

Case Against Beer

Presbytery Attacks Brewers' Arguments

Editor, Sun, Sir: The Vancouver presbytery of the United Church of Canada desires to correct some of the erroneous and misleading statements recently made in your columns by the brewing industries of Canada and British Columbia. We believe it is decidedly against the public interest that such statements should go unchallenged.

1. We are astonished that the Canadian Breweries Ltd. should have so far forgotten the delicacies of public life as to attempt, in their "Alternative Speech on Temperance," to put the defense of their business into the mouth of the Prime Minister of Canada.

Their argument that a 10 per cent reduction in the sale of beer is "an unreasonable law" which beer-drinking "good Christians" will "ignore with disastrous results to the legal institutions of the country," and their advice to the people of Canada "to take every opportunity to publicly and privately express themselves against the government's too drastic restriction of the sale of beer," looks perilously like an incitement to sedition or rebellion against a necessary war measure of the Government of Canada.

FANATICAL MINORITY

The brewers protest their loyalty and patriotism and their support of the national war effort. Why, then, complain of such a slight reduction as still permits their non-essential business to carry on at a 50 per cent increase over the pre-war years? Have we heard any similar outcry from the automobile or gasoline business, or the clothing industry, or the jewellers or the gold-mining companies, which have all suffered much heavier reductions?

2. The Canadian Breweries Ltd. also charge that this action of the government is due to "the narrow-mindedness of a fanatical minority" which is determined "to impose its wishes upon a tolerant majority" of the nation, and which has by "a powerful lobby," misled the government to take this unreasonable action.

Just who is this "fanatical minority" and this "powerful lobby"? The "fanatical minority" happens to be the members and adherents of all the Christian churches of Canada, including the Roman Catholic Church, and the various temperance societies of Canada, and the "powerful lobby" was simply the representatives of these bodies who several times requested the government to "do something to curb the growing menace of a business that is crippling our war effort and wasting almost \$300,000,000 a year which should be going to support our men at the fighting front. Far from being a "fanatical minority," these people are the vast majority of those who form the backbone of the moral and spiritual life of this whole Dominion. And the government recognized this fact in granting their patriotic appeal.

IMPEDED SHIPPING

3. The brewers of British Columbia claim that the malt and hops used in making beer are not needed for war supplies. "They will not make war weapons," they tell us. But these very materials can, and do prevent many war weapons from getting where they are sorely needed. They have not told your readers that vast quantities of beer shipped every month to Africa have taken the shipping space of millions of tons of war supplies which, for over a year, have been piled, house-high, acres wide, for miles on miles along the railway tracks of Ontario and Quebec because there has not been room in any ships to take them to the battle fronts. Since the war began there has been shipped to Africa enough Canadian beer to fill a train of boxcars 250 to 300 miles long,

special committee of the Medical Research Council to investigate this very question. Ten of the greatest medical scientists in Britain formed this committee, and after seven years' research they reported: "The direct effect of alcohol upon the nervous system is, in all stages and upon all parts of the system, to depress or suspend its function; it is, in short, from first to last a narcotic drug."

In the chapter on beer they said, "We have ample reason to consider that the taking of alcoholic beverages to promote efficiency is not only useless or even detrimental in immediate effect, but is also likely to be in its ultimate results, seriously injurious to health."

This report was published by the British Government, and its verdict is emphatically supported by the foremost medical authorities of the world around. The great soldiers from Roberts and Kitchener to Montgomery and Bishop, and statesmen from Gladstone to Lloyd and Philip Snowden, have all condemned alcoholic liquor as Enemy No. 1 in time of war as well as in peace.

SALE INCREASED

5. It is also untrue to say that beer drinking has not increased in B. C. Since 1936 there has been a steady increase in the sale of beer; in fact it has almost doubled, rising from \$7,000,996 to \$8,565,037 in 1939, and to \$13,646,953 in 1942. Will the brewers claim that the population of the province has doubled in the same period?

