficient to cover all increases in expenditures which may be involved in this service.

REFLECTION OF THE ABOVE.

Massachusetts has become sufficiently alarmed by the marked increase in drunkenness resulting from its licensed saloons to appoint a committee to devise the best means for correcting the evils of drunkenness.

Maine license papers have measured the effectiveness of prohibition enforced by the increase or decrease in drunkenness. By such a test, the license regulation of the saloon has proved an entire failure in Massachusetts.

Note in this report that "Prevention should take precedence over cure at every point in a rational social policy for the control of drunkenness." Drunkenness is a disease they say. Why then license men to promote such a disease, the cure of which or the attempted cure, will entail such large cost on the State? Disease scattered by germs is not so combatted. Every attempt is made to destroy disease germs as a sane method of prevention. Why, then, license the manufacture and sale of intoxicants if their use causes such a harmful disease as drunkenness, and if the aim of the State is to prevent this disease?

Why license men to promote a disease and then establish and maintain at public expense costly institutions to cure the promoted disease.

What will be the actual value in license communities of an educational campaign against the use of alcohol carried on by the State among children in the public schools, and by poster publicity as to the effect of

alcohol upon the body and mind, if every daily paper is permitted to solicit with attractive advertisements of beer, ale and whisky, its readers to drink these intoxicants and if the way to schools is lined with licensed saloons to induce the passer-by to drink harmful alcoholic drinks. Suppose parents in the home teach their children that alcoholic drinks are harmful to body and to mind, and yet have such drinks on the table at meals, on the sideboard, in the cellar, invite their children to drink them and seek to make their use attractive. Would children in such a home be seriously impressed by instruction under such circumstances as to the harmfulness of intoxicating drinks?

Instruction to be effective must be both by precept and by practice. On this ground this commission suggests as a remedy "in theory" State-wide prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, but also expresses as its conviction the "inex-

pediency" of this means, "because of the large number of daily users of intoxicants." What of the expediency of any preventive or curative remedy of drunkenness under such condition?

Finally the other facts stand clearly out in this report which the people of Maine ought to note.

1. Druggists need greater restrictions in the sale of Jamaica ginger and other intoxicants.

2. Great care should be taken to prevent the sale of adulterated liquors!

The appointment and report of such a commission is a long step forward. The logic of events, as the logic of the investigation, will soon lead to State-wide prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicants for beverage purposes.

Very often when a man says he has a leaning towards philosophy, he is too drunk to stand up.

SUMMER IS THE TIME FOR

UNCLE TOBY'S ROLLED OATS

MY UNCLE TOBY'S ROLLED OATS

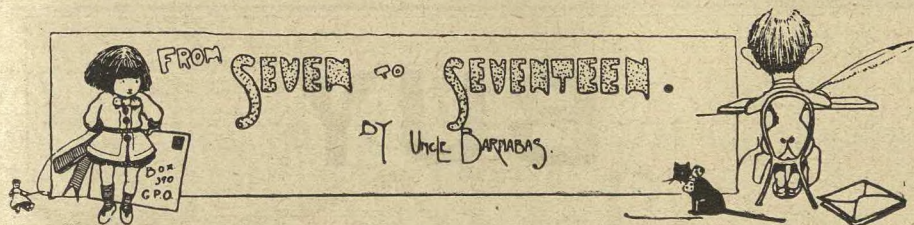
No Food

So Good

Oh you darling the OATS are delightful

Rolled Oats
Clifford Love & Co Ltd
Sydney.

YOU WILL STAND THE HOT WEATHER BETTER
IF YOU HAVE THEM EVERY MORNING
FOR BREAKFAST

**HIGHER UP NEXT THE SWEET SHOP.**

The late Thomas Whittaker when a young man was in London, and wanting to find a Temperance meeting in the neighborhood of St. Giles, meeting a little girl he asked her if she could direct him to the room. "O dear yes!" was the reply. "Then where is it?" said he. The answer was, "A little higher up, on the right-hand side, through an iron gate, next door to a sweet shop." In his address he said if they would reach the "good time coming," of which all the world was then singing, they must leave the neighborhood of slush and slops, sins and sorrows. Drinking was lower down—down in the pocket, down in the health, down in the life, down in the grocer's, the draper's, the butcher's and broker's books, down in the police books, down in the workhouse books, down in the jail books, down in the home, down in public esteem and trust—emphatically the road to ruin. Teetotalism was "a little higher up"—higher up in health, higher up in wealth, higher up in the wife's affections, higher up in the child's love, higher up in the neighbor's esteem; higher up in the master's confidence, higher up in the tradesman's trust, higher up in the church's hope, higher up in the Father's love—it is the "up-line" in every case; and in all these and a thousand other things teetotalism was "next door to a sweet shop." Let us go a little higher up into the bright cheerful atmosphere of abstinence, and work and pray for the good time to come when Australia will be sober.—Uncle B.

