

Spirit.

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SIX YEARS OF PROHIBITION! WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

The sixth year of national Prohibition has come to a close.

Whether the closing of the 77,000 barrooms which were collecting millions of dollars annually of the people's money for the brewers and distillers, and which were destroying the earning capacity of thousands of men and women, had anything to do with it, the fact remains that the past six years from an economic standpoint have been the most prosperous in the history of the United States. Secretary of Commerce Hoover, after a careful investigation conducted by his department, makes the positive assertion that Prohibition has been a big factor in contributing to the prosperity of this nation. There are thousands of business men and manufacturers and other people who agree with Secretary Hoover.

SOME RECORDS IN THE INDUSTRIAL FIELD.

The year just closing has made a record in building construction. Not even the wettest newspapers deny this fact nor attempt to conceal it. This means that labor has had a wonderful year. The year, too, has been singularly free from labor troubles. Serious labor strikes have disappeared with the saloon.

The year just closing also made a record in freight transportation. This indicates that manufacturers have been unusually busy, and if manufacturers have been busy and prosperous, it means that the retail merchants have been moving the manufacturers' goods. This in turn means that the people have been buying on a scale never before known. They have been furnishing their homes, many thousands of them, in a way they could not furnish them in the old saloon days. And they have been building homes. Last summer the United States League of the Building and Loan Associations held a convention in Kansas City, at which it was reported 400,000 homes had been financed the last fiscal year.

Nor have the people been spending all their money. According to figures compiled and made public by W. Esby Albright, in charge of the savings bank division of the American Bankers' Association, depositors in savings accounts have over 23,000,000,000 dollars to their credit, a gain of nearly two billion a year. And the per capita savings in the banks and trust companies of the country amount to 204 dollars.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York, after investigation, says the average daily wage in dry United States is 5.50 dollars; in wet England 2.28 dollars; in wet Germany 1.55 dollars; in wet France 1.24 dollars; and in wet Italy .96 dollars. From an economic standpoint the United States has certainly prospered during these six years of Prohibition.

DRUNKENNESS IS DECREASING.

But, say those who are clamoring for the restoration of the liquor traffic, Prohibition has increased drunkenness and is the cause of an increase in crime. These booze-thirsty patriots who so much deplore drunkenness produce statistics to prove their contention. Analysis of their figures generally shows that they are a comparison between dry years and not between a year of the old license period and a year under the Prohibition policy. But any man or woman with ordinary powers of observation, and with a memory capable of reaching back a dozen years, needs no statistics to demonstrate the effectiveness of Prohibition in checking drunkenness. No one can honestly declare that there are as many drunken persons seen on the streets of this country as there were when the 177,000 saloons were operating. The fact is, a drunken man on the streets to-day in almost any city generally attracts a crowd. He is a curiosity. Hudson Maxim, one of the most spectacular and one of the most aggressive wets in the United States, recently sailed for Europe with the avowed purpose, according to an interview with the Associated Press, of getting a drink. And Hudson lives in New Jersey where the law is not so well enforced as in most States.

ATTACKS OF WETS MORE DETERMINED

In spite of Prohibition's success both from a moral and economic standpoint, the closing of the sixth year that it has been in effect probably witnesses the most determined and most aggressive attacks upon the policy that have yet been made. From the day the law became operative the outlawed liquor interests have sought its overthrow. They directed their attacks both against the Eighteenth Amendment and the Volstead law, going into court contesting the validity of these measures from every conceivable angle. They have gone before the Supreme Court of the United States on

FALSE PROPAGANDA OF WETS.

Then, too, the wets are making some people believe that the Anti-Saloon League is tottering to its fall. The wet organisations say so, some newspapers take up the cry, and some people believe it. Already the debate on the modification of the Volstead law has been opened in the Senate. Numerous beer bills have been introduced into the House. A beer bloc has been formed in the House, and Congressman Hill, who heads this wet aggregation, says that he can muster 150 votes. The purpose of this beer bloc is to prevent the enactment of any legislation looking to better and stricter enforcement of the Prohibition law.

DRYS MUST HOLD THE LINE.

The dries throughout the nation must guard against this false propaganda. It is the last desperate stand of the outlawed booze interests in this country. The year 1926 will

also mark an important epoch in dry enforcement because the newly organised Federal unit will make its supreme drive against the nullifiers. The year should mark that co-operation between the people and the various enforcement agencies as demanded by President Coolidge and by the dry leaders. Public sentiment throughout the nation is overwhelmingly with the dries in spite of false statements by the liquor interests. That public sentiment must be maintained and strengthened.

The liquor interests have made desperate efforts in Congress to weaken the Volstead law, but have not been able to enact a single measure to their advantage. The past year has been no exception. The only victory they achieved in Congress this past year was the dubious victory of preventing the enactment of the Cramton bill by filibustering tactics in the Senate. On the other hand, a number of dry measures were enacted strengthening the enforcement law. Later in the year the reorganisation of the Prohibition unit was effected, carrying out in a large degree provisions embodied in the Cramton bill. While this reorganisation is as yet incomplete, good results are being secured. Moreover, the activity of the coast guard and the ratification of treaties with foreign governments have spelled the doom of rum row. That pirate fleet will never again be the lawless factor it was a year ago. Notwithstanding all these successful achievements of the dries, it is true that the booze interests at the close of this sixth year of Prohibition are making the most determined fight to overthrow the dry policy made since the adoption of that policy.

1926 MOST IMPORTANT YEAR FOR DRY FORCES.

The year 1926 will undoubtedly be one of the most important in Prohibition history. Enforcement will easily be the outstanding issue in the congressional campaign and the election of new legislatures and governors.

The wets' objective is well known. It is nullification of the Eighteenth Amendment, the modification of the Volstead law to permit the sale of wine and beer. This is the first step toward restoration of the entire liquor traffic. To that end they are conducting a nation-wide publicity campaign. Because of their much noise they are fooling some people. For example, the "Ohio State Journal" of December 17, in an editorial commenting upon the 2.75 per cent. beer bills introduced in the House last week, made this statement: "That there is a decided popular reaction against Prohibition is evident." What is the evidence? Only the wets' say-so; that is all. In the three national elections held since Prohibition became operative the dries have increased their majorities each succeeding Congress. The Congress to-day is the driest in history.

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DID YOU NOTICE?

Whisky and Suicide.—America's Whisky.—Hotelkeepers' Rates.— Train Disaster.—Friends Quarrel.—The Wine Saloon Again.—A New Hotel

A WIFE'S ORDEAL. VICTIM TELLS OF LAST TRAGIC MEETING.

Three heart-broken children; a baby who cannot understand their grief; an anguished widow, who is so distressed that she is not permitted to see the body of her husband; an aged mother mourning for her dead son.

All this forms a sad sequel to the suicide of William Bourke in a car on a lonely Matraville road, after he had wounded Mrs. Ogilvie, a Melbourne woman who had just made up her mind to return to her husband and leave for Scotland.

Mrs. Ogilvie said: "We spoke for a while and then he asked me to enter the car. 'Come up a little way in the dark,' he said. I entered the car, but when we reached the spot he had indicated he refused my request to stop the car.

"He continued to drive over the hills towards Long Bay. I remonstrated with him, and wanted to get out of the car. 'He refused to stop it. He was in an excitable state, and his mental condition was added to later when he pulled a large flask from his pocket and drank a quantity of spirits."

FLAVORED SEA WATER. "WHISKY" FOR AMERICA. RUM-RUNNERS FAIL. (“Sun” Special.)

London.—The rum-runners who have made Antwerp their headquarters include a party of English and other adventurers ready to do anything to make money. They acted as agents for English firms, but did not prosper, though they despatched many shipments of bottled sea water with the merest flavoring of whisky. Many regular ships carry from 30 to 40 cases of liquor, which are bought by the crews and landed in America with the connivance of Customs officials.

The adventurers are now giving their attention to diamond smuggling. They refuse to practise cocaine smuggling, as it is criminal, whereas diamond smuggling and bootlegging are regarded as sportsmanlike.

PAY BONIFACE OR HELP CHARITY. BOTANY'S DILEMMA.

An extraordinary position has arisen at Botany over the refund of rates to hotelkeepers.

The Valuer-General increased the value of hotel properties, because they were licensed premises, and a successful appeal was made to the Privy Council against this action. At Botany, when the proprietor of the Pier Hotel asked for a refund, it was pointed out that an appeal was not lodged within the specified period, and the money could not be returned.

Council decided to ask the permission of the Minister for Local Government to make the refund, and last night the department replied that the council could do so under section 504 of the Act.

The town clerk, Mr. Flack, said that council was unable to return the money this year under that section, which permitted a council to vote money not exceeding one per cent. of its revenue for any purpose not specified in the Act. This year it had expended practically all the available percentage. The application would have to be deferred until next year.

Ald. Stephen said if that were done, council would be unable to pay its annual subsidy to hospitals and other charitable objects, for which it used the one per cent.

