NOVEMBER, 1919

## The Commoner

# President Vetoes but Congress Repasses Prohibition Enforcement

Following is the text of President Wilson's essage vetoing the wartime prohibition enforcement measure:

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning without my signature H. R .---\$810, "an act to prohibit intoxicating beversges, and to regulate the manufacture, production, use and sale of high proof spirits for other than beverage purposes, and to insure an ample supply of alcohol and promote its use in scientific research and in the development of fuel, dye and other lawful industries."

The subject matter treated in this measure deals with two distinct phases of the prohibition legislation. One part of the act under consideration seeks to enforce wartime prohibition. The other provides for the enforcement which was made necessary by the adoption of the constitutional amendment. I object to and cannot approve that part of this legislation with reference to wartime prohibition.

It has to do with the enforcemient of an act which was passed by reason of the emergencies of the war and whose objects have been satisfied in the demobilization of the army and navy and whose repeal I have already sought at the hands of congress. Where the purposes of particular legislation arising out of the war emergency have been satisfied, sound public policy makes clear the reason and necessity for repeal.

It will not be difficult for congress in considering this important matter to separate these two questions and effectively to legislate regarding them, making the proper distinction between temporary causes which arose out of wartime emergencies and those like the constitutional amendment of prohibition, which is now part of the fundamental law of the country.

In all matters having to do with the personal habits and customs of large numbers of our people we must be certain that the established processes of legal change are followed. In no. other way can the salutary object sought to be accomplished by great reforms of this character be made satisfactory and permanent.

WOODROW WILSON. (Signed) The White House, 27 October, 1919.

#### QUICK ACTION IN HOUSE

A Washington dispatch, dated October 27, says: The house tonight passed the prohibition enforcement bill over the president's veto, acting within less than three hours after Mr. Wilson notified congress that he could not sign the measure because of the wartime enforcement section.

son (Illinois); Woodyard, Zihlman .- Total republicans for-94.

Democrats-Alon, Ashbrook, Aswell, Arys, Bankhead, Black, Banton, Box, Brand, Briggs, Brinson, Byrnes, Candler, Caraway, Carter, Collier, Connelly, Crisp, Davis (Tennessee); Dickson (Missouri); Dominick, Doughton, Evans (Nevada); Ferris, Fisher, Flood, Garrett, Goodwin, Harrison, Hastings, Hayden, Howard, Huddleston, Hudspeth, Hull (Tennessee); Jacoway, Johnston (Mississippi); Jones (Texas); Lanham, Lankford, Larsen, Lee (Georgia); Major Mann (South Carolina); Mayes, Nelson (Missouri); Oldfield, Oliver, Park, Parrish, Quinn, Raker, Rayburn, Romijue, Rubey, Rucker, Sanders (Louisiana); Smithwick, Steagall, Stedman, Stevenson, Summers (Texas); Taylor (Colorado); Tillman, Upshaw, Venable, Vinson, Watkins, Watson (Virginia); Wingo, Woods (Virginia); Wright, Young (Texas).-Total democrats, 98.

Miscellaneous: (For)-Randall, prohibitionist; Carns, Keller and Kelly, Pennsylvania, independents-4.

Total for-176.

AGAINST THE MEASURE

Republicans: Classon, Curry (California); Dyer, Edmonds, Garland, Glynn, Hull (Iowa); Jefferis, Juul, Lampert, Lufkin, McArthur, Mac-Gregor, Madden, Merritt, Mudd, Nichols (Michigan); Nolan, Platt. Randall (Wisconsin); Rogers, Sanford, Snyder, Stephens (Ohio); Tilson, Tinkham, Walsh, Ward, Winslow.-Total republicans against, 29.

Democrats: Bee, Blackman, Bland (Missouri); Buchanan, Campbell (Pennsylvania); Clark (Missouri); Cleary, Dent, Doremus, Dupre, Egan, Gallagher, Gard, Griffin, Hersman, Humphreys, Igoe, McGlennon, McLane, Martin, Mead, Moon, Phelan, Pau, Sherwood, Whaley. -Total democrats against, 26.