A NEW NI.

Doris Bannerman, Sherwood, McLeay River, 18th March, 1914, writes:—

Dear Uncle B.,—Just a few lines to ask you would you please accept me as a niece. I will be 15 on the 8th of September. I always look forward to "Grit" coming every week. Millie has been down at my auntie's place for seven weeks, and only came home yesterday. Our show is on the 25th, 26th, and 27th of this month. Millie and I are going the last day. My uncle has his buggy in the second day of the show. We have had plenty of rain here, and everything is looking nice and green, including our pot plants. We are milking about forty cows at the present, and send our cream to the Kempsey factory. I have a brother and sister going to school. They go to the Sherwood public school, and have a couple of miles to go. I am learning to play the piano, and play a fair number of pieces. We are sending the money for our subscription. Ah, well, uncle, I must conclude with love to all cousins and yourself.—I am, your would-be niece.

(Dear Doris,—I am glad to have you as a ni, only I can't help wondering how much more pleased I would have been if you had

joined the happy family years ago. Never mind, make up for lost time by writing often. Please send me a photo of yourself.—Uncle B.)

A LITTLE BRICK.

Stephen Tall, 101 Flinders-st., Moore Park, Sydney, 26/3/4, writes:—

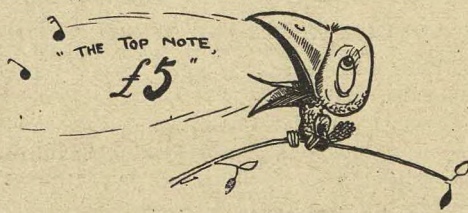
Dear Uncle B.,—I have heard a great deal about you, and I have also heard that you would like to tumble the hotels or turn them inside out, and into the harbor.

And now I am with you, heart and soul, if you will allow me to be your nephew. I belong to St. Michael's Church.

I go to Sunday school, morning and afternoon, and am also in the choir, and I feel that I am a brick in the building.

Please reply soon.—Yours sincerely.

(Dear Stephen,—You are the boy for me. I love a boy who puts his heart and soul in what he believes in. You are indeed a brick in the building. When is your birthday, and how old are you? I wonder who has been telling tales about me. I fear tales are not often true.—Uncle B.)

**PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE.**

Judith Laycock, Coward-st., Mascot, March 22, 1914, writes:—

Dear Uncle,—Please excuse me for not writing to you ere this, but I have had such a lot of homework, etc., to do that I have forgotten about my correspondence. So please put a pencil line over my name on the scallywag list.

Since I last wrote, I have left the public school at Gardener's Road, and I am now spending a term at Stott and Underwood's Business College in Pitt-street, Sydney. So you see I am making preparations for myself when I am older, and have not got mother and father to depend on.

Mascot is flooded out in consequence of the rain we are having at present. They call me a "growler" when I complain about the miserable weather (and the muddy streets of Mascot), but being fond of outings and pleasure (besides work) I find it hard in having to spend all the night at home.

I am just getting over the effects of a cold that I "caught" in the storm last Sunday night, so I am feeling rather miserable.

What do you think, uncle. I have just received an invitation to Woolgoola for my Easter holidays. How glorious! It seems

quite an age since I spent any of my time "out back." Do you think there is any chance of mother and father letting me go such a long sea trip alone. I am afraid the house would be quiet without "Noisy Judith" in it. I must live in hopes of going anyhow. Well, I must conclude this note with love to yourself, ne's and ni's.—I remain yours in haste.

(Dear Judith,—It interests me to hear you are attending a business college and preparing to be independent and earn for yourself. You will find many unpleasant things to face when you go to business. The standards of honesty and truth are so often lowered or forgotten, and the lapse justified by the saying, "Oh, in business one has to do these things: everyone does them." It is hard to stand out, but while cowards dodge and crooked people compromise, Christians show the spirit of their Hero Master, and stand true. Perhaps the worst thing you will have to face are the so-called men, who forget they have a sister, or even had a mother, and treat all girls with vulgar familiarity.—Uncle B.)

