

every move of enemy propaganda, and overwhelmed with fear and concern that should not be ours? Is it that we have never gone amply enough into the reasons—scientific, moral and spiritual—for the faith that is in us, that we are tempest-tossed by every breath of adverse wind that blows. Are we working for a reform based upon a foundation so shallow and shifting, that it cannot withstand the assaults of an enemy entrenched behind nothing securer than a huge financial interest. Surely our cause has something more of the universal and the Eternal laws of God in it than this.

In speaking of the United States, it might be as well for us to bear in mind two facts, wherewith to enlighten some of those who do not trouble to enquire for themselves.

Since 1920, when nation-wide prohibition came into force, there have been three Presidential and Congressional elections—and each time a national parliament drier than the one before has been elected. Not one of us is prepared to say that the Americans are a stupid people, or that they are not alive to their own interests. Moreover, we all know quite well, the liquor supporters included, that Americans are about the ablest economists and business people in the world, also that they have such a very high idea of their own efficiency, in their leadership in the world of business, of their own institutions and their own pockets, that anything detrimental to these interests is not tolerated longer than it takes to remove it.

Therefore, it stands to reason, that if prohibition had been the dreadful and dismal failure that the wet interests in New York would have us believe, hard-headed American men and earnest American women would long ere eight years were over, have done away with it.

But when after the lapse of all that time, the 18th Amendment stands as firmly as ever—when enforcement and not modification is the aim of each successive government, and when, before the Senate, all pleas for alteration or modification fall on deaf ears, it looks as though prohibition had come to stay.

According to the "American Issue" wet forces there and everywhere else are organising in deadly earnest,

and with a deadly purpose. Finding that they have now no hope of repealing the 18th Amendment or doing away with prohibition in this generation, they are planning so to influence and teach the generation to come, which has not known the open saloon, that alcohol is good, that its sale in some form is necessary, and through insidious and lying propaganda they hope to accomplish the entire overthrow of the forces for good, that in this generation have abolished the trade in alcoholic drink.

In New Zealand, where now do we stand on this question—are we not at the dividing of the ways?

Abraham Lincoln, that great soul and noble patriot, said: "With public sentiment nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed; consequently he who moulds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions—he makes statutes and decisions possible or impossible to be executed."

Is not the Licensing Bill of last year, as it left the Lower House, a reflection of that same public sentiment of which he speaks. And on this question in New Zealand, it has seldom been more clearly voiced than in the following words by Mr T. D. Burnett, M.P., for Temuka, and one of our leaders of the prohibition party within the Government ranks.

"The day has long passed when the Prohibition element in this country was confined to the travelling lecturer. To-day, in all walks of life, the big land-owner, the captains of industry, the professional man, the social worker, the skilled artisan, and the ordinary labourer, have definitely decided that the **traffic is too costly for this little Dominion**. I have always voted Prohibition, not so much because I was persuaded that it would do all that its advocates claimed for it, but because it is the next movement in the evolution of social betterment. I quite anticipate that there will be setbacks, but I am convinced that we will move steadily forward to a higher and better type of humanity. If I had not been an advocate of Prohibition before I would have been one this last three years, when daylight murder on our roads has been so frequent owing to drunken motorists. There are thousands of mothers in this country who,

when getting their children ready for school in the morning, are in fear and trembling that they should be brought home to them at night dead or mutilated as the result of the action of some drunken drivers of a motor vehicle. I yield to no one in my allegiance to the Reform Party, or in my appreciation of the magnificent work that party has done for the Dominion; but when firmness in a Prime Minister degenerates into obstinacy, and is cutting right across the expressed will of the people, I have seriously to consider my position in regard to the party and the Government."

Thirty-seven long years of education, organisation and unselfish service has it taken to bring New Zealand to this last consummation of public sentiment as reflected in Parliament. We women have surely done our part in moulding that public opinion and bringing it up to the present point. But what of the future? Dare we now stand still? Can we afford to lessen one effort, or lay down one piece of work, however small?

Nobly have our leaders, past and present, held our standard high and carried it onwards, until now it stands firmly planted far within the enemy's lines, and fain would those enemies call to us for quarter, for pause and parley, and perchance for a weakening of our advance, while they entrench themselves afresh to take from us our hardly won victory.

Shall we women submit to this? Shall we sit back amongst the shadows, and allow compromise with the liquor traffic without raising our voices in protest? Surely never, while we have a voice to speak or a hand to hold a pen. Why should we, fighting desperately "for the right to protect along Life's treacherous highway," the bodies and the souls of "those whom we have so loved," why should we give quarter or pity to the enemy at whose gates we have fought so long?

A thousand times, NO! What can be done we must do to help our leaders in Parliament to maintain their splendid stand, to keep their record clean, and to be true to their pledges. Daily must we uphold them with our prayers, that the Lord of Hosts may be with them, for theirs is no easy part to play. The enemy