

THE SOWER

A Weekly Department of Religious and Secular Thought Contributed by REV. JAMES A. TURNER, Pastor, M. E. Church, Patton, Pa.

THE PATRIOTISM OF STOPPING WASTE

The idea has been widely broadcast that an imperative duty of patriotism in the United States is to stop the waste of our natural resources. This is emphasized particularly in connection with the gigantic waste of the soil.

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Fannie C. Wetzel CARROLLTOWN

A dread word has been etched into our minds — "erosion." Our soil is being washed away by floods. It is being blown away by storms. It has been wasted by careless treatment. If our future generations are to have any land they can call their "native soil," there must be a tremendous soil saving movement.

Long ago Patrick Henry said, "He is the greatest patriot who stops the most gullies." Stuart Chase warns Americans: "If we cannot afford to come to terms with nature we can't afford to go on living here much longer. We shall end in the bankruptcy courts of a destroyed and ruined land."

Three centuries after the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, government experts soberly calculate that half of the original fertility of America has vanished. But the lost soil is only a part of the waste of America.

There is also a tremendous preventable waste in human and spiritual resources, in physical and financial strength, through the traffic in alcoholic liquor. The patriotism of stopping waste applies to the stopping of this great waste also.

Some short sighted and indifferent people imagine that in some mysterious way the repeal of the prohibition amendment did something to settle the liquor problem. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Look at what has happened in the six years since repeal. We are told by the brewers and distillers to look at the big revenue from liquor taxes — about a billion dollars in 1938.

We are told that every dollar of that revenue represents three or four dollars of private expenditure which is wasted or worse. The saloon is back in spite of all loud promises that it would not come back. And it is back in a worse form than before, for it has been carried into places where it never got before. It has a glorified name and has patronage under that name which never went to the ugly name "saloon." It has transformed nearly every drugstore and grocery store in the country into a liquor store.

It has failed to produce "temperance" to such an alarming extent that even the distillers are making an effort to "preach temperance."

There is a shocking waste of life. Consider merely the toll of life and accident due to alcoholic drinking. In 1938, 39,700 lives were lost in motor accidents. Not all of these were due to liquor, of course; but the president of the American Motorists Insurance Co. bluntly says that "the primary contributing factor (in these accidental deaths) is the almost complete absence of regulation of the strong liquor traffic since the repeal of prohibition."

He finds that the number of drunken drivers has increased fourfold since 1929. As a sample of conditions the Iowa Liquor Control Commission reports that driving-while-intoxicated cases increased 40.4 percent in Iowa from 1935 to 1938. In view of this situation the Journal of the National Educational Association declares that there are twenty-six million reasons for abstinence. By that is meant that there are twenty-six million gasoline automobiles and trucks. Each is a compelling reason for abstinence.

There is also the loss to legitimate business. Every five dollars spent on whiskey is five dollars less to spend on milk, on shoe, on clothing. Someone may reply, "But think of the work that making liquor gives." The answer to that is the fact that for each dollar of capital invested, the distilling and brewing industries employ far less labor than the clothing, shoe, or food industries.

There is also the appalling waste of the greatest of any nation's assets — character and personality. To say nothing of the sight of a drooling, driving, disgusting drunken man or woman, — to make no mention of the loss of character and personality in the part of a person whose brain and nerve centers are muddled, "messed and mutilated" until he is unfit for even the most elemental of human tasks, — listen to the words of Judge F. H. Taft, of the Los Angeles Superior Court: "The part liquor in the home plays in contributing to juvenile delinquency is headed. It unfits or tends to unfit the user as a parent to maintain family discipline. It often leads to poverty, want, and serious family dissensions."

The words of Abraham Lincoln, spoken at Springfield, Illinois, on February 22, 1842, are still challenging and pertinent to this waste of the human resources of our country: "Of our political revolution in '76 we are justly proud. It has given us a degree of political freedom outweighing that of any other nation on earth. Turn now to the temperance revolution. In it we shall find a stronger bondage broken, a viler slavery manumitted, a greater tyrant deposed; in it, more of want supplied, more disease healed, more sorrow assuaged; by it no orphans starving, no widows weeping. How nobly distinguished that people who shall have planted and nurtured to maturity both the political and moral freedom of their species." — Dr. Halford E. Lucecock.

PATTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

James A. Turner, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M. Preaching 11 A. M. and at 7:30 P. M. every Third Sunday. Epworth League 6:30. Mid-Week Bible Class, Wednesday, 7:30 P. M.

Dr. Elbert E. Moffat, missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Bombay, India, will be the guest speaker at Trinity Methodist Church, Phillipsburg, Pa., on November 27, 1939.



E. M. MOFFATT

Dr. Moffat first went to Lucknow, India where he was engaged in educational work in the School of Commerce, as well as in evangelistic service among the Hindustani people of the city. He was also manager of the Boys' School at Dwarahat.

During recent years, Dr. Moffat has been in charge of the Inter-Mission Business Office in Bombay, handling much of the financial work of a large number of mission boards and societies in India. He is also the Executive Secretary of the Central Conference, held in Kansas City, at which session the three branches of American Methodists were united into one body.

Dr. Moffat was born in LeSeuer, Minnesota, and received his education in Dartmouth College and New York University. He served for five years in India as secretary of the young Men's Christian Association before receiving appointment for service under the Board of Foreign Missions.

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PENNSYLVANIA WINTER RESORTS PLAN SNOW SPORTS PROGRAM

Harrisburg — Pennsylvania's winter resorts are making plans for an active season of snow sports.

Almost simultaneously with the first heavy snowfall, which occurred during the November 4-6 week end in the north central counties, the tourist and recreation division of the State Department of Commerce received information that some mountain resorts have completed arrangements to entertain large groups of winter sports fans during the approaching season.

Other resorts also are planning outdoor activities for the growing number of followers of the ski and toboggan trails, according to Secretary of Com-

merce Richard P. Brown.

Resorts which already have completed their arrangements for the winter sports season include Skytop Club, at Skytop and the Inn at Buck Hill Falls, in the Pocono Region; and the Kane Ski Club which is cooperation with the Kane Chamber of Commerce in plans for the winter season at the "ice box" of northwestern Pennsylvania.

Eagles Mere, Altoona and several other sections are arranging similar facilities.

Guides and instructors will be available, and skis, toboggans and other outdoor equipment may be rented this year at most of the resorts catering to the devotees of winter outdoors fun.

CHERRY TREE WOMAN, DAUGHTER ARE HURT

Cherry Tree—Mrs. J. C. Cooper, and her daughter, Miss Charlotte Cooper, 21, both of Cherry Tree, suffered painful injuries at 2:30 o'clock last Wednesday afternoon when their automobile figured in a collision with a car operated by Budd Wineberg, 47, of Akron, O. The mishap occurred at a road intersection in Cookport.

Mrs. Cooper was treated at the office of an Emehigh physician for an injury to the back. Her daughter escaped with body bruises. Four passengers in the Ohio car escaped injury, although the Wineberg machine overturned after being struck.

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