

drinking clubs, thereby ceasing to tempt young men, and often young women, to form the drink habit."

H. C. Gill, mayor of Seattle, Washington, says: "Generally, merchants state that business is better, that bills are paid and that business is constantly increasing, and it is becoming known that the effect of the act is beneficial rather than disastrous as many had anticipated. \* \* \* As to arrests and crime, while I have not the complete figures before me, the police court arrests run about 50 per cent of what they did a year ago, but of those arrests now occurring a great number are for attempted violations of the liquor law. There are, of course, a constantly increasing number of automobile traffic regulations, which keep up the increase of arrests, but the ordinary police court cases in my opinion do not exceed 25 per cent of what they were prior to January 1. \* \* \* Experience has shown here that 95 per cent of the liquor evil was in the saloon, and it being gone the rest is easy of solution, and as one who voted wet, and who has now seen the effects of the law, I can see no possible chance of this city at least ever voting wet again. I believe that the next election will demonstrate in this city that at least 80 per cent are dry although it voted wet by 15,000 majority."

A. C. Fleming, mayor of Spokane, says: All of the merchants that I have interviewed have advised me that trade has increased, collections have been paid and business conditions are considerably better. The records show a great falling off in arrests for the average run of police work, but that since prohibition there has been a considerable increase in the number of arrests for what is known as "bootlegging," because of the effort on the part of our police department to see that the prohibition law is enforced, but I believe that I can truthfully say that there is less crime in the community under the present conditions than under former conditions.

Henry D. Smith, Mayor of Ft. Smith, Ark., says: "I have had the following statistics taken from the police court records, which seem to me to be all the argument that is needed: Drunks arrested in twelve months with saloons, 1322, total arrests 5697; drunks arrested in twelve months without saloons, 401, total arrests 2226. Difference: 921 less arrests for drunkenness; 3471 less arrests from all causes. We have reduced the police force by half and many of the oldest citizens have told us that law and order never prevailed to the extent it has in the last year."

Mayor Taylor, Little Rock, Ark., says: "I believe that nearly every one of those formerly engaged in the business is glad that they law has been stringently enforced and that not many of them sincerely desire to repeal the prohibition law and to return to former conditions. \* \* \* Merchants in ten lines of business whom I have consulted advise me that their collections are far better this year than last. The sales sheets of many of the retail dealers show a steady increase in the amount of business done."

G. E. Bruse, mayor of Charleston, West Virginia, says: "West Virginia went dry July 1, 1914, and the open saloons went out of business. We had fifty-three saloons in our city, from which we derived a revenue of \$53,000 per year. The cry was, if we drove the saloon out of the city and lost this revenue it would increase taxes and destroy business. When the city went dry and the fifty-three saloons closed down, within ten

days these buildings were all occupied by merchants in legitimate lines of trade and the city began to prosper. It would be impossible for me to describe to you the wonderful change in the morals of the city since this time. As to the financial condition. The city has forged ahead and has built in the last two years forty miles of streets and kept pace with all improvements, kept its streets clean and the city in good, sanitary condition. This was done without increasing the taxes, but instead we have been able to reduce the levy from 79 cents to 55 cents for the running expenses of the city, or in other words, we have reduced the levy 24 cents and have ample cash on hand to pay all obligations. This comes about by a large reduction in the police department, a large reduction in the court expenses and a large reduction in the poor fund. These reductions greatly exceed the \$53,000 we received from the fifty-three saloons in the city. Real estate is much more valuable and the closing of the saloon has increased the merchandise and food consumption.

