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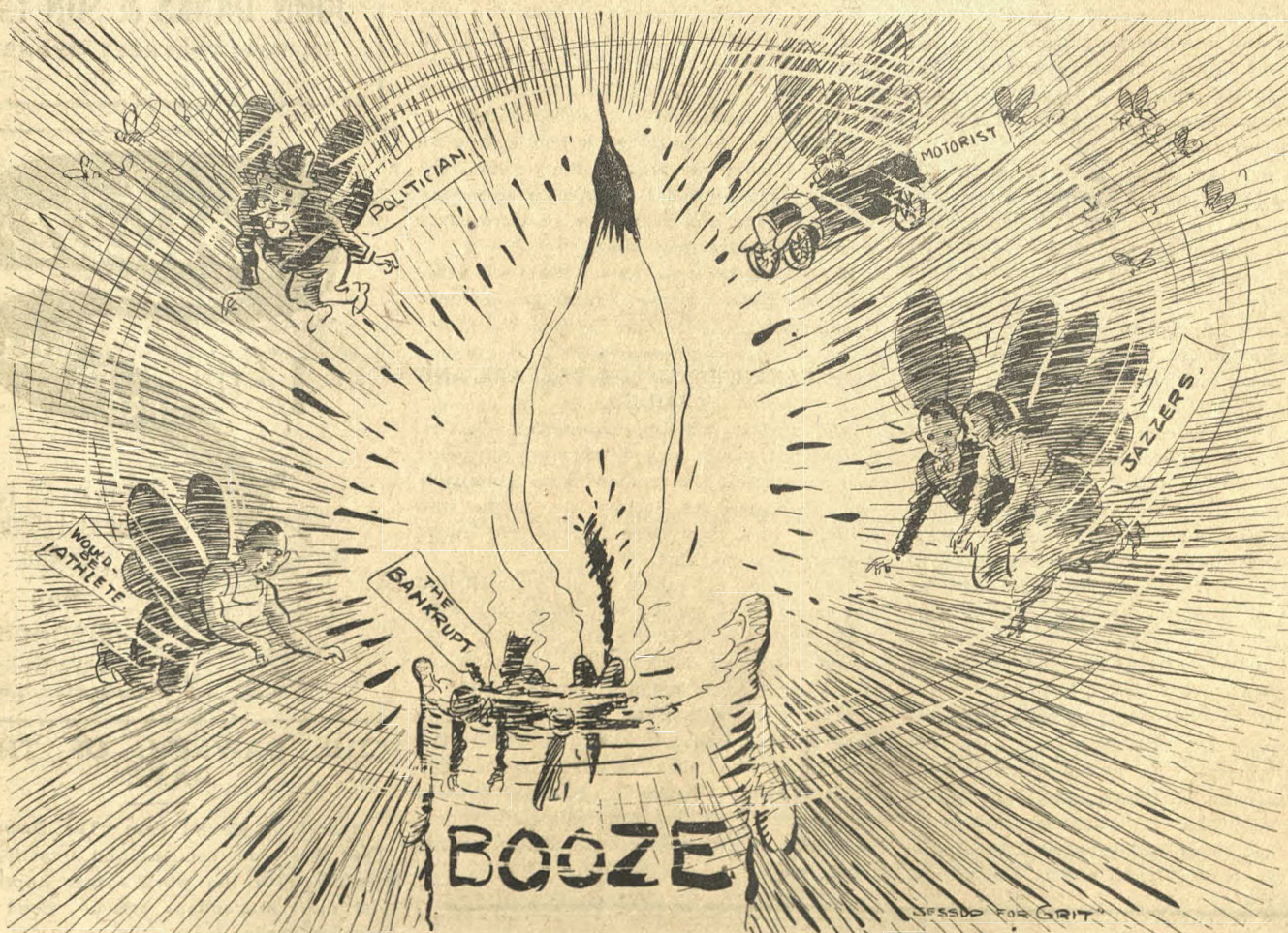
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THE FATAL CANDLE.

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HOW PROHIBITION WORKS.

DAILY PRESS, JANUARY 1st TO 10th, 1925.

PITTSBURGH HAS DRIEST NEW YEAR'S EVE IN HISTORY.

Pittsburgh experienced the driest New Year's Eve in its history. The central section was particularly arid. Managements of the larger places co-operated with agents sent out by Prohibition Chief Simons.

Plenty of entertainment was provided for those who sought it. Thousands jammed playhouses to witness midnight shows; hotels were packed with merrymakers, but in the most part sober guests. But the churches in Pittsburgh and religious organisations packed in the largest crowds of all. Watchnight services were held in churches throughout the city.—News Item, "Pittsburgh Post."

POLICE HEAD SEES GOOD EFFECTS OF NEW STATE LAW IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Declaration that the State "Volstead" Act, which went into effect less than a month ago, has greatly decreased the sale of intoxicants, and a recommendation that a jail sentence be imposed on every person found guilty of selling liquor of a poisonous nature, are important items in Police Commissioner's report to Governor Cox.

Discussing the liquor law, he says: "In effect less than a month, the results from the operation of the new State Volstead law have been instantaneous. The steady flow inland of liquor from the seaports has been considerably arrested, and interurban traffic in liquor now appears to be negligible.

"The police of the towns and cities bordering the coast line have taken advantage of this new legislation, and are seizing considerable quantities of liquor smuggled ashore. Those engaged in illegal liquor traffic are forced to adopt ingenious schemes and artifices to bring even small amounts of liquor into this city, inasmuch as police officers of this department are successful in discovering and exposing all such ruses."—News Item, Boston "Evening Transcript."

THREE DRY ARRESTS MARK NEW YEAR'S EVE IN CAPITAL.

Harry M. Luckett, chief of general Prohibition agents for this division, whose men kept a close watch on all the principal public dining halls in Washington New Year's Eve, declared that he was "agreeably surprised" that there had been so little drinking in the capital that night. Only three

arrests for drinking were made by his agents, Chief Luckett said.

An augmented force of agents had been gathered in Washington to keep a strict surveillance over the festivities of the holiday, and the men worked hard, watching all the principal gala parties in public, and the dining halls, where drinking might have been suspected.

"What we want, however," said Luckett, "is to stop drinking, not to see how many arrests we can make; so we are well pleased and satisfied with results. I was told by some who have been connected with enforcement of the law in Washington longer than I have been that this was the quietest New Year's Eve, as regards drinking, that the Capital has seen in years. I personally feel that there was definite improvement shown."—News Item, Washington (D.C.) "Post."

TIGHTEN DRY LAWS, SAYS NEW GOVERNOR.

Tom J. Terral, Governor of Arkansas, who was inaugurated January 5, has declared for a drastic tightening of the State Prohibition laws. Mr. Terral has announced that in his first message to the Legislature he will ask that the penalty for bootlegging be increased from one year in the penitentiary to five years, and that other laws governing manufacturing and possession of intoxicants be revised and strengthened.

Mr. Terral is a strong advocate of Temperance.—News Item, "Christian Science Monitor."

RUM FAKER FINED 1000 DOLLARS AND JAILED.

"Counterfeit whisky, counterfeit bottles, counterfeit corks and counterfeit wrappers and counterfeit Government strip stamps is what you used to deceive the public into thinking that they were getting real liquor instead of moonshine.

"You are an old saloon keeper yourself, and you know what whisky is. Would you willingly drink any of that stuff yourself? Or would you even drink ginger ale manufactured under such insanitary conditions?"

"You were willing to cheat the gullible good citizens who are willing to violate the law to get what they imagine to be holiday cheer."—Judge Charles C. Simons, Detroit, in sentencing William Rourbeck to 1000 dollars fine and two years in the Federal Penitentiary.

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ALCOHOL UNNECESSARY.

OPINIONS COLLECTED BY MARTHA M. ALLEN, NATIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, MEDICAL TEMPERANCE.

"I do not use whisky, brandy or wine in my medical practice, and I do not feel that the welfare of my patients has suffered as a consequence of this exclusion."—Dr. W. Wayne Babcock, Philadelphia.

"I have never found it necessary to use alcohol in the practice of medicine."—Dr. F. M. Pottinger, Monrovia, California.

"I scarcely, if ever, resort to alcohol in my practice."—Dr. Sherman G. Bonney, Denver, Colorado.

"It is many years since I prescribed a dose of alcohol in any form. There is no condition, in my opinion, in which its use is a benefit."—Dr. W. F. Milroy, Omaha, Nebraska.

"I have not for many years used any alcohol in the treatment of disease, as, in my opinion, its alleged therapeutic effects can be accomplished very much better by other means."—Dr. Thomas McCleave, Oakland, California.

"In my judgment alcohol has no practical value in the treatment of disease."—Dr. Walter L. Bierring, Des Moines, Iowa.

"I very seldom prescribe alcohol. Its use as a medicine is limited and decreasing."—Dr. H. B. Anderson, Toronto, Canada.

"Alcohol, even in the smallest doses, directly destroys all power of mental concentration that is necessary to original research work. Original ideas in science or in musical composition are prevented by the use of this substance."—Professor John C. Hemmeter, M.D., John Hopkins University Medical School, Baltimore, Maryland.

All the foregoing physicians quoted are members of the American Therapeutic Society, which a few years ago passed a resolution favoring alcohol as medicine. It is evident that all are not agreed on the value of alcohol. Prof. Hemmeter is himself a research worker.

A special question was asked of the two following named physicians as to pneumonia:

"For many years in which I was in active hospital and private practice I did not use whisky or any other alcohol-containing liquor in the treatment of pneumonia. This action was based upon an opinion gained by observation and experience."—Dr. Frank Billings, former dean of Rush Medical School, Chicago.

"Whisky is entirely unnecessary in the treatment of pneumonia except in the case of those who have been daily chronic users of alcoholics of some sort. I do not try to reform these men during a serious pneumonia, but apart from this, in a practice of over thirty years in Denver I have not made use of alcoholics of any sort in pneumonia because I have not felt that I was increasing my patients' chances of recovery by

their use."—Dr. Clinton G. Hickey, Denver, Colorado.