Council decided to ask the department again for permission to repay the money out of its general fund.

TRAIN DISASTER. DRIVER SENTENCED. JUDGE IS MERCIFUL.

Wellington (N.Z.).—The trial of Frederick Lavin, driver of the express train which was derailed at Opapa on September 22, three people losing their lives, was concluded at Napier. The jury gave a verdict of guilty with a strong recommendation to mercy.

It was alleged that the speed of the train was excessive, that there was a third man on the engine, who had no right to be there, and that there was liquor in the cab of the engine.

The Chief Justice sentenced Lavin to two years' reformatory detention, and said he believed he was erring on the side of mercy.

WORKING MATES QUARREL OVER £5.

A charge against Edward Patrick Toohey, 23, laborer, of having assaulted Herne Mitchell, occasioning him actual bodily harm, was reduced to one of common assault at the Central Court.

It was stated that accused, Mitchell, and two other men were driven in a taxi-cab to the Central Railway Station, where words passed between Toohey and Mitchell regarding the loss of £5. Toohey struck Mitchell, knocking him down.

Mitchell was taken to hospital. The two men were working mates, and had been drinking together.

Toohey was fined £3, in default 14 days' jail.

MAN SHOT. WINE SALOON FRACAS.

The shooting of a man outside a wine saloon on the afternoon of January 21, his treatment at Sydney Hospital, his mysterious

disappearance from that institution and subsequent death in South Sydney Hospital, were incidents in evidence given before the City Coroner (Mr. Fletcher) during an inquest on Thomas Michael Francis Molyneux.

Charles Williams, licensee of a wine saloon in Elizabeth-street, who has been charged with manslaughter, was present on bail.

Dr. Unwin, of Sydney Hospital, said that when he attended to Molyneux on January 21 the patient was strongly under the influence of alcohol, and was very violent. He had a wound in the right thigh and another at the back of the knee. When the patient was wanted later he was not to be found.

Sergeant Farley said that after the alleged shooting Charles Williams told witness that during an altercation he had fired three shots from his revolver. One took effect in the leg. At the police station Williams said: "My life was in danger; I was only protecting myself."

At the hospital, continued the sergeant, Molyneux said, "I don't remember what happened. I had been drinking with a woman, and I go mad when I'm drunk."

NEW QUEANBEYAN HOTEL.

Queanbeyan.—The hearing of an application at the Queanbeyan Court House by Patrick John Reid for the transfer of the license from the Royal Hotel, Gundaroo, to Queanbeyan, was concluded yesterday. The Licensing Reduction Board (Messrs. F. G. Adrian, chairman, W. L. V. Brown and W. S. Arnott) decided in favor of the applicant. It is proposed to erect a hotel near the railway station. The application was opposed by the licensing inspector for Queanbeyan. Mr. Hayes (Crown Law Department) appeared for the police, Mr. Bathgate (instructed by C. O. Smithers and Co., Sydney) for local hotelkeepers, and Mr. Brian Clancy (instructed by Mr. C. A. Morgan, Wollongong) for the applicant.

WORSE THAN SHARKS.

In the light of statistics it is difficult to account for the prominence which the shark-in-the-surf danger occupies in the public mind and, in particular, that mind of the visitor to Sydney. One may count a year's shark fatalities on the fingers of the hand, yet in the metropolitan district last year there were 3435 accidents, and 118 of the victims died. Incidentally, there were 29,574 cases of drunkenness—a fact not very distantly related to the figures before quoted.

DRUNKEN MOTORISTS. JUDGE FAVORS JAIL.

Melbourne.—Judge Woinarski, in the General Sessions, emphasised the necessity for standard punishment for drunken motorists. He favored imprisonment.

An appeal was made by William Henry Hambley against a sentence of one month's imprisonment. Evidence at the lower court contained an admission by the appellant that he had had six whiskies, but was sober.

The Judge reduced the sentence to a fortnight.

NEW SOUTH WALES PROHIBITION ALLIANCE.

Headquarters: 321 Pitt Street, Sydney.

Our Objective: The Abolition of the Liquor Traffic.

Our Weapons: Education and Legislative Action.

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

ROUNABOUT NOTES.

(By the STATE SUPERINTENDENT.)

The utility of "the air" as an advertising medium is still in the experimental stage. But so far as the Prohibition Movement is concerned, this much is very certain: that remote country centres are reached that would otherwise be impossible, and the constituency spoken to is widely distributed, both over the State and Interstate.

* * *

The Alliance has now "put over" three lecturettes on Wednesday evenings, as follows: Rev. H. C. Foreman: "Will America Go Back?" Dr. Richard Arthur, M.L.A.: "Prohibition from the Moderate Drinker's Standpoint," and H. C. Stitt: "Alcohol, Guilty or Not Guilty." We invite reports from "listeners'-in," in order that consideration may be given to renewal of the contract.

* * *

On Sunday, 7th, there were carried out a very satisfactory number of engagements in the churches, where special Prohibition addresses were given. Just at present an itinerary is being undertaken on the South Coast, where large and sympathetic congregations have been reached.

* * *

A largely-attended and enthusiastic meeting, numbering nearly 200 people, was held in the Masonic Hall, Cronulla, on the evening of the 8th instant for the purpose of protesting against the proposed application for a second public house. A committee was appointed to prepare the objections, and the district will be immediately canvassed.

* * *

Rev. H. Putland, who is working the South Coast, conducted a well-attended public meeting at Woonona, where he reports that the coal miners are very interested in the Prohibition question. The writer visited Penrith on the 9th instant, where he gave his illustrated lantern lecture, showing many American slides, proving the wonderful changes in industry and commerce since Prohibition. Rev. H. N. Powys operated the lantern, and extended many kindnesses in other directions.

* * *

All supporters of Prohibition should link up with their political organisation forthwith, in order that they would be able to use their influence in the selection of Parliamentary candidates. In this matter we are too remiss. The way to secure satisfactory liquor legislation and an acceptable referendum is to first select the right candidates in the various political plebiscites.

ATTACKING SIX O'CLOCK.

MOVE BY LIQUOR TRADERS—COUNTER ATTACK BY LIQUOR EMPLOYEES' UNION.

That the N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance is justified in its appeal to rally to the fight on behalf of six o'clock closing of hotels is again emphasised by attempts to break it down.

Liquor reformers will be interested in knowing that there has been a question on the business paper of the Legislative Assembly for some time as to whether or not the Government would consider the alteration of the hours of trading of liquor bars and making them 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. It is in the name of Mr. Kilpatrick, but has not yet been reached.

◆◆◆◆◆
PROHIBITION
ON THE AIR.
 2KY STATION.
 LISTEN FOR IT.
MARCH 24th
 AT 8 P.M.
 ◆◆◆◆◆

That it is something more than a question is proved by the reported move of the United Licensed Victuallers' Association to persuade the Government to provide for hotels being allowed to remain open until 7 p.m.

Mr. Baines, organiser of the Liquor Trades Employees' Union, is emphatic concerning the step. "My Union would be strongly opposed to any such move," he declared, and added, "There is a resolution on the Union books that the Government should be asked to fix the closing hours of hotels on Saturdays at 1 p.m."

The case which the Alliance has taken to the Full Court is something more than a test to determine the interpretation of words of a statute; it is an effort to safeguard what was an overwhelming expression of the people's will.

* * *

At a meeting of the Executive to-day, the recommendations of the Campaign Committee to inaugurate and organise a business men's auxiliary was approved. Hon. Crawford Vaughan has been appointed to this department, and the plans will be put into operation forthwith.

* * *

Prohibition is really a business man's question. The increase in trade that the retailer and manufacturer would derive by the closing of the "pub on the corner" is such that the American slogan, "Prohibition booms business," is a self-evident truth.

FIELD DAY APPOINTMENTS.

SATURDAY, March 20.—

7.30 p.m.—Open Air, Wollongong.

Rev. H. Putland.

SUNDAY, March 21.—

11 a.m.—Wollongong Presbyterian Church.

3 p.m.—Balgownie Presbyterian Church.

7.15 p.m.—Woonona Baptist Church.

Rev. H. Putland.

11 a.m.—Austinmer Anglican Church.

7.15 p.m.—Thirroul Anglican Church.

Mr. C. E. Still.

MONDAY, March 22.—

8 p.m.—Ryde Presbyterian Church.

Rev. H. Putland.

WEDNESDAY, March 24.—

8 p.m.—Ashfield Methodist Church.

Rev. H. Putland.

FRIDAY, March 26.—

8 p.m.—Open Air, Newcastle.

Mr. Albert Lane, M.L.A.

SATURDAY, March 27.—

8 p.m.—Canley Vale Church of Christ.

Mr. H. Macourt.

SUNDAY, March 28.—

11 a.m.—Thirroul Methodist Church.

7.30 p.m.—Austinmer Methodist Church.

Mr. H. C. Stitt.

11 a.m.—Mayfield Methodist Church.

