

alcoholic or a chronically excessive drinker.

We know that the U.S.A. Government is very much exercised by this increasing number of alcoholics and has made large grants to assist in treating and endeavouring to cure these people. Would it not be better to prohibit the importation and manufacture of this enemy?

Bulgaria has awakened to this harm to her people for, according to the "Bulgarian National Herald," April 13, 1947, the Bulgarian Government, by decree, closed 16,000 night clubs and saloons in that country. This action was taken because of the heavy increase of debauchery and drunkenness which had developed in Bulgaria. A new temperance measure recently passed in Bulgaria includes two significant temperance provisions: 1, Local Option; and 2, All licensed houses must serve fruit juices.

In one of the saddest commentaries yet heard on parental delinquency, the Child Welfare Division of the City of Boston reported recently that hundreds of babies and children have been committed to city care—and support because **excessive** drinking has made their parents unfit to bring them up.

Mrs. Anna M. Mackay, Deputy Commissioner of Child Welfare, estimated that 85 per cent. of 1,500 youngsters the Division now supports in foster homes, have had to be separated from their natural parents because of unbearable family conditions which grew out of **too much liquor**. Mrs. Mackay said that drunkenness is the underlying factor in the majority of all types of cases which result in commitment of children to the Division.

Drink, agreed Miss Marv J. Reidy, investigator with the Department for 17 years, has been the major factor in the majority of the family break-ups.

The following appeared in the "Auckland Star," July 15, 1944, "U.S. Olympic Athletes Must Behave or Else—New York—Wednesday. The United States Olympic authorities, mindful of the furore caused in 1936 when the American swimmer Eleanor Home was dismissed from the team for drinking champagne, today issued a stern warning that any athlete who breaks training by drinking alcohol will be dismissed. Violation shall be the grounds for immediate dismissal from the team."

Back in our own little New Zealand we read of experimental activities in grape production. The exceptional grape crops have been used commercially to manufacture wine of a particularly intoxicating nature. If the Government could only be induced to see the advisability of it these exceptional crops could be used with profit to the people of New Zealand to more advantage as non-intoxicating beverages, and assist the sick to regain their health, or as a basis for many refreshing fruit drinks. **Unfermented fruit drink bars** could become just as popular as milk-bars, for young people only want pleasant drinks and to drink in company.

Just a word about Legislation! The Royal Commission sat in January, 1945. They reported on August 27, 1946, two years ago, and there was a very half-hearted discussion in the House in September, 1947, almost a year ago and only talk since. Because of the fact that it is a matter on which both sides of the House are divided, it is being shelved.

The Alliance, from their annual meeting, telegraphed the Prime Minister, asking for an assurance that the bill would be brought down this session. The reply was, "Your telegram received. Question of legislation is one for Government to decide. When that decision is arrived at I will be pleased to inform you in time for your organisation to make any representation which it considers necessary." I presume the other side will receive the same privilege.

In the Royal Commission's recommendations were:—1. An alteration to the ballot paper. They suggest the following—

I vote for Continuance.

I vote for Prohibition.

In the event of the first being carried—

I vote for corporate control.

I vote against corporate control.

The brewers want this last to relate to hotels only.

Temperance bodies, while not agreeing that anything but prohibition would be in the best interests of the people consider that corporate or trust control of hotels would be useless, and consider it should include the importation, manufacture and retailing of all intoxicating liquor.

Then there is the question of extended hours of sale. We do **not** want evening hours of sale and **must** be firm in our stand for 6 o'clock closing. A good many of us remember the 10 o'clock closing with its waste of time and money and danger to young people out at night.

We must stand out against restaurant drinking.

We must oppose any extension of the period between the polls. Nine years was recommended, but the very fact that the poll is held every three years means that the young people are at least having brought before them the harmful effect of strong drink, and if they have been taught to "think clearly" in the home, some at least may be saved.

Lastly we want to see the powers of the Licensing Committees increased. We have had the promise of the Prime Minister that a referendum of the people will be taken on these matters before any should be put into effect, and we must see that the promise is honoured.

"The hosts of darkness gather  
To drive us back to night,  
But all unseen the Hosts of God  
Are with us in the fight.  
Oh sisters! do not falter  
March on and have no fear:  
Oh lift your eyes to yonder skies,  
The Morning Land is near."

## President's Message

Dear Friends,—

What do you think is most needed, and that we can all give, to help abolish the liquor traffic? There is just one answer—"Service" given to Christ through the every-day opportunities that crowd about us.

**SERVICE**—we can all give a little more: give an extra piece of literature; state a fact about the danger of the liquor trade to some one who may not know it; remind a fellow member of the Union meeting day, etc.

**ENCOURAGING**—Praise other people's efforts to work for Christ, never mind whether you like them, or their efforts.

**REFLECTING**—Giving such service as we are able in the spirit that reflects the love of Christ.

**VISION**—Serving with a clear vision of God's will to remove evil from the land, keeping our eyes set on the glory of God and our ears listening for His direction re ways and means of carrying out what we see and hear.

**INDIVIDUAL**—See to it that we leave none of our individual work undone, it is **ours** to do. If we do not do it, someone else may, but we shall have lost our opportunity. It won't come back; we may, in God's mercy, receive **another** opportunity but for the whole of our lives we have to go short of the blessing that might have come to us.

**CONSECRATE**—Perfect service can only be given through sincere and self-sacrificing consecration. Without consecration to His service it is impossible for Christ to give to us the gifts He lived and died to give.

**ETERNITY**—All acts of consecrated service help us and those around us to reach Eternity with joy and gladness and, if we are true to our Union Pledge, with thankfulness that we have been allowed to help to make a cleaner world by abolishing the liquor traffic.

With very sincere good wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,

C. E. KIRK,

Dominion President.

### MRS. STEPHENSON CRAIG

With the deepest regret, we announce the passing to Higher Service on 25th November, of our beloved sister, Mrs. Stephenson Craig, for so many years a worker for our cause in Hamilton.