"Whisky has no rightful place in the treatment of disease."—Dr. Oscar Dowling, Shreveport, La., Secretary, State Board of Health.

"I have learned that alcoholics are not necessary in the sick room. A practice of forty years lends confirmation."—Dr. C. H. Oakes, Woodfords, Maine.

"I believe there are other drugs which may fully take the place of alcohol."—Dr. George H. Jones, Secretary, Missouri Board of Health.

"I am frank to say that if alcohol ever had any value as medicine I do not know what it is."—Dr. J. N. Jackson, Kansas City, Missouri.

"There is absolutely no place for alcoholic liquor in any form which cannot be replaced by something better and without danger to life or morals."—Dr. J. R. Bridges, Secretary, Clark County Medical Society, Kansas City, Missouri.

"I do not think alcohol necessary and scarcely ever desirable in the treatment of sickness. I am well content with the State law forbidding the sale of whisky as medicine."—Dr. L. A. Brown, Portland, Maine.

"I am glad to say that the laws of our State restricting the use of alcoholics are no handicap in my practice. I practised for twenty years under the impression that whisky or brandy was a necessity in certain cases. I know now that this was entirely erroneous, and for ten years I have seen no indication for the internal use of alcohol in sickness."—Dr. B. R. Veasey, Wilmington, Delaware.

"I feel quite confident that if the 'bone-dry' law existed throughout the country the medical profession would soon find remedies that would serve as well, maybe better, than alcoholic liquors."—Dr. G. W. Garrison, Little Rock, Arkansas, State Health Officer.

"I get along successfully without the use of alcohol as medicine. I do not consider that it has food value, and it has very little medicinal value."—Dr. F. G. Murray, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"If every one knew what alcohol is they would hesitate to drink it either as beverage or medicine. Alcohol is a toxin. It is a waste product thrown off from the bodies of bacteria (yeast) while these organisms are feeding on starches and sugar. Bacteria cause disease by means of their toxin. Alcohol being a toxin causes disease in the same manner as the toxin of any other disease-producing bacteria. When one drinks alcohol a waste product analogous to the waste products thrown off by the human body is being consumed. Alcohol is a narcotic sedative and not a stimulant except

LADIES—

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indirectly as an irritant. These are two interesting facts regarding alcohol not generally known. If they were of common knowledge I am sure the National Prohibition Amendment would be unnecessary."—Dr. Forrest C. Tyson, Augusta, Maine, Superintendent State Hospital.

"Personally, I see no necessity for the use of alcoholic liquors in the practice of medicine."—Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, President, American Medical Association, 1923.

"The facts as to the use of alcohol should be repeated and constantly presented before scientific medical bodies until the foolish old men who still cater to an alcoholised clientele cease to have their present influence towards an unintelligent medical practice and the perpetuation of a degrading custom."—From a professor in a leading medical college of an eastern State.

At the annual meeting of the American Medical Association in 1924 a resolution was introduced which declared alcohol to be "a necessity in certain diseases." This part of the resolution was voted down, leaving the resolution of that society passed in 1917 still standing as the opinion of that body, the declaration then being "The use of alcohol as a therapeutic agent should be discouraged."—"Union Signal."

TO PARENTS.

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

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FIELD DAY APPOINTMENTS.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1.

- 11 a.m.: Toronto Anglican Church.
3 p.m.: Blackall's Anglican Church.
7 p.m.: Teralba Anglican Church.
Mr. C. W. Chandler.
11 a.m.: Toronto Methodist Church.
Rev. H. Putland.
7.15 p.m.: Mortdale Baptist Church.
Mr. Wm. Bain.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8.

- 11 a.m.: Gowrie Anglican Church.
3 p.m.: Currabubula Anglican Church.
7.30 p.m.: Werris Creek Anglican Church.
Mr. C. W. Chandler.
11 a.m.: Quirindi Methodist Church.
7.15 p.m.: Werris Creek Methodist Church.
Rev. H. Putland.
7 p.m.: Leichhardt Congregational Church.
Mr. Wm. Bain.
11 a.m.: Greenwich Congregational Church.
3 p.m.: Ermington Presbyterian Church.
7.15 p.m.: Eastwood Presbyterian Church.
Mr. H. C. Stitt.
11 a.m.: Quirindi Presbyterian Church.
Mr. C. E. Still.

ALLIANCE NEWS AND NOTES.

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

H. C. STITT.

CHURCH SERVICES.—On Sunday, February 15, the Rev. Thomas Walker held special services on the southern line. Mr. C. W. Chandler was in the South Coast district, and conducted special Prohibition services in the Wollongong Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, and also at Balgowna, well-attended meetings being reported. Mr. H. C. Stitt was the preacher at the Botany Presbyterian Church, where there was a good congregation and enjoyable fellowship.

HON. THOMAS WALKER, M.L.A.—The Hon. Thomas Walker has made a lasting impression on his Sydney audiences. A pleasing personality, unbounding faith in the success of Prohibition and an interesting and impassioned presentation of his observations and experiences at once command attention. The lecturer has certainly combed America for information. He has the goods and knows how to deliver them. Mr. Walker stresses the point that during his investigation in U.S.A. and Canada he refused to listen to opinions and notions. "Show me the facts," the speaker stated, was the guiding principle of his survey of the effects of Prohibition. Mr. Walker had very successful services on Sunday in the C.M.M. Lyceum and also at St. Barnabas' Church. The public meetings at Wollongong, Lindfield and Parramatta were well attended, and the lecture was very much appreciated by audiences, who signified their commendation by substantial offerings to the Prohibition Movement. The Business Men's lunch was a huge success, and Mr. Walker's after-dinner Prohibition speech was an inspiration.

RAILWAY ADVERTISEMENTS.—Referring further to our comments on the part of the Railway Commissioners in refusing the Alliance to display a sign on the Lindfield station announcing the lecture of the Hon. Thomas Walker, it will interest our readers to learn that, among other posters

on that station, there are eight liquor advertisements. Lindfield is probably one of the prettiest and most popular suburbs of Sydney, and is free from the liquor nuisance and its attendant hums. The Commissioners do not object to the children who use that station being reminded by four separate displays that a certain brand of grog is good for the sake of health, but a notice containing the information that an address would be delivered on "Travels in U.S.A. and Canada" must not be permitted. The suburban railway stations are being extensively used, and rightly so, as an advertising medium of local events, and a substantial revenue is obtained in this way. Much indignation has been expressed by this unwarranted and unexplained discrimination used against the law-abiding community who compose the Prohibition Movement. For the information of our readers we again print the proposed sign, and add the letter received from the Railway Department:—

PUBLIC ADDRESS.

HONORABLE THOMAS WALKER, M.L.A.,
SPEAKER, WEST AUSTRALIA.
METHODIST HALL, LINDFIELD.
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, 8 p.m.
"TRAVELS IN U.S.A. AND CANADA."

(Copy.)

Office of the Director of Advertising,
Central Railway Station,
Sydney, Feb. 14, 1925.

H. C. Stitt, Esq., State Superintendent, New South Wales Alliance, 321 Pitt-street, Sydney.

Dear Sir,—With reference to your communication of the 10th instant, regarding the display of a calico sign on Lindfield railway station, the matter has had the consideration of the Commissioners, but it is regretted that your request cannot be granted.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. CARROLL, Director.

THANKS.—Letters expressing appreciation quite frequently reach this office. No appeal for funds was made at the Business Men's lunch by Mr. Walker, M.L.A., yet, notwithstanding that, cheques quite unexpectedly were received amounting to £5/15/-.

IRONY OF FATE.—On this page, dated last October 9 and 16, I cautioned our readers (with good effect) to be on their guard against a secretly-distributed and unsigned leaflet which was being circulated by post, and which evidently was designed to stab the Alliance in the back. The broadcasting of those 3000 leaflets, in consequence of that warning, proved to be the greatest dud and fiasco one could imagine. There the incident ended so far as we, in our generosity, were concerned, but the irony of it all (or the humor of it) was that this week the bill, amounting to £2/17/6, has been sent to the Alliance for payment, and so we have unexpectedly discovered the instigator. "Be sure your sins will find you out."

ANNUAL MEETING.—The financial year of the Alliance closes at the end of March. The annual meeting follows as soon afterwards as practicable. All subscribing members are entitled to be present and take an active part in the business. The annual report and balance sheet will be presented. The actual place and date of meeting will be notified early, and members are urged to attend and show a real interest in the business affairs of their organisation.

OPEN-AIR CAMPAIGN.—The additional Field Staff men will commence duty next month. Arrangements are being made to enter on a more extensive campaign of open-

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air educational propaganda. The staff should then be able to conduct three meetings each Friday evening. The policy also includes open-air meetings in country towns where Sunday services are planned.

VICTORY PLEDGE CAMPAIGN.—The quantity of these that are coming to hand is increasing. We would be pleased if our workers who hold completed cards of ten or over would post them for tabulating purposes.

OUR BRANCHES.—We anticipate that all Branches will be seized with the importance of re-energising their forces in view of the approaching State elections. Where the distance is reasonable, should the Branches organise an open-air meeting, we will undertake to supply two Staff speakers to help. Can we assist you in any way to organise a new branch in your district? If so, communicate with the Alliance immediately.

PERSONAL.—Miss E. Smith, who has been on the staff as typist for three years, has resigned. Prior to saying farewell the staff presented Miss Smith with a beautiful xylonite clock.

HEALTH AND TEMPERANCE.—The Minister for Education (Mr. Bruntell) has approved of examinations being held in the public schools every December on subjects covering health and temperance. The New South Wales Alliance has promised 30 book prizes, distributed equally among boys and girls. For the best paper on the subjects the prize will be a gold medal, known as the Mitchell gold medal. Certificates will be issued to all children who obtain 60 per cent. of the total marks. The Alliance Director of the Young People's Department is Mr. W. H. Mitchell, who is also a member of the Executive Committee. Mr. Mitchell's labors were so successful last year that there were over 1200 entrants.