PENITENCE, PRIZES, BIBLE READING.

Annie Chapman, Plymouth-st., Enfield, March 10, writes:—

Dear Uncle B.,—If any of your scallywag ne's or ni's are worse than I they must be real bad, for I think I am shameful. But please forgive me, uncle, and I will try to do better in the future. I have an awful cold in the head, and it has given me a headache. Mr. Woodward, a converted burglar, spoke over at our Sunday school last Monday night, and he told us of his life before and after his conversion, and he mentioned your name several times—or Mr. Hammond, I should have said.

I see that you are getting quite a number of ne's and ni's from Surry Hills, and who attend St. Michael's Church. Mr. Elder used to be our minister out here before he went in there, and as he was a favorite here it seems he is there, too.

In January our Sunday school prizes were given out, and I won a silver medal for gaining full marks for the year 1913. Besides that, I got a Bible for an afternoon prize, and a book called "Judge Burnham's Daughters," for the morning school prize. We are discontinuing morning Sunday school, and are having Fellowship meetings instead for the elder boys and girls, the boys speaking on different people in the Bible. My brother Steve is speaking about Peter during Passion Week next Sunday. The object of these meetings is to get the boys to speak more about the Bible. I was wondering this morning if all my "Grit" cousins belonged to the Scripture Union. I do, and I think it is nice to think that such a number of people read the same portion of the Bible every morning. Well, dear uncle, I think I have taken up enough of your book for a scallywag, so hoping you will forgive me, I remain your penitent niece.

(Dear Annie,—It is fine to hear of your winning those prizes, and I am glad you are sorry for neglecting your uncle for so long.

However, that is something you can easily correct. You mentioned the Scripture Reading Union. I joined it when I was a big boy, and am glad I did. Not only is it nice to read the same portion as your friends, but it is helpful to know that they pray for you at least every Sunday. I will be so glad to supply cards to any of my ne's and ni's if they will join.—Uncle B.)

"AN OLD TIME LETTER."

Bonny Edward, Beaucroft, Avalon, writes:

Dear Uncle B.,—I really believe this is my first letter to you this year! Isn't it dreadful? I wrote to you in October, but it must have gone astray. I am so glad Florrie Paff wrote to you. I once had hopes of her cousin writing, too, but I'm afraid she won't. On Old Year's day I went with Mavis to the Cape Hawke regatta. The trip on the drogher from Nabiac to the regatta ground is very tiresome, and takes four hours. As I had never been to a regatta, it was something new. I did enjoy the trip home, though. It soon got dark and the moon had a bad effect on a couple sitting near us. We spent all our time trying to make them blush, but failed. We were laughing about it to a lady in Nabiac, and she told me to tell you about it. I said I wouldn't! 'cause I'd rather not. Our annual show came off this month. I didn't go. We have been having glorious rain. Last Sunday just at dusk it came down in torrents, and when it stopped the water just rushed down the hill. I said, "Oh, I'm going to paddle! Here goes," and pulled off my shoes before Mother had time to remind me that I was 17. Ooh! but wasn't it lovely! All the kiddies came too, and of course had to fall down fifty-eleven times! We were a disreputable looking lot when we went inside. Its ever so long since I had a paddle like that. Our next door neighbour, a dignified married woman, dark, fat, and 35, wanted to know why I didn't call her to come too!! What-ever is the world coming to?

Eccott came out for a few days this week. He has gone back again. My eldest brother is in Coraki. In your answer to my last letter you asked for an "old time" letter. Its very funny, I have had four letters since New Year asking for "old time" letters! Poor me. It's as bad as a man I saw on the trip down to the regatta who said "Do you know anything funny? If you do, SAY it." And for the life of me I couldn't think of anything! It's rather trying, trying to write with a zophone warbling in one ear, trying to drown the noise of the baby's lung practice. Isn't Dora Howell a tease? I am a bit of a terror at it, too, but hate to be teased myself. With love.

