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TEN O'CLOCK CLOSING ALSO HAS A "SWILL"

Increase In Associated Crime and Juvenile Delinquency

Ernest H. J. Steed, of Sydney, noted writer and speaker, the Executive secretary of the **Australasian Temperance Society**, whose activities extend to New Zealand, **Executive secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Alcoholism**, a member of the **Australian Institute of Public Relations**, as well as holding other official positions in Australia, recently addressed large audiences in this country. Mr Steed is quoted as follows:

"You may hear much and read much about the advantages of 10 o'clock closing in Australia, but I can assure you the roseate picture painted is far from the truth. After an intensive survey over six weeks, I am satisfied that what you people, here, call the five to six "swill", has become the 9.30 to 10 p.m. "swill" in Australia.

"There has been a substantial increase in the number of young people drinking in hotels and in the number of women in hotels. As a result of this, there has been a great increase in juvenile delinquency, a heavy increase in cases of drunkenness and crime associated with it.

"I have a letter from the **city coroner in Sydney, Mr Letts**, and in it, he states unequivocally, that SEVEN out of every TEN DEATHS, which he is called upon to investigate, are due in greater or lesser degree to ALCOHOL.

"**Dr Alan Stoller, Melbourne**, definitely stated that alcohol is a major contributing factor, in the increasing number of cases of mental sickness and that Alcoholism ranks fourth in the contributory causes of a rapidly increasing health problem. Admittedly, there has been a decrease over recent months in the consumption of liquor, because the Australian Commonwealth Government imposed a stiff excise duty on it. If you curtail the availability of liquor, making it difficult to procure, then drinking must decrease.

Family Life Affected

"We believe it is important to make availability difficult, but we believe more strongly in educating against the insidious dangers in alcoholic liquor. Since we have had 10 o'clock closing—and I will challenge anyone to prove otherwise—there has been a noticeable breaking up of home and family life and our young people are being led into a habit pregnant with appalling consequences. New Zealand is being fed a lot of propaganda on hotel hours and her people are being told of the potential of tourism. If tourists want to come here, they will come in any case, and I may assure you that many Australians come here to get away from the drunkenness in our streets late at night."