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The "Drinking Problem"

The little classified ad above, or something similar to it, has been running in the Mail Tribune for a long time.

For some people, it has meant the difference between a happy and productive life, and one of degradation and shame. To others it has offered hope and help when it was needed most.

To a member of Alcoholics Anonymous it has been a way of saying, in effect, "We have helped each other. Maybe we can help you, too—if you want us to."

THE old jokes about drunks notwithstanding, there's nothing funny about alcoholism.

It is both an illness and a social problem. It has probably wrecked as many families as any other cause. It has deadened men's dignity and sense of responsibility. It has helped fill our jails and prisons.

It has offended the self-righteous, shocked the naive, filled the humane with pity, and frustrated those who, with the best of intentions, want to help.

At present, while alcoholism is a vast social problem, its solution and cure remain intensely personal.

Only an alcoholic can cure himself—and then only if he wants to. But he can be helped.

FIRST of all, what is an alcoholic?

It is a man or woman who drinks alcoholic beverages and who has arrived at a point where he or she can no longer control the desire, the compulsion, to drink.

The reasons (and there are many, ranging from insecurity and fear to guilt and rebellion) are less important than the fact of compulsion resulting from them.

Experience has shown that alcoholism cannot be "cured," in the sense that pneumonia can be. But, like diabetes, it can be lived with, provided the alcoholic can gain the upper hand, can control his desire, and never drink again. It is rare when he can do this unaided.

ALCOHOLISM, as a social evil, is really a double problem.

The first is one of prevention. This entails the raising of future generations who do not have the inner conflicts which lead to alcoholism, and who do have an understanding of both the dangers and the potential benefits of alcohol.

The second is the one of finding a means of assisting the alcoholic, himself, to find the understanding and control necessary for his own salvation, and perhaps stimulating his desire to free himself from the bondage of alcohol.

The prevention problem is one of education, of social stability, of mental health and self-disciplined minds. This comes only slowly, through social evolution.

THE other problem, the one of immediate urgency, is also a long-range and difficult one. It is also one of amazing magnitude, for it was recently estimated that some 4,000,000 men and women are "having trouble" with alcohol, that between 1,300,000 and 2,000,000 of these are "problem drinkers," and that alcoholism is the nation's fourth-most-serious public health problem.

In view of these figures, the success of A.A. might seem meager, for there are about 150,000 members, organized in some 6,000 chapters here and abroad.

But the importance of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot be measured entirely in figures and statistics. It must also be measured by the fact that it is a new departure in the control of alcoholism, and as such has brought new life and new hope to thousands. It makes a similar offer to the thousands who are seeking help, or would seek it if they knew how and where to go.

SPACE here is not sufficient to give more than a suggestion of what A.A. is and does.

It is a loose-knit organization, operated under 12 "traditions," with each chapter virtually autonomous. Members use 12 suggested "Steps" in their own self-therapy and in their consultations with those seeking help.

The first step is believed to be the most important—the frank admission that the individual is powerless to control alcohol, and that his life has become unmanageable as a result. The other steps flow from this; an acknowledgement that a greater Power can help him, a decision to turn over his will and his life to the care of God (as the individual understands him), a searching and fearless moral self-inventory—and the rest.

AS "misery loves company," so alcoholics need people who understand their problems. And who understands better than those with similar problems?

As a result, one of the strengths of A.A. is the fact that they gather together periodically to reinforce each others' faith and determination. (A young friend of ours, who recently became a member, told us that the twice-a-week meetings "Are just about often enough to keep me going.")

Companionship, faith, determination, mutual assistance—these are the ingredients that makes A.A. successful.

An alcoholic can be anyone, your friend, your neighbor, your business associate—even you. It is a case where many of us can say "There but by the grace of God go I."

They need help. A.A. is one of the few places they can get it, effectively and with understanding and sympathy.—E.A.

Emergence of Turkey as Strong Nation of Mid-East Seen Likely

By CHARLES M. McCANN, United Press Correspondent

Turkey is likely to emerge soon as the dominant power in the Middle East.