(Dear Bonny,—It is quite nice to have a letter from you. Please do it again. I have

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BUY GRIFFITHS' TEAS

heard the moon has a curious effect on some people. Dear me; what tales the dear old moon could tell. I think the moon, from all accounts, is a bit of a tease, because it frightens some people dreadfully by suddenly popping out from behind dark clouds. I am awfully sorry there was no one about to get a snapshot of you when paddling. Next time someone asks you to say something funny, tell them not to be unreasonable, as you can't look sweet and be funny at the same time.—Uncle B.

LOVELIEST VILLAGE OF THE PLAIN.

Dora Howell, Westgate, Norval-street, Auburn, writes:—

Dear Uncle B.,—Haven't we been having some glorious rain. It's looking beautifully fresh and green up here now. It's still rather damp, however, as I nearly got bogged walking to our magnificent creek (most erroneously called "Duck River," for I've failed to see either "duck" or "river.") Nevertheless, judging by this afternoon, it affords good fun in the swimming line to some young people.

We moved into this place yesterday, so you can easily manage to realise the muddled up state of things generally. If this letter is dull, you can put it down to the effects of "moving," but if I didn't write to-night, I probably couldn't do so before Easter. I'm awfully busy just now, and tired out at night.

Yesterday afternoon, we (that is the Cathedral confirmees for the last couple of years) had our photos "took" just outside the Bathurst-street door of the Cathedral. I'm

afraid the photos. will be one broad grin, though, for we were all giggling at something or other (very likely nothing).

I've been to the White City once, and enjoyed it immensely. I think it's a great show (especially the joy wheel, "Where Time Flies," and the scenic railway).

Wasn't the Exeter smash a dreadful affair? I'm sorry for the driver. It seems hard to have to stand a trial for manslaughter in a case like that. One would think the knowledge that it was your train caused the death of so many sufficient punishment, but I suppose the authorities know best.

It's getting late, and I'm getting sleepy, so I'll say "Goodnight." With love to "cousins" and yourself. Your affectionate "niece."

(Dear Dora,—I think you ought to put in a postcard of "Duck River" for the beauty spot competition. I have not been to the White City, simply scared away because of its reputation as a place where money flies. I do hope Auburn will honor itself by a good No License Vote on the 25th April.—Uncle B.)

At a meeting of the New York Advertising Men's League, last month, 200 of them present, a health to President Wilson was drunk in water.

* * *

A three per cent. gain in scholarship is reported from Leland Stanford, Jr., University, by President David Starr Jordan, as a result of prohibiting liquor sales in the university's neighbourhood.

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HE UNDERSTOOD.

In London they tell of a certain distinguished statesman who is an optimist on all points save marriage.

One afternoon this statesman was proceeding along a country road when he saw a cottager eating his supper alone in the road before his dwelling.

"Why, Henry," asked the statesman, "why are you eating out here alone?"

"Well, sir, er—" the man stammered, "the—er—chimney smokes."

"That's too bad," said the statesman, his philanthropic sentiments at once being aroused. "I'll have it fixed for you. Let's have a look at it."

And before the cottager could stay him the statesman proceeded to enter the cottage. As soon as he had opened the door a broomstick fell upon his shoulders and a woman's voice shrieked:

"Back here again, are you, you old rascal! Clear out with you, or I'll—"

The statesman retired precipitately. The cottager sat in the road shaking his head in sorrow and embarrassment. The statesman bent over him, and laid his hand in kindly fashion on his arm.

"Never mind, Henry," said he, consolingly, "my chimney smokes sometimes, too."

* * *

"Pat," said the doctor, "your case is a very peculiar and baffling one, and if you'll agree, I'd like to call in another physician. Two heads are better than one, you know."

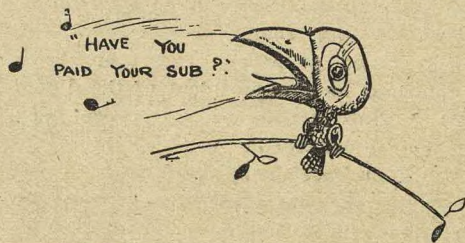
"Oi agree," returned the willing patient. "Sure, th' felly must be worth sein'. Bring in the doctor with the two heads!"

* * *

"What happened to Babylon?" asked the Sunday-school teacher. "It fell!" cried the pupil. "And what became of Nineveh?" "It was destroyed." "And what of Tyre?" "Punctured!"

THE "NIP."

