

The Union Advocate

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What Shall We Do With Our Immigrants?

Illustrated Lecture in St. James' Hall Sunday Night by Rev. Dr. Shearer

In St. James' Hall Sunday evening, after the regular church services, a mass meeting was addressed by Rev. Dr. J. G. Shearer, chief superintendent of the Presbyterian department of Social Service and Evangelism.

Dr. Shearer spoke for a full hour, illustrating his remarks with about a hundred slides picturing life in the prairie districts, industrial centres, and sweatshops, slums, recreation places and social settlements of Canada.

The slides were operated by Mr. J. J. Ander. Dr. Shearer's lecture, both pathetic and humorous, was most instructive and interesting. He said, in part:

It was a problem what to do with our immigrants. He had seen one day some 2800 landing from Britain and Scandinavia, and on some day 1800 from Southern and Southern Europe. The former were easily assimilated; the latter were strange to our instructions, and the difficulty was to make them good Canadians and good Christians. Even British immigrants make our Temperance problem more serious.

He hoped the war would help us solve our Temperance question. Russia and France had taken hold of it in the right way, but there was danger of Britain being left in the tail of the procession.

Russian immigrants were good men, religious, but not democratic. They would rise, if shown good example. But he was afraid they might have reason to feel ashamed of Canada. This country was reeking with graft. He knew what he was talking about. There were no immigrants better than the Dutch of Holland.

The Hebrews were loyal to their adopted country and succeeded in life. They rarely went on the land. The Rutenians (Little Russians and Galicians) were healthy people of good avers; mentality, religious and musical. Of the 200,000 in Canada, from 40,000 to 50,000 had come under Evangelical influences. 19 had been ordained as Presbyterian Clergy-men in one day, and many had joined other Evangelical churches.

In Fort William (Ont.) there were whole blocks of houses around breweries wholly inhabited by non-Anglo-Saxons. Canada allowed these people liquor, to its shame and disgrace. In Canada \$150 a minute, day and night, was spent on strong drink, and 15 people died from its effect every day. War slow its hundreds of thousands but liquor its millions. But progress was being made in Canada. Manitoba bars must close at 7 p. m. Saskatchewan bars must close after April 1st be closed in the evening and after July 1st they will be abolished. Canada's direct expenditure for liquor was \$81,391,959, and \$100,000,000 more was paid indirectly (\$7,087,265 for extra cost of asylums, hospitals and administration of Justice; \$56,017,429 for loss in production through inefficiency caused by drink; and \$27,225,000 through deaths caused by drink.)—total loss \$181,722,651. To balance this the revenue received from the traffic was \$19,342,924. Net loss in the year 1913 was therefore \$162,379,727—far more than the war is costing us. Canadians paid only some \$2,500,000 a year for evangelical missions and social service; \$10,937,159 for fire insurance losses; and \$35,000,000 for education. The wheat crop of Saskatchewan was worth \$52,784,000; the Savings Bank deposits were \$219,328; all wages paid by railroads \$74,000,000, while the cost of war was over \$151,000,000.

Two vastly different "ten-year-olds" were shown—one that of a drunken Rutenian and the other of a sober Rutenian farmer. The incoming Canadians did all the heavy, dirty work and we grew rich on their labor. Some of them worked from 10 to 12 hours a day and 7 days a week, and lived in wretched homes, not being able to afford any better. He knew of a six-room house in Sydney, N. S., inhabited by a family of 6 and 16 men boarders besides.

A certain block in Sydney, with 257 people had 172 Italians, 22 Austrians, 22 Poles, 11 Hungarians, 8 Spaniards, 4 Russians, and only 15 British. There were many such districts in Canada.

The picture of an immigrant worker, who had to support his family by the hardest work, was shown. He had recently addressed 150 women breadwinners, who had to struggle for a bare subsistence. Squalid homes of the unemployed were shown. And the lecturer indignantly asked if Christian civilization should Roeder, was a guest of Mr. and Mrs. not put a stop to the system that

Town Improvement Club Organized Monday Night

Advocates of Temperance Met in the Town Hall to Agitate a More Strict Enforcement of the Scott Act.

CHARGES MADE THAT AGREEMENT EXISTED Between the Police Committee and the Liquor Dealers That by the Paying of a Fine, and Other Conditions, Liquor Could be Sold—Denied by Ald. Doyle

About 160 men attended the public meeting in the Town Hall, Monday night, March 22nd.

Mayor Morrissey was chosen chairman and H. H. Stuart secretary.

On suggestion of Rev. Dr. Harrison, Rev. S. J. MacArthur was called upon to explain the origin of the meeting and state its purpose.

