

would point as something better than that of bygone days. It is not in accordance with our ideas of humanity.

Further, on a lower plane, it leads to serious economic results. In these days when increased production is so necessary to save the nation and to maintain its life's blood, the loss of the productive capacity of the killed and maimed cannot be afforded. When death results, the loss is total, and in the case of children the whole life is lost to the State. The loss of 33,000 children is serious to a nation with a low birth rate, and with the prospect of difficulty in the future in maintaining a populace with too high a percentage in the non-productive declining years it is doubly serious.

In New Zealand 25 people were killed in motoring accidents in April this year, the highest number reported in any one month since March of 1940. Seven were killed on the roads during the Easter week-end and a further seven during Anzac week-end.

The causes of road accidents are many and varied but a great many could have been avoided and a great many lives could have been saved if there was less drinking of alcoholic drinks by motor drivers. We read slogans, "If you drive don't drink" and "If you drink don't drive." Even the Government Health Department advertises this advice in prominent places, but the same Government licenses the manufacture and sale of the poison that robs the same drivers of their power of making quick decisions. For quick decisions, almost to the split second, are often required to save life among the traffic on our streets today. Yet we see parked outside suburban hotels in the late afternoon and on Saturday afternoons, lines of trucks and motor cars, almost as though there were a football match in the vicinity. There is no need to ask where the drivers have gone. Would not their time and their money be better spent on their own homes and gardens?

It is well known that anyone taking part in competitive athletics "for the sake of the game" must abstain from all alcoholic drink for a period before play. Leaders of importance like Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery, who is a total abstainer, and our past Governor-General, Sir Cyril Newall, have stated that to have a clear head one must leave alcohol entirely alone.

In the Auckland *Star* of September 19, appeared the following:—"New York, September 17. The district attorney alleged today that a drunken pilot was at the controls of the American Airlines plane when it plunged into Bowery Bay, off La Guardia Airfield on August 8, killing three persons. The attorney said an autopsy had shown that the pilot's brain contained 'three plus of alcohol,' which was a large amount. He said that the examiner's report showed that the pilot was drunk at the time of the take-off."

And then we have a woman come to our shores and state, after five weeks' stay, that what is needed for the entertainment of ratings from visiting warships is "somewhere they can sit down

in the evenings and drink like gentlemen." "If you could bring your licensing hours into line with those in England it would do more for temperance than any of the pussy-footers or blue ribbon organisations," she continued.

Sir William R. Williams, J.P., C.C., is an alderman and a former Lord Mayor of Cardiff, who for his work for the coalfields district distress fund, in which more than £1,000,000 was distributed in South Wales, was knighted in 1930, said, when discussing the licensing system in New Zealand, and expressing his pleasure at the fact that New Zealand has six o'clock closing, that if it were introduced into England half the public houses would be closed within a year. More than half the licensed houses in England were merely drinking places and catered for nothing else. He also stated that "the British system of having evening drinking made the streets bad places at night." Sir William said he had been in New South Wales when the referendum on licensing hours had been taken, and he had been delighted with the result. He doubted, however, if one in every 10,000 people in England was fully appreciative of the fact that 6 o'clock closing of hotels operated in Australia and New Zealand. "New Zealand streets," he added, "were safe and quiet at night, as a result of the operation of the 6 o'clock closing rule. This was a marked contrast to the condition of the streets in English cities at night."

The suggestion in the sub-leader of the *Star* of 19th instant "that an ever-ready committee representing the various individual organisations, and capable of enlisting their co-operation and co-ordinating their efforts when there is a big job to be done" is a good one, but it is not often that the various clubs and organisations cannot cope with the demands put upon them.

"The Captain of the liner *Queen Elizabeth* is a teetotaler," says Don Iddon in the *Sunday Mail*. "I gave up even the mildest drink after taking over the *Queen Elizabeth*; there is so much entertaining to be done in New York, Southampton and on board. We would all be better without it," he said.

We congratulate New South Wales on their victory for 6 o'clock closing, which was carried in spite of the extensive campaign of the opposing side, which spent vast sums on newspaper advertisements and radio propaganda. Also we congratulate their Premier who, when approached to have the laws altered to allow liquor to be sold in night clubs, etc., stated that the "voice of the people had spoken." The police have been making raids upon clubs which have been licensed to sell liquor, but by law must conform to the 6 o'clock closing.

I have read the two Bills that have been before the House in connection with the Masterton Licensing Trust. It is noticeable that they have not come up for further discussion. I cannot see much difference between Trust Control and State Control. In clause six of the Bill it states "If at any time moneys are advanced to the Trust out of the Consolidated Fund pursuant to this Act, or any guarantee of any overdraft of the

Trust is given by the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Justice may, at any time, while any moneys so advanced remain owing by the Trust, or as the case may be, while the guarantee continues, appoint one person (hereinafter referred to as the Government Member) to be a member of the Trust."

Where else is the money to come from but from the Consolidated Fund, to finance the Trust? Subject to the provisions of the above (Section 6 of this Act) the Trust shall consist of four elected members who shall be elected by the electors of the Trust district.

In Section 30 it states, "The Trust may acquire and hold shares or stock in the capital of any company registered under the Companies' Act 1933, that is carrying on the business of a brewer either within or without the Trust District."

In Section 29: "The Trust may, in accordance with Part 111 of the Finance Act, 1915, apply for a brewer's license, within the meaning of that Act, and may if the license is granted, establish and maintain a brewery either within or without the Trust district."

There is also provision for the sale of liquor in dining rooms and restaurants. The people of Masterton have voted for the Trust Control, but I feel sure if a further referendum is taken as to whether there should be liquor sold in restaurants that the liquor would be voted out. However, protests from all over New Zealand have gone to Parliament and the Prime Minister on this subject. Let us pray that they will bear fruit.

There is one matter that has come to my notice lately concerning weddings. Some ministers are taking a stand that if there is to be drink there they will not officiate at the wedding breakfast. Because the bridegroom stated, when asked, that there was £10 worth of champagne ordered, a minister in the Whangarei district recently refused to attend the breakfast, though he would marry the couple. The next day the young man came back to say there would be no wine at the breakfast, as they wanted the minister there. If we could only get more ministers to take that stand!

If we could encourage our young people from the time they were very tiny to take an interest in making things—in hobbies—I think it would solve a lot of this drinking problem. It is because time hangs heavily on their hands—when they have nothing to do or talk about—that they get into the habit of saying, "Come and have a spot." I believe in organised sport, but not so much organised that it leaves no time for young people to use their own initiative during their leisure time. Perhaps the 40-hour week came too soon for some, before they had learned how to make use of so much free time. The schools are encouraging hobbies very considerably at the present time, and music seems to be finding a much greater place in the lives of the people. Its refining influence is sure to raise the moral out-

(Continued on page 9)