A railway guard and a passenger had had "a few words," and the passenger resolved that he would "get even" with the guard. The evening air was chilly as the train drew up at a sleepy country station. "Guard," whispered the passenger, as that official passed his window, "would you like to take a nip?" The guard glanced furtively up and down the platform, and, seeing that the coast was clear, approached the carriage window. "I have no objection," he said; "it's very kind of you, sir." "Right you are!" said the passenger, producing his railway ticket; "take it out of this!"



HE WAS LITERARY.

"Colonel Brown seems to be very literary," remarked a visitor to the Brown household to the negro maid, glancing at a pile of magazines lying on the floor.

"Yas, ma'am," replied the ebony-faced girl, "yas, ma'am, he sholey am literary. He jes' nat'ally littahs things all ovah dis year house."

* * *

The naked truth is always more or less shocking.

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THE LINGERING DAWN.

Ah! The audience held their breath and simply thr-r-rilled as Bravado Jack, the hero, killed the last of the Indians. He staggered about, he almost fainted with the loss of blood. Then he gazed about him, and suddenly his voice rang out with hope. "See!" he cried. "The dawn breaks bright upon yon topmost heights!" The stage remained in almost total darkness. "See!" he yelled again. "The dawn breaks bright upon yon topmost heights!" Still darkness reigned. "The dawn! The dawn!" he screamed, raging about the stage. "It breaks! The dawn!" A head popped over the mountain top, and on the silence of the house broke the frenzied whisper, "Keep it up a bit, guv'nor, some darn fool's switched off the current!"

HE KNEW HIMSELF.

Bank Clerk: "You must get someone to identify you. Someone who knows that you are Michael Clancy."

Clancy: "Fwat's th' matter wid yez? Dont yez suppose Oi know who Oi am?"

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New Zealand Notes.

By R.Z.

The decrease of nearly a shilling per head in the New Zealand drink bill for last year is perturbing the minds of the local liquor people, for so long have they been telling the people that No-License meant more beer and pointing to the increased drink bill, that a decrease in any year is an awful spectre. In a telegram they transmitted through the press this week they say that the reduction last year was caused by commercial depression and lessened prosperity. When the drink bill shows an increase for any year the liquor people blame No-License; when the bill shows a falling-off, then other factors outside the No-License conditions have been responsible for it. See!

In the last two campaigns the Auckland temperance friends have published a paper called "The Home Journal." This was an effort to get at the doubtful voters by posting free to their homes a well-printed and excellently-edited paper containing much interesting matter outside the No-License subject. The Auckland people are evidently not satisfied that stories, home notes, etc. has been sufficiently attractive to warrant the cost of their inclusion, and for this campaign they have reverted back to the small fighting journal, wholly prohibition.

Strangely, the Christchurch organization have decided that instead of the usual small campaign paper they will, for this campaign, issue a pretentious journal for wide distribution. During the last fight in your State the Goulburn No-License Council made effective use of a four-page paper, ordinary newspaper size, ten issues of which was posted into all the homes of the district. But beside the Christchurch proposal the Goulburn paper scheme is a lilliputian effort.

The "New Zealand Public Opinion" is to have eight pages of ordinary newspaper size, with an inset of eight smaller pages about

the size of "Grit." Three pages only are to be devoted to the temperance question; three pages to political questions—one page to each party; two pages for magazine matter; and the eight-page inset for children's "copy." The object is to place one in every home in the province, with a guaranteed circulation of 30,000 papers each issue.

For the printer to fill such a stupendous order, it will take two and a half tons of paper to print each issue, and if the papers were placed side by side they would make a printed carpet 40 miles in length. The results of the venture will be watched with a deal of interest. Any of our friends can have "Public Opinion" posted to them for the year by sending 2s. 6d. to the secretary, Prohibition Rooms, Christchurch.

I recently met a gentleman who told me of an unusual experience which is of sufficient interest to pass on. Staying at an hotel one night in Orepuki he met a stranger who was telling those present how No-License failed to protect the young man. He told how he was president of the Junior Football Club in Gore, a No-License town. Not being a believer in "dry" conditions, he kept a well-stocked sideboard, and he said it was not uncommon for him to invite the lads of the club to his house for an evening, and on such occasions the young fellows were liberally provided with liquor. To conclusively prove the failure of No-License in Gore, he told how upon one occasion the lads got so drunk at his house that some of them were arrested on their way home.

