

RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY DOMINION CONVENTION, MARCH, 1948

1. That this convention of the W.C.T.U. urges that the Licensing Act Emergency Regulation, 1942/186, re liquor drinking on trains, be more strictly enforced and that a copy of the Regulation be displayed in a prominent position in every railway carriage.

2. That this Convention views with alarm the pernicious sex literature being imported and also published in New Zealand and desires the Government to prohibit both importation and publication of this type of literature, which in its opinion, adversely affects the social and moral well-being of the younger citizens of New Zealand.

3. That this Convention urge upon the authorities the necessity for ensuring that cinema programmes advertised as being suitable for children should not include any screening of unsuitable films.

4. That it be a recommendation to Sunday School Unions that a question on the temperance lessons be included in the annual Scripture examination papers.

5. That temperance instruction, which is on the school syllabus should not be overlooked at the time of the Inspector's visits to the schools, otherwise there might be a tendency for it to be omitted by teachers.

6. That in view of the growing practice of hotel-keepers of supplying liquor to youths under age, this Convention urges that in the event of these youths being brought before the court, the law regarding those who supply the liquor be rigidly enforced.

7. That the Minister of Broadcasting be asked to arrange for an authority on alcohol to give short talks over the air in the Correspondence School Sessions.

8. While congratulating the Junior Chambers of Commerce on the recently held Road Safety Campaign, Convention urges that in any future campaign against road accidents, greater prominence be given to the menace of strong drink, especially to drivers of motor vehicles.

9. That November 12 be the closing date for the nomination of Dominion Officers.

10. That this Convention, in view of the food shortage in Europe and Great Britain, urges upon the Government the duty of reducing the quantities of barley and sugar allowed to brewers and wine makers.

11. That the Women's Christian Temperance Union of New Zealand supports the International Conference on Human Rights in its overture to UNO dealing with the abolition of slavery.

12. That the attention of Convention is drawn to the urgent necessity for literature in connection with Sabbath desecration and asks that such be prepared for general distribution.

13. (a) That provision be made in all schools for the teaching of the Maori language, Maori arts and crafts, genealogy, traditional history to Maori children by specialist teachers. (b) That the question of Native scholarships be reviewed and re-adjusted to bring them within reach of every Maori child throughout the country.

14. That as the gambling evil is demoralising the country, this Convention deplores the fact that the Government is giving this evil every encouragement, and urges that in the interests of common morality the granting of permits for art unions shall cease.

15. This Convention desires to draw the attention of both legislators and the general public to the fact that the amount of money spent in New Zealand for 1946 drink bill exceeded £13,000,000. Further, Convention states that any consideration of the total amount of revenue expended in connection with the drink trade, must also debit the drink bill with a large part of the cost of mental and general hospitals expenditure, road administration, and the administration of justice in general.

MISCELLANEOUS CLIPPINGS

PLAIN SPEAKING

Hotelkeepers who do not carry out their obligations to provide meals and accommodation for the travelling public received a straight warning from Mr. W. H. Freeman, S.M., at a quarterly meeting of the Hauraki Licensing Committee. He said their licences would not be renewed at the annual meeting. He was well aware that Hauraki was not the only district where the position occurred. It obtained all over the Dominion and a start should be made in an endeavour to remedy it. There were hotelkeepers in Thames and elsewhere who deliberately refrained from their statutory obligation. The excuses put forward were stereotyped and threadbare and would no longer suffice. One favourite excuse was that they could not obtain staff. His reply was that they did not want to obtain staff; they had no difficulty in obtaining staff for bars. There was the worn excuse for refusing accommodation, "Full up, I'm sorry." From time to time such statements had been checked and found to be deliberately untrue. Recently he had the experience of being refused accommodation at a Thames hotel and he was calmly told the hotel did not cater for boarders because of staff difficulties. A person who deliberately set out not to give accommodation was not a fit and proper person to hold a hotel licence. Unless licensees set about rectifying their shortcomings he would refuse to renew their annual licences in June.

—“New Zealand Herald.”

INDIA RIPE FOR PROHIBITION

Addressing a meeting in London, under the auspices of the Native Races and Liquor Traffic United Committee, Sir Alfred Watson, a distinguished writer on Indian affairs, late editor of the "Calcutta Statesman," and a resident of long standing in the country, said that **the future of the drink traffic in India is to be decided by the Indians themselves, now that they have power to do so.** The control of the liquor traffic is in the hands of the Provincial Governments, and "there can be no doubt what the decision of those Provincial Governments will be. . . .

"The drinking of today is going to be exceedingly difficult for any Indian Government to control. You may suppress it in the cities and still leave it in the villages. Fortunately, as I have said, the number of addicts is small, yet the mind of India is ripe for prohibition. There are great forces on its side . . . with the sympathy of the two major constituencies, India may yet set an example to the world."

—“The International Record.”

NOTE THIS

The real task of the temperance reformer is to eliminate the drink traffic and the drink habit rather than to engage in discussion on the relative disadvantages of different methods of selling alcohol. The supreme fallacy which attaches to the advocacy of the nationalisation of the drink trade is a belief that under State ownership it is possible, in some magical way to de-alcoholise alcohol. The fact remains that under whatever conditions alcohol is sold, its effects upon the individual will remain the same. The drink problem will only be satisfactorily and finally solved when drink itself has been swept away from our civilisation by the action of an enlightened people.

—“Union Signal.”

LIQUOR IN AMERICA

Doctor's Observations

The retiring president of the American Psychiatric Association, Dr. Karl Bowman, claimed that Americans spent 17,000,000,000 dollars annually on alcoholic beverages. Disease, crime and poverty cost the nation 750,000,000 dollars a year. It was conservatively estimated that there were 750,000 chronic alcoholics in America.

Dr. Bowman recommended that 10 per cent. of the revenue from alcoholic beverages should be devoted to research into the problem of alcoholism. He said alcoholics died in gaol because society was not yet willing to provide hospital care for them.

—“New Zealand Herald.”

A LESSON LEARNED

“Unlike some last war pilots, the boys will not touch a drop of alcohol before flying. They know the danger and respect it. Even the wild fighter boys

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