

## THE CREED OF A SABBATARIAN

BY THE REV. PROF. R. A. FINLAYSON

I believe that the Sabbath is a Divine institution drawing its authority from the wisdom and love of God that ordained it and from the sovereignty of God that determined its obligations.

I believe that the Sabbath law found a place among the Commandments of the Decalogue because it defined a relationship between God and His creatures that was to be as permanent as man's weakness and need of God.

I can no more regard it as a Jewish ceremonial regulation than I can regard the Seventh Commandment as such, nor can I regard it as having passed away with the Jewish Church any more than did the Sixth Commandment.

Its place on the Statute-Book of British Common Law is a recognition of its authority and an acknowledgment of its claims.

### Made for Man

I believe that the demands of the Sabbath are embedded in the constitution of men's nature, and that the Sabbath was made for man because he is a man and not a machine or an animal or an angel.

He needs its physical rest, its mental stimulus, its moral inspiration, its spiritual quickening.

Man can surmount the sordidness of his material surroundings only as he apprehends spiritual values and makes them the ultimate standard of his life.

For six days he works among the material values of the world, among things seen and temporal. On the seventh he should be given an opportunity to make fresh contacts with the spiritual values of life, to recharge the spiritual batteries that give power, direction, and purpose to his living.

For that reason the poorest drudge in the land, equally with the leisured and carefree, should be set free to do business with his Maker direct and unhindered. Neither commercial greed nor human selfishness should be permitted to rob him of his birth-right.

### The Bulwark

I believe the Sabbath is the bulwark of national righteousness, preserving the national conscience, developing the national character, and cleansing the national life.

On this day the nation finds its soul—and the nations that have abandoned the Sabbath have largely lost their sense of spiritual values. Their national character has lost much of its strength and virility.

I have observed on frequent visits the attitude of the towns of the British Commonwealth to the Sabbath Day's rest. And what I have seen in Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Belfast, Cape Town, and Durban strengthens my conviction that the British Commonwealth owes its strength of character and virility of life in no small measure to the

physical and spiritual refreshment of the Sabbath Day's rest.

### Our Liberties

For that reason, I believe that the liberties secured for us by the Sabbath Day—not without struggle and suffering—should be safeguarded by the civil magistrate appointed by us to protect our other liberties, social, civil, and political.

Those liberties should not be filched from us by our own thoughtless folly or by the selfishness of others.

I think it futile, and worse than futile to attempt to draw up a detailed list of "do's and don'ts" for Sunday observance, since observance in the mere letter, without respect to the spirit, may well be a breach of the Sabbath law.

It can, however, be said in a general way that anything that is motivated by commercial greed or thoughtlessness, selfishness that disregards the sacred rights and convictions of others—the Sunday cinema is an example of the one, and much of our present-day Sunday sports an example of the other—is patently a breach of the Divine Commandment.

### Not Desirable

In fact, any activity that caters to anything less than the highest good of man, and makes of the Sabbath "a screaming thing of mere sport and noise, a day of drink and madness," the disturber of peace and worship, is not desirable, and ought not to be tolerated in a Christian community.

In the practice of my creed I would make Sunday my day of most serious thought, when I try to face problems and plumb depths that I merely skirt on other days; my day of public and community worship in the fellowship of kindred spirits; my day of domestic peace and tranquillity, and my day of most willing and sacrificial service to the lonely, the stricken, and the sad.

("Evening Post," 26/6/48.)

## TEMPERANCE FACTS

"Gambling is the imaginary mechanical adventure for those who cannot create the adventure of life."—B.B.C. talk.

**Given at Dargaville:** "By deadening the brain cells, alcohol causes serious lapses of self-control, especially among young adults."—Sir Victor Horsley, M.D.

**Given at Remuera:** "No-one should think of driving a car when under the influence of ether. No-one should attempt to drive a car when under the influence of alcohol."

**Given at Napier:** "New York: The complete official count on the results of the vote in the 16 Wet-Dry contests in New York State, November 5, reveals that Dry carried 15 of the 16 contests."—"Vanguard," February-May issue.

## THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

JESSIE HIETT

The Women's Christian Temperance Union was formed in New Zealand in 1885. Mrs. M. C. Leavitt was sent from the United States on a world missionary tour and New Zealand was one of the many countries she visited. She formed W.C.T. Unions in the large towns of our country and so linked New Zealand to the World W.C.T.U., which operates in 56 different countries. The motto of this organisation is "For God, Home, and Humanity." The pledge of total abstinence makes the Union distinctive. The badge, a bow of white ribbon, incorporates the ideas of peace, purity and prohibition.

Immediately after the formation of the Union W.C.T.U. members commenced to work for women's franchise. There were few ways of transport, but nothing daunted those pioneers. They tramped up hill and down dale over stony roads, gaining signatures to a petition for women's franchise. The first two petitions were rejected by Parliament, but, nothing daunted, they started with a third petition, under the splendid leadership of Mrs. Sheppard of Christchurch. Other women's organisations joined in, and the result was a very large petition, which gained the day. In 1893 the franchise was granted. At that time there were only seven laws on the Statute Book dealing with women and children. Now there are over 50, many of them sponsored by the W.C.T.U.

The "White Ribbon," the official organ of the W.C.T.U., is published monthly, and contains excellent temperance matter. It includes a paper for youth, called "The Beacon" and a Young People's Supplement for children. This paper has been in circulation for over 50 years, and was the first paper in New Zealand edited by a woman.

There are many departments in the W.C.T.U. Youth Departments are, first, Cradle-Roll, with over 7,000 children enrolled; second, Loyal Temperance Legion, where children run their own meetings on Parliamentary lines with a Superintendent in charge; third, Bands of Hope; and fourth, the Young People's Christian Temperance Union, which includes youth of both sexes. These young people elect their own officers and aim at Temperance Education on scientific lines.

A Scientific Temperance Examination is held once a year, open to children of all ages. The lessons are graded. 129 children entered for this examination last year, and the majority did excellent work. This year the W.C.T.U. has initiated an essay and poster competition, with excellent monetary prizes for the winners.

Other departments undertaken by the W.C.T.U. are **anti-gambling**, from

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