

the internal revenue collectors, therefore, do not protect a saloonkeeper in a 'dry' county or town from the rigid enforcement of local prohibitory laws by the local authorities. The federal law, on the other hand, does compel the levying of federal taxes on a traffic that is illegal under state statutes or municipal ordinances."

AN INTERESTING SUBJECT IN WASHINGTON

A special dispatch to the Canton (Ohio) Morning News under date of Washington, D. C., May 5, follows: The suggestion of William J. Bryan, through The Commoner, that the government discontinue its questionable policy of issuing liquor tax receipts to persons desiring to en-

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gage in the liquor business in "dry" territory is receiving considerable attention in Washington.

Not that the members of congress are considering the advisability of adopting the Nebraskan's suggestion. Mr. Bryan's recommendation is attracting attention of the lawmakers because his proposition is a matter of great moment to them. They do not want public opinion focused at the evil, owing to the fact that they are hostile to any legislation that will correct it, and do not desire to have their attitude become a matter of public discussion.

The condition brought into the light by Bryan is one that the average person would not believe existed. Although the matter has been before congress on several occasions, the public has heard but little of the debates, owing to the fact that subjects involving the question of prohibition receive but little attention from the great press associations.

The real point at issue, however, really has nothing to do with prohibition. The principle involved is whether the government should aid enterprises in states where they are made unlawful by state laws.

For instance the state of Maine has been made prohibition by a vote of the people. Regardless of the fact that it is unlawful for persons to engage in the sale of liquor within that state, the government has issued 358 liquor tax receipts to persons within the state which gives them the right to engage in illegal traffic so far as the federal government is concerned. From federal liquor tax receipts spring up countless "speak-easies" and "blind pigs."

In Baltimore, a city with license, there are 2,340 saloons, in addition to which there are 718 persons holding liquor tax receipts. Kansas has 2,587 liquor tax receipts to be used in violation of its laws; Connecticut, 1,047; Philadelphia, 1,500.

In 1907 the federal government issued 236,448 liquor tax receipts which authorized that number of persons to engage in the retail sale of spirituous liquors, and 18,266 were authorized to engage in the retail sale of malt liquors.

Matthew E. O'Brien, representing the national prohibition committee in Washington, estimates that 84,571 persons are holding federal liquor tax receipts and conducting "speak easies" by the authority of the government in "dry" territory, or in territory where the people have declared in favor of prohibition by the ballot.

The government issues the receipt to anyone making application, upon payment of \$25, without making it a point to ascertain whether the applicant desires to sell liquor in "dry" territory or not.

Bills have been introduced in congress—one was under discussion last winter—providing for the issuance of federal liquor tax receipts only to persons holding the necessary state or city licenses.

Both revenue acts prior to the one under which the government now issues liquor tax receipts provided against the raising of taxes in violation of the police powers of the state. The language of the acts of 1794 and August 2, 1813, was as follows:

"Provided always, that no license shall be granted to any person to sell wines or foreign-distilled spirits who is prohibited to sell the same by the laws of the state."

In discussing a bill before the ways and means committee which would have corrected the abuse complained of by Mr. Bryan, Attorney O'Brien said:

"This bill does not pretend to interfere in any way with any person who has the right to engage in the sale of intoxicating drink. It does not pretend to wipe out a single sa-

loon. It is not a prohibition bill. It is simply a bill that provides for law enforcement. Every person, firm or corporation legally authorized to engage in business can continue in business if it becomes a law and every honest liquor dealer should be here advocating the passage of this bill. In justice to the men who pay a state, county, municipal, or local license fee, they should be protected from the person who pays nothing but the \$25 to the federal government for a liquor tax receipt."

O'Brien's plea was in vain. The bill died in committee.

Had the bill been able to reach the floor for a vote, there is little doubt but that it would have passed and become a law.

DEFICIT DOLLARS

Mr. Orwell C. Riddle of Columbus, Ohio, has written to a number of Ohio papers the following interesting article:

During the campaign of 1896 the republican newspapers and orators had a great deal to say about "cheap money."

They would not discuss the money question fairly then, and have never done so since.

They pooh-poohed the argument that what the country needed was more money and said all the people needed was more confidence.

They ridiculed the proposition to open the mints for silver on the same terms that the mints have been open to gold since 1873, and made jokes about the 16 to 1 ratio in existence then and in existence now.

They said with an air of great seriousness that Uncle Sam couldn't make a dollar out of 45 cents worth of silver, notwithstanding the fact that Uncle Sam was doing that very thing then and has been doing so ever since.

They said that the "intrinsic value" of a dollar must be the same as its "face value," and that the silver dollar ought to be as big as a cartwheel on account of the "commercial value" of silver.

They said all this and a lot more rubbish that had nothing to do with the question, which wasn't true then, is not true now, and never will be true.

But this little dissertation is not intended for a discussion of the money question. The only object in view is to remind you of the republican "arguments" in 1896 and to show up the inconsistency of one of the first declared policies of a republican administration today in view of those "arguments."

In his three-minute message to congress at the beginning of the special session to "revise" the tariff upward, downward and crossways for the sole benefit of the trusts, President Taft estimated that, by July, Uncle Sam would have a deficit of \$100,000,000.

To meet this deficit and to provide temporarily against its continuance it has been proposed to issue \$150,000,000 in "treasury certificates," or "debt certificates," or whatever name the word jugglers at Washington choose to call them.

The plain people are not supposed to understand, but the fact is that these "certificates" are to be put out in the form of paper money.

Which means that when one republican administration goes out of office \$100,000,000 in debt the next republican administration that comes along will turn that debt into money by issuing "certificates," which doesn't reduce the debt because it is merely an issue of bonds under another name.

Isn't that a fine example of "high finance" to fool the gullible?

Here is a republican administration only a dozen years after all the clamor about "dishonest dollars" and "cheap money" and agonizing

assertions that "you can't make a dollar out of 45 cents worth of silver," actually proposing to make 150,000,000 dollars out of a \$100,000,000 deficit in the treasury. That is making a dollar out of 100 cents less than nothing, in other words a deficit dollar.

It is a long straddle from a 45-cent dollar to a deficit dollar, but a republican administration is capable of such contortions.

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