7 p.m.—Waratah Methodist Church.

Rev. H. Putland.

11 a.m.—Adamstown Methodist Church.

7 p.m.—Cardiff Methodist Church.

Mr. C. E. Still.

11 a.m.—Newcastle C.M.M.

7 p.m.—Stockton Methodist Church.

Mr. Albert Lane, M.L.A.

7 p.m.—West Kingston Methodist Church.

Mr. H. Macourt.

MONDAY, March 29.—

8 p.m.—Chatswood Baptist Church.

Mr. H. Macourt.

CONCERNING LITERATURE.

Additional leaflets are now available for distribution, and more helpers in this important educational effort can be supplied. The response in this connection has been so good that the literature has gone out as quickly as it came into the office, which has served to show that this method of making the facts known has met with approval as well as meeting a desire for service in the minds of many of our friends.

The information in the leaflets is interesting, effective and quite up-to-date.

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REVOLT AGAINST LIQUOR.

BREWERS' EXPLOITS IN POLITICAL ARENA ONE OF CHIEF REASONS FOR AMERICAN PROHIBITION.

The Campaign Committee of the N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance is appealing to Prohibitionists to take a keener interest in politics, particularly as they affect our own question. The recent decision of the State Council was that every effort should be used to secure the return to Parliament of members who are in sympathy with the aims of the Prohibitionist Movement. This action is absolutely necessary to counteract the influence of liquor agents.

There were some startling disclosures of liquor influence in politics in U.S.A., made during the course of the inquiry into the activities of the German-American Alliance, a pre-war organisation in which the main elements were the brewers and the German propagandists. Indeed, it was stated in a letter from one of the United States Governors that one of the chief reasons for the overthrow of liquor was the liquor traders' attempt to control politics and politicians.

The liquor trade here has not learned any lesson from that, unless it be that sufficient may be gained from temporary success to justify whatever risk might be embodied in the attempt to have their own candidates put forward and elected, or at any rate get them in sufficiently wet to be quite pliable in times of emergency. Be that as it may, the fact remains that our Legislature is more inclined to grant favors to the liquor trade than to give justice to the liquor reformers.

It is reasonable to assume that half the population of N.S.W. favors Prohibition, and easily half the electors oppose compensation. Yet the liquor trade have a big majority of legislators so effectively bluffed or hobbled that they are ready to fight strenuously for brewery and pub.

"Our trade, our politics," has proved an effective slogan. "Prohibition, our politics," must needs be heard as a rallying cry of those who are fighting for home and children. And there must be life in it, and continuity, and volume. It must be heard by "the man in the street," and in the political league, and in party councils. About two years are the limit of the life of this Parliament—it may be very much less; if our movement is to have any chance politically, new men must be put into the House—in both parties. The people elect the members, but the leagues select the candidates. Which means that if we are to be represented in Parliament we must be interested in our party leagues.

There was a revolt against liquor in American politics; a similar happening must come about here, and it must develop quickly.

OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL.

THE FIGHT TO KEEP LIQUOR OUT.

By an Order-in-Council, published soon after the Federal Capital Territory was acquired, no liquor license is to be permitted within the area. That has stood with the full effect of law until the present time. It would be foolish, however, to blind ourselves to the possibility of the order being withdrawn, and the Territory being invaded by liquor even as has been the Irrigation Area at Leeton and Griffith.

The N.S.W. Alliance, as well as the Australian Prohibition Council, has kept the matter before members of the Federal Parliament. It is known that there is a strong body of political and official opinion against any liquor licenses being permitted, yet the influence of the traffic is so persistent and insidious there can be no feeling of security over the position.

The recent granting of a hotel license for premises right upon the boundary of the Territory at Queanbeyan serves to show that the liquor agents are busy, seeing in that place a fruitful field for their traffic. This license is now the subject of appeal.

There is an area of about 1000 sq. miles in the Capital Territory, situated to the west of the railway between Queanbeyan and Cooma. In addition to Parliamentary and official buildings, three hostels are being erected. That tremendous efforts will be made to have liquor bars in these goes without saying. Already, and for some time past, pressure has been brought to bear to have the ordinance which blocks the way removed. That this should happen would be a very serious blow struck at temperance reform. If the law remains as at present, our Federal Capital will be an example to ourselves and all the world of a city splendidly planned, free from the greatest blight on modern cities.

BUSINESS BRAINS

The "Daily Telegraph" in its special Women's Supplement features three leading business women, typical of the new brains that are being felt in the business life of the city. These are Miss Phillips, Miss Arscott, and Miss Andrews.

It is significant that these are also representative of the brains of the Business Women's Prohibition League, and have done much to arouse interest among the women in business in our city in Prohibition as a business proposition as well as a moral agency.

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LICENSING LAW.

QUEENSLAND SHOWS THE WAY IN STUDYING PEOPLE MORE THAN BOOZE.

Our licensing law has been described as the most atrocious thing of its kind on the Statute Book of any State. It certainly has more discovered weaknesses than the most bigoted liquor man could have wished for; what is undiscovered may be even more startling when they come to light.

In Queensland the law appears to have been framed for the people, who are definitely clothed with the power to say whether or not a new license shall be issued. Before an applicant can get into court he has to obtain a petition signed by 10 per cent. of the voters in the electorate or division asking for a poll. The poll can be taken only every three years, the petition having to be lodged in November and the vote taken in May following. It is required that there be a 35 per cent. vote, and a three-fifths majority of all votes cast before the applicant is permitted to proceed. He then goes to the court.

Public interest is properly safeguarded. The result has been that in the past 14 years there have not been 20 new licenses granted throughout the State. The population has increased 30 per cent. in 10 years, and the number of licenses has decreased from 1600 to about 1400.

WHEN EVIDENCE SEEMS OVERWHELMING.

RECENT DECISIONS OF LICENSING COURT CAUSE SURPRISE.

Some months ago the Licensing Bench granted an application for transfer of a license at North Sydney. On appeal the decision was upset. Again, the applicant went before the Bench, which once more granted his application. It was stated at the hearing that there were ten licenses within a radius of half a mile, and one influential witness declared it was not at all likely that people would go to North Sydney for first-class hotel accommodation. Still the Bench considered the hotel necessary.

Another case of interest is that at Kandos. The application was strongly opposed, the witnesses including the manager of the Kandos Cement Company, upon which the existence of the township depends, and the manager of the Portland Cement Co, 2½ miles away. It was shown that there had not been any increase of population, and that the only time when there was any crowding of accommodation in the bar of the existing hotel was on pay Friday and Saturday. Here again the Bench granted the application.

THE MOST WONDERFUL MEETING IN AUSTRALIA.

ITS POWER, ITS COMFORT, ITS ENCOURAGEMENT.

(By ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.)

In a day when church prayer meetings are waning it is a very challenging fact that this meeting not only sustains its interest, but is growing, and noticeably so since William Bradley came back from his late mission to complete arrangements for the coming of the Rev. W. P. Nicholson.

There is no lodge meeting, political meeting, Rotarian meeting, or Millions Club meeting that can demonstrate such sustained interest as this prayer meeting.

What is the explanation?

If the church prayer meeting is waning, and in many places has ceased altogether, what is the explanation?

I am convinced that most of the explanations do not explain. This great intercessory service proves:

1. People need and appreciate a meeting for prayer.
2. Large numbers will come, and continue to come, even at great inconvenience.
3. God keeps His promises. He is in the midst of His people. He hears and answers their prayers.
4. People have the means and gladly bestow it where their needs are frankly faced and really met.

THE GREAT NEED OF PUBLIC LIFE.

In politics, sport, business and in society, yea, and in the Church, the great need is for a sense of God.

The Baltimore "Sun" lately printed these lines:

Putting God in the nation's life,

Bringing us back to the ideal thing—

There's something fine in a creed like that,
Something true in those words that ring.

Sneer as you will at the "preacher air,"

Scoff as you will at the Bible tang,

It's putting God in the nation's life

That will keep it clear of the crooked
"gang."

We've kept Him out of its life too long,

We've been afraid—to our utter shame—

To put Him into our speech and song,

To stand on the hustings and speak His
name.

We've put all things in that life but Him,

We've put our selfishness, pride and show;

It is time for the true ideal to come,

And time for the low ideal to go.

Putting God in the nation's life,

Helping us think of the higher thing—

That is the kind of speech to make,

That is the kind of song to sing.

Upward and forward and let us try,

The new ideal in the forthright way—

Putting God in the nation's life,

And putting Him there in a style to stay.

A TWENTY-YEAR TESTIMONY.

The following letter was handed in last week:

"For God's mercy and goodness to me I feel I must ask you and all the praying people at the Town Hall to-day to join with me in praise and thanksgiving. Twenty years ago my husband left me with two little children to fight the battle of life as best I could, and God knows how my boat has been tossed about during that time. Many times I thought it would sink, for temptations were great, but the Master was at the helm and kept me and helped me to train my children for Him instead of the devil. They are both married now and lead a Christian life, never forgetting the great God who kept us and saved us for so many weary years, and at the eventide of my life I can sing every day, 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow.'"