REV. S. J. MACARTHUR

Rev. Mr. MacArthur said that on his way to the Whitneyville Patriotic Meeting (March 4th instant) in company with Mayor Morrissey he had first had his mind directed seriously to the present state of affairs. Both had agreed that no improvement could be looked for until the citizens through their influential laymen and church members determined to stand by each other for the good of the town. There was now a good feeling between the different denominations, which he hoped would continue and grow.

Many voices—Hear, hear!

Rev. Mr. MacArthur continued, Two weeks ago, to his surprise, Ald. S. W. Miller and Mr. Clem. Ryan had appeared and spoken at a meeting of the Methodist Men's Union. Ald. Miller had said that the clergy-men were not doing what they ought to do and might do, and if they would go to the Town Council he would put certain questions to the Chairman of the Police Committee which he would defy him to answer except affirmatively. Ald. Miller had sought to call a special meeting of the Council, but the meeting had not been called. The clergy-men had decided to take the matter in their own hands.

Certain facts had not been known to him till the Men's Union Meeting, when Ald. Miller's statement had brought them to his attention.

At this late hour it was felt that nothing could be gained by going before the expiring council.

It seemed to him that the Scott Act was not enforced in Newcastle because it was not allowed to be enforced. If these charges should be challenged they could be proved up to the hilt.

He had suggested a meeting of the Town Clergymen. They had met in Father Dixon's study (on the 15th) All were there. One had since withdrawn, on the ground that clergymen should not dictate to the Town. There was no intention to dictate. He appealed to the citizens on his own behalf to save himself from the shame of being a party to treating the Scott Act as a License Law, which it is not, for the saving of a paltry thousand dollars a year, which is next to nothing in an assessment of some \$34,000.

The Scott Act was enforced in Douglstown, Whitneyville, Redbank Millerton, Why? Because those who seek to enforce it there were not "eventuated from doing so. If an Inspector was to do his duty his hands must not be tied. But he was paid \$500 a year as Inspector and \$400 as a Policeman, and put wholly in the hands of a committee of men. If that committee refused to do their duty—if they dictated to the Inspector—what happened? Either the Inspector failed to do his duty or lost his job. He had incontestable proof that that was what had happened.

If the people wanted to stop the sale of liquor here they could. Business men had told him that business would be better if no liquor were sold. The churches would be better. A man could not be made better by law, but temptation could be taken from him. If the citizens took hold of this matter their clergymen would follow and support them. He asked the audience as citizens to relieve him of the shame of being a party to the non-enforcement of the law. He asked that the Inspector be made independent—that when he wants to put on second and third offences his hands be not tied.

John H. Ashford—That was done with me.

Rev. Mr. MacArthur—Yes; Tom Clarke told me so. And a member of the present Council told me so. If the Police Committee dismiss a Policeman he is thrown back on his \$500 a year and has to resign. There are men in this town who would take the job of Inspector, and if free to act, would clean out the liquor traffic in three months.

Mr. MacArthur added that men who had been in the liquor business in Newcastle say they had paid \$1600 hush money. Who gave the Town its bad name? Those who point out the iniquity, or those who permit it to be? Commercial travellers said conditions were bad. He was satisfied that a first class hotel could be run without liquor. The Minto in Campbellton had been more successful when it did not sell rum than when it did. New Glasgow had a first-class hotel that sold no liquor. Rev. Mr. MacArthur continued, Two weeks ago, to his surprise, Ald. S. W. Miller and Mr. Clem. Ryan had appeared and spoken at a meeting of the Methodist Men's Union. Ald. Miller had said that the clergy-men were not doing what they ought to do and might do, and if they would go to the Town Council he would put certain questions to the Chairman of the Police Committee which he would defy him to answer except affirmatively. Ald. Miller had sought to call a special meeting of the Council, but the meeting had not been called. The clergy-men had decided to take the matter in their own hands.

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The Advocate Explains Embarrassing Position

Statement Magnified by Temperance Glass Not so Strong When Read Fair-Mindedly.

A pill placed in the mouth of an erratic advocate of temperance, exploding at the temperance meeting in the Town Hall on Monday night, revealed a charge, or an assertion, that a statement had been made in The Union Advocate some time ago, which led to the belief that an arrangement existed between the Town Council and the liquor dealers, whereby the latter were allowed to sell liquor under certain conditions. The statement made by the temperance party in question was endorsed by one of our local ministers.

The Advocate, which has always upheld temperance, never made such a statement, as the following, which is the one in question, will clearly show for itself:

"The police committee are deserving of much credit for the manner in which they are handling the Scott Act here. The benefit of the system is already being felt by the merchants, as one firm in particular informed The Advocate that their cash sales on Saturday night last were far in excess of many previous Saturday nights. There is no doubt but that this beneficial effect was felt by other merchants as well.