"GRIT" SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Received to 20/2/25, and where not mentioned the amount received is 10s.: J. Miller, 30/12/24; Mrs. Pryse, 30/12/25, and 8s. 8d. educational; Mrs. J. S. Reid, £1, 30/12/25; F. M. Gill, £1 5s. 6d., 30/9/25; Mrs. Mason, N.Z., 11s. 6d., 30/12/25; Mrs. Grant, 30/1/26; Miss Winton, 30/12/25; H. Gray, £1 10s., 30/12/25; J. Barling, £1, 30/6/26; Mrs. Horne, 2s. 6d., 4/5/25; Mrs. Petrie, 30/12/25.

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PASS "GRIT" ON.

WHAT IS THE LIBERTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL ?

MR. WALKER'S STRIKING ADDRESS IN ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH.

On the evening of Sunday, 15th instant, Mr. Walker delivered a striking address on the true meaning of the liberty of the subject in relation to Prohibition at St. Barnabas' Church by invitation of the rector, Rev. R. B. S. Hammond, in the presence of a very large congregation.

Speaking with quiet emphasis and in choice language, Mr. Walker said there are those who tell us that Prohibition annihilated personal liberty. It was curious to note that the opponents of Prohibition never attempted to defend alcohol as a beverage, or to declare that alcohol was in danger; they preferred some other line of advance, and so they told us that liberty was in danger. But what was this liberty of which they spoke? In no civilised community nowadays did the individual stand by himself. Even on his lonely island, Robinson Crusoe, so soon as the man Friday appeared, had to begin to consider the rights and privileges of Friday—the rights and privileges of the other fellow. It was possible that a selfish bachelor might prate of personal liberty, but so soon as he took to himself a wife and had children, he had to consider them, and they did not let him forget it. Did we owe nothing to the community in which we lived? The pleasures, comforts and enjoyments of life to-day—were not these the products of centuries of effort on the part of countless millions of people? How many men, left to their own resources, could even make the garments they wore? The fact was that others worked for each of us, and we had to work for them. Our lives were not our own to the exclusion of all extraneous considerations; on the contrary, we formed one great interdependent brotherhood. Therefore, the duty of every citizen was to say to himself: "If what I drink proves a stumbling block to my fellow man, it may be that I am doing a possibly great wrong." The publicans would be justly shocked if filth were permitted to lie about in public or even private places, if the tradesmen were permitted to sell bad food, if the milk was dirty, if persons suffering from contagious diseases were not quarantined. Yet regulations to restrain these objectionable things all constituted prohibitions which were infringements of liberty. We accepted them because we knew very well that it was impossible to live in a community without linking ourselves up with the welfare of that community. And thus, with advancing civilisation, the habits of centuries had been restrained or abolished wherever it was found that they threatened the welfare of the community.

IN MODERATION.

Individual or personal liberty in a civilised community, said Mr. Walker, was nothing more than the right to do what you liked so long as you did no injury to yourself or to others. If, then, it could be shown that drinking did harm to self and to others, drinking must be held to be wrong, and ought to be restrained. It was asserted that there was no harm in drinking alcohol in moderation. There were some things that could not be done in moderation. You could not commit suicide in moderation; you could not be virtuous in moderation; you could not tell the truth in moderation. The first drink of an alcoholic beverage was drinking alcohol in excess, because it was the introduction of a poison into the system, and while you

can poison yourself moderately, it is not right to poison yourself at all. The avoidable expenditure in hospitals, jails and charities that it imposed upon the community rendered its abolition a matter of direct public interest. When we contemplated the distress, misery and suffering entailed in the use of alcohol, it was the plain duty of even the moderate drinker, who apparently could take it without visible harm to himself, to refrain from doing so for the sake of others. To-day the medical profession as a whole denied the utility of alcohol even as a medicine, and Dr. Saleeby had declared that its consumption involved the deterioration even of the generation yet unborn. It was a racial poison, no less. He knew of nothing so terrible in its possible consequences.

THE CONVERSION OF A LABOR LEADER.

Mr. Walker said he entertained no hatred or spleen against the victims of the malady of intemperance. The power to resist ceased to exist, and the only way to cure intemperance was to remove the evil which made it possible. It should be removed if only for the sake of the children whom we should bless with the gift of sobriety. The old topers would go in time, just as the pirates and the slave-owners of old had gone. The proof of the pudding was, after all, in the eating, and the fact had to be accepted that the results of Prohibition in the United States had surpassed the most sanguine dreams. Mr. Greer, Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, had for many years fought Prohibition, because he had thought it would be productive of widespread unemployment. Then he changed his views, and now declared that the beneficial results for the workers were amazing. The membership of Trades Unions in America had more than doubled; wages had risen; the dignity and intelligence of the working class had improved; an increasing number owned their own homes and automobiles; school attendances had improved; deposits in the savings banks had multiplied; the workers had become politically independent now their politics were no longer controlled by the saloons, now they were no longer the slaves of the liquor traffic which, in the past, had been the principal agent in maintaining low rates of wages. Since the advent of Prohibition, the American Federation of Labor had grown more than during 41 previous years of effort, and from two and three-quarters the ranks of organised Labor had swollen to eight and a-half millions. To-day, the American working man had higher ideals and a better home life, and the outlook for his children was brighter than ever before. It was safe to say that Labor would uphold Prohibition by an overwhelming majority. He wanted to see the same state of things obtain in Australia, and thus make possible the realisation of the earnest prayer of all Christian people: "Thy Kingdom Come." How could they hope for it amidst the clash of classes, the brawls of drunkenness, the intoxication of mind and character, the sordid conditions which the drink traffic helped to perpetuate?

ALCOHOL A DISTURBING FACTOR IN LIFE.

That alcohol is "an interfering factor in life—a disturbing factor" is the statement of "How to Live," the monthly journal of the Life Extension Institute. In commenting favorably on an article in a recent number of the "Scientific Monthly," by Dr. J. Frank Daniel of the University of California, the Life Extension paper says:

"We have repeatedly pointed out that alcohol when tested by all the standards that should be observed in the identification of a normal food, fails in fulfilling some requirement. Many writers still continue to emphasise the fact that approximately 98 per cent. of alcohol consumed in moderate quantities is completely burned in the body. They assume that oxidation and the immediate availability of alcohol for energy purposes is the only test by which it should be measured as a food. The fallacies underlying this argument are clearly presented in Dr. Daniel's summary; but more emphasis might be laid on the statement that its employment, even as a fuel for immediate use, is conditioned by the amount that can be used without disturbing the nervous balance.

"In discussions of the possible effects of alcohol too much stress has in the past been laid upon its chemical effect on the tissues and not enough attention paid to its influence on the functions of the brain and nervous system, and therefore on conduct. Alcohol is an interfering factor in life—a disturbing factor. It is practically never taken for its food value but for its effect on the brain and nervous system. It has been prescribed fairly frequently for its food value in acute disease when it was necessary to find a temporary source of energy; but even in this relationship there has been a decided change in medical practice, and the by-effects of alcohol on the circulation and nervous system and the danger of habit-formation, especially during convalescence from disease, has greatly restricted its use as a medicine.

"Alcohol circulating without restriction among any considerable group of people is a definite liability, not only because its persistent use may damage the tissues of the body, but because of its influence on the standards of living, and particularly because of its insidious influence as a substitute for normal, constructive forms of recreation and life easement. Alcohol will perform certain services in life easement, but it always exacts payment of some kind—the degree and kind of payment varying with the constitution and heredity of the individual.

"After all, the old saying that 'Alcohol if a food is a poisoned food' is well supported by scientific evidence."

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DO NEW ZEALAND BARMAIDS DIE?

Central Railway Station Wine Bar.—Fierce Street Brawl.

THE FLYING GANG. The police continue to be busy in raiding night clubs, cafes, restaurants and other numerous places where, under license, sly grog doth abound by night. There is a special body of police detailed for this work, and they have come to be known as the flying gang, the decoys being described as the "mystery woman" and the "mystery policeman." It is all very spookish and helps to remind us of the spooks appointed many months ago, and since all but forgotten. This unwonted police activity is gratifying, and serves to dispose of the contention that Prohibition breeds lawlessness. If there is more lawlessness under Prohibition than there is under license, the impossible must be possible. During the week the police raided the Casino Cafe at Bondi, and the Roma Cafe in Pitt-street, and secured the usual hauls. In the case of the Roma, Florence Humphries, proprietress, and Elsie Parnes, waitress, were subsequently fined £30 each, in default four months' imprisonment.

SELLING COCAINE. Recently Thomas Montague Burgess, chemist, carrying on business in Crown-street, was fined £10 and costs on each of two charges of selling cocaine in wrappers not bearing his name and address, and the word "Poison." Counsel said the offence was only a technical one, as defendant was a licensed chemist, but the police declared that he had been regularly selling cocaine to drug addicts. Now, nobody approves of the selling of drugs to addicts. We are all agreed that absolute Prohibition should prevail in this matter. But when it comes to prohibiting alcohol, a different attitude is taken up. Alcohol is a deleterious drug, and the evil consequences which have resulted from its sale are ten thousand times greater than those which have ensued from the drug habit. Every argument which can be adduced for the prohibition of the sale of drugs applies, therefore, with a thousand-fold force to the sale of alcohol as a beverage; yet such are the financial interests involved, that the simplest issues affecting the safety and welfare of the community can be successfully confused.

DENS OF INIQUITY.

According to the "Daily Telegraph" many of these night cafes are veritable dens of iniquity. On the authority of an experienced police officer, the paper says that if the public knew what goes on in those places they would not ask why they are always being raided. The police officer in question declared that there were cafes in the heart of the city which were just havens for criminals and undesirable women, and markets for the sale of cocaine. "Snow-runners," as the traders in cocaine are called, just abound there, and cases have come to light where unfortunate girls under the influence of drink have been converted into incurable dope fiends.