JUST DESPERATE.

Every week many scores of petitions are sent in of this piteous kind:

"Pray for my son, who is a drunkard, and as I am a widow he imposes on me and gives me a terrible life. I have always prayed for him; in fact he is a child of prayers, and he has given trouble all his life. Oh, do pray that he may be converted, that his poor blind eyes might be opened. Only to-night he broke all the crockeryware on the table."

Suffering and struggling in the country this petition comes, as did the last one, from hundreds of miles away:

"Will you please pray for me at next Wednesday's meeting. I am very much in need of your help. I have been converted two years, but lately I have been falling back and doing many things I know I should not, and I have one vice in particular that is again taking hold of me, although I fight against it and pray against it often. Will you please pray that God will give me the strength to fight this vice and all other things that are against his Holy Name."

We have a number like this:

"Please pray for a man who intends to commit suicide; all hope gone. He is afraid the news of it will break his Christian mother's heart (not religious); she is in her 81st year, unfortunately 13,000 miles away. What is the end?"

THE GREATEST OF ALL FACTORS.

For quite 2000 years prayer has been by far the most important element or aspect of spiritual environment and experience.

Let us bend our energies to improve our prayer life. We need never apologise for our association with religion; it has inspired

more literature, more painting, more sculpture, more architecture, more music, and a larger part of man's ethical and institutional life than has any other one thing.

It is exclusively responsible for all philanthropy and the sustaining motive of all humane and benevolent undertakings.

To exclude God from our Parliament as we do, and to say that His word is not to be taught or referred to in teaching because the teacher prefers to have no religious belief or cannot agree with others as to what form of religious belief is the best justified, is certainly a preposterous thing.

A CREED.

Howard A. Wheeler, in an American magazine, "Association Men," has written a creed which I have presumed to alter a little and pass on to you:

I would be true,

For there are those who trust me;

I would be pure,

For there are those who care;

I would be strong,

For there is much to suffer;

I would be brave,

For there is much to dare;

I would be friend to all—

The foe—the friendless;

I would be giving,

And forget the gift;

I would be humble,

For I know my weakness;

I would look up—

And pray and trust and hope

And laugh—and love—and lift.

THE COMING MISSIONS.

Dr. JOHN R. MOTT, Chairman of the World's Student Christian Federation. He is due to reach Brisbane on March 18, and his Australian itinerary will be as follows: Brisbane, March 18 to 21; Sydney, March 23 to 27; Melbourne, March 28 to April 1; Student Conference (in Victoria), April 1 to 5; Adelaide, April 6 to 8; Australian Missionary Conference (Melbourne), April 10 to 14.

EX-CHIEF STOKER REG. STEVENS. Mission to men, May.

GIPTSY SMITH. In Victoria, March 14 to April 14; Tasmania, April 16 to May 3; South Australia, May 7 to 27; Queensland, June 1 to 25; N.S.W., July 4 to August 16.

REV. W. P. NICHOLSON. June 12—for a year if the Lord will.

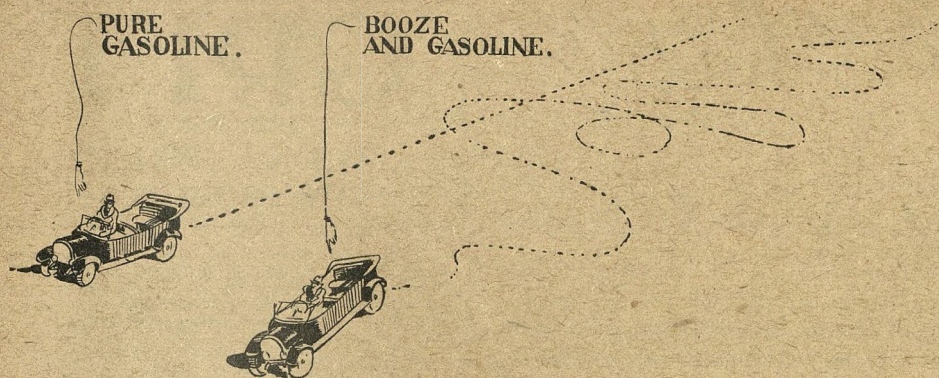
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CARS AND BLITHERS.

Putting your foot down doesn't show strength of character—if it's on the accelerator.

(By A MERE FOOT-SLOGGER.)

Watch your step!

Do you want to be picked up under that Ford—squashed and groaning? The driver had seven beers in the last three hours. That is of no importance—no "Influence."

On January 14, at the Central Police Court, one "X" was fined £2 (a large sum!) for driving a motor lorry while under the influence of intoxicating liquor. He collided with another car—the driver of which had the bad manners to die. The Coroner said it was not X's negligence.

X appealed to Quarter Sessions against the fine.

Judge Rolin now enters. The Judge on March 1 upheld the appeal and quashed the conviction. The learned gentleman said it was **not** laid down that the driver of a motor vehicle "could not have a drink." No, sir! The appellant X (said the Judge) was not "under the influence of liquor, in the sense that it affected him mentally and physically!"

We have nothing to do with the merits of the individual case, and we congratulate X on his appeal. But look at the deductions, look at the public results of this Judge's easy language. First, a motor driver "can have a drink"; apparently, according to Rolin, J., he can have twenty drinks, under above conditions. Secondly, says the magnifico, the drink (or twenty drinks) must not "affect" the driver "mentally" or "physically"! Which, pardon us, is Frank Blither. How else **can** a drink "affect" him! Tests of scientific men have demonstrated these many years that a very small dose of alcohol indubitably "affects" any man (including a driver); injures his skill, and lessens his swiftness or delicacy of touch.

It has gotten so now that a person killed by an automobile dies a natural death.

This is the motor age. A thousand whirling juggernauts are on the streets. It surely ought to be a requirement of every licensed driver **not** merely that he be temperate or can "stand up to" a few drinks. (That appears to be the effect of the learned Judge's decision.) It surely ought to be the law that every motor driver indeed, and on the contrary, should frankly be a Teetotaler!

When one of the learned Judges is run down, or one of his loved ones is run down, by a driver with a few drinks under his belt (but not "affected"—of course not "affected"), we shall see a little change in the sugary benevolence of the Bench. Meanwhile, till some other Daniel comes to judgment, watch your step! The tribe of drivers have had another encouragement.

Another little drink won't do us any harm.

But watch out!

✱ *Laundrena* ✱

the Quality

Starch

For dainty women

BOUNTY ACTS.

Mr. Pratten.—On the 21st January the honorable member for Capricornia (Mr. Forde) asked the following question:

(1) What bounty acts have been passed by the Government since 1916, and what amount has been paid under each?

(2) What is the total amount of bounties paid by the Government since 1916?

I am now able to furnish the honorable member with the following information:

	£	s.	d.
(1) Iron and Steel Bounty Act	11,178	0	0
Iron and Steel Products			
Bounty Act	540,795	9	9
Shale Oil Bounty Act	125,491	14	3
Meat Export Bounties ..	123,160	1	4
Meat Export Bounties ...	141,572	0	1
Sulphur Bounty Act	77,385	6	11
Canned Fruits Bounty Act	128,840	5	2
Cattle Export Bounty Act	4,910	0	0
Wine Export Bounty Act	148,353	2	3
(2) £1,301,685/19/9.			

NO BLOWS YET.

Pert Young Thing: "Don't you think there should be more clubs for women?"

Grumpy Old Thing: "Oh, no! I should be inclined to try kindness first."

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PASS "GRIT" ON

A Personal Chat with my readers

THE GROWTH OF EVIL.

The number of cases dealt with by the police under all headings in New South Wales for 1925 increased by 4276. Omitting Sundays, this means an increase of nearly 14 each day.

The most disquieting feature of the crime record—and no daily paper has touched on it, nor will they accept a letter on the subject—is the increase in the number of offences against women. There is no graver reflection on a community than its failure to protect its womankind. The women and the girls of many a heathen tribe are better protected than in our own "enlightened" State. What lies behind it? The neglect of religion. The waning influence of the home. The place women now occupy in the industrial life, giving them independence, opportunity and associations amidst the standards of men, subjecting them to unusual and frequent temptations.

Another factor is the movie and the press, both of which play an enormously evil part by revealing and suggesting sex matters in the most appealing way.

Many a girl and woman so dress that the flimsy garment attracts and appeals to the sex instinct as surely as the dinner bell does to the appetite. She may profess to be ignorant of what she is doing, and if this is so the community must take upon itself to inform her that she is inviting trouble, and this in a world where all the trouble we can manage comes uninvited.

When a girl paints her face she must not be surprised if some man mistakes "the sign" and presumes on her being the "painted woman" of Scripture.

When a woman wears a dress that is like a wire fence, "protecting the property but not obscuring the view," she must share the blame if she is insulted.

