

Weekly Copy Ps. 5

Annual Subscription Rs. 2

OPINION

Vol. XXII

July 28, 1981

No. 12

BREWING ONE'S LIQUOR

J. B. KRIPALANI

PROHIBITION exists no more in India though the masses and women want it. But many intellectuals are against it because they feel that their freedom to drink liquor is interfered with. The police are in favour of it for the opportunities they get for making money !

I have no quarrel with the intellectuals though I know that prohibition will not succeed as long as they oppose it.

The recent liquor tragedy in Bangalore which took 323 innocent lives has nothing to do with prohibition. It shows the extent of deterioration in the law and order situation in the country. It is also due to the fact that genuine liquor is so highly taxed that larger profits can be earned through its adulteration.

The liquor trade in India is the monopoly of the Government. The authorities hold regular auctions and issue licences for the sale of liquor to the highest bidder. The Government has a theory that if the price of liquor is increased, less and less people will buy it. This is an erroneous belief. Psychologically, it is a wrong approach. The dearer an article is, it becomes a matter of prestige for people to buy it. On the other hand, those who cannot afford the high price of licensed liquor, go in for the illicit variety which is cheaper. Unfortunately, it is also often adulterated. It may even be poisonous as in the case of the Bangalore brew.

I believe that India is ideally suited for prohibition. The Hindus belonging to the upper strata of society generally do not drink. The Muslims are prohibited by their religion from consuming liquor. However, if Government insists on abandoning the policy of prohibition, it seems best to allow everyone to make his own drink.

In Eastern Europe, I saw that every peasant brewed his own liquor, even a quarter bottle of which would not intoxicate an average individual. Having failed in other ways to regulate drinking, let the Government try this method and see if it does not diminish drunkenness. It will not cost the authorities a penny. But, will a Government bent upon making money from the degradation of the poor try a method which will not fill its coffers ? After all, prohibition has been given up by the State Governments one by one because, instead of deriving any revenue from the sale of liquor, they were losing it through the expenditure to enforce prohibition. [Their old men shall see visions, it has been said.

OPINION, July 28, 1981

And indeed a wonderful vision has been seen by our Acharya! An India without commercial liquor manufacture, without the liquor trade, without all the evils associated with these and the rules and regulations thought necessary because of them, without the illicit distiller and the bootlegger, without all the corruption of the enforcement staff and the politicians that comes with them and with the smuggler, and yet, with full freedom for you and I and Rama and Ganga and Madhuri and Husain and Hamida and John and Alice, if we and they feel like it, to brew or distil liquor at our own pleasure and drink it at ease and peace. A beatific vision, truly! This evening I toasted the seer with a special *tandrusti*. Would he were in power to turn his vision into fact, despite the great opposition from interested, powerfully—entrenched quarters, including many in the ruling Party and Central Government! —Ed.]

VIEWS

A. D. G.: From the BBC came a 'profile' of Mrs. Gandhi the other day, a truly jejune performance. At the end Indira emerged as a Queen Victoriaish matronly figure, full of good intentions and domestic virtues. A relative expatiated on how closely she kept in touch with all members of her extensive family, a close friend on how she liked to relax with children and books and films and new artistic works. And Indiraji topped it all off with a remark saying something like she felt sure nobody in India could doubt her devotion to the Indian people and to their welfare. The real Indira remained completely hidden, though the emergency and some of her actions during it were shortly mentioned. A court portrait, it was, all in all!

What in fact is Indira? To a tremendous love of personal power, she adds a ruthlessness all her own, a manipulative ability of an extremely high order, an unrivalled capacity for lying, and a staunch belief in the satanist doctrine that 'what I like is the whole law.' All this varied equipment she devotes with great determination to the consolidation and extension of her own power in the interest of herself, her son and her family.

The welfare of the people, well well! The ordinary consumer is today in a much worse condition, inspite of all the promises she made before the election, than he was during the first two years of Janata rule, when with H. M. Patel as Finance Minister, prices were held steady despite heavy deficit financing. Law and order over most of the country is much worse too, nor is the slightest move on her part apparent to improve it. Corruption she regards as the accepted way of life and from time to time she allows various influential sections like the sugar mills' owners, the large and medium farmers, to prey upon the people, and then shares the spoils with them in the shape of contributions to party funds, etc., contributions of which no accounts are available and the details of which are known only to her who receives and the contributors who pay.

