

"DRY" AMERICA AMAZES WORLD

The International Sunday School Lesson For November 2 Is A Temperance Lesson—Jeremiah 35:1-8, 12-14a, 18, 19

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

Often during the present year my fellow traveler and I have talked together of the incredulity which we found in the old world concerning America's adoption of a nationwide prohibition law. We have sought to understand why foreign friends could not comprehend it. Much amusement we have had out of our countless conversations with these bewildered inquirers—and also much food for serious reflection. Practically every English-speaking person we met talked about this wonder of the world. It was more consistently a theme of discussion than the Peace Treaty, the war itself or the influenza epidemic. I can testify that all the civilized world is deeply interested in America's going "dry."

Many men, especially British officers, were sincerely concerned. Least there should be a revolution in America. They fully expected "the working classes" to rise up in armed protest against being deprived of their beer. Their basic assumption was that certain reforms and fanatics, possessed of sudden unaccountable authority, had taken advantage of the absence of the soldiers from America to put this terrible prohibition law upon the statute books. And what would become of the country? Men surely would not submit patiently to being deprived of their drink!

Clearly, Europe's mind is not our mind. The thing roots deeper than the difference between the drinking habits of America and, say, Great Britain. The sophisticated old world could not understand our prohibition measure, enacted from a self-denying solicitude for the common welfare, any more than it can understand our motives in entering the war. To this day, there are millions of persons east of the Atlantic who are waiting to see what the United States will get out of the war; and who, in the meantime, attribute all sorts of ignominious motives to her. They think that Canada and Australia, who share America's ideals, somehow "had" to enter the war, because they "belonged" to the British Empire. If we faced this difference in viewpoint, frankly we might get farther in understanding the present world conditions. Idealism seems to be in a peculiar degree the possession of the newer, younger nations. The simple neighborliness of pioneers has worked out in a real spirit of brotherhood and social service.

There is no denying that Europe has been given a jolt by the drastic

temperance legislation of the United States and Canada. And the Moslem East has been arrested in its new following of the European fashion of alcoholic indulgence. The frantic manner in which advocates of strong drink are defending it is one portent of the not-distant day when the whole world will be "dry." After the British home folk have heard the full truth about the part that whisky played in the tragic loss of certain battles and positions, they will take measures to prevent at least the higher officers from capitulating to the bottled enemy who is always a powerful ally of every other enemy.

Back of this all lies an idea that is greater than the liquor question. That is the notion that whatever hurts a person's efficiency, or a nation's, is not to be tolerated; and that whatever makes for selfishness and unbrotherliness is fundamentally against the efficiency and for life. We cannot run this world on a "look-out-for-number-one" basis. We are all too tightly tied up in the one bundle for that. Nowadays we are glimpsing a vast significance in the interpretation of the fulfillment of Christ's principles as we read: "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." We are out-laws from the Kingdom of Heaven so long as we are not sharing the other person's load. Not to have a load on our shoulders declassifies us, as it were; puts us out of the good society of the good. Looked at in the large, the liquor question is more than an economic question and a social question and a physiological question; it is a religious question.

Celebration Jubilee

For decades the Sunday Schools have observed what they call "World's Temperance Sunday." This lesson recognizes that anniversary; that is why we treat it topically, rather than textually—albeit the Rechabites are well worth studying about. There will be the note of jubilation in this year's celebration; for we have witnessed the greatest demonstration of the advantages of the suppression of the liquor traffic the world has ever seen. Some drinkers admit the crumbling of course; but they are not drinking as of yore, so who minds the grouching?

Queer stories of all kinds are current since the United States went "dry." Thus, the House of Correction Farm in Philadelphia has not had enough "d. d.'s"—"drunk and disorderly"—to carry on its farm or to run the plant which supplies the community with gas; and both of these calamities have been heralded as evils of prohibition! Mr. Blythe tells in "The Saturday Evening Post" of workmen who now are so sober and "flush" on Monday morning that they do not care whether they work or not; they have money, so why labor? In the old days, the beneficent saloon kept them so poor that they had to work. Also a steam laundry complained of being out-competed with business, because so many wives are now using the husband's booze money to pay for the family wash, instead of doing it themselves.

None of the dire prophecies of the brewers have been fulfilled; and the people generally are better off and happier with this one avenue of expenditure closed to them. Best of all, the men who used to drink regularly are finding themselves in better health and spirits than before, and they have quickly adapted themselves to the new conditions. The only organized protest against the new law has come from the liquor dealers, and in sober daylight, they find few friends. They were not the "good fellows" many thought them; but only a crowd of selfish, unscrupulous money-grabbers.

Nobody with a clear brain should suppose that the temperance battle has been won because the saloons have been put out of business in the United States and most of Canada. Far from it. Negations create nothing. We have to build a new and nobler spirit of human relationship if we are to make this old world the livable place it should be. Our sober society should breed inciters and inspirers to brotherhood. Life's level must be lifted. There is a message for the day in Marguerite O. B. Wilkenson's poem:

"He set his hand to the plow one While yet his years were few, Resolved to mark a distant field With furrows firm and true. His arms were strong for the toil of life, His heart was all afire, Till a neighbor laughed, and turned him home, Rebuking his desire: 'You are too young, you are too poor, you are too weak,' said he. 'Best leave such tasks to the rich and great, and strive to be like me!'"

"Then rosy love brought grand largesse To his very cottage door, A maid of mystery and of charm God never gave before; And the lad held out dumb hands of hope To the mighty fires of peace, Till the neighbor passed with tongue in cheek, And then he sought release. 'You are too dull,' the neighbor said, 'to shine by such as she. Find you a girl of common clay to wed, and be like me!'"