Police Commissioner Enright, of the City of New York, at the conclusion of a recent review of metropolitan crime, wrote: "The blame for this condition in crime lies first with the parent. The cure for this condition lies with the parent. If the parents will train their children right, the safety of life and property will increase. In this training I would lay down this programme:

"Back to religion, back to God, back to home life and prayer, back to the old home standards, back to personal supervision of child by parent, back to purity of standards of living, away from irreverence for God, for home and for father and mother. Away from irreverence for law. Away from booze parties, betting parties, lascivious literature, false standards of life and all that leads to them.

"Children, as a rule, are less to blame than the parents for wordliness in the home. There may be, and doubtless are, exceptional cases, but the impressionable mind of childhood is usually moulded more or less according to the parental model. If that be based on the love of pleasure and sensation, forgetting God and setting before the children false principles, one can readily foresee that such a childhood, unless by some good fortune its tendency be corrected in time, can hardly be other than stepping-stones to an unsatisfying manhood or womanhood."

* * *

OUR BLINDNESS TO THE HEROIC.

The city hall has been crowded to the doors for all sorts of things, but it has not in my knowledge ever been crowded when the Humane Society rewards heroism.

A clown like Charlie Chaplin draws a crowd; a vulgar sex play that men are ashamed to be seen at is crowded out by women; a prize fight with a chance to see something brutal done for money; a race meeting, where everything conceivable is done to promote crookedness, are all crowded by those who pay to get in, but the best in mankind, the heroic, even as a free show, is counted dull, and without patronage.

I have pondered over these things. They leave us so little to be proud of, so little encouragement for the future.

I have just been reading the account of the sailing of that little band of missionaries from Boston to Hawaii in 1819. They were on a little vessel not as big as a Manly ferryboat, without any of the comforts of modern ocean travel, with no ice or fresh water or fruit or vegetables, tossed about in terrible storms, risking life and leaving all their friends for life, in a voyage that lasted 160 days, from October 23 to March 30, to go to a heathen people in an unknown adventure—for what? To preach the Gospel and redeem human beings from a life of ignorance and vice into a life of enlightenment and Christian intelligence. And the marvel of it all is that in less than seventy-five years this little band and others like them redeemed a whole people and created a Christian civilisation. If this does not command your admiration, there surely is something lacking.

* * *

AM I RESPONSIVE?

I remember once reading something which at the time appealed to me. It was the disappointment of a little child who grew tired of her dolls. Her mother pointed out the beauty, the size, and even told of the cost, but the

GRIT

A JOURNAL OF
NATIONAL EFFICIENCY
AND PROHIBITION.

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

Editor—ROBERT B. S. HAMMOND.
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Office: N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance, Macdonell House, 321 Pitt-street, Sydney.

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SYDNEY, THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1926.

child remained unconvinced. She said, "They don't love me back."

She wanted the warm pressure of mother's arms and the response to her own big love for mother.

It must have been this that prompted the author of the lines, "All the world is sighing for a little bit of love."

It is true that some people want love, but don't encourage it. Some want love that ministers to their vanity, but never awaken real love because they don't "love back."

I watched a log in the fireplace burning,

Wrapped in flame like a winding sheet,
Giving again with splendid largesse

The sun's long gift of treasured heat—

Giving again in the fire's low music

The sound of wind on an autumn night,
And the gold of many a summer sunrise
Garnereff and given out in light.

I watched a log in the fireplace burning—

Oh, if I, too, could only be
Sure to give back the love and laughter
That life so freely gave to me.

* * *

JUST A FLOWER.

Surely we all love flowers! We city folk do not always get them quite fresh, and we are often distressed that they die so soon. So we are always interested in preserving them.

A method of preserving cut flowers in a condition of freshness is to dissolve small amounts of ammonium chloride, potassium nitrate, sodium carbonate or camphor in water into which the stems are inserted. The presence of one or more of these drugs keeps the flowers from losing their freshness by stimulating the cells to action and opposing germ growth. Flowers that have already wilted are said to revive quickly if the stems are inserted in a weak camphor water.

The Editor

AMERICA'S EXPERIMENT SUCCEEDS.

EVIDENCE OF GOVERNORS DISCLOSES REMARKABLE RESULTS.

(By HENRY MACOURT, Publicity Officer, N.S.W. Prohibition Alliance.)

To impose Prohibition upon a community of over 110 millions of people is a tremendous task. The success to date appears to be little short of the miraculous. Ample evidence of this is supplied in the letters from Governors of States which have been coming to hand during the past few weeks in reply to a questionnaire sent out by a number of members of our local Parliament.

The second batch of these replies came by the last mail. There is much interesting information given concerning enforcement and results, sufficiently varied to permit of a fairly reliable view of the position. Enforcement is regarded generally as the big problem the people are facing, and the measure of success is according to the sentiment of each community. There is almost unanimity regarding the benefits to the workers, whose homes, families and financial position have been wonderfully benefited. With the saloon closed, the workers appear to have quit the drink. As one of the letters puts it, "Bootleg whisky is the vice of the rich, not of the worker."

Governor McLeod, of South Carolina, writes that "the fight is still on and will long continue, but a generation is growing up without many of the temptations of the former and with the full knowledge that a destructive influence to home, happiness and prosperity has been placed under a ban, and that Prohibition is the law of the land. The moral influence of this certainly will express itself in the life of another generation."

ATTITUDE OF BREWERS AND LIQUOR SELLERS.

He also makes an interesting reference to the enforcement situation in the Eastern States, where, he says, the law is not rigidly applied, and there is considerable traffic in liquor. He regards the law as yet young, and there is violent opposition to it, particularly from the distillers, brewers and purveyors of liquor, who are the people clamoring for light wine and beer. Governor Moore, of Idaho, points to the problem of border States and smuggling, which is very difficult to deal with. Governor McMullen, of Nebraska, considers that enforcement is fairly complete in some localities and a failure in others, much depending upon the state of local sentiment. Governor Gore, of West Virginia, says that Prohibition is more effectively enforced where the State has its own enforcement law and does not leave the matter to the Federal officers. His State has one of the best enforcement codes in the Union and is enforcing the Prohibition law through its own officers.

There is, generally, a hopeful feeling regarding the results to date. Governor McLeod (South Carolina) unhesitatingly de-

clares that drunkenness has decreased. Even in the Eastern States this is noticeable. The increase in certain classes of crime, such as larceny and arson, he does not attribute to Prohibition. Governor Dern, of Utah, while recognising that among certain of the upper social class drinking is regarded as a distinction, says that a study of court records, savings bank deposits and reports of welfare organisations indicate that wage-

A MOULD OF HIS OWN.

"Mr. Nicholson is a man of unique gifts, and the writer has seen nothing like the widespread interest in the area where the mission is being carried on since the great days of D. L. Moody."

Another writer says: "Mr. Nicholson, with his small stature, his imperial manner, and his power of swaying the minds of men, is a Napoleon in his way, only he moves by a power that the brilliant Frenchman never knew. His illustrations from his own roving life thrill one like the best of stories. The son of devout Presbyterians in County Down, he ran away from home at 17, and played the fool till he was 24, when the great change came. The Salvation Army, the teaching of Keswick (especially through Dr. Stewart Holden), the Glasgow Bible Training Institute, and then some years of worldwide campaigning with Chapman and Alexander were in succession great influences in his life, but God has cast him in a mould of his own. With his dramatic genius, added to his Irish gifts of head and heart, he might have been a rival to Harry Lauder, if he had not been apprehended by Christ Jesus and made an Apostle." Mr. Nicholson arrives in Sydney, June 12.

earnings have been immeasurably benefited by Prohibition. Better home and social conditions generally exist among them, and very few are arrested for drunkenness. Elections involving the liquor interest show that the big majority of the people of the State favor the law.

Governor Ritchie, of Maryland, forwards a copy of a speech delivered by him in Chicago last month. His references to Prohibition are chiefly regarding the wisdom of endeavoring to regulate human conduct without there having been sufficient education beforehand, and he claims the right of the people of each State to vote on these matters so far as their own territory is concerned.

"A GREAT SUCCESS."

The letter from the Governor of Georgia goes into the matter fairly fully. He says that Prohibition has been a great success,

In spite of all the statements concerning breaches of the law, there was a great deal less liquor being drunk and a great deal more clothes and groceries and general comforts being bought. He believes that immediately after Prohibition went into effect arrests for drunkenness were diminished from 50 to 90 per cent. He had recently travelled through Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and the New England States by automobile, and the only evidence of drinking he saw was two young men slightly under the influence of liquor. He does not imply that there is not drinking in many of these cities, but he says that if there is as much as is claimed by critics of Prohibition, drunkenness would be more in evidence.

LABOR'S IMPROVED POSITION.

The effect of Prohibition upon Labor is referred to by the Governor of Nebraska, who says that it is more efficient and dependable. The men and their families live better, their trade is worth more to the merchant, more of them own their own homes, and an increasing number invest in the shares of the companies they work for. Their savings accounts bear evidence of thrift.