It will not be surprising either if, in course of time, Turkey again attains the leadership of the Moslem world which it held before the end of World War I.

Turkey's position as the most powerful Middle Eastern country has been emphasized as the result of the Suez Canal dispute and the present tension between Iraq and Syria.

President Gamal Abdel Nasser has long sought to make Egypt—that is, himself—the leader of the Arab nations and the leading nation in the Middle East.

Nasser looks pretty big at the moment. But he is likely to look much slimmer within the next few months.

The emptiness of Nasser's pretensions was pretty well illustrated when the Israeli army ripped through Egypt's Sinai Peninsula in the attack which touched off the new Middle Eastern turmoil.

Claim Leadership Turkey, on the other hand, has a real claim to Middle Eastern leadership. There are indications that it is ready to claim that leadership now.

Acting Turkish Foreign Minister Ethem Menderes has been conferring in London with Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd on the Iraqi-Syrian tension and the Suez situation.

London dispatches say that Menderes has made it known that Turkey would be bound to support Iraq if there is a clash between Iraq and Syria.

It was announced on Friday that the Turkish armed forces will start maneuvers in both the western and eastern parts of the country within two weeks. The

announcement said that the maneuvers would be routine in nature. But it was added that some reservists would be called to the colors to take part in them.

Syria is on Turkey's southern border—but it is indicated that the maneuvers will cover the Syrian area. Turkey's eastern frontier faces the Soviet Union.

Turkey feels bound to support Iraq because both countries are members of the so-called Baghdad Pact, which also includes Iran, Pakistan and Great Britain.

But Turkey also is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and it has a separate alliance with Britain and France.

Turkey's strategic position is important because it is at the northeast corner of the Middle Eastern area, and because it is a bulwark—a staunch one—between Russia and the Middle East.

Editor Will Head Manpower Council New York—(UPI)—Edwin D. Canham, editor-in-chief of the Christian Science Monitor, has been named chairman of the National Manpower Council, it was announced Sunday.

Canham succeeds James D. Zellerbach newly appointed U.S. ambassador to Italy. Zellerbach, chairman of Crown Zellerbach Corporation, retains membership of the council, however.

The announcement was made by Dr. Grayson Kirk, president of Columbia University. Kirk said selection of Canham was made by the council at a recent meeting.

The National Manpower Council established at Columbia University in 1951 with a grant from the Ford Foundation. President Eisenhower, then president of the university, invited its members to provide "a continuing appraisal of America's manpower resources in a period of enduring emergency."

It is interesting to note that the department of agriculture says lumber consumption in the United States in 1956 will be off about 5 per cent from the 1955 total. The drop, it adds, is due to a slowdown in home building. Whether this is due to higher interest rates or to catching up with demand for new homes is as yet problematical.

At any rate, the agriculture department says, lumber production in the United States this year is estimated at about 38 billion feet. About half of the lumber produced in 1956 will come from the West, about 35 per cent from the South and about 15 per cent from the North.

The North, for statistical purposes, is the region lying north of the Mason and Dixon line and east of the Mississippi river.

It is interesting to note that the United States this year 35 per cent is expected to come from the South. Back about 1920, the South was believed to be approaching the end of its timber and many Southern lumber concerns moved to the West, believing that their raw material supply would soon be exhausted.

But now—36 years later—the South is still producing better than a third of the lumber cut in the United States.

Here in Oregon, we are beginning to hear gloomy predictions to the effect that the big lumber days are over. Based on the South's experience, I'd say we'd better accept these predictions with a large pinch of salt. We'll undoubtedly be cutting lumber in a big way in Oregon for a long, long time to come.

LET'S turn now to pulp, where the picture is different. Pulp consumption in the U. S. this year is expected to hit a new record. American mills will use about 45 1/2 million cords of pulpwood in 1956. About two million cords of this total will be imported—chiefly from Canada. The rest will come from American forests and FARM WOODLOTS.