The good results of this strict enforcement does not end here. There is also a pronounced absence of drunkenness on the streets Saturday nights and Sundays, which fact is hailed with pleasure by all advocates of temperance.

The police committee have taken a firm hand in this matter and they should receive the support of the citizens in general and if the sale cannot be entirely stopped, outward appearance at least, can be greatly eliminated, and even at that it will be a vast improvement over conditions as have been existing during the past year or so."

The above appeared in The Advocate under date of May 20th, 1914, and if our readers will remember, just prior to the coming in of the new and present council drunkenness was as common on Sundays as it was on week-days, and our streets and gutters were littered strewn with empty bottles. After the new council came in and the present Inspector was put on the force, all this disappeared, as stated above. Up to this time there was no talk of any agreement, and how our temperance friends could translate the word "system" into "agreement," or "arrangement," the words used Monday night, is more than we can understand.

At that writing there was no arrangement or agreement to the knowledge of The Advocate or its editor, nor is there any today, so far as we know, and the using of the word "system" was purely our own phraseology and used with absolutely no thought of there being such an arrangement as suggested at the meeting.

If the reader will read the second paragraph of the above quotation: "The good results of this STRICT enforcement," etc. Does that look as if there was an arrangement, and it was known to us? We fail to see it. Then further down to the next paragraph: "The police committee have taken a firm hand in this matter," etc. Does a FIRM hand mean an agreement or an arrangement? The reader can answer this. Again, "and if the sale cannot be ENTIRELY stopped" certainly has its meaning that if the police committee by using a FIRM hand in the STRICT enforcement of the Scott Act cannot ENTIRELY stop its sale, "outward appearances" (drunkenness on the streets, and empty bottles lying around) "at least, can be eliminated." If our temperance friends wish to translate this into any other meaning, and make The Advocate a target for mud-slinging, as was the case on Monday night, we will accept the above good-naturedly. If the statement made by W. C. Day was not what was intended for him to say, (we were informed beforehand that the article in question was to be brought up) we would suggest that his aim be made a little more accurate before he fires the next ball.

There are two questions The Advocate would like to have answered. The first is, if The Advocate was not directly charged with having made a statement that an agreement existed, (as Monday night's secretary informed us that we did) what was the charge, and why was the Advocate's name brought up in connection with this alleged agreement or arrangement? Secondly, when the editor of The Advocate was not in a position to produce the files of this paper when asked to do so, why did not Mr. H. H. Stuart, the secretary, read the article from the copy of the Advocate in question, that he had in his pocket, thus relieving The Advocate editor of the embarrassing position he was temporarily placed in? Our temperance friends who made the above charge publicly, we think owe it to this paper to withdraw it just as publicly as they made it.

Merchants Dollar Day Was a Good Success

Despite the Day Being Stormy, a Large Number of People were in Town.

One of the best shopping days that the merchants of Newcastle have enjoyed for a long time was that of dollar day, on the 18th inst., when the majority of our merchants, members of the Retail Merchants' Association, combined to give their patrons an opportunity in one grand day at bargain.

The columns of The Advocate were freely used, and banners and cards marked the stores participating in this great event.

The weather and everything else beforehand pointed to a very busy day. Every preparation was made, and all awaited the coming of the eventful day, which broke with a typical St. Patrick's storm, putting a damper on all hopes of our streets being crowded with visitors.

As it was, there was a good attendance of buyers from outside, and opinions expressed by all are that a good day's trade was the result, and had the day been fine, Newcastle merchants would have enjoyed a day of business as has never yet been experienced by them. We know of some instances where non-advertisers, besides having calls from their regular customers, had many new ones on that day, which is proof to them of the value of advertising, and we trust that in the very near future their ads. will appear regularly in The Advocate.

We believe that the townspeople, and those in the county who come to

Newcastle to do their shopping, appreciate these bargain days and it now remains with the merchants to follow them up, and eventually their one great aim of educating the people into buying altogether at home will have been accomplished.

The Advocate's campaign along this line will, we believe, in time, have the desired effect. It must not be overlooked, by our merchants, however, that as this campaign is being waged in their interests, it is naturally expected that they will reciprocate and patronize our advertising columns and job department.

Patriotic Meeting at Trout Brook

A meeting was held at Trout Brook School House for purpose of organizing North Esk branch of Canadian Patriotic Fund on Tuesday, 23rd inst. The meeting was called to order by Councillor O'Shaughnessy who was duly elected Chairman. David Ritchie acted as secretary for the meeting. The Chairman, in a few well chosen remarks introduced the speaker of the evening, Rev. Mr. Bate. Mr. Bate gave a very interesting address on the war, the causes and the progress already made. He then referred to our duty

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