The Governor of Wyoming sent the questionnaire to various officials for report. That from the Labor Commissioner of the State is illuminating. It declares that the social and economic results of Prohibition are so tremendous that it is impossible to enumerate them in a small space. He refers to better homes and conditions of living and general standards of living among wage-earners, which are higher than ever before in the history of the nation. Then he goes on to say that if for no other reason than its effect in cases of industrial disputes, Prohibition has earned the right to remain on the statute book in full force and effect. In the last great strike of the shop men of the transportation lines of the country if it had not been for Prohibition they would have witnessed bloodshed and riot.

The Commissioner of Education of Wyoming touches an important aspect of the matter when he says that they no longer have children deprived of schooling because the earnings of the family are squandered in drink. He declares that bootleg whisky is the vice of the rich, not of the worker.

THE "AYES" HAVE IT.

A summary of the replies gives the impression that enforcement is difficult, its effectiveness being affected by the sentiment of each community; more education is needed, and generally the results of the six years' experiments have been decidedly beneficial to the workers and have improved home and economic conditions.

The number of replies received is 22. Of this number 15 mention definite economic and social results to prove that Prohibition is a success; three are frankly opposed to it; two have deferred giving their opinion, and two are indefinite in their summary of the situation.



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DRINK AND WAGES.

(From a "Westminster Gazette" Correspondent, September 26, 1925.)

Some years ago I was in the office of a large works on the North-East Coast, and, being interested in social questions, I asked the foreman of a large workshop for the names of twenty-four of his workmen, twelve sober and steady men, not necessarily abstainers, and twelve unsteady men. The twelve steady men were good timekeepers, the twelve unsteady the reverse.

I took out their wages for twelve months. They were then paid 35/- for 53 hours. The shop was very busy, working overtime daily, except Mondays and Saturdays, sometimes Saturday afternoons. They could earn, including overtime, 45/- to 50/- per week.

The actual wages for the twelve steady men was £125 for twelve months—highest, £130; lowest, £90.

The wages for the twelve unsteady men was £85; the highest being £90, the lowest £60.

One of these men was a working charge-

man; wages, 38/-. He could easily have earned 49/- or 50/- per week. He earned 35/-. I asked him how much he spent on drink. He replied nearer 10/- than 5/- per week. He steadied up later, and averaged 45/- per week, so that he earned 10/- more per week and spent 10/- less per week in booze. Three of the steady men lived in their own houses, and one had two houses. The brother of the man who had two houses worked in the same shop, and earned £65. All the unsteady men lived in the poorer parts of the town.

The sober men can, and do, use the savings banks, and, notwithstanding the terrible financial times we are passing through, I know several workmen who are buying, and have bought, houses. I admit £2000 is a large sum of money to save out of workmen's earnings, but remember that, after the first £100 or £200 saved, he would be receiving 5 per cent. on all his savings, independent of his wages.

OLD CLOTHES.

PLEASE SEND THEM JUST BEFORE THEY ARE TOO OLD.

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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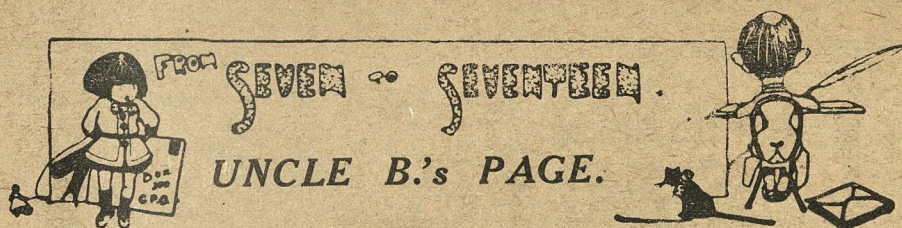
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OUR LETTER BAG.

WELCOME.

Ruth Julian, Post Office, Wallerawang, writes: I would like very much to become one of your N's. I am thirteen years old and my birthday is on the first of June. I went to Braidwood for my holidays. My uncle took me to the Wombeyan Caves, but I don't think they are as good as Jenolan. I love going through caves. I go to the Lithgow High School. I have a brother and sister. My father and sister are Sunday school teachers. My brother and I are pupils. I belong to the Scripture Union, and like it very much. While on holidays, from grandfather's verandah I saw Gillamatong Mountain, where the Clarks, the bushrangers, used to hide and watch the police out of town, then they would hold up and rob the coach bringing the gold from Araluen. I also saw the monument erected over the grave of two detectives whom they shot. My brother had a trip to Araluen. There was no room for me in the car, so I had to content myself at home. He saw stone houses built by the convicts, also the old Araluen goldfields. I am very interested in "Grit." Well, Uncle B., I must close now, wishing success to your paper.

(Dear Ruth,—You are welcome to my big family. All your "cousins" will be very interested in your letter—convicts, bushrangers and all sorts of bad people have a fascination for most of us; they fill us with pity and wonder; it seems so sad to see daring and often lovable characters making shipwreck of their lives.—Uncle B.)

NICE DAD.

Horace Durant, 53 Arcadia-street, Penhurst, writes: There was a fire at Penhurst to-day. It is very hot here. I don't like the hot weather. I go to church with my father every Sunday morning. I get a stamp every Sunday I go. There are lots of fires in Australia. I am going to bed soon, so good night. The mosquitoes are bad here; they like Dad very much.

(Dear Horace,—So the mosquitoes like Dad. I am not surprised; they like all good chaps, I know, for they are fond of me; but I don't reciprocate the fondness, and I have only one idea, and that is to kill them, not so much for biting me as for making a song about it.—Uncle B.)

ONLY A COUNTRY SCHOOL.

Thora Jones, "Karimba," c/o. Wattle Villa, Grenfell, writes: I was very pleased to see my letter in "Grit." My father has been taking "Grit" for a long while. I live 12½ miles out of Grenfell, on the Goolagong Road, and would be very pleased to see you when

you come here. There are 20 pupils attending my school. I suppose some children will laugh when they read my letter, but it is only a country school I go to. I am in sixth class at school. There are two children in first class, four in third class, four in fourth class, and seven in sixth class. Have you had any rain lately, Uncle B.? We had a few showers to-day. Our underground well is empty, and there is only a little water in the dam. I am very interested in "Grit," the "Daily Telegraph," and "The Land." I am going to write to "The Land" and the "Daily Telegraph" one of these days. I am writing to you early, so that I would not be a scallywag. Wishing you and your family good luck.

(Dear Thora,—Don't you let anyone think little of your school because it is "only a country school." Why, the best people in the world have all come from the country, where they grow up unspoilt and learn better there than in the city, because there is less to distract them. I am glad you put "Grit" before those other papers. Please always do so.—Uncle B.)

ENCOURAGED.

Gordon Porter, Kendall Dale, Yattelyattah, writes: When I saw my last letter in "Grit" it gave me the encouragement to write another. I will now tell you about the Milton Agricultural Show, which was a great success. The cattle and horses were exceptionally good, also the fruit, flowers and vegetables. I did not think there would be any fruit or vegetables after the hot days we have been having. I enjoyed most of all watching the ring events, especially the high jump, special trot, and the musical chairs. My sister won the musical chairs race. Two horses from Nowra came first and second in the high jump; two local gentlemen came first and second in the trot. There were plenty of side-shows, such as dog shows, monkey shows, snake-charmers, who spoke through a gramophone speaker, saying "R-r-r reptiles," and "Four darts for 6d.," etc. We did not start school after the holidays, as our teacher took ill, and got leave until after Easter, so we have a long holiday. The grapes are not ripe yet, but the peaches and pears are all finished. Dad is getting in some hay, and I go down and help him sometimes too. I can do a little carpentering now. I have made a stool and a gate so far. We have about 70 fowls now, Uncle. Well, I have got to go and get the sticks now, so good-bye.

(Dear Gordon,—I am glad you were encouraged. Most people in the world are just waiting for a little encouragement, so having received encouragement, now try and encourage someone else. Your letter is very interesting, and very easy to read.—Uncle B.)

FOR TWO MONTHS.

Dorothy Julian, Post Office, Wallerawang, writes: I must introduce myself, for I am a new N. I will not be able to write you very many letters, but, nevertheless, while

(Continued on next page.)

LETTER WRITING.

Most of us love to receive letters and yet are very slow to write them, and spend a lot of time chewing the end of the pen and wondering what we can find to write about.

Six of the twenty-seven books in the New Testament are personal letters. How grateful we should be for the men who were so filled with God that their personal letters to friends were worthy to be included in the Holy Scriptures. To what extent do our personal letters proclaim God?

You cannot write letters, play the piano, play cricket, or do any other worth-while thing without a lot of practice. So write often, take trouble to find some interesting thing to put in your letter, and some day your letters may be read by people all over the world like the letters in the New Testament, or even the beautiful letters of Mr. Page, who was American Ambassador in England during the war.