6. The brewers are deeply concerned about the failure of the government to provide for the thirst of "the special concentrations in certain communities of troops and war workers." Is there, perchance, some ulterior motive in this concern? Could their anxiety have any relation to the future of their business, if not to their present profits?

An editorial in the "Brewers Digest" of May, 1941, has this to say: "One of the finest things that could have happened to the brewing industry was the insistence of high-ranking officers to make beer available at the army camps... Here is a chance for brewers to cultivate a taste for beer in millions of young men who will eventually constitute the largest beer-consuming section of our population." It would seem as if the brewers are quite willing to turn our army camps into recruiting centres for the drunkards of the next generation by cultivating a thirst for alcohol in thousands of young men who did not have it when they enlisted. And yet they talk of patriotism!

SOCIAL INJURY

7. The brewers are also much alarmed about the loss of revenue to the government if less beer is sold. In the year ending with last March the drinkers of B. C. paid \$26,135,547 for their drink; the B. C. Government got \$5,769,965 in revenue. Who got the balance of the \$26,135,547? For every dollar the government got the people paid \$4.50 to the liquor interests. That is, \$1 to the government and \$3.50 to the brewers and distillers, all of it paid by the thirsty consumers. Was that a profitable deal for the government which had to take care of all the economic loss, social injury and criminality caused by this liquor business? How far does the five millions of revenue go in paying the extra costs of the administration of law and order and penal institutions which are the direct result of the traffic in liquor?

These, Mr. Editor, are some matters which this presbytery respectfully urges your readers to ponder seriously. They seem to be vital to a clear understanding of the present situation and the continued success of the nation's war effort.

On behalf of the Presbytery, G. H. VILLETTE, chairman.

Ottawa Hitch Delays Sale of Jap Farms

NEW WESTMINSTER, Feb. 20.—There is no change in policy in regard to disposal of Japanese farms in the Fraser Valley. It was announced today from the offices of the various agents acting on behalf of the custodian in charge of Japanese evacuation. The properties are not yet offered for sale; they are still leased to white farmers.

"It was announced some time ago that the Japanese farms would be sold, but nothing further has been done about the matter," an agent informed The Sun today.

"There apparently has been some hitch in the Government plans and until we receive official notice the properties will continue to be leased," the agent said.

There are several thousand Japanese farms in the valley and they are all being tenanted by white farmers.

In the event of the Government definitely deciding to sell the farms the lessees would have the first opportunity to purchase.

Agents for the custodian in New Westminster are Coulthard & Sutcliffe, A. W. McLeod Ltd. and Westminster Trust Company who report many offers for purchase on file. Prospective purchasers have been informed that the farms are not for sale.

"If the farms are placed on the market they will be sold at a fair price established by an appraiser," an agent said.

'Is Hitler Dead?'

Dr. Hathaway Lecture
What has become of Hitler? Has he gone into retreat—with the German army? Is he dead or alive? Why is he silent? Has he been killed in action, assassinated by his own men, or died of natural causes? Is he in Berlin, or the grave? Will he rise from the dead with another brilliant intuition? What is the reason of the great change in his recent picture?

These questions and many more will be answered by Dr. Hathaway in his prophetic lecture at the AAOCC Hall, 2743 Oak Street, Vancouver, on Sunday at 7:30 p.m. These questions will be answered from a study of Hitler's horoscope, the horoscope of the Third Reich, and the horoscope of outstanding Nazis. Mid-week lectures are now being held in the AAOCC Hall every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Observe Day of Prayer for Students

At St. Paul's Anglican Church on Sunday morning, the special preacher will be Rev. H. J. Greig, field secretary of the Anglican Theological College of B. C. On this day throughout the world, even in the occupied countries, Christian students will join in their Universal Day of Prayer.

In spite of tremendous difficulties, with many universities closed, with Christian bodies scattered, these students have carried "on individually and in little groups, often in prison camps.

The rector, Rev. Canon Harold G. King, will preach in the evening.