Note this farm woodlot business. It is getting to be quite a business in the South and the Northeast. In the background of our farm problem—which probably gets as much discussion as any problem we face—is the fact that we have too much land in crop production, resulting in surpluses that have been piling up in the warehouses. Much of this excess agricultural land is MARGINAL. That is to say, it is good enough to tempt its owners to raise crops on it but not good enough to be profitable.

The possibility that much of this marginal land can be profitably devoted to the growing of timber is at least an interesting one.

It is interesting to take a look at the pulpwood picture. The South this year will turn out about 60 per cent of the nation's production of it. Another 22 per cent will come from the North, with the West producing 18 per cent.

Pulpwood prices are rising—as is to be expected in a period of increasing demand. In the South, the agriculture department says, the average delivered price of rough pine pulpwood rose from about \$14.15 a cord last year to \$15.25 this fall.

NOTE the term "rough pine" pulpwood. This rough pine is chiefly what in most of the South is known as "loblolly." This loblolly pine of the South is a kinsman of our jackpine—and, like our jackpine, it was regarded for generations with a jaundiced and scornful eye.

Then some probing researcher discovered that it made good pulp and out of this loblolly pulp almost any kind of paper and paper products could be made. Newsprint—the paper

Matter of Fact

By Joe and Stewart Alsop

NASSER'S NEXT TRIUMPH Washington—Even now, with British troops still on Egyptian soil, Egypt's President Abdel Gamal Nasser is boldly moving ahead to destroy the last vestiges of British power in the Middle East.

That is the real meaning of the confusing news from Syria and Iraq. The basic facts are simple enough. Lt. Col. Abdel Hamid Serraj, Syria's current dictator, is Nasser's man from start to finish. Nuri—Said, Iraq's Prime Minister, is about the last moderate Middle Eastern leader, now that the fiercely anti-Western Suleiman Nabulsi, who is also Nasser's man, has been installed in Jordan.

Iraq is also the only Arab State which adheres to the Baghdad pact, which was initiated by the United States, and to which Britain belongs. Therefore it is Nasser's next objective to eliminate Nuri Said, and to pull Iraq out of the Baghdad pact. The Soviets, for obvious reasons, share this objective.

The Soviets have therefore bolstered Nasser's man Serraj by sending Syria token quantities of arms (which the Syrians are certainly incapable of using effectively). The Soviets have also instructed the Syrian Communists to support without reservation the Ba'ath Party, the violently anti-Western political grouping which supports Serraj.

THERE are several means available to Serraj to please his joint masters, and bring old Nuri Said down. Iraq is totally dependent economically on its oil revenues. Most of Iraq's oil is carried in two pipelines which pass through Syria. These pipelines have been sabotaged, and they are likely to stay sabotaged until Nuri is brought down. Iraq is already beginning to feel the pinch.

Subversion is another means. There have already been anti-Nuri riots in Baghdad, and Nuri has been obliged to declare martial law. Both Communists and pro-Nasser nationalists are working hand in hand in Iraq against Nuri. And the powerful Cairo radio is another useful instrument of propaganda and subversion. Finally, threats and hints of threats from Nasser's powerful friends in Moscow are also effective in this situation.

Consider the meaning of the situation to the British. The oil from Iraq and from Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar on the Persian Gulf are as essential to Britain as blood is to the human body. The British are openly pledged to fight rather than abandon the Persian Gulf oil sources. Yet, if they lose their

bases in Iraq as well as in Jordan, there is almost no way they could protect the Persian Gulf oil against Arab attack.

THE obscure goings-on in Syria and Iraq, which seem too distant and unreal to most Americans, amount in fact to a joint Egyptian-Soviet push to destroy Britain once and for all as a great power, and even as a viable economy.

It has been said that Nasser is no Communist—and of course he is not. But the fact that he is not does not really matter a whit, since his central purpose and the Soviet central purpose in the Middle East are precisely similar—to eliminate all Western interests in the area, ultimately including American interests.