UNCLE B.

AT BEDTIME.

When mother tucks me fast in bed,
Each evening when my prayers are said,
If I've been good and true all day,
I'm sure to hear my mother say:
"Good night, my precious little boy,
You've given mother so much joy."

But if I've let my temper show
As little folks often do, you know,
Then when the stars peep in at night,
My mother's voice don't sound just right:
"Dear little lad," she says to me,
'Try hard a better boy to be.'

Perhaps if mother's lovely eyes
Were not so soft and blue and wise
I'd not care, even if I had
Been selfish all the day—and bad;
But when I go to sleep each night,
I want to leave her dear eyes bright.

—"The Sunbeam."

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Seven to Seventeen—

I am eligible I will write as often as possible. I am sixteen years of age, and will cease to be one of your N's on April 7, but will not cease to be an interested reader of "Grit" and a member of the Scripture Union. I am very happy at my work in the Shire Council, and on Sundays I have a class of little boys at Sunday school, all aged from six to seven years. Sometimes it is rather hard to keep their attention, but I try hard to interest and teach them. The latter part of my school days I spent at Bathurst High School. I boarded at St. Hilda's Hostel. There were twenty-two girls there, so you can guess we had some lively times. I went to many services in the Cathedral, but mostly went to my own church (the Methodist). Every Thursday night we had chapel at the Hostel, which was conducted by the Rev. H. Weston, now the rector of Parkes. His wife was our matron, at that time Miss Zouche. Well, Uncle B., it is closing time. Wishing every success possible to "Grit." Hoping to be a faithful N for two months.

(Dear Dorothy,—You have made a mistake. You have 14 months to go. My family write from 7 to 17, inclusive, and then become Hon. Ne's and Ni's. So I am hoping to hear much from you, and am delighted to have you in my great family.—Uncle B.)

* * * *

A NE ON WHEELS.

Ian Barrie, Nambucca Heads, writes: I hope my name is not on that scallywag list, but I suppose it is; if so, scratch it off please. When I went back to school after the Christmas holidays. I was put up into fourth class, and I like it better than third. I got a bike for Christmas, and on my birthday I got a speedometer, and I have gone 133 and eight-tenths in five weeks and one day. There is a surf carnival up at Coff's Harbor to-day, and there are two special excursion trains running, one from Kempsey and one from Grafton. Fancy having a surf carnival on Sunday. I have a lamp for my bike, too, and I ride to church every Sunday night.

(Dear Ian,—So you are a Ne on wheels and have already done 133 miles. I wonder did you ever read a "Knight on Wheels." It is very interesting. I just loved that beautiful book about Lincoln that I received at Christmas.—Uncle B.)

* * *

NOT YET.

Edna Goddard, 26 Alfred-street, Mascot, writes: I was seventeen on January 20, 1926, and I think I am on the honorary list now. On Anniversary Day the Young People's Association went for a picnic to Fairfield for the day in a motor lorry. There were 55 people altogether. In the night we had a banjo playing. We enjoyed our picnic, and are looking forward to another very soon. The Botany young men's class is coming to our Sunday school to give us a pleasant surprise. My mother has been in the hospital and has been operated on, but has come home about a week to-morrow. My great grandfather lived at Rookwood, and

while he was there he died. He was about 92 years old. After he died they sent a telegram to my grandma that he was dead. When it was time to bury him they buried him away out at Liverpool.

(Dear Edna,—I am glad you will still write. I am always specially pleased to hear from my Hon. Ne's and Ni's. You, however, are not an Hon. until you have ceased to be seventeen.—Uncle B.)

"GRIT" SUBSCRIPTIONS.

"Grit" subscriptions received to 11/3/26, and where not mentioned the amount received is 10/- or 11/-:—J. B. Creak, 30/11/26; Miss E. Hammond, 9/7/27; Mrs. King, 28/2/27; H. R. Purse, 15/10/27; Mrs. Wyllie, 6/3/27; R. Watson, 20/-, 30/7/27; L. S. Swain, 25/-, 30/12/27; W. H. Jones, 22/6, 30/12/27; Mrs. P. Vine, 20/3/27.

The following are paid to 30/12/26: C. W. Naylor (and 15/- educational), Miss M. McKenzie, S. B. Weatherlake, 21/-; T. Binks, A. C. Hammond, 14/-; Miss Willard, Miss Graham, Mrs. T. E. Cope, Harry Dawson, 31/-; C. J. Garland, 22/- (and 18/- educational); Miss E. F. Jones, R. L. Scrutton, 12/6; W. R. Copeland, 14/-; A. L. Elvery, W. Levy, P. N. Slade, Sir Clifton Love, 20/-; Rev. D. D. Munro, 22/-; Miss E. E. Martin.

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HAVE A HEART, AUNTIE!

"Will you let me kiss you if I give you a penny?" asked the little boy's aunt.

"A penny!" he exclaimed. "Why, I get more than that for taking castor oil."

* * *

HOW THE CHOIR FEELS.

A Mid-Western clergyman received the following suggestion in verse:

Mr. Parson, we say, you make us think
Of the blacksmith bold with forge like ink,
Where he moulds and welds and fastens with
fire

The spokes of the wheel to the outer tyre.
For this I know, and know full well,
And any blacksmith the same will tell,
That the sermon's effect—at least on the
choir—

Is just like the wheel near the blacksmith's
fire;

We tell it to you without any ire,
That a very long spoke makes a very large
tyre!

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PROHIBITION FESTIVITY.

Mistress: "Why don't you bring in the
plum-pudding, Jane?"

Jane (exultingly): "We couldn't get the
brandy, mum; but it's all right now—we
poured a little kerosene over it."

* * *

A HELPING HAND.

Irate Parent: "I'll teach you to make love
to my daughter, sir."

Young Man: "I wish you would, old boy,
I'm not making much headway."

* * *

HANDLE WITH CARE.

He: "Dick is all right if you know how to
take him."

She: "I hate those people who have to
be labelled like a bottle of medicine."

* * *

SALUTE THE SKIPPER.

Newlywed (after the ceremony): "Dearest,
do you really think that I'll prove a satis-
factory mate?"

Mrs. Newlywed: "Oh, you'll do for a mate,
all right. Now look me over and tell me
what you think of your captain."

* * *

BAGGED A BIPED.

"What is the name of the species I have
just shot?" demanded the amateur hunter
of his guide.

"Well, sir," returned the guide, "I've just
been investigating, and he says his name is
Smith."

* * *

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENT.

"Am dere anybody in de congregation
what wishes prayer for deir failin's?" asked
the colored minister.

"Yassuh," responded Brother Jones. "Ah's
a spen'thrif, an' Ah throws mah money
'round reckless like."

"Ve'y well. We will join in prayer fo'
Brotheh Jones—jes atfeh de collection plate
have been passed."

THE MASTER KEY.

The bride was telling her friends that
Uncle George had promised to furnish her
kitchen with all necessary equipment—a
surprise because Uncle George was notori-
ously "close." Just as she had finished
dilating on his unexpected generosity, a
small box arrived. Upon opening it she
found a can-opener to which was attached
a card reading: "I am sure this will be all
the equipment you will find necessary in
your kitchen.—Uncle George."

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STREAMS IN THE DESERT.

(Mrs. C. E. COWMAN.)

SUNDAY.

"Love never faileth."—1 Cor. 13-8.

Asbestos is the most extraordinary of all minerals. It is of the nature of alabaster, but it may be drawn out into fine, silken threads. It is indissoluble in water and unconsumed by fire. An asbestos handkerchief was presented to the Royal Society of England. It was thrown into an intensely hot fire and lost but two drachms of its weight, and when thus heated was laid on white paper, and did not burn it. Love is like asbestos. The waves of sorrow will not wash it away. The flames of tribulation will not burn it up. It is eternal and immortal.—Sel.

MONDAY.

"There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer,
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!"

"In the light of that star
Lie the ages impearled;
And that song from afar
Has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!"

TUESDAY.

"The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind."—Job 38-1.

Thou hast answered me also, O Lord, out of the whirlwind. I had been looking to the calm places for Thy answer. I had listened upon my bed when the pulse of life beat low. From none of these did my answer come. Then the whirlwind swept by, and I said: "There will be Divine silence now; I cannot hope for Thy voice any more." And behold it was from Thy whirlwind that Thy voice came. What earth's silence could not give was given by the storm. Let me never again fear the shut gate nor dread the interrupted journey. Reveal to me that there may be progress through life's pauses, music in life's maladies, beauty in life's burdens, work in life's wilderness.—George Matheson.

WEDNESDAY.

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."—2 Cor. 3-18.

That is one of the wonderful things about the Lord—that we never get to the end of Him. We can go on to know the Lord. The Lord is the way, but He is a long way, a road we can never come to the end of. . . . If, when first coming to some appreciation of the Lord, we had looked at the matter and felt of it, we should have found that it was not a wall to bar our further progress, but that it was set upon hinges, would play backward and forward; in fact, was a gate conveniently adjusted for us to go through. That is the kind of way Christ is. From faith to faith. Grom glory to glory. Tents, not houses; pilgrimages, not citizenship.