#### SENATE GOES OVER VETO

A Washington dispatch, dated October 28. says: The senate passed the prohibition enforcement act over the president's veto today and made immediately effective machinery for preventing sale of beverages containing more than one-half of one per cent alcohol.

The vote was 65 to 20, or eight more than the necessary two-thirds majority. While there was a wrangle over taking up the measure in place of the peace treaty which and the right of way, there never was doubt as to how the senate stood. It was overwhelmingly "dry" like the house, which repassed the bill within three hours after the president had vetoed it. Before congress at 3:40 o'ctock, finally clinched enactment of the enforcement law, despite presidential objection to linking wartime and constitutional prohibition acts, there came from the White house the announcement that the wartime law-which was put into effect after the cessation of hostilities-would be annulled the moment the senate formally ratified the German peace treaty.

Fall, France, LaFollette, McLean and Penrose ---9.

Democrats: Gay, Gerry, Hitchcock, King, Phelan, Ransdell, Robinson, Shields, Thomas, Underwood and Walsh of Massachusetts -11.

Total against-20.

Of the eleven senators not voting, Senator Elkins, republican, West Virginia, and Senator Johnson, democrat, South Dakota, were paired for the motion with Senator Stanley, democraf, Kentucky, opposing, and Senators Beckham, Kentucky, and Martin, Virginia, democrats, for, were paired with Senator Reed, democrat, against.

Other senators absent or paired and not voting were: Culbertson, democrat, Texas; Dillingham, republican, Vermont; Pittman, democrat, Nevada; Smith, democrat, Maryland; Smith, democrat, of South Carolina,

#### MURDER BLAME PLACED ON WETS

(From the Cleveland News, Oct. 21.)

Opponents of prohibition must face responsibility for such a crime as the killing of Robert Crawford by a drunken police officer, according to William Jennings Bryan, who attacked the evils of drink and appealed for ratification of the Crabbe enforcement act at the City Club Monday noon.

"This tragedy shows what liquor will do." said Bryan. "An officer of the law, while under the influence of liquor, commits murder. But the real criminal is the man who furnished the liquor. He acted deliberately and with full knowledge of what alcohol will do.

"The policeman was crazed by the poison. He is not blameless, because he ought not to have allowed himself to become a victim of drink. But his moral responsibility is lessened by the fact that his reason was dethroned when the act was committed. .

"But there is another party even higher than the bootlegger, the citizen who votes for the saloon and thus makes possible the crimes that follow from the use of drink. He cannot escape his responsibility."

Bryan pointed out that if the "wets" are successful in having written into the constitution their amendment declaring 2.75 per cent beer a nonintoxicant, there would be no law to prevent the sale of the liquor even to school children.

He asserted 2.75 beer is intoxicating and demanded that "for the sake of our children" voters outlaw it.

It was Mr. Bryan's fourth speech during a two-day stay in Cleveland, the first three being at the Hippodrome, the new Masonic temple and the Lakewood Methodist church Sunday. When he concludes his Ohio tour just before election

The vote on over-riding the executive veto was 176 to 55, which was 22 votes more than the necessary two-thirds.

It would not be difficult, the president held, for congress to deal separately with the two Issues.

The veto hit congress like a crack of lightning. The house, getting on its feet again, deserted its leaders, who wanted to defer consideration until Thursday so as to round up all the dry members. But the drys swept into the chamber and showed there was an overwhelming sentiment among them to give the government ample weapons for dealing with the liquor traffic, now outlawed throughout the land.

