

# Both Parties Facing a "Dry" Fight

[From the Washington Star, Dec. 7.]

A great fight will be made to place in the next national democratic and republican platforms a prohibition plank, in the opinion of senators of both parties at the capitol today, who commented upon the appeal of William Jennings Bryan to the democratic party to adopt nation-wide prohibition as one of the measures to be enacted into law.

Only the passage during the next four years of a joint resolution by congress for a constitutional amendment for national prohibition and its submission to the states for ratification can prevent the effort being made to have both parties take up the fight for prohibition, they said.

Senator Sheppard of Texas, leader of the prohibition forces in the senate, expressed his gratification at the stand taken by Mr. Bryan. He favored a prohibition plank for the party.

### Senator Kenyon Favors Plank

Senator Kenyon of Iowa, a strong advocate of prohibition on the republican side of the chamber, said that he believed, with the growing strength of the prohibition sentiment in the country, neither party could afford not to put a prohibition plank in its platform if the other adopted one.

"If Mr. Bryan runs for President on the democratic ticket with prohibition in his platform," said Senator Kenyon, "the republicans could not

hold the republican party together in opposition to him."

Senator Kern of Indiana, democratic leader, said that if he owned any stock in a brewery or distillery he would sell it in a hurry. He added, however, that he did not think that a majority of the democratic party would favor imposing prohibition upon a state in which the public sentiment did not demand prohibition.

### "Bryan Strong on Moral Issue"

Senator Simmons of North Carolina, one of the most influential democrats in the body, was unwilling at this time to say what course would be followed by the democratic party in regard to Mr. Bryan's appeal.

"He made a great speech," said Mr. Simmons. "No one can equal Mr. Bryan when he discusses a moral issue. Unless some action is taken in the next four years looking toward national prohibition, the matter will be a live issue at the next national conventions."

There were others, however, among the democratic senators who, while they did not care to be quoted, stated that they did not believe that national prohibition could be enforced, and that its supporters were aligning themselves with the "speakeasies." They were opposed to having the democratic party take up national prohibition as an issue.

### SEE QUICK PASSAGE FOR OWEN BILL

A Washington dispatch, dated Dec. 6, says: With Senator Owen announcing promises of support from republicans, the senate today settled down to consideration of the Owen Corrupt Practice bill to limit expenditure of money in congressional and presidential elections, and leaders on both sides predicted that the measure in amended form would be passed before the March adjournment.

Senator Owen said informally that he would withhold, for the present at least, his resolution to direct a special investigation into campaign expenditures of all political parties in the recent national election, because of the assurances from republican senators that they would aid in good faith to effect the passage of a measure that would prevent lavish expenditures of money and remove opportunity for corruption in future campaigns.

Several amendments were offered among them one by Senator Kenyon to penalize election betting by a fine of \$500 for each offense. Senator Works proposed a similar amendment, and another which would limit individual contributions to a campaign fund to \$100, to be paid only to recognized political committees.

Senator Sherman, republican, opened debate on the bill. He objected to the provision limiting campaign expenditures by a political committee on behalf of a senatorial candidate to \$5,000, declaring the language was not clear whether this referred to both primaries and elections, or would allow a total for both of \$10,000. He said a later provision permitting certain personal expenditures would permit a wealthy candidate who could spend his own money to have a great advantage over one who must rely on contributions and campaign committee funds.

The Illinois senator also contended it was unfair to make the same standard for states small in territory

or population, as Nevada, Arizona or Delaware and for such large states as New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois, where conditions were vastly different. He referred only incidentally to the November election, remarking, "I do not believe the sums spent by either the republican or democratic party in the 1916 campaign ever will be known."

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