My friend subsequently visited Gore, and heard the finish of the story. Temperance sentiment was so strong and moral indignation was so aroused by the contemptible conduct of the man that a deputation waited on him, and as he was not desirous of meeting them they left some signs of their visit by broken windows, etc. They otherwise

made conditions so warm that Mr. "Wet" found it wise to ship to another town. Here he has more freedom to tell of the failure (?) of No-License.

YES, WHY?

(Continued from Page 3.)

worry; ashamed of himself; a mystery to himself; aghast at his folly; amazed at the failure of his determination; having meant well; after several days' fight with temptation: "Drunk—beastly drunk," as he himself put it. "Why am I drunk?" he asked.

Why are others of his kind drunk? What is the cause. Where is the cure? Better, what is the preventive? There are weakness and blame-worthiness; yes, and a great deal of an unexplained something else. What is the secret of the terribly insidious power of this thing—the almost irresistible fascination for some in what they know to be their bane? No Temperance effort has bot-tomed it; little has been done beyond attempting to lay a plaster on a sore which is but an indication of some deep-seated unsoundness. The physiology, the psychology of it—what are they? They must be known before sure remedy or preventive can be applied. Reformers must dig deeper, and lay their account with that which as yet they only hazily feel its surface, without knowing much or thinking much about its root in the man.

The problem is heart-breaking, from any point of view. It is easy to find fault. Perhaps, as one felt after this conversation, a little endeavor to understand and sympathise may be a better thing. Meanwhile, that haunting refrain, "Why am I drunk?" Yes—why?—C. S. S., in "Methodist Recorder."

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

(Continued from Page 7.)

ing every year in the United States 30,000,000dol. for the maintenance of hospitals and such institutions for the care of these dependents. We spend 20,000,000dol. for insane asylums, 20,000,000dol. for almshouses, 13,000,000dol. for prisons, 5,000,000dol. for the feeble-minded, deaf, and blind. The 723,000 persons of this class cost us yearly nearly 100,000,000dol.

The specialists in insane institutions estimate that at least 25 per cent. of all who belong to this dependent class are what we know as alcoholics. And yet our cities and States are going ahead year after year licensing institutions to make dependents.—"New York Evening Journal," January 26, 1914.

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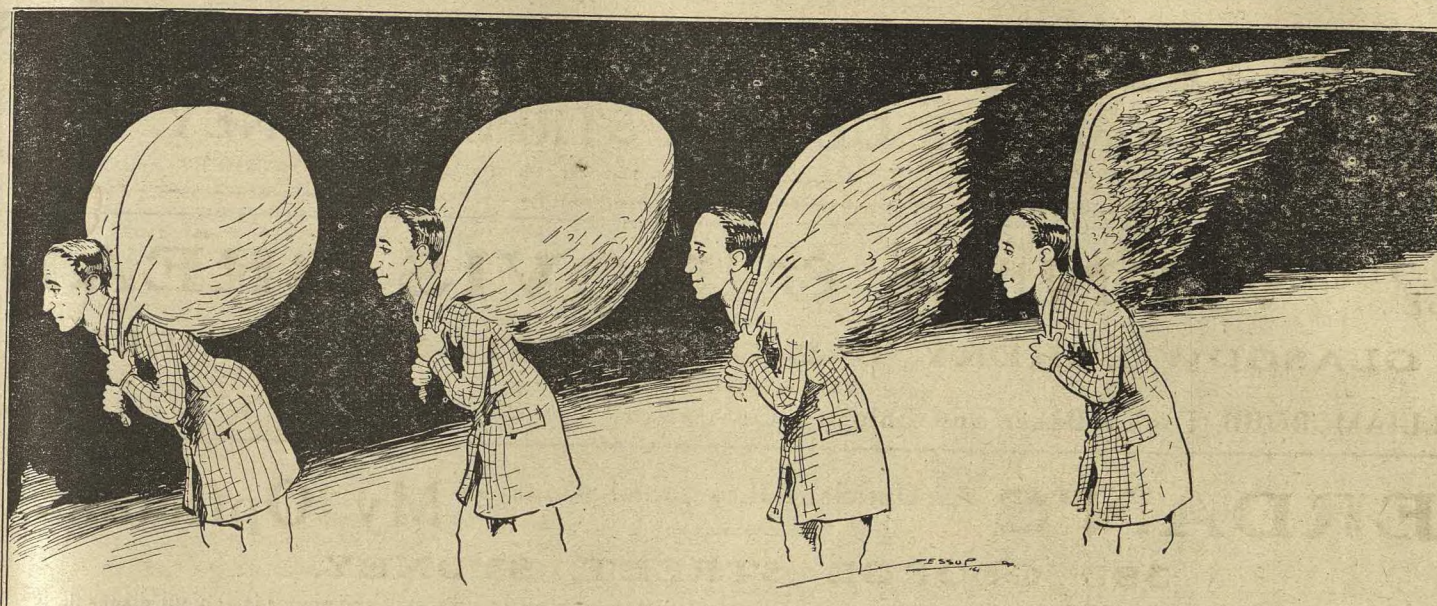
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Burdens That Become Wings