One cafe has a particularly bad reputation. Investigation into the "professions" of the habitués of the place, made one night recently, disclosed the following statistics: The number of customers was thirty-two—seventeen men and fifteen women. Of the men nine were previously convicted criminals (three of them at that time being on

bail pending criminal charges), and four others were suspected by the police. The remainder were casual visitors. Of the women, eight at some time or other had been convicted at the Central Police Court. Five of them, and three others, were addicted to cocaine, and two were surreptitiously selling the drug to addicts. Another cafe was conducted by a man well known to the police, and he is said to have made a small fortune through selling cocaine to his patrons.

NOT FAR ENOUGH.

This story is good as far as it goes, but it does not go far enough. The "Daily Telegraph" discloses a terrible evil—and then, instead of pursuing it, closes right up on it and says no more. Surely that does not indicate a sense of responsibility to the public. If the statements published by the paper on the authority of a police witness are true, ought not the paper to have followed them up with such an exposition as would have called for an exhaustive inquiry and a thorough purging of the city? Here was a sensational story of such a character as, under ordinary circumstances, would furnish columns of good copy. Yet the paper does not pursue its investigations. Who closed the mouth of the "Daily Telegraph"? One of the evening papers described the story as "Bunk." The next day the "Daily Telegraph" was righteously indignant, and declared that "this paper realises that it has a public duty to perform, etc." Why, then, in the name of all that is rational, does it not perform that duty and thoroughly cleanse up the scandal instead of merely making one allusion to it in general terms, and then wrapping itself in impenetrable silence?

DO BARMAIDS DIE?

According to the "Guardian," barmaids in New Zealand never die,—that is, according to the official lists. In New Zealand they have registration, a system designed to bring about the gradual abolition of barmaids, as no new ones could be registered. When the official lists were compiled there were 1269 barmaids. The first session of Parliament, after registration came into force, Mr. L. M. Isitt, M.P., described by the paper as the New Zealand counterpart of the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond, asked eagerly how many barmaids were left. "1269" was the answer. Old age, disease, and marriage seemed to pass them by. But, thought Mr. Isitt, perhaps the luck would be better next year. It wasn't. Still the answer came, "1269." Almost Mr. Isitt was in danger of thinking there might be something life-sustaining in beer. But when, year after year, the tally remained unchanged, Mr. Isitt's patience turned to suspicion. And that was how the long life of the registered barmaid was explained—the old names did not die with the deaths of the owners. They passed as treasured possessions to younger shoulders. Each year now the decrease is as natural as the police can make it. So that a census just announced shows that only 220 of the original list remain on duty. Time will come when, haggard and toothless, some old dame will make a fortune. Every city hotelkeeper in New Zealand will be bidding fabulous sums for the services of the sole survivor of the original 1269.

RAILWAY WINE BAR.

Recently the Next Step Movement sent a deputation to the Minister of Railways to complain of the presence of a wine bar on the main assembly platform at the Central Railway Station, and Mr. Ball promised to refer the matter to the Commissioners who control the railway system, with a view to seeing whether the abuses complained of could not be remedied. Mr. Albert Lane, M.P., who introduced the deputation, said they admitted it was the custom to cater for long-distance travellers, but they claimed that the bar on the assembly platform was used by suburban travellers, and was frequented by the young men and women of the city, who, in many instances, learnt how to drink. In spite of the fact that the Licenses Reduction Board had been cutting out wine bars, the Railway Commissioners had opened a bar on the main platform, between the luncheon room and the cafe. It was a small building, but it was always crowded. It was a curious thing that the Railway Commissioners should be allowed to employ young girls to serve in this bar, when the right had been denied, except in cases of near relationship, to others who conducted wine bars. In addition, he had been informed that these girls were paid 33/6 a week as counter hands, when the award rate for barmaids was £3. It had been stated that the wine industry meant much to the returned soldiers, but he was of the opinion that it was in the interests of wealthy manufacturers, who had induced the soldiers to become growers.

FIERCE STREET BRAWL.

Recently some comment appeared in this page upon the supposed tendency of drinking to promote conviviality and goodfellowship. Evidence of how it does so continues to accumulate in the columns of the daily press. Thus, according to one of the newspapers, on a recent evening, stones, bottles, and other implements were used in a fierce street brawl between two rival gangs in Oxford-street, Darlinghurst. The brawl originated out of a previous quarrel between men from each mob, and on the evening in question, so it is stated, the larrikins met. No doubt, they were well primed beforehand, which would account for the bottles. Anyway, a pitched battle ensued. The shouts of the men and the crash of breaking bottles caused great alarm amongst residents in the locality, and several spectators got into communication with the Darlinghurst police. For a long time the men fought in the street, well over 100, it is believed, being concerned in the fracas. They are supposed to be members of gangs hailing from Woolloomooloo and Surry Hills. Constables Moore and Booth were despatched to the scene, but before they arrived the gangs had disappeared. Most of the men ran away in the direction of Surry Hills, while a number, including several who, it is alleged, were more or less seriously injured, disappeared into nearby houses.

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THE BENEFITS OF PROHIBITION.

PUBLIC LUNCHEON TO HON. T. WALKER AT FARMER'S.

On Tuesday, 17th instant, the Hon. T. Walker, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, was entertained at a public luncheon in Farmer's restaurant. The occasion brought together a large and distinguished company of people, more than one hundred in number, including well-known divines, members of Parliament, professional men, business men and journalists. The Hon. Daniel Levy, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, was in the chair, and had Mr. Walker on his right. He was supported on his left by the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond, President of the New South Wales Alliance. Amongst those present were: Hon. G. Black, M.L.C., the Hon. H. D. McIntosh, M.L.C., Dr. Arthur, M.L.A., Messrs. Hoskins, Arkins, Hill, Doe, Lane, and Sir Thomas Henley, Ms.L.A., the Hon. Arthur Griffith, W. G. Layton, A. Hinchcliffe, Rev. Dr. Rowe, Rev. Dr. Carruthers, E. J. Coote, Brigadier Cross, Colonel Fisher, Rev. Dr. Dey, J. K. Heydon, W. Cresswell O'Reilly, E. H. Tebbutt, J. W. Roseby, H. M. Hawkins, W. A. Lloyd, R. L. Price (Auckland), W. J. Bradley, Alderman Jackaman, and R. A. Dallen. After an excellent luncheon the loyal toast was honored in aqua pura.

THE MOST IMPORTANT WORK.

In introducing the guest of the day, the Hon. D. Levy recalled the fact that forty years ago Mr. Walker was well known as a freethought lecturer in Sydney, and as member for the old constituency of Northumberland in the Parliament of New South Wales. In 1905 he went to Western Australia where, for 20 years continuously, he had represented the same constituency in the Parliament of that State. Mr. Walker had been, and still was, a conspicuous figure, in the public life of the West, where he had been successively Minister of Justice, Minister of Education, Attorney-General and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. But, great as had been his services in those several offices, they were dwarfed in importance by his work in the cause of Temperance, to which he had devoted himself in order to promote the elevation of his fellow men. He had now come on a visit to New South Wales to help by means of a series of lectures in advancing the cause in this State. He had, on behalf of the Government of Western Australia, visited the United States to study the effects of Prohibition there. He (the speaker) confessed that he was interested to secure reliable information as to the results of Prohibition in America. Such a man as Mr. Walker was entitled to be listened to with respect and confidence, and there could be no room to doubt that his visit to New South Wales would have a salutary effect.

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT.

The Hon. T. Walker, who was received with applause, said it was a high honor to be entertained in that fashion by the people of New South Wales. The thing that had impressed him most upon his return to Sydney was that this city in manifold ways was becoming Americanised. We seem to welcome and adopt many of their inventions and ways and reserve our prejudice and our sneers for its greatest undertaking, and his highest achievement, viz., Prohibition. He had noticed that when he referred to the courage of the American people in adopting Prohibition, he was often met with pooh-poohs and talk about American "fads" and "ideals." He had visited the United States at the request of the Government of Western Australia to study the effects of Prohibition there. He had done so with an open mind, for he did not desire, any more than other people, to miss the good things of life. If the beverage use of alcohol was good—if it did produce benefits—why, then, he would not wish to see it banished. The chairman had referred to the fact that he (the speaker) had in the old days been a freethought lecturer. What he wanted to-day was freethought on this great question of Prohibition. (Applause.) He had traversed the whole of the United States, cities, villages and country side, north and south, east and west. He had been on the lookout for the bootlegger, the drunkard, and the moonshine of which he had been told so much.

NOT A SINGLE DRUNK.

"Let me tell you," he said, "that during the whole of my travels in the United States I never saw one drunken man." (Applause.) That, in itself, was a wonderful testimony to the effect of Prohibition. In some quar-

ters he had heard it said that the last state of America, as the result of Prohibition, was worse than the first. That was a falsity, which proceeded from those who had financial interests in the restoration of the liquor traffic. Of course, it was not always possible to get people to tell the whole truth about the benefits of Prohibition in America; they were afraid. For instance, in Pretoria, which had been the greatest whisky distilling city in America, the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce was hesitant, the reason being that the old whisky barons were still members of the Chamber, and the previous secretary had been "sacked" for telling the truth. But, none the less, the progress there under Prohibition was unmistakable. The old distilleries had been converted into food manufactories, and, whereas, before Prohibition, they employed a thousand men, to-day those factories employed four thousand men and the quantity of food produced was so great that there was difficulty in getting enough freight cars on the railways to carry their products to the markets. Exactly the same state of affairs prevailed in Milwaukee, the great beer-brewing town, but they would be more interested to hear the effect of Prohibition in Arizona, the great mining centre.

AMONG THE MINERS.

The manager of the great copper mines there had told him that the workers had benefited in every conceivable way, buying their own homes and owning their own automobiles, since the advent of Prohibition, and this testimony had been confirmed by the head of the police, who had told him of diminished crime, poverty and distress. Everywhere in the United States the same tale was told. They heard sometimes that Prohibition was an infringement of personal liberty, but that argument failed to cut any ice in America. The American people were the freest people in the world, and their ideals of freedom were built on the statesmanship of such men as Washington and Abraham Lincoln. It was because they were

(Continued on page 12.)