#### THE VOTE FOR

Republicans: Anderson, Andrews (Maryland); Andrews (Nebraska); Anthony, Barbour, Baer, Begg, Benham, Bland (Ind.); Bowers, Brooks (Illinois); Browne, Cannon, Christopherson, Currie (Michigan); Dale, Darrow, Dennison, Dickinson (Iowa), Dowell, Dunbar, Echols, Elliott, Ellsworth, Evans (Nebraska); Esch, Fairfield, Focht, Foster, Fuller (Illinois); Good, Goodykoontz, Gould, Graham (Illinois); Green (Iowa); Greene (Vermont); Hadley, Hardy, Haugen, Hawley, Hays, Hernandez, Hickey, Hoch, Kendall, Kiess, King, Kinkaid, Knutson, Kraus, Luhring, McLaughlin (Michigan); Mapes, Michener, Miller, Monohan (Wisconsin); Mondell, Moore (Ohio); Morgan, Mott. Nelson (Wisconsin); Newton (Minnesota); Osborne, Parker, Purnell, Ramseyer, Reavis, Reed (West Virginia); Ricketts, Rose, Scott, Sinnott, Snell, Smith (Michigan); Steenerson, Strong (Penna.); Summers (Washington); Sweet, Taylor (Tennessee); Thompson, Timberlake, Valle, Vestal, Volstead, Walters, Wason, Web-Her, Wheeler, White (Kansas); Williams, Wil-

### HOW THEY VOTED

The vote was 65 to 20, eight more than the necessary two-thirds majority. Before the senate acted, announcement was made at the White house that President Wilson would annul wartime prohibition as soon as the senate had acted on the peace treaty. That is expected to be sometime next month.

The roll call follows:

For overriding the veto:

Republicans: Ball, Capper, Colt, Cummins, Curtis, Fernald, Frelinghauysen, Gronna, Hale, Harding, Johnson of California, Jones of Washington, Kellogg, Kenyon, Keyes, Knox, Lenroot, Lodge, McCormick, McCumber, McNary, Moses, Nelson, Newberry, Norris, Page, Phipps, Poindexter, Sherman, Smoot, Spencer, Sterling, Sutherland, Townsend, Wadsworth, Warren and

Democrats: Ashurst, Bankhead, Chamberlain, Watson-38. Dial, Fletcher, Gore, Harris, Harrison, Henderson, Jones of New Mexico, Kendrick, Kirby, Mc-Kellar, Myers, Nugent, Overman, Owen, Pomerene, Sheppard, Simmons, Smith of Arizona, Smith of Georgia, Swanson, Trammell, Walsh of Montana, Williams and Wolcott-27.

Total for-65. Against overriding veto: Republicans: Borah, Brandegee, Calder, Edge, day he will have delivered 150 addresses.

#### **IT'S UP TO YOU**

There are three things that congress can do at once to safeguard the households of America; to curb the crooks that are plotting against every American pocketbook.

FIRST-The Lever food bill, with a prison penalty for food gamblers, should be extended to operate after peace is signed.

SECOND-The power of the sugar equalization board should be extended after January 1. 1920.

THIRD-The scheme to boost the price of coffee, in which the Brazilian government is the accomplice of food speculators, should be rigorously investigated.

Not one argument has been offered against any of these measures. The Department of Justice promises to cut prices down to normal by jailing profiteers. It pleads with congress to give it a fair opportunity.

President Wilson asked for legislation against profiteering ten weeks ago.

One reason that congress stalls and delays is that the public is doing nothing.

Of course, everyone complains and protests and wonders why.

But a two-cent stamp, an envelope and a sheet of paper will carry your wishes straight to the men who have the power to help you.

Food speculators, with millions at stake, aren't idie-not for a minute.

You, with your earnings and savings at stake why don't you do something?

Just write, "Dear Senator" or "Dear Congressman: Don't forget us. Guard us against the profiteer by pushing the measures needed to fight the high cost of living. Give us as much protection in peacetime as we had in wartime."

The appeals of national leaders, of the press, of economists mean nothing unless you back them up!-The Cleveland Press. 128 H 19-16