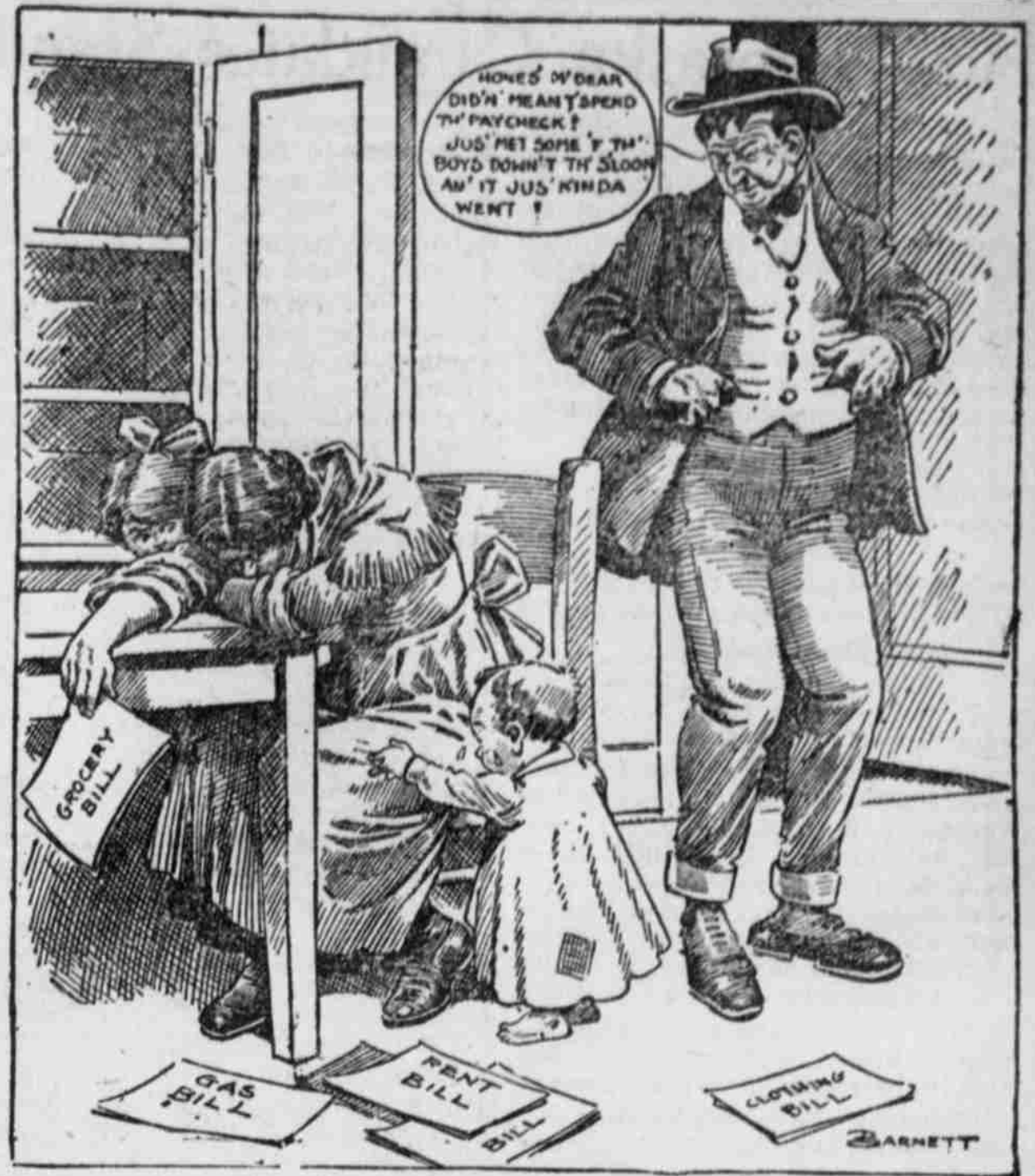
C. H. Bentley, mayor of Wichita, Kansas, says: The closing of the saloons in this city has not proven detrimental in any sense. It has not injured real estate values, but has increased trade with merchants in food, clothing and other necessities of life. The man who formerly bought liver to take home now buys beefsteak. I can cite you many instances of the increase of rent. For years I have owned lot 13, Douglas avenue, English's addition to the city of Wichita, and I have controlled this property for about thirty years. Under the saloon system I was getting \$100 a month rental. Under the present system I am getting \$250 a month rental."