SPECIAL OCCASIONS DEMAND

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SPECIAL AFTERNOON

TEA

A Personal Chat with my readers

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

The Hon. T. Walker is a distinguished gentleman. He was three times returned to the Parliament of New South Wales. He went to West Australia and for 20 years has been returned to Parliament by the same constituents as a Labor representative. He has held the portfolio of Minister for Education, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, and now occupies the dignified and responsible position of Speaker of the House. He is a lawyer by profession; temperamentally, he is an altruist; by gift he is an orator, and he is what Americans call a "good mixer" and excellent company. While a "dyed in the wool" Labor politician in the best meaning of the word, he was chosen by the National Government to visit North America and investigate the conditions of that country under Prohibition.

His report to the Government was exhaustive, and supported by voluminous authoritative evidence, and his judicial verdict was, without reservation, favorable to Prohibition.

Recalling the courtesies extended to me while travelling in U.S.A. and Canada with the hospitality and official care, I view with distress the lack of all these things in connection with Mr. Walker's visit. A lunch attended by 97 members of Parliament and prominent citizens might seem a pleasing recognition of this man of unusual gifts, but, like all other functions, it reveals us as a people sadly lacking in manners.

No less than 121 public men, chosen because of some evident sympathies with Mr. Walker's politics, humanitarian undertakings or personal associations, entirely ignored the invitation to lunch.

The Lord Mayor (Alderman Stokes), a Labor leader, was asked to honor this distinguished Labor visitor with a civic reception, but this made no appeal to him, and only after repeated requests was any reply obtained—just "too busy."

The daily press showed a great want of discrimination. The Prohibition question is one of very wide interest, affecting an immense number of people. The Speaker was the only politician ever commissioned by an Australian Government to investigate Prohibition and report on it. The company in which the speech was made was unusually distinguished.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" gave a half-column report, that was fair and accurate.

The "Daily Telegraph" devoted a few inches on a back page, and prejudiced the brief statement by the heading, "No Boot-leggers," something Mr. Walker never said.

This report was inadequate and inaccurate.

The "Guardian" did not report the meeting—merely referring to it in its usual superficial and personal way.

The "Labor Daily" ignored it altogether.

The "Sun" and the "News" both rushed brief statements into their late editions, which were at least as fair as such very brief statements could possibly be.

Lunacy may be defined as a lack of power to co-ordinate ideas, and a placing of the emphasis wrongly to the exclusion of other modifying facts.

Under such a definition, our papers may be easily proved to be lunatic. The trivial is misplaced and magnified, accuracy gives place to piquancy, and the educational journalist is supplanted by the impressionist.

A SPIRITUAL ASSET.

The "American Issue" says: "Is it not true, as the Reverend George Zurcher, the Catholic priest of North Evans, New York, says, that we usually appraise Prohibition in terms of financial and economic gain, and overlook it as a spiritual asset?"

"Father Zurcher goes on to recount the benefits Prohibition activities have brought to him personally in his long and arduous career devoted to the temperance cause, and among them he enumerates being able to bring 'some of God's distracted children to know and esteem one another, according to Christ's prayer 'that they may be one, as Thou Father in Me, and I in Thee.'"

"He suggests as a wholesome panacea for the present religious misunderstandings that Catholics and Protestants work together for Prohibition. 'Why not,' he asks his Catholic brethren, 'wholeheartedly accept Prohibition as the most available and decisive peace-maker between Catholics and non-Catholics?'"

"A cause which promotes the welfare of women and children, which helps the poor and down-trodden, which is designed to better the human race is surely a common meeting ground for men and women of all faiths.

"Father Zurcher has proved by his own life that the communion of human interests transcends differences of creed and dogma, and brings those who work together for humanity into a closer understanding and Union."

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

founded so long ago as 1873.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is little known, in spite of its good work and the fact that it was

GRIT

A JOURNAL OF
NATIONAL EFFICIENCY
AND PROHIBITION

SYDNEY, THURSDAY, FEB. 26, 1925.

Just glance at some of the things for which it is responsible:

It has established Humane Sunday and "Be-Kind-to-Animals" Week throughout the State, also Animals' Day in the colleges and public schools.

Employs four inspectors—returned men—at a total cost of over £1000 per annum. One of these men is a travelling inspector of stock.

Has a convalescent home for horses at Little Bay and the dogs' home at Waterloo. Caretakers at each are also returned men. (These are in addition to inspectors.)

Erects troughs for horses and dogs wherever possible.

Inspects stock when in transit by rail, stables, piggeries, slaughter yards, markets, wharves, etc.

Investigates complaints. Prosecutes when necessary. Cautions in other cases.

Watches Flemington and other sale yards, steep gradients, brickyards, poultry markets, etc.

Inspects ponies, etc., used in mines.

Maintains lethal chambers at Goulburn, Newcastle, North Sydney, Manly and Waterloo for painless destruction of unwanted or diseased dogs and cats. Another is being installed at Lismore.

By motor ambulance rescues stray or diseased dogs, cats, etc., from private or business premises, streets, etc. Also provides ambulance for injured horses.

This splendid work is carried on by voluntary subscription, and lovers of animals are invited to contribute to this humane undertaking.

Augustus O. Thomas,
President, World Federation of Education Associations, has very wisely said:

"The attitude of the teacher (on war and peace) is vastly important. If the world shall eventually learn to substitute co-operation, justice and friendship for war, it must be through teaching the young the true meaning of co-operation and justice. The child is unprejudiced other than the natural tendency with which he is born, but if taken in time the natural tendency may be obviated. Hamilcar took the young Hannibal before the altar of Baal and made him swear eternal hatred to Rome, and thus gave the Eternal City its martial enemy. If hatred and revenge can be taught, justice and friendship may be taught also.

"In hearts too young for enmity,
There lies a way to make men free,
When children's friendships are world wide;
New Age will be glorified.
When child loves child,
Then war will cease.
Disarm the heart for that is peace."

The teachers' attitude towards Prohibition is vastly important. If you cannot afford to pay to have "Grit" sent to the teachers in your public schools, you might send your copy regularly to them, and it would surely have results in the next generation.

THE EDITOR.

FIRST HAND INFORMATION.

**VIGOROUS AND CONVINCING ADDRESS BY THE
HON. T. WALKER,
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia.**

The Hon. Thomas Walker, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, who many years ago resided in New South Wales, and for three terms was a member of our own State Parliament, and for 30 years a Labor leader, is well remembered by the older generation of Sydneysiders. During the past fortnight Mr. Walker has been delivering a series of remarkable addresses for the cause of Prohibition in Sydney and at other centres in the State, at the invitation of the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond.

Mr. Walker arrived in Sydney from the West on the 13th instant, and in the ensuing week was received by the Lord Mayor and was entertained at a luncheon at Farmer's at which the Hon. D. Levy, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales, and a distinguished company of notabilities were present. A report of the luncheon appears elsewhere in this issue.

THE EVIDENCE OF FACT FROM AMERICA.

Mr. Walker opened his campaign with an address in the Lyceum on the afternoon of Sunday, 15th instant, in the presence of a large gathering.

Mr. Walker said that there was a disposition nowadays to sneer at things American. Yet, the fact which had impressed him most upon returning to Sydney after many years' absence was that we were Americanising the city in very many different ways. He hoped to see the day when the Americanising process would extend to the adoption of Prohibition. The facts in favor of Prohibition furnished by American experience were both numerous and striking. Whether one looked to facts relating to the health of the people, to those testifying to the vigor and stability of the nation, or to those which showed the trend of scientific thought regarding the beverage use of alcohol, the argument was all overwhelmingly in favor of Prohibition. The trouble was that these facts were not as widely known as they should be, because, as a rule, the information supplied in cable messages and in the tales of travellers published in the newspapers was inspired and paid for by the trade. He, however, was in a position to give them, not arguments, but facts, for he, a Labor member, had been specially commissioned by the Government of Western Australia (a Nationalist, not a Labor, Government) to visit the United States and Canada for the express purpose of ascertaining what the true facts were.

THE LADY FROM MILWAUKEE.

Continuing, Mr. Walker said he had noticed in the "Sunday Times" that day several paragraphs of an interview with a Mrs. Andrews, of Milwaukee, wife of a well-known sporting character of that city, who had declared to the interviewer that "much harm" had come to America through Prohibition, and had expressed the opinion that the people should be allowed to consume light wines and beer—that is, liquor containing not more than two and three-quarters per cent. of alcohol. It was really interesting to note how cautious these opponents of Prohibition had become. What was the matter with whisky and other ardent spirits—what the matter with Toohey's and Tooth's beers that these beverages should be excluded? This lady spoke also of the harmful effects of "moonshine," of crime and sickness due, according to her, to Prohibition. Fortunately, he had been to

Milwaukee, formerly the greatest beer-brewing centre in the United States, and had seen for himself the results of Prohibition there. After exhaustive investigation he found no evidence to support the lady's contention. He had seen old drinking saloons converted into restaurants and put to other productive uses; he had been informed by the Salvation Army authorities there that Prohibition had reduced the numbers of inmates in their Men's Industrial Home, had reduced the necessity for family relief and diminished distress. In Chicago, Commander Evangeline Booth had told him that Prohibition was already breeding a better race of children. Prohibition had, indeed, already produced a social revolution in America; the health of the people had improved; there was more recreation; nearly fourteen million people owned motor cars; values had increased, rents were better, many jails were empty and had been turned into hospitals; there was less crime in all the States.

ALCOHOL NOT A BEVERAGE.