Nasser and the Soviets are, moreover, in a fair way to gain this end. For if the British and French now withdraw from Egypt, under the oddly combined pressure of the United States and the Soviet Union, Nasser will of course be the cock of the walk throughout the Middle East. Defeated utterly by the Israelis, faced with the combined might of Britain and France, he will emerge absolutely unscathed, without having been even asked to make a single commitment about the future of the Suez Canal, the Western nations' access to vital oil resources, Israel's frontier, or any other important issue.

IN short, if the British and French withdraw "frithwith," in accordance with the U.S.-supported United Nations resolution, Nasser's triumph will be complete, Nuri Said's fate will be sealed, and the Middle East will in the end go down the drain, as far as Western influence and interests are concerned. It is thus not entirely surprising that the British and French are now seriously considering digging in their heels, defying Washington and Moscow, and refusing to evacuate Egypt without at least some commitment on the future of the canal.

If they do dig in their heels it will make endless further trouble, and they will no doubt be very naughty. But since the only official American response to the predictable results of Nasser's triumph is that "We'll just have to play it by ear," one can hardly blame them.

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Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE MORAL ISSUE

There is no doubt that the President is most sincerely concerned to repair the break which has opened up within the Atlantic alliance.

But the break is to be repaired, and not merely covered up, the deep cause of it, which is a moral issue, will have to be resolved.

How do we judge the intervention in Egypt? Was it naked aggression against an innocent and law-abiding country? Or was it a reprisal, however unlawful and unwise, against a willful disturber of the peace who has long been in open defiance of the spirit and of the specific orders of the United Nations? Unless we can come to a common judgment of this issue, the spiritual unity of the Western alliance will be broken.

THE just view is, it seems to me, that Britain, France, and Israel acted wrongfully but under great provocation, that they should not have defied the United Nations but that the United Nations has been unable to defend their vital interests, that they must leave Egypt but that, in view of the provocations, they have the right to be assured that the U.N. will defend their rights.

As this is the justice of the cause, so it should be, I believe, the moral foundation of United States policy. We should not allow ourselves to remain in the position, into which we have drifted and been pushed, where the whole weight of our influence is against the wrong done by our allies and no serious part of our influence is against the wrong done to our allies.

THE President will be able to repair the break in the alliance when he corrects the one-eyed moral bias upon which his administration has been acting. He will also have a solid and realistic foundation for a practical policy. If he identified this country with an insistent and resolute demand the U.N. deal with the problems that caused the explosion, he will make it possible for the British, the French and the Israelis to withdraw and to comply without dishonor and abject surrender.

This is of the highest importance. For if we do not open up for them an honorable way out of the error into which they were provoked, if we merely compel them and do not persuade them, there will be left in the aftermath a most unhealthy state of mind.

THERE is an urgent need with in the Atlantic alliance for a renewal of confident consultation, and this will not be possible as long as the moral issue, which I have been trying to describe, is not resolved. The situation in the middle of Europe is far from being stabilized and is full of the most dangerous possibilities. We must be prepared, and by us I mean the British, the French, ourselves, and the other NATO countries—to see the convulsion, which has engulfed Hungary, break out elsewhere.

that newspapers are printed on—was one of the earliest products to be made of loblolly. Newspapers worried about where the paper to feed their presses was to come from, were among the earliest developers of this new pulpwood.

Use of loblolly-pine for pulp changed the lumber economy of the South radically. Use of our jackpine for pulp will do the same for us.

If it breaks out in Eastern Germany, as it could and as it may, all of NATO will be faced with grave choices. We have been impotent in Hungary except to protest. But what will our armies in West Germany be doing if East Germany blows up? We must be prepared for that, and we must not be caught by surprise, and with no clear policy, which we have concerted with Britain, France and West Germany. For if what has happened in Hungary were to happen in East Germany, we would be nearer than we have ever been since 1945 to being sucked into a great war.

NO ONE now need predict that there will be an outbreak in East Germany. Much can be done to avert one. But there could be an outbreak. And so great would be the danger that we may see, quite coolly and soberly, that the Western alliance should be prepared to avert it by taking big measures in the near future.

It should be attempting to negotiate with the Russians some kind of working settlement, perhaps only partial and intermediate, about the security of the middle of Europe.

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