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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the revolution never to violate in the least particular the laws of the country, and never to tolerate their violation by others.

As the patriots of seventy-six did to the support of the declaration of independence, so to the support of the constitution and laws let every American pledge his life, his property and his sacred honor, let every man remember that to violate the law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty. Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries, and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books and almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in the legislative halls, and enforced in courts of justice. In short, let it become the political religion of the nation.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

It is now predicted that the price of sugar will be down to pre-war levels before the spring time arrives. The explanation is found in the fact that the people refused to pay profiteer prices. If the people will continue to refuse to pay the continued high prices for things to wear they will force the prices of these down also.

Thirty-one billions of the fifty-four billions that made up the total production of the United States in the last statistical year came from the ground, from the farms of the country. It is a sad commentary on our national sense of justice that whereas 57 per cent of the wealth is produced on the farms, the greater bulk of it eventually lands and stays in the cities.

The coal dealers of the country were restricted during the war to a schedule of prices that kept them sternly out of the ranks of the war profiteers. The present high prices they are asking represent merely what they thought themselves deprived of in the way of profits during the war. If every city in the country would follow the example of Denver and Omaha and establish a municipal coal yard this sort of profiteering could be checked.

One of the bills before the Nebraska legislature that has received favorable consideration so far requires all bread loaves to be sold by the pound. That was the rule until the bakers discovered that in this way purchasers of bread were able to tell how much they were getting for their money; then they substituted the present method of selling by the loaf. The bill ought to pass; it should stop at least part of the profiteering going on in this necessary food-stuff.

Sabbath Observance

The anti-Sabbath observance crusade has reached a point where its purpose and methods force themselves upon public attention.

It will be noticed, that it claims to be defensive when, as a matter of fact, it is distinctly aggressive. The attack has apparently a double purpose; first, to arouse opposition to prohibition by connecting it with other reforms thought to be unpopular, and, second, to force the repeal of laws intended to present the commercializing of the American Sunday. The advocates of prohibition are in no way responsible for the raising of this issue. The organizations most active in securing and enforcing prohibition have repeatedly disclaimed any intention of proposing new Sunday laws.

Equally inexcusable is the raising of the Blue Law bogey. The term "Blue Law" is an epithet hurled against any Sabbath restriction to which the user of the epithet objects. There never was a system of laws that bore that name; those who use the phrase attack the spirit of the Puritans rather than any particular statute. If epithets were in place those who believe in a day of rest—a day when the physical man can be recuperated and the spiritual nature nourished—might with more justification protest against the Yellow Laws that would convert the Sabbath into a money-making day. Surely, the motive of the early settlers ought not to be ridiculed by those who are unwilling that one day in seven shall be given to the higher thoughts and better impulses.

If the purpose of this new move is to obliterate the Christian Sabbath it will fail, for the Sabbath is necessary to the nation's welfare. Worship of the supreme being is a personal matter between the individual and his Maker. It is a matter of conscience above and beyond the domain of law and education must be relied upon to cultivate a desire for worship, but the law can and should secure to each citizen leisure for his devotions and protect the rights of those who congregate for worship.

Those who believe in a Sabbath may differ as to restrictions existing or proposed, if so, these differences will be settled, like all other differences on matters of government, namely, by the people. Each measure, whether intended to increase or decrease the restrictions, must stand or fall upon its merits, but the people will not abandon the American Sabbath.

W. J. BRYAN.

AND THEY CALL WINE HARMLESS

A poignant editorial comment is the observation of The American Issue on cabled reports of the murder trial in Italy where the Italian Cocchi was convicted for the slaying of Ruth Cruger in New York city. This charming young Sunday school girl was done to death under circumstances revolting and appalling, and the murderer escaped to Italy, where the government refused to extradite him but agreed to bring him to book there for his crime. The lawyer defending Cocchi did not deny his guilt but urged an extenuation—Cocchi was not responsible for his deed because "he had just had five glasses of California wine." Five glasses of wine—and a fair, innocent girl robbed of both honor and life! Yet Italians are repeatedly quoted as witnesses that wine is a harmless, non-intoxicating beverage. Manifestly the lawyer who devised this defense knew better than that and counted on his twelve countrymen in the jury box to understand also the mischief contained in five glasses of the "harmless" stuff. The alleged temperance argument for light wine and beer has always been a colossal deceit, and it is a comfort to know from many recent signs that the American people have not been and will not be caught in its lying snare.—The Continent.

HARDING AND BRYAN

Mr. Harding and Mr. Bryan are getting acquainted. Mr. Bryan called by invitation on Mr. Harding at Marion, and now Mr. Harding has called by invitation on Mr. Bryan at the latter's winter home in Florida.

Mr. Bryan is an agreeable man. His personal relations with the opposition have always been cordial. He and Mr. McKinley hit it off together very well, while he and Mr. Roosevelt when they met were positively chummy. The bounce in Mr. Roosevelt responded to the bounce in Mr. Bryan. Near the same age, they looked at some things in much the same light.

When Mr. Harding as President gets into his stride he may want to talk things over now and

then with men of the opposition. Mr Cleveland used to confer with Republican leaders, and Republican presidents have often conferred with Democratic leaders. So if in some matters of state President Harding should follow this practice he will be within the conventions.

While not in office, Mr. Bryan is undoubtedly a Democratic leader. Indeed, he is the recognized leader of a large number of Democrats, some of whom have been under his spell for a quarter of century. His eyes are peeled for 1924—not confessedly for that year's presidential nomination, but for putting his party in shape to make its nomination then effective.

It may be, therefore, that in passing through Washington at any time while Mr. Harding is on deck Mr. Bryan will find his way to the white house for the purpose of paying his respects, and find a welcome. He is no stranger to that domicile, though his three attempts to take up residence there were frustrated by circumstances which he found beyond his control.—Washington Star.

MUST BE A BROTHER OR A BRUTE

At the world brotherhood conference held in Washington, William Jennings Bryan set forth a two-fold classification of humanity which seems as true to reality as it is inclusive in reach. Said the eloquent statesman: "All dealings between man and man are based on one theory or the other—they are either brotherly or brutal; there is no middle ground. One may be a very weak brother or a very feeble brute, but each person, either consciously or unconsciously, is controlled by the sympathetic spirit of brotherhood toward his fellow man or he hunts through the world for spoil with the savage hunger of the beast of prey. Which he will be is a choice that each human being is compelled to make—a choice as distinct and fundamental as the choice between God and Baal and a choice not unlike that."—The Continent.

Thousands of appointments made by the president within the last six or eight months have been held up by the Republican Senate. The plan is to sift these over thoroughly, and then when the Republican administration takes hold to name only Republicans. In this way we see how the Republican politicians regard the public service to be of paramount importance.

The ministers of Philadelphia spent five minutes in prayer at an agreed time not long ago for the mayor of that city. So many city executives are representatives of predatory business that it is doubtful if that would be long enough to do much good in the case of some of them.

PRICE OF HAPPINESS

No man can be happy when he despises his own acts, when he has any consciousness of wrong, whether of motive or act. No man can be happy when he harbors thoughts of revenge, jealousy, envy or hatred. He must have a clean heart and a clean conscience, or no amount of money or excitement can make him happy.—Exchange.

No man is good enough to govern another man without that man's consent.—Lincoln.

"EVENTUALLY—WHY NOT NOW?"



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