He asserted that alcohol was not a beverage, because, instead of assuaging, it created thirst. It was true that some liquor was still consumed by old toppers in America—consumed illegally. But he was not so much concerned with them as with the rising generation of children who would not know alcohol as a beverage and would not come into its grip which, by paralysing the higher nerve centres, provoked delusional well-being and comfort of an evanescent character and destroyed willpower. To realise the effect of alcohol on the mind, it was only necessary to note how at a dinner, after a glass or two of wine, the stupidest speeches would provoke the greatest applause. The actuarial experience of the life assurance societies in America was sufficient testimony to the beneficial effects of Prohibition. The expectation of death increased rapidly as one passed from total abstainers to the moderate drinker, the confirmed beer-drinker and the spirit drinker. He could say that during the whole of his trip throughout the United States and Canada he had not seen one really drunken man; on the day of his return to Sydney the first thing he saw on the wharf was a drunken man. It was said that under Prohibition drink was sold on the sly. That might be so, but was it not a notorious fact that the publicans, under license, were continually evading the law? Was it not a fact that here, too, and in London also, sly grog was sold? Would the publicans agree to a law under which everybody should be allowed to sell liquor so that, in this respect at all events, the law could not be broken? In schools, colleges, homes, churches and farms in America the same tale was told—of the benefits of Prohibition. The nations at Geneva had agreed to prevent the sale of opium—Prohibition had been applied there. Opium and alcohol were alike narcotic drugs with this difference, that the curse of alcohol was a thousand times greater than that of opium. He opposed the drink traffic not out of a desire to curtail liberty, but to increase it by relieving the people of the slavery and the degradation alcohol imposed. The lady he had quoted talked of sickness, crime and poverty ensuing from Prohibition. If her story were true, how came it that at the last Congressional elections the Eighteenth Amendment was endorsed by greatly increased voting strength? He urged his audience to do their share in procuring this great reform for Australia.

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SCHOOL SAVINGS BANKS.

TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

The Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales have taken over from the Education Department the accounts of depositors in the School Savings Banks, which in the future will comprise a department of the Government Savings Bank.

In undertaking this work the Commissioners have in view the encouragement of habits of thrift in school children, who, by banking with the School Savings Banks, will become depositors of the Government Savings Bank, and thus establish an association which it is hoped will be maintained after they leave school.

Accounts will be opened for any pupil who can sign his name, and interest will be allowed at the same rates as are paid to ordinary depositors in the Bank—4 per cent. on every £1 up to £500, and 3½ per cent. on any excess to £1000. There will, therefore, be no necessity to transfer to an ordinary Savings Bank account when the balance reaches £1, as has been the practice in the past, in order to earn interest.

Deposits will be accepted only at the schools where amounts from 1d. upwards will be received.

Withdrawals must be made at a branch or agency of the bank, except where there is no convenient branch or agency, when withdrawals may be arranged at the school.

For further convenience of depositors, withdrawals may be made at any branch or agency of the bank in the State. If, therefore, depositors journey from place to place during their vacation, they may, by having a specimen signature forwarded to the bank's office at their destination, make withdrawals there.

Public school teachers have in the past taken an active interest in the School Savings Bank, recognising that the inculcation of thrift into the child's mind leads to habits of economy, the value of which is appreciated in later years. In taking over the control of the school banks the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank confidently expect to continue to have the support of the school teachers, who will act as the bank's agents in opening new accounts, receiving deposits and generally advising the pupils of the principles of the new system.

"JUDAS"

AND OTHER POEMS,

By

CHARLES W. CHANDLER.

2/-, post free, to Box 390, G.P.O.

"Your words are windows; they are full of light, light from the sky."—Rev. T. E. Ruth.

PASS "GRIT" ON.

A SHARK YARN.

The Rev. W. G. Taylor is a passionate lover of his church, and tells the following story with obvious relish: He met a dignified Scotch cleric on the sands at Newcastle-on-Tyne. "Do you know," he said, in the course of conversation, "you Methodists are a most remarkable people!"

"What is the matter with us, anyway?" he asked.

"Well, let me tell you a story and that will explain. I have just returned from a most interesting trip round the world; and one of the facts that has impressed me is the remarkable growth of the Methodist Church. I never seemed able to get away from it. Away in the far backblocks of interior Australia I saw numbers of bush churches, and in almost every case they were labelled 'Methodist.' In the farthest backblocks of America, if I came across a pioneer church, it was in almost every case that of the Methodists.

"Yes," said the Scot as he warmed to his story, "the funniest thing I saw in all my journeyings was on the trip over from America. The passengers saw a huge shark swimming alongside the vessel, and the captain, yielding to the whims of some of them, slowed down and ultimately caught the brute. Judge of my amazement, when I tell you, that among the contents of that shark's stomach was discovered a closely sealed pocket book, which, upon being carefully opened, was found to contain a ticket of membership in the Methodist Church. Yes, truly, sir, yours is a remarkable Church."

When Mr. Taylor told the story in Chicago Dr. Traveller shouted out: "Never mind, Brother Taylor, the Methodist is not the only Church in this world I know of that has harbored sharks in its membership."

FROM ALL THE WORLD COMES ITEMS OF INTEREST.

PROHIBITION AIDS OWNING OF HOMES.

"Prohibition has been a boon of almost inestimable value to building and loan associations.

"During the period of high wages in 1921 and 1922, it was our experience that many persons put their additional earnings into home and savings accounts with the idea of building homes later; before Prohibition this money was diverted to other uses.

"In Omaha, Nebraska, it was decidedly noticeable that the working people and employees of big packing houses put their surplus earnings into homes, improvement on their homes or into savings accounts.

"Although there never has been a vote taken among the associations, I believe that such a vote would show an overwhelming majority in favor of Prohibition. It has proven an economic benefit, to say nothing of any moral advantage to the nation."—W. R. Adair, Vice-President of United States League of Building and Loan Associations.

"PUT THE BIG VIOLATORS IN PENITENTIARY," SAYS DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

"The only effective way to enforce Prohibition is to go after the big fellows and put them in the penitentiary. There are now on the court calendar in San Francisco 300 minor cases. Intelligent direction of seizures and arrests would narrow a long list to important cases, break up gangs, obviate the clogging of the courts with minor cases involving thimblefuls of liquor, while the bootleg directors sit in as interested spectators during court sessions. Prohibition can be enforced, and it will be, for no amount of propaganda against it makes a dent in its armor."—Sterling D. Carr, United States Attorney for Northern California.

NO BEER FOR CONVALESCENTS IN GERMAN HOSPITAL.

"No alcohol is used medicinally in my hospital wards. Beer or wine is not permitted to convalescents. Cases of delirium tremens receive no alcohol. Among my colleagues the employment of alcohol as a medicine has diminished at least 75 per cent. in the past fifteen years."—Dr. James P. Warbasse, Chief Surgeon, German Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y.

VENEZUELAN DRIVERS FORBIDDEN ALCOHOL.

The Venezuelan Government intends to benefit its nation by the limitation of the use of alcoholic beverages. Vendors of liquors are prohibited from selling alcoholic beverages to chauffeurs when they are in service or at their stands. This order, published by the prefect of the Department of Vargas, is the result of frequent complaints that drivers of motor vehicles have violated certain laws while intoxicated. The order also asks that passengers report chauffeurs violating the order.

It is believed that it is the purpose of the Venezuelan Government to gradually reduce the use of alcoholic beverages until complete Prohibition is reached.—News item, "Christian Science Monitor."

NEAR-MUSIC.

Said the man who was trying his best to appreciate good music: "When a piece threatens every minute to be a tune and always disappoints you, it's classical."

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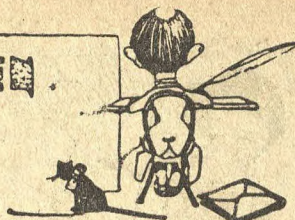
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UNCLE B.'s PAGE.



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.

WHAT DO YOU HATE?

You hate the dentist!

You hate a wet day that you planned to go to a picnic on!

You hate going to bed sometimes, and you hate getting up generally.

You hate some people, some work, some things!

I would love to see your little list of hates.

We do all this hating because of the "Old Adam" in us.

Now, if we hate somethings because we are naturally pretty naughty inside, don't you think we ought to hate some other kind of things because of "God in us"?

Now, God says He hates a lie, and He hates meanness.

Will you look up Proverbs, chapter six, verse 16, and Zechariah, chapter eight, verse 17? "Ye that love the Lord will hate evil."

So you see there is a good hate and a bad hate, and it is as hard to get rid of the bad hate as it is to acquire the good hate.

Pray, try, and pray again.

UNCLE B.

* * *

OUR LETTER BAG.

OUR FARMER.

Maurice Clark, Steinbrook, Tenterfield, writes: I am writing these few lines to ask you to cross my name off that horrible black list. I am sure I must be on it as it is well over three months since I last wrote to you. This last year I did nearly all the farm work, as dad has been working in a sawmill about four miles away. I ploughed about seven acres of land for corn, then harrowed, planted and scuffled it. Now the corn is growing splendidly, as we have had a great deal of rain since Christmas. A good deal of the corn is over six feet high, and is just starting to cob. This year we had a quiet but happy Christmas. Just before Christmas a family of ten came to live next door, and we have great times together. This year commenced very wet here. New Year's Day is Tenterfield's Scotchies' day, as the Border Caledonian Society always hold their sports that day. This year there were three visiting pipe bands, viz., Bundaberg, Ipswich and Warwick. Erisbane Pipe Band intended to come, but as several members were unable to secure

leave from work they did not put in an appearance. New Year's morning was lovely, but at lunch time a heavy storm broke over Tenterfield, and spoilt a good day's enjoyment. For about an hour the rain and hail simply pelted down. The sports were held on the showground. As luck would have it, the grandstand was burnt to the ground a few nights before, and the people had to take shelter in the pavilion, cow-sheds and sheep-pens. There were too grandstands burnt to the ground in a week, while two attempts were made to burn another, and somebody tried to burn down the town clerk's residence while he and his wife were holidaying in Sydney. Since the New Year I have taken dad's place at the sawmill, as he was unable to go to work. He is a sufferer from epileptic fits, and had a very bad attack on January 2. He started work last week. I had to wheel sawdust, carry edging, dock boards, cross-cut logs, cut firewood, turn the handle and help with the breaking down of the logs. It is only a small mill. Four men do all the work, while three bullock teams bring in the logs, and one horse team takes the same timber to town, a distance of about nine miles. We have only had about six days this month on which it has not rained. It has been raining all day to-day, and so far to-night. Last Monday, January 26, we held our Farmers' Sports. There was a good attendance, but as one of Tenterfield's highly respected residents passed away the morning before, the day's enjoyments were marred. We are milking six cows. The grass here is about 18 inches high everywhere, and as green as wheat. For the first two weeks of this month our cows made 109 lbs. of butter, besides what we used. We supply to the Tenterfield Butter Factory three times a week—Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The blackberries are just ripening now. Here they are termed a noxious weed, and we have to destroy them. Yesterday morning I caught a ringtail 'possum in one of my rabbit traps. I was going to put the cows out yesterday when I nearly walked on a big black snake just below the house. It made off, but I managed to despatch it. I think this is all the news this time, and as it is bed time I will say good-bye, with love to all "Grit" cousins and yourself.