"So time sped by, till the fading day Could bring but one last chance To break the bonds of a sordid life And conquer circumstance; And, well-nigh spent, he sought the road To the heights where life it great, Eager to reach one shining goal, But his neighbor whispered, 'wait—' 'You are too old to do it now—it is far too late,' said he. 'I could not do it myself, you know, and you are just like me!'"

A Menace or an Opportunity

Of course there is law violation in "dry" territory; somehow, the whole miserable business of booze seems to beget lawlessness. Just now, the intelligent men who are committing these breaches of the enacted statutes of the land need to do a bit of sensible thinking. Disrespect for law is the world's greatest contemporary evil. In Russia it has produced Bolshevism; in America it has blossomed in lynchings and riots.

Law is law, and sacred, if civilization is to stand. The man who breaks the law concerning liquor has no case against the man, several stages below him in the intellectual scale, who breaks the law against making and throwing bombs. Lawlessness is anarchy; and honest minds know that the present outbreak of lawlessness at the bottom is the legitimate child of years of lawlessness at the top. For the sake of the integrity of our own thinking let us not forget that Czarism begot Bolshevism; and that an era of lawless capitalism cannot disown its offsprings, an era of industrial violence. The hour is here for facing all the facts and accepting their implications squarely. The new liquor laws are not a joke; they are law, and are indifferent to individual opinion and

SPENT MILLIONS FOR HOUSING

Uncle Sam Expended \$46,000,000 Making Homes For War Workers

Philadelphia, Oct. 31.—Uncle Sam spent approximately \$46,000,000 in housing the war workers of Pennsylvania during the two years of the Great War, according to information so far in the hands of the Pennsylvania War History Commission. The sum represents the amount spent in this State by the housing commission of the Emergency Fleet Corporation and the United States Housing Commission, each organization expending about one-half the total.

The facts and figures are made

GOOD TIDINGS FROM MOTHER IN FAR EAST

"Your mother is getting stronger every day," writes relatives of S. Bhagwan Singh, 1345 Vine st., Phila., from Hindustan, East India. "That medicine you sent fixed her up in two weeks."

Mr. Singh, a student here, said: "Several months ago I had trouble with my stomach. I was advised to take Tanlac. I got such wonderful results that when I received word that my aged mother in India was ill and run down, I immediately sent two packages of Tanlac to her. I am mighty grateful to Tanlac. I feel that it has saved my dear mother's life."

The genuine J. I. Gore Co. Tanlac is now being introduced here by all leading druggists.

Sailors and Marines Available For Service on Land in Strike

Washington, Oct. 31.—Sailors and marines will be available for land service in any emergency arising from the impending coal strike, Secretary Daniels said. If called on by the President, the Secretary explained, sufficient forces would be landed and ordered to attach themselves to the military commanding officer of the area in which there was need for their services.

Philadelphia Gets Elkins Art Gallery

Philadelphia, Oct. 31.—The magnificent art gallery of the late George W. Elkins, which includes the famous Alma Tadema, "A Reading From Homer" is bequeathed to the city of Philadelphia in his will. Mr. Elkins died a week ago.

The estate is estimated to be worth \$4,000,000 or more.

A trust fund of \$500,000 is devised for the care and maintenance of the art collection, said to be worth millions.

public to-day by the commission as a part of State History Week activities and as an incentive to more history-digging by Pennsylvanians. For the plant of the Westinghouse Company at Essington, \$1,200,000

was expended in building 200 houses and one dormitory, housing 500. The greatest single expenditure occurred at the American International Shipbuilding Corporation (Hog Island), where \$10,031,000 was spent

in building 1,989 individual homes and four dormitories. The next largest was at Bethlehem. Use McNeil's Pain Exterminator—A4

United States Grain Corporation Will Sell Flour to Wholesalers and Jobbers

The United States Grain Corporation is prepared to divert from its flour purchases, and to sell and deliver to wholesalers and jobbers straight (either soft or hard) wheat flour, clean and well milled, packed in 140-pound jute sacks, (gross weight) basis of \$10.25 per barrel, delivered in carload lots on tracks in territory east of the Illinois and Indiana line, and east of the Mississippi River, from Cairo to the Gulf.

Wholesalers and jobbers in purchasing flour from the United States Grain Corporation must guarantee not to sell at more than seventy-five cents per barrel additional, and the wholesalers and jobber in turn must require a guarantee that the retailer will not sell at more than \$1.25 per barrel over the wholesaler's prices, in original packages, and at a price not higher than seven cents a pound for broken packages of any size.

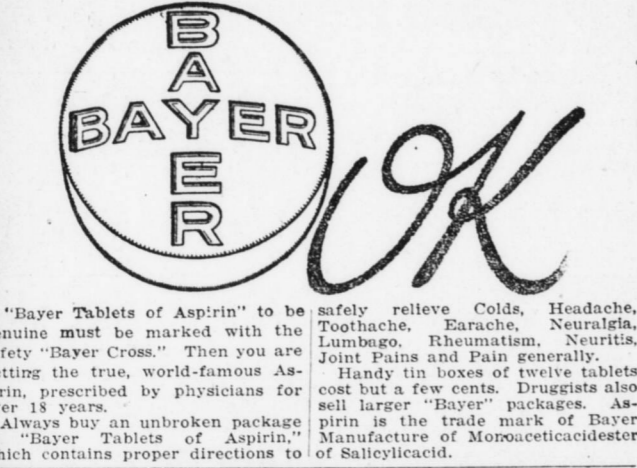
All applications originating in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and the Lower Peninsula of Michigan must be sent to the undersigned.

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