THE POWER OF CHRIST TO MAKE A SILK PURSE OUT OF A SOW'S EAR.

By THE PARSON.

There is no doubt that most people feel at some time the burden of life. The mental worry incidental to our business and our home responsibilities constitutes quite a burden with very many. Physical tiredness, resulting from the rush of life and its increasing restlessness, is undoubtedly a burden. Heart loneliness is a more common burden than is generally recognised. The defeat of the soul in its struggles against the flesh and in its efforts to resist the almost overpowering opposition of materialism is a burden we all have felt. The weakness we inherited, let it be either moral or physical, is a burden with a sting we usually feel, there is an element of injustice in it. Some seek relief in doing less, and their cry is for more leisure, shorter hours of work, and on turning to those who have their hearts desire in this way, we find they have only changed burdens and not got rid of them, and invariably their ennui shows the burden has not grown lighter. Others seek the "don't worry" way of relief, they take less trouble, let things slide, and fasten on themselves the burden of inferior work and "turned lessons."

Add your own peculiar burden to this list, and look the method you employ for relief fairly in the face and then listen to the Good News by Jesus Christ.

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM NATURE.

God is ever busy adjusting the balances and handing out compensations. The camel in the desert is compensated by the Divine provision whereby it is able to do without water for weeks and find nutriment in things upon which other animals would starve. The Arctic animals find that God has adjusted the balance for them, and their glorious fur enables them to live in comfort amidst the ice and snow. The oyster, when suffering from an irritating hurt, has the power to

cover it with a substance that converts it into a priceless pearl. Nature is full of illustrations, and they are in harmony with the experience of the men and women of all ages who have demonstrated that the weakest point may become the strongest, or in other words, their burdens may become wings. J. B. Gough, who knew the humiliating slavery of alcohol in an extreme way, found this burden converted into wings, when in the Providence of God his very shame became the reason for thousands going to hear him, and his very weakness gave him a power of appeal lacking in most temperance speakers. Every reader of these words will readily be able to recall the history of some person they have known who, like F. R. Havergal or Milton, made their burden of affliction wings with which to soar above the rest of mankind.

A BURDEN THAT BECAME A BRIDGE.

If you have ever on a lazy day, while lounging on the grass, watched an ant, you will follow my story of the burden that became a bridge with understanding. A small ant was tugging away at a straw at least twenty times his own length, and again and again he was thwarted and defeated in his progress. He stuck so tenaciously to his self-imposed task that I began to wish he was a member of my congregation. He soon came to a crack in the soil, at least five times his own length. He let go the straw, ran round and summed things up, and he might almost have been applauded for giving up such a hopeless task, but he set to work, pushed the straw ahead of him, made a bridge of it and ran over, and was soon joyfully tugging away at the burden that had become a bridge.

THE POWER OF CHRIST.

Our weakness is made perfect in God, and where sin abounded grace did much more

abound. To these statements millions bear witness, and if you will seek the will of God in His Word, and the power of a new life from the Redeemer you will learn that God's way of converting burdens into wings is by forgiving us our sins, and then our light-heartedness makes little of troubles. He gives us gracious promises until hope smiles at burdens and makes them stepping stones to higher things. He gives in Christ the friend that sticketh closer than a brother, and His constant companionship makes us forget the length of the road and the steepness of the hills.

Some people think that the best way for a man to be a "real good fellow" is to feed his wife and children on bread and dripping, and spend the remainder of his wages on beer-chewers like himself.

There is a "Don't Worry Club" at Windsor. It is now being reorganised for the summer season. Motor launch picnics are a special feature. One strict rule is that no intoxicating liquor shall be consumed by any member. If it were not for liquor, there would be quite a few people who would not have to worry, such as neglected wives and starving children, unpaid tradesmen and others.

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