(Dear Maurice,—We are all proud of our "Farmer Ne." Your letter is most interesting. I love the sawmills. I like the smell of timber. I love to imagine the use to which the timber will be put. It looks bad to cut a great tree down, but it looks fine to see it, years after, serving a noble purpose. When I see humans cut down I feel sure they will, like the tree, have a future usefulness.—Uncle B.)

A NEW N.Z. NE.

Percy Stewart, C/o. Mr. A. Hall, Commerce-street, Whakatane, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand, writes: I wish to join your family of Ne's and Ni's. I have just returned from a holiday at Lake Taupo, the biggest lake in New Zealand. I had a good time, and enjoyed myself very much. I am eleven now, and my birthday is on March 17. This is the first year I have been in high school. I have no more news, so I will finish.

(Dear Percy,—So glad you have joined my family. I have a few Ne's and Ni's in New Zealand, but they are mostly scallywags, though I truly love them—but they grow up and then I lose them.—Uncle B.)

* * *

SLEEPING DOGS.

Noel Weaver, P.O., Weavers, via Windsor, writes: I hope you are quite well, as I am. You said in your last letter that it was peculiar that I did not refer to my fortunate escape at Collaroy. I admit I did not, but, you see, I have always laid great faith in that old proverb, "Let sleeping dogs lie." But my esteemed brother does not seem to have the same faith. So I will have to take up another one, preferably "dead men tell no tales." That sounds drastic, doesn't it? But the case calls for drastic measures. Den seems to find great pleasure in bringing my adventures into the public eye; but I don't. But, never mind, he who laughs last laughs longest, so my turn will come yet. I may say that I have had Den's most abject apologies since.

(Dear Noel,—Your letter will interest all your cousins. I agree with you, it is wise to let sleeping dogs lie, but we must not let lying dogs sleep. Glad you got that apology, and that a putty knife was not necessary to enable you to take drastic measures.—Uncle B.)

MOTHERS' DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 9th.

COMMEMORATION
PAGEANT AND DEMONSTRATION
AT SYDNEY.

Grow and Wear a White Carnation
for Mother.

Watch for further news.

Write for leaflet and nominate a
QUEEN of Mother's Day.

Further information from D. H. Hardy,
General Secretary, Young People's
Temperance Council, 247 Elizabeth
Street, Sydney.



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Sorting and Sifting the Evidence—

(Continued from page 7.)

free and cherished the ideal of liberty that they had resolved to banish the slavery imposed by the depraved appetite for alcohol. "But," said Mr. Walker, "you need not go as far as America. On your own Statute Book of New South Wales you have a law—a Prohibition—against supplying liquor to an aboriginal. Why? Is not that an interference with the liberty of the subject? You have another law—another Prohibition—which enables a wife to obtain an order prohibiting the publicans to supply her husband with drink. Is not that an interference with the liberty of the individual? You have a law closing bars at 6 p.m.—Prohibition after six o'clock at night. Where is your consistency? Why not go the whole way, and prohibit the beverage use of alcohol altogether?" He wanted to see the same sobriety here as they had in America. A drunken nation could not compete with a sober one. At our very doors were the teeming millions of Asia, and many thought that, sooner or later, a racial war was inevitable. Who was to bear the brunt of it? This country would have to do so, but it would not do so successfully unless it were a sober nation. Those who advocated Prohibition had no axe to grind; their object was the advancement of humanity, and one day the nation would recognise what it owed to such unselfish and disinterested humanitarians as the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond. (Loud applause.) The publicans knew well enough what a curse liquor was. One of them recently advertised for a barman to assist in the bottle department, and the advertisement stated that applicants for the position must be total abstainers. (Laughter.)

THE CERTAINTY OF PROHIBITION COMING.

In moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Levy for presiding, and to Mr. Walker for his address, the Rev. R. B. S. Hammond said that there were some people who were afraid that Prohibition was coming, others who wondered if it would come, many others earnestly hoped it would come and, again, a quickly growing number who were sure it would come to Australia. The latter were ever adding distinguished people to their ranks, and their confidence in the ultimate issue was justified, for the cause of Prohibition was surely advancing, and nothing could stem the tide. It was gratifying to find so large and distinguished a gathering of thoughtful and earnest men assembled together to learn of the effects of Prohibition in America from one who, by his legal training and impartiality, was well qualified to ascertain the facts. Mr. Walker was a man who occupied an eminent position. He did not have to quote others; what he said was authoritative because he said it, and henceforth they would quote him in New South Wales, and find shelter behind him as an unassailable authority on the subject of Prohibition. (Prolonged applause.)

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BAD OR WORSE.

"Do you ever invest money in Wall-street?"

"No," answered Senator Sorghum. "If the market went wrong I'd lose my savings, and if it went right I'd lose my reputation."

A HELPING HAND.

Scene: Suburban residence, 2 a.m.

She (sotto voce): "Georgie, dear, it's a burglar!"

He: "Sh-h-h, don't move, maybe he can get that window up; it's the one we haven't been able to open since the painters left."

WILLING TO ADVISE.

The customer had waited half an hour for the fish he had ordered. At last the waiter appeared.

"Your fish will be here in five minutes," he said.

Another quarter of an hour passed, and then the customer summoned the waiter. "Say," he inquired, "what kind of bait are you using?"

AS YOU WERE.

"Clarence," she called. He stopped the car and looked around.

"I am not accustomed to call my chauffeurs by their first name, Clarence. What is your surname?"

"Darling, madam."

"Drive on, Clarence."

DOES NOT SOUND LIKE PROHIBITION.

The family awakened one night, hearing a commotion in little Hester's room. Turning on the lights they found Hester partly under the bed, searching for something that she was apparently unable to find.

"Why, darling, what are you looking for?" her mother asked.

"I fell out of bed," replied the little girl, "and I've lookin' for me!"

APPLIED MATHEMATICS.

The old lady was timidly inspecting the stock of spectacles.

"How much are these?" she asked, selecting a pair.

"A dollar and a half, madam."

"And how much without the case?"

"Well, the case makes little difference. Suppose we say 1.45 dollars."

"What? Is the case only worth five cents?"

"Yes, madam," firmly.

"Well, I'm very glad to hear it; it's the case I want."

And, placing a nickel on the counter, the dear old lady took up the case and walked timidly into the street, while the optician gasped for breath.

CASE FOR THE S.P.C.C.

The tightest man in the world is the Scotchman who shot off a pistol outside his house on Christmas Eve and then came in and told the children that Santa Claus had committed suicide.

HOW ABOUT IT?

Husband: "Didn't I telegraph you not to bring your mother with you?"

Wife: "That's what she wants to see you about."

FREQUENTLY.

Up in Watertown the other day one of the "test" questions in a class at school was "What is Mars?" One of the answers was "Mars is the scratches you get on the parlor furniture."

HIS LUCKY NIGHT.

Rastus was sporting proudly a new shirt, when a friend asked: "How many yards does it take for a shirt like that?"

Rastus replied: "I got three shirts like this out of one yard last night."

GETTING IT STRAIGHT.

Her Father: "I do not require that the man who marries my daughter shall be rich. All I ask is that he be able to keep out of debt."

Her Suitor: "Would you consider a man in debt who borrows money from his father-in-law?"

NOT SO PLACID.

A traveller staying for the week-end in a little village was telling the oldest inhabitant that he could not imagine how people managed to live in such a dull place.

"Well, zur," said the native, "you should stay here till next week, and then you'd see the whole countryside stirred up."

"And what is going to happen next week?" asked the stranger.

"Ploughing," was the reply.

THE HOLDOUT.

She had debated in true Fabian fashion for many months the question of whether or not to bob, and two or three times had turned back at the tonsorial Rubicon.

Here she was at last, though, properly shrouded in a barber's chair, a trifle pale, but grimly determined.

"How shall I cut it?" asked the barber, callously displaying his full kit of gleaming instruments.

The patient gazed at them in fascinated horror, hesitated, then quavered:

"I think you'd better give me gas."

CLEVER, CLEVER.

Speeches at public dinners in Japan are made before the dinner commences. Now we know what is meant by the Wise Men of the East.

WHERE THE PINCH COMES.

Customer (in shoe store): "This shoe pinches my joint."

Salesman: "Sorry, madame, but all the joints in town are pinched."

WORTH TELLING.

"Did I ever tell you that priceless story about the museum that had two skulls of Henry VIII.—one when he was fourteen and the other when he was forty?"

"No. Do tell me!"

OF COURSE.

"With all due deference, my boy, I really think our English custom at the telephone is better than saying, 'Hello!' as you do."

"What do you say in England?"

"We say: 'Are you there?' Then, of course, if you are not there, there is no use in going on with the conversation."

THE HANG-OVER FROM THE WAR.

The man who ran the elevator of the skyscraper was talking to a passenger.

"The judge certainly did soak him," he said. "He sentenced him to three years and ten days. Now I understand the three years all right; but what the ten days were for I'd like to know?"

"That was the war-tax," said a quiet citizen who got aboard at the tenth floor.

PARCELS FOR THE POOR.

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

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

Thank you.

ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.

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DAILY INSPIRATION.

(By FAIRELIE THORNTON),
Author of "Love," etc.

