

## Some Facts About "The Trade"

Notes on an Address given at the Northland District Convention by Captain Smith (S.A.)

The effects of the use of alcoholic drinks in countries, homes and lives, are too well known for it to be necessary for me to describe them here, but perhaps these few facts taken from the Government Statistical Book for 1945 will be of interest.

Only a few of the things we class as essential to healthy living will be mentioned, and it must be remembered that the figures are production ones in the middle of this last war, when every man, woman and child who could work was expected to, and in the majority of cases did work.

To every pound of butter made, to every pound of cheese made, to every pound of bacon made, and to every brick made, ale and stout were brewed.

To every pair of shoes made eleven gallons of ale and stout were brewed.

To every blanket made 10 gallons of ale and stout were brewed.

To every ton of coal mined 10 gallons of ale and stout were brewed.

I do not mean that it took ten gallons of ale or stout to lift a ton of coal. These statistics are found on page 65. Let this one perhaps complete the list:

For every carcase of frozen meat, one and a half gallons of ale and stout were brewed.

### Imports

We have heard such a lot about shipping space during the war years. The comparison between 1938 and 1942 is drawn in regard to consumers' goods. Food: £2,145,000 in 1938 to £1,104,000 in 1942; a 50 per cent. decrease. Beverages increased at the rate that food decreased in importation. I am assuming, of course, that "beverages" are mainly intoxicating liquors. These figures exempt equip-

ment, etc., for our allies in the country.

Page 79 is very interesting. They talked of man-power shortage, yet pages 62-63 reveal this:—

There are 46 brewing and malting firms employing 1,191 men. There are 410 butter and cheese factories, employing 3,983 men. Roughly nine times the number of butter and cheese factories, but only three times the number of employees.

Compare this with the grain milling, with its 45 factories—only one less than the breweries, with only 765 employees. There are 40 per cent. more men in the breweries than the grain mills. Only in one thing does the man-power exceed that of the breweries, and that is the freezing and preserving works, which have 38 factories employing 10,137 people.

I would like, in finishing, to note the remark on page 65. The only comparison that can be given is from the years 1932-33, and 1942-43.

Frozen mutton decreased in production.

Frozen lamb increased about 19 per cent.

Frozen beef increased about 200 per cent.

Preserved meats increased about 900 per cent.

Hams and bacons increased about 202 per cent.

Flour increased about 7 per cent.

Boots and shoes increased about 200 per cent.

Butter and cheese decreased slightly.

BUT, ale and stout increased over 250 per cent.

You will see that only preserved meat exceeded ale and stout in increased production, and this is accounted for by the soldiers and allies we supplied with food.

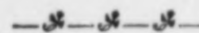
As a final sum-up, if you want to go further, study the Government Statistical Book for yourselves. You will find that the breweries have been an expensive luxury during the most critical years of our history.

child of having the very roots of his faith in his mother or father torn away, and other similar conditions, for which he is in no way responsible, are causes for grief and anxiety to all who care for and seek to help the delinquent child.

It is a matter for gratitude that our Child Welfare Department reports a considerable decrease in the figures for child delinquency for the past year. From a statement prepared by Mr. J. F. McClune, whose retirement after a very long period as Superintendent of the Department has just taken place, we learn that "there are several factors which may help to account for the present position. There has been a lessening of war tension and an increase in the number of fathers returned to their homes; visiting teachers have been working in seven centres in co-operation with the schools and the Child Welfare Branch for about two years; and, in addition, the preventive work of the branch has been broadened and intensified. This year's figures indicate, I hope, a returning to more normal conditions."

In an interview Mr. McClune said also: "An increasing number of parents were applying to the district officers for advice or guidance with their children. In cases of special difficulty, use was made of the clinics which existed in several centres. . . . The preventive side of child welfare work gains very little publicity, but its value to the community cannot be overstated. It aims at preserving the ties of family life, at solving behaviour problems, and correcting delinquent tendencies in children without recourse to the courts or to institutions, at assisting parents with their domestic problems, and generally at dealing with all phases of children's well-being, physical, mental and moral. In my opinion, the work for the future should be still further extended along these preventive lines, with a progressive policy of child guidance, and not centred around courts, where action should only be taken as a last resort."

As so many of our members are Honorary Child Welfare Officers, it may be of interest to others to know that their work is very well in line with our W.C.T.U. slogan: "For God, Home and Humanity."



## ABOUT CHILD WELFARE

In connection with the study of the prison system, and its aims in regard to the lessening of crime, the statement is often made that the actual prevention of crime should be the leading idea in all work done; and that childhood is the time in which such help and guidance as will tend to keep the growing child in the path of right should be available.

It is recognised by students of the question that the most vitally important thing is the training of the child. Home atmosphere and environ-

ment play an enormous part in the development of his attitude towards society. And it is a lamentable thing that so many homes are exercising just the wrong kind of influence on the poor children being brought up in them. A wrong adjustment between the parents, with the consequent unrest, bickering, and sometimes worse things, is enough to produce effects in the hidden mental life of the child that may lead him to strange acts of delinquency at an early age. The separation of parents, the shocks to the

### SPREAD THE FACTS

There is a great deal of disagreement as to what should be done about the alcohol problem, but surely upon this one thing all well-meaning people may agree—"Let the facts be known."

Many of the facts are not only basic, but they cannot be challenged. Any attempt to challenge them only discredits the challenger.

And so we say: "Learn the facts and help to make the facts known all across this broad land—all round the world. The facts will make people think, and when they think, they will act, and act wisely."