W. E. Atchison, county attorney, Topeka, Kansas, says: "The closing of the saloons has saved to the laboring classes of Topeka the amounts of money that they formerly spent for intoxicating liquors, and instead of using a part of the wages for intoxicants the wage earners of Topeka pay their money to the merchants of Topeka for clothing and other necessities of life and upon the education of their children."

**DENVER'S LEADING BUSINESS MEN ENDORSE PROHIBITION**

Some of Denver's most prominent and influential business men recently have issued an indorsement of the prohibition law for the purpose of contradicting libelous stories which are being circulated broadcast by the booze trust. The statement follows:

"We are firmly convinced that prohibition is a great step forward for a moral and commercial betterment of our citizens, our government and our business interests. We have come in contact with many business men who were formerly opposed to prohibition but who are its staunchest supporters at this time, because business is better, bills are collected more promptly and the benefits of prohibition are everywhere evident. Denver has never been so much alive—the banks show tremendous increase in deposits and earnings, and this year has been the largest tourist season in our history, proving conclusively that tourists are not influenced by the amount of booze they can get. Wm. E. Sweet, Sweet Causey, Foster & Co., investment bonds; Leon M. Hattenback, president Denver's Retail Merchants' association; the W. H. Moore Machinery Co.; Frank N. Briggs, president the Interstate Trust Company; L. F. Spratlin, president Spratlin, Anderson Mercantile Company; John I.



AN OLD, OLD STORY

—Los Angeles Tribune.

Correa, secretary Denver Retail Grocers' association.—Nebraska Issue.

**HOW TO VOTE FOR THE PROHIBITORY AMENDMENT**

In view of the fact that some of the voters seem not to have a clear idea on the matter of how to vote on the prohibitory amendment, the form of the proposition as it will be submitted and will appear upon the ballots is as follows:

**Proposed Initiative Petition**  
Shall the constitution of the state of Nebraska be amended by adding thereto the following:

On and after May First, 1917, the manufacture, the sale, the keeping for sale or barter, the sale or barter under any pretext, of malt, spirituous, vinous or any other intoxicating liquors, are forever prohibited in this state, except for medicinal, scientific, mechanical, or sacramental purposes.

300 ..... Yes

301 ..... No

A vote in favor of the adoption of the amendment should be marked as above indicated.

This amendment is submitted under what is commonly known as the Initiative Provision (Sections IA and ID of Article v) of the constitution.—Nebraska Dry Federationist.

**MONTANA DEMOCRATS FAVOR PROHIBITION**

The Montana democratic convention, which met on the 14th of September, passed a strong resolution in favor of state prohibition. This step was taken with the support of the democratic members of congress and at the urgent request of the democratic governor. The platform reads as follows:

"We favor the adoption of the pending referendum providing for

state-wide prohibition, and we promise the people of Montana that if our candidates are elected the will of the people as expressed at the polls will be carried out to the letter, in that the provisions of the said law, if adopted, will be enforced without fear, favor or evasion, and we pledge our candidates for representatives in congress to vote for national prohibition, whenever that question may be considered by congress."

**PROHIBITION REDUCES DRUNKENNESS 75 PER CENT IN W. VA.**

Fred O. Blue, state commissioner of prohibition of West Virginia, has made public a statement covering two years the state prohibition law has been in effect. His report, based on figures received in official reports from more than 50 municipalities, shows that during this two-year period there has been a reduction of 50 per cent in crime and 75 per cent in drunkenness throughout the state. There were 19,567 arrests the year before the law went into effect, while during the first year after the law was passed this number was reduced to 9,956, and during the past year to 3,357. Not the least significant feature of this report is the fact that crime continues to decrease. Sad news for the liquor men, but nevertheless true.—American Issue.

**WHY NOT EVERY DAY?**

Mayor Thompson of Chicago, in speaking of the effect of Sunday closing of saloons in that city, recently said:

"Some things have worked out in the enforcement of this Sunday closing law that I never realized or understood before. One is the big reduction in crime which has followed the closing of the saloons on Sundays. The Monday morning arrest books show only 90 to 150 arrests on the preceding Sunday, while before Sunday closing went into effect the arrests on Sunday used to average from 400 to 500."