SUNDAY.

THINGS LEFT UNDONE.

Some say they have no sins to confess. They are not going to call themselves "miserable sinners." They "never did any harm to any one, never committed any crime. Are good neighbors, are well thought of, and have heaps of friends. But what about the things left undone? What about the friendship denied to those who are perhaps in need of your friendship? What about those of another denomination, or another class than yourself? The "poor Samaritan whom you pass by on the other side?" What, too, about that neighbor who "is not your sort?" Have you no mission to such? Think of all the lost opportunities of life—opportunities of befriending a lonely soul, of helping an afflicted one by some word of comfort, by a cheering letter, or a friendly visit. "If ye love them that love you, what praise is there in that? Do not even the sinners the same?" I heard of a lady who made it her hobby to find all the lonely souls she could and make friends with them. Another lady made a point of inviting every fresh comer at the church she attended to tea at her house, and made them feel they had a real friend in her. She also returned their visits, and never let them drift away as so many do for the sake of a friendly recognition. There are such numberless opportunities of service for the Master if we will only look out for them. Invalids and lonely souls far back we might write to, and others we might visit. "Inasmuch as ye did it NOT to one of the LEAST of these, ye did it not to me."

MONDAY.

LOST OPPORTUNITIES.

"The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost."—Ezek., 34, 4.
"My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill; yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search and seek after them. Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord, suerly because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock. Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord. Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock, neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them."—Ezek., 34, 7-10.

TUESDAY.

ONLY.

Only a letter unanswered,
It was too much trouble to write.
Just a snub to one of God's children,
Which took from his eyes their light.
Only a glance not given,
Just a handshake refused,
But the trifles make life's completeness,
Or wound a spirit bruised.
Not the great deeds you dream of,
The noble acts sublime,
Will meet the Master's approval
When your soul has done with Time.
But the little self-denials,
Made in a thousand ways,
Which helped on a lonely pilgrim,
And brightened his passing days.

WEDNESDAY.

CHURCH SNOBS.

"If there come into your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; and ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say to him sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool; are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?"

Hearken, my brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him. But ye have despised the poor.

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well; but if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

THURSDAY.

"He knoweth." Job 23, 10. Neh., 1, 7.

He knoweth the way that I take,

Be it weary, or wayworn, or rough,

He hath promised to never forsake,

"He knoweth," is this not enough?

He knoweth, though I cannot see

One step in the darkness before,

Though wrapped in the gloom I may be,

"He knoweth," what then need I more?

He knoweth the way that I take,

Each load that my soul has to bear.

Each sorrow that makes my heart ache

He feeleth and with me doth share.

He knoweth and beareth it all,

And is touched with each feeling within.

Then why should the future appeal?

Through Him I shall victory win.

Shall come forth as gold that is tried

In the furnace just heated sevenfold,

Through the flames He will walk by my side

Till the dross is all purged from the gold.

—From "The Other Side."

FRIDAY.

"He knoweth the way that I take, when He hath tried me I shall come forth as gold." Job, 23, 10.

Fire is one of the most frequent symbols given in Scripture of affliction and trial. God's Word, too, is spoken of as a fire which will test every man's work. The tongue, too, is spoken of as a fire, and how many a good feeling has that burned up! In this verse Job is speaking of the fiery furnace through which God was permitting him to pass, and consoling himself with the thought that God knew all about it, and would bring him safely through as gold tried by the furnace. He knew that God, who was love, would not permit him to be tried more than he could bear. God never gives any trial without

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giving strength to bear it. "Our God is a consuming fire, but it is a fire of love which consumes all the dross of sin away, purifying the soul, and making it meet for the inheritance of the saints in light."

We know not all the mystery of pain.

Nor how it can God's children so refine
That they through it His image may regain,
As gold that passes through white heat
Doth shine.

But this we know, that He Himself has gone through the fire, and that we are permitted to be partakers in a measure of His sufferings, even as He is of ours. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning that fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you, but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

SATURDAY.

"There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest." Job, 3, 17.

Ah! those words of old once spoken

Haunt my memory like sweet chimes

In the distance heard at even,

Or some ancient poet's rhymes.

Could we find in human language

Peace like this in words compressed—

"There the wicked cease from troubling,

There the weary are at rest?"

As we think of dear companions

Who have left us long ago,

Here to tread alone life's journey,

They are not the dead, we know;

For they dwell in the dear Homeland.

Now no more by care oppressed,

Where the wicked cease from troubling,

And the weary are at rest.

When we grow so very weary

Of the work which useless seems;

When we find the noon's fierce sunlight

Has dispelled our early dreams,

Let us look for harvest yonder

When our work has stood the test,

Where the wicked cease from troubling,

And the weary are at rest.

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THE WINE QUESTION.

WHAT THE "HERALD" DID NOT PRINT.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" printed five special articles on the wine business in Sydney. The following letter was sent but not inserted by them:

I read with close attention the five articles on the wine bars of Sydney, printed in your journal last week. The public is deeply indebted to you for this survey.

Your commissioner, referring to the activities of the Licenses Reduction Board, says that "there is no doubt whatever that the worst of the wine bars of Sydney have been closed." This statement, the accuracy of which I do not question, merely serves to underline and emphasise what he has to say about the majority of those wine bars which still remain open. Forty bars were delicensed in Sydney and Balmain last year. Between thirty and forty more appear to have been visited by your commissioner, whose descriptive accounts of what he saw leave no room for conjecture as to their character. They are assignation places, pure and simple, where loose women and men of shady character habitually congregated and drink to excess. Your commissioner says that these places are well conducted—within the requirements of the law. If that is so, the law is inadequate to protect the sober-minded and respectable section of the community. According to your own showing, these wine bars continue to attract the most disreputable and undesirable elements in the population and are of such a description that respectable people would not care to be seen entering them. Your commissioner puts the position very forcefully and conclusively when he says that "if most of the people of Sydney are quite unmoved at the possibility of the elimination of nearly all the saloons, it is because these saloons are not part of their lives. Did the saloons attract in any way a desirable element of the community there would long ago have been public outcry at an unwarranted interference with personal liberty. Clearly, the present work of the Licenses Reduction Board has behind it a large measure of public support."

A VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS.

Your commissioner says that here and there a wine bar is to be found which stands outside the general category. But these are plainly rare exceptions, and the desirability or otherwise of retaining wine bars in our midst must be determined, not by the rare exceptions, but by the general conditions described. The question, then, resolves itself into this: Are we content to continue to tolerate the existence in our midst of licensed recruiting depots for brothels?

Your commissioner has a good deal to say about the reforms which have been initiated by the Wine Association. Nevertheless, those bars which have already been closed he states were "veritable dens of iniquity—a living section of hell." The Wine Associa-

tion did not begin to take an interest in reform until public disgust threatened their extinction, and, whilst I have no desire to discount such reform as may have been effected, I cannot refrain from pointing out that the character of the wine saloons still open, as described by your commissioner, does not encourage the belief that reform has proved efficacious.

UNWARRANTED FEARS AND SYMPATHY.

Your commissioner has a good deal to say about the hardships which must result for the wine trade and the grape growers should many more wine bars be delicensed. Some temporary economic and financial loss would perhaps ensue, but considerations of that sort have not in the past deterred Governments from effecting desirable reforms and I doubt whether any member, even of the present Government, would be bold enough to declare publicly that we must go on tolerating licensed recruiting depots for brothels because, forsooth, if they were closed, somebody might suffer financial loss. There is no principle of law or equity which requires that plague spots should remain immune because somebody would be harmed by their removal. As for the growers, permit me to point out that the grape-growing industry has not been killed in America by the advent of Prohibition. Table and drying varieties are grown in ever-increasing profusion, and pasteurised grape juices are used for a great variety of drinks. On the other hand, "in 1915 (prior to National Prohibition) there were about 100,000 tons of wine grapes left to perish on the vines of California, as the prices offered by the wineries were so low as to be ruinous to the growers." Our own growers need not be unduly alarmed at the bogey set up for them by the wine firms. Vineyards have been destroyed in the past because they were infested by phylloxera; the wine growing vineyards must now be destroyed because they are a moral menace. Vineyards that are overloaded with deridilla stock must graft suitable grapes on to these unprofitable vines. Since the Government, at the behest of the wine trade, is responsible for loading on some of the returned soldiers unprofitable vineyards, the Government must assist them during the period necessary to correct this blunder.

One thing is certain—the wine bars will have to go. If any final argument for that conclusion were needed, the articles you published last week supply it.

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SOME HOWLERS FROM INDIA.

English schoolboys are not the only producers of "howlers," as I have ample proof in a letter which has come to my desk from India (says a writer in the "Methodist Recorder"). It was a youth in a college in Bengal who declared that "Job had seven sons, three daughters, and other domestic animals," and a compatriot of his, asked who it was that said, "They that seek me early shall find me," answered by saying, "The worm," his knowledge of English proverbs being obviously larger than his acquaintance with the Christian Scriptures. In another examination paper my correspondent found the information that "The higher and middle classes of Bengal are the best sweetmeats in the world." Quite a series of these quaint sayings of Bengalese schoolboys concern themselves with alimentary affairs. "God tasted Abraham and was satisfied with him," said one of the students; whilst another knew that "John the Baptist fed on low castes, honey and wild beasts."

SPORTING INTEREST IN THE BIBLE.

Among Lord Meath's ecclesiastical stories we read:

A fox-hunting squire of broad acres, who with his son lived for sport, and for sport alone, was once asked by the county to entertain the Bishop of the diocese on the occasion of the assembly of the Church congress in a neighboring town. Much against the grain, the squire consented, and calling his son, explained to him that he must really ask him to think over some subjects of conversation which might interest the Bishop—and thus relieve the father of some of the burden of entertaining the distinguished ecclesiastic. The son said he would do his best. So after dinner, when the ladies had left the room, the son, in a loud voice, called out across the table, "My Lord, can you tell me how long it took to get Nebuchadnezzar into condition after he was taken up from the grass?"

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