OPINION, July 28, 1981

CROWN BRAND



Anodized Aluminium Articles are light,
lasting and lovely

They have great decorative as well as utility value. You can choose from a wide range of our prestige products in different eye pleasing and fast colours, such as Thermic Jugs, Tiffin Carriers, Convenient Lunch Boxes, Air Travel Suitcases, afternoon Tea Trays, Service Trolleys, Cocktail Sets, Meals Carriers and various other fancy goods for presentation and decoration.

JEEWANLAL (1929) LIMITED

The Largest Aluminium Ware Manufacturers

*Registered Office : CROWN ALUMINIUM HOUSE,
23, Brabourne Road, Calcutta 1.*

Also at :

**MADRAS • BOMBAY • HYDERABAD
DELHI • ERNAKULAM**

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

Ideal bleaching agent for cotton textiles, wool, synthetic fibres.

Useful oxidising agent for chemical reactions. Economical and permanent bleaching agent for writing & printing paper, newsprint pulp and jute.

Bleaching and sterilising agent in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, food & fermentation industries.

It also eliminates many municipal and industrial water treatment problems and acts as a pollution control product.

SODIUM PERBORATE

Safe permanent and most effective bleaching and whitening agent for cotton, wool, linen and rayon fabrics when mixed with domestic and industrial detergent powders (15 to 20%) and used at a temperature of 60°C to 90°C.

Used as an ingredient of bleaching creams, lotions, deodorizers, hair bleachers, dentifrices and mouth washes. Used in electroplating.

It is specially useful for removing yellowing of nylon and other synthetics.

N P L
National Peroxide Limited

Neville House, Ballard Estate, Bombay 400 038.

OPINION, July 28, 1981

This is Indira, hypocrite, totally unworthy to hold any public position, let alone be Prime Minister. Of Charles the First, it has been said, he was a good father and husband and personally a good man, though a bad king. Of Indira it may be said that at best she is a good mother, but a very bad person and an even worse Prime Minister.

And yet, you say, she gathers in the votes. Well it is mystery of evil, the wicked not unoften flourishing as the green bay-tree. And yet, because they flourish, do not forget that they are essentially evil and to be despised and not kowtowed to. If the nation is not to lose its soul, let at least a few of its citizens recognise this and act accordingly.

D. Anjaneyulu : Taya Zinkin's article on "General Decline in Moral Values" (*Opinion*, 7 July 1981) was brilliant in its analysis of certain tendencies in public life all over the world today, with particular reference to journalism.

She has referred to a few glaring instances of improper reporting of happenings of a purely private character, where the information has been obtained by unfair or dubious means and publicity given, of an unsolicited and unwarranted kind. This is done sometimes for private gain and at other times out of a misdirected zeal for bagging scoops, by hook or by crook.

"Pay-Cheque Journalism" is quite a picturesque description for the kind of reporting done for illicit personal gain, involving disclosure of facts of private life that ought not to be disclosed, if the reporter has the slightest regard for anything like a code of ethics. Referring to the state of affairs, about half-a-century ago, when this unwritten code had a better chance of observance, Humbert Wolfe described the British journalist as "unpurchasable". For the simple reason that, after having seen him do all the things he was prepared to do, without purchasing, there was hardly any need for anyone to think of purchasing him !

If one were to imagine that we in this country are all 'sea-green incorruptibles' and could afford to take a holier-than-thou attitude towards the West, we will simply be living in a world of our own making. It would be difficult to generalise about pay-cheques and considerations of that kind. But it would not need any extensive research in newspaper files to come across any number of disclosures relating to institutions as well as individuals, which are not only in poor taste but in worse ethics.

8918. Miss Rani Burra,
18 Ganga Vihar, 4th Floor,
Marine Drive, Bombay-400 020.

Posted at Central Packet Sorting Office, Bombay on 28-7-1981

Regd. No. BYW 69

Licence No. 14. Licensed to post without pre-payment

**Edited and published by A. D. Gorwala at 40C Ridge Road, Bomay 400 006 and
printed by him at the Mouj Printing Bureau, Khatau Wadi, Bombay 400 004.**

Proprietor : A. D. Gorwala.