Twenty Years Ago

Feb. 20, 1923.—Ronald R. Burns was elected chairman of the board of Vancouver General Hospital. Ald. W. R. Owen was vice-chairman, and F. J. Burd again treasurer. Mrs. E. D. Carder and Dr. P. A. McLennan were the new provincial government appointees to the board.

Woodward's Better Value

FURNITURE



9-Piece Dining Suite Value

Built-in quality construction, matched walnut veneers, simple lines, and ample storage space in the spacious drawers and cupboards combine to make a suite of beauty and utility. Includes buffet, extension table, china cabinet and six diners. An attractive value. **\$239.50**

CARPETS and LI

Super Felt Base Floor Covering

6 Feet Wide
The outstanding value in felt base floor covering for a smart up-to-date kitchen or bedroom. Per square yard **67c**

Super Felt Base Rugs

The thrifty housewife knows the "value" of these highly enamelled surface rugs. Easy to clean and always bright and cheerful.

6'0" x 9'0" — Each	\$ 5.50
7'6" x 9'0" — Each	\$ 6.75
9'0" x 9'0" — Each	\$ 8.25
9'0" x 10'6" — Each	\$ 9.65
9'0" x 12'0" — Each	\$10.75
9'0" x 13'6" — Each	\$12.35
9'0" x 15'0" — Each	\$13.75

Seamless Axminster

Better grade carpets woven with a design in the best wool yarns ensuring many years of service. Designs are very attractive.

9'0" x 12'0" — Each
9'0" x 10'6" — Each
6'9" x 9'0" — Each
4'6" x 7'6" — Each

Plain and Frieze Carpets

27 Inches Wide
This very attractive carpeting may be made up or wall to wall in shades of green, brown, tan. Your choice is in a price range from per yard **\$3.45**

Clearing Broken Sizes and Odd Lots of

WOMEN'S SHOES



Better grades, for street or dress wear. Oxfords, sandals, flats, dress ties, pumps, gore and step-in styles. In smart leathers, black, brown, blue, wine and two-tone effects. Flat, Cuban or high heels in the group. Sizes, collectively, 3 to 9. **\$2.79**

Special, per pair

—Lullax Shoes, Main Floor

DRAPERY DEPT. VALUES

Assorted Ruffled Marquisette Curtains—21, 25, 28; self-colored pattern, Each	\$1.19	36-Inch Rayon Net—All-over pattern. Yard	39c
Flounced Marquisette Panel—21, 28; self-colored pattern, Each	\$1.78	36-Inch Flit and Tuscan Net—Ecur; all-over pattern. Yard	39c
Tailored Marquisette Panels—Ecur and cream. Each	\$1.09	36-Inch New Homespun—Plain and striped effect. Yard	69c
34-Inch Novelty Madras Marquisette—Ecur only	38c	44-Inch Shadow Cloth—Beige ground with pattern. Yard	59c
42-Inch Novelty Sprig Marquisette—Peach, tan rose and mauve. Yard	43c	35-Inch Homespun—Sand ground with stripe pattern. Yard	32c

CARBON OXIDE

Our customers are on their praise for the Carbon Oxide in its neat, scale depositing, and easy to place. The instructions are clear, range and good condition by use. Omit regularly. Price.....

—Stove Dept.

VALUES IN THE HARDWARE

WOODWARD'S ROOF SEAL—For leaky roofs, etc. A semi-plastic cement. Stops leaks in paper, felt and metal roofs. Waterproofs brick and cement walls; also good for flashing around chimneys. 1-gallon can **\$1.32**

VICTORY GARDEN COLD FRAME—For quicker garden start early by using a cold frame and insecto. Size approximately 3 feet by 6 feet, height at height at back 12 inches. Top has 8 lights of glass. size 16x16 inches. Price.....

SHOVELS—Long handle, round or square point; good quality. Each.....

EARTH SCREENS—Size 18x18 inches, heavy galvanized screen bottom. Each.....

WAX CLOTH—36 inches wide; for your fronts, brooder houses, etc. Holds in keeps out the cold, admits the sun's vital