"Haste then on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer,
Heaven's eternal day's before thee,
God's own hand shall guide thee there,

Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;
Hope soon change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise."

—H. F. Lyte.

THURSDAY.

"In the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast."—Ps. 57-1.

We often pray to be delivered from calamities; we even trust that we shall be; but we do not pray to be made what we should be, in the very presence of the calamities; to live amid them, as long as they last, in the consciousness that we are held and sheltered by the Lord, and can therefore remain in the midst of them, so long as they continue, without any hurt. For forty days and nights the Saviour was kept in the presence of Satan in the wilderness, and that, under circumstances of special trial, his human nature being weakened by want of food and rest. The furnace was heated seven times more than it was wont to be heated, but the three Hebrew children were kept a season amid its flames as calm and composed in the presence of the tyrant's last appliances of torture, as they were in the presence of himself before their time of deliverance came.

"Thou preparest a table before me," says the Psalmist, "in the presence of mine enemies."—Psalm 23-5. And the promise of Israel is also ours. "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."—Isa. 43-2.

FRIDAY.

"He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."—John 11-25.

We thank Thee for those words, Lamb of God, for many of our pious friends have already faded and disappeared. They have been taken away from our firesides, and our bosoms; we call out for them, but they do not answer; their portraits smile upon us from the walls; and we steal away often to look at the garments which they were wont to put on. And their empty seats, and the silence in the hall never broken by their footstep, remind us that they are not here. But they have risen; and they walk in white, for they are worthy. We do not know why God afflicts us; but they know and are comforted concerning us. It is well with our Christian friends who have faded. They have faded into the life that never fades; and when they shall be permitted to receive us into their white-robed company, their joy will be full.—Jacob M. Manning.

SATURDAY.

"Ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy."—John 16-20.

All the trials and troubles of this life are but the active ministers of God, ordained and employed by Him to discipline His people into independence of this world, and into a ripeness for immortality.—H. Darling.

"Why should I murmur?" said Henry Martyn, in his last sickness, "Weakness, peril and pain are but ministering angels who are conducting me to glory."—Sel.

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*What the Current Magazines are Saying
About Prohibition and Law Enforcement.*

(Reviewed by EMMA L. TRANSEAU.)

A CHAIR IN ALCOHOL.
(By DALLAS LORE SHARP.)

The author found on attending the Anti-Saloon League Convention and meeting the body of members for the first time, that their point of view, principles and some of their methods were those of conservation, with which he had been associated for thirty years. Only, instead of the conservation of wild life and natural resources, this body was concerned in the conservation of human life and our made resources.

Mr. Sharp pursues this simile:

The desire to kill a flying bird is natural, therefore imperative, and not to be stultified by law. And moreover it was not specified in the Federal Constitution.

Measures for saving the birds took a lot of education, and so will the measure for saving human life from "the same indifferent public, the same pot-hunting public, the same sporting public."

Multiply the police, and let enforcement do its partial work. Meanwhile multiply our teachers, thirty, sixty, a thousand fold, and let education do its thorough work. Prohibition is a scientific problem now and has completely entered the educational stage. It has not passed out of the Sunday school, but it has entered every other school; it has not passed out of the pulpit, but it has entered the research laboratory, the public press, the public roads and the councils of State.

A few deft touches show how changed social conditions necessitated this new conservation method.

One might drink and drive with impunity when Milwaukee was so famous. But there are Detroit days, when driving for the sober is difficult, while driving for the drunk, or those who try to get that way, is deadly. . . . I have, or I must speedily acquire, a social consciousness so far beyond that pos-

sessed by my fathers, or required of them . . . as to call for a new legal and moral code.

The charge that the law came before the people were ready for it is met by recalling many instances in history when people were not ready for the changes that had to come. Adam and Eve were not ready for prohibition of the forbidden fruit. The children of Israel were not ready for the law Moses brought down from Sinai. Washington did not find the people ready for the new Constitution. Lincoln did not find his people ready for the Emancipation Proclamation, "so slow is the tortoise of acceptance catching up with the hare of enactment in the field of law. Doomsday will find none ready but the unborn."

The argument that if laws are broken they should be repealed leads to the following deduction:

The more laws the more lawlessness. Therefore, beginning with the Ten Commandments, we should abrogate all law, should enact no more law, and thus create a perfect, law-abiding world.

There are others answers to wet arguments which would lose too much by omissions. They should be read entire and first hand.

("Good Housekeeping," January, 1926.)

MORE ABOUT THE COURTS.

The editor has found, from the number of letters received, and their contents, that the article in the November number entitled "Know Your Courts," was one of the most popular the magazine has ever published. He says:

That article, pointing out a way in which women may demand the enforcement of the Prohibition amendment, seemed to realise pent-up emotions in every section of the

country, and women, welcoming the new-found weapon, said, "Now we will use it."

One associate justice of a State Supreme Court, however, fears that the power of the courts to enforce the law may be overestimated. He seems to have inferred that by "courts" was meant only the judge, instead of "the whole working machinery of justice—judge, jury and enforcement officers—not merely the presiding judge." His letter, however, is printed in full and its careful reading urged by the editor. After stating that the judge has not sole responsibility but that the jury and the State's attorney have their share, the letter adds:

It is not a judge's duty to convict or acquit. Under his oath and the Constitution, it is his duty to rule according to his honest judgment on all matters presented to him during the trial; to instruct the jury correctly as to the law; in short, to preside over the trial in such a way that justice, under the law, may be fully done, if the State's attorney and the jury capably and conscientiously do their part. . . .

If judges can be intimidated to depart from their oaths by threats to create sentiment against them upon such a basis, then, indeed, are they unfit for their high calling. No man in a judicial position, who is not a poltroon or a coward, would permit his judgment to be swayed by anything but his honest conception of the law.

On the matter of pardons, suspended sentences, bail, etc., your article is timely and sound. You are on impregnable ground when you say that the trial judge may effectively defeat justice, encourage crime and make all law contemptible when he suspends sentences, allows low bail and imposes petty fines or sentences, without the most painstaking regard for his oath and the public interest. It is at this point—after trial and conviction—that the trial judge may defeat justice and discourage conscientious efforts on the part of public officials to enforce the law.

Your counsel should be: "Study your district attorney's office, your jurors and the method of selecting them, and your judges; see that each performs his appropriate task fearlessly and honestly; remember that all have a responsibility in the administration of our criminal law."

("The Literary Digest," January 2, 1926.)

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Did You Notice?—

(Concluded from last issue.)

CHARGE AGAINST MOTOR DRIVER.

At the Cessnock Police Court Clyde Archibald Thompson was committed for trial at the Maitland Quarter Sessions on March 23 for having inflicted grievous bodily harm on Georgina Mitchell at Neath on October 31 last. Evidence was given that Thompson was driving a motor lorry while under the influence of drink, when he crashed into a motor car on the Maitland-Cessnock road, and Georgina Mitchell was hurled on to the road, sustaining a fractured skull and broken thigh.

* * *

**FIGHT ON FERRY STEAMER.
ATTEMPT TO THROW MAN OVER-BOARD.**
FRUSTRATED BY CONSTABLE.

Passengers by the 6.30 boat to Milson's Point on Saturday evening witnessed a desperate fight between two passengers. At one stage a general brawl appeared imminent, but owing to the intervention of a motor traffic constable and a deckhand the danger was averted.

The trouble commenced when a passenger accidentally brushed against a fellow passenger, who in forcible language demanded an apology. The first traveller explained that the affair was accidental, but the second traveller, egged on by a number of his comrades, desired to settle the matter with fists. His wishes were not acceded to until he struck his opponent, who immediately jumped to his feet, and launched a merciless attack. The man who had struck the first blow was compelled to retreat along the railing of the boat. One of the man's friends attempted to assist him, but was pulled back by a number of onlookers. There was an angry and ominous roar when the man snatched up two bottles, and again advanced to the attack. But before he had gone far a number sprang on his back, and, wrenching the bottles from him, attempted to throw him overboard. The din had, however, attracted a deckhand and a traffic constable, and the man was saved from being pitched headlong into the Harbor. He had received a severe buffeting from the crowd.

* * *

**ACTRESS'S JEWELS.
CREDITORS GET A FEW.**

("Sun" Special.)

London.—A settlement was reached in the case in the Bankruptcy Court in which creditors asked that Phyllis Titmus, an actress, should render an account of £6000 worth of jewellery which she received from Rupert Higgins, who failed for £13,000, after engaging in "bootlegging" in America.

Plaintiffs accepted the return of some unsold jewels, and £150, with costs, in full settlement.

The judge considered that Miss Titmus had been treated generously.

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In the 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 an 18-page instructive Report for 1924-25 and ten more booklets to help parents, boys, girls, youths and maidens.

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