

THE REPORTS OF HIS POLITICAL DEATH SEEM TO HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED



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—From Chicago Tribune

Mr. Bryan Makes an Issue

While congratulations were in order in democratic circles, about two weeks ago, and while William Jennings Bryan was receiving a large share of them because the mid-western and northwestern states, in which he had addressed great meetings during the campaign, had nearly all voted for the re-election of Woodrow Wilson, it was remarked by close observers that the former secretary of state dwelt with greatest satisfaction on the fact that the cause of prohibition had come out of the contest with some notable victories. Asked to express himself on the result of the balloting, he said, at Denver, Colorado, two days following the election: "Prohibition is sweeping the country. It will be a presidential campaign issue in 1920 if a constitutional amendment is not submitted by congress to the states by that time." "This reform," he added, "like every other obtained in the last twenty years, is moving from the west and south to the north and east. National prohibition will be an acute issue four years hence, unless the amendment is submitted to the states before that time, which is possible." Through-

out his "stumping" tour for the national democratic ticket Mr. Bryan spoke everywhere for prohibition, although doubts were expressed in some quarters as to the expediency of such a course.

As to the "inexpediency" of his course in urging prohibition, upon the multitudes whom he addressed in behalf of his party ticket, the election returns furnish a sufficient answer. As one of President Wilson's most intimate friends has put it, "William Jennings Bryan brought in his states." The fact that he did so may be taken as pretty conclusive evidence that the states to which he gave closest attention and in which he pleaded equally for prohibition and Wilson were not offended by his course. It is only fair to say, however that the President was not one of those who questioned Mr. Bryan's political acumen in standing for a "dry" nation.

Clearly, Mr. Bryan has allied himself with the prohibition cause. He is under no illusions as to the opposition he will meet with in his own party. He has shown, in some of his speeches, that it will be necessary

either to convert a large section of the democracy to prohibition, or to invite the opposition of this section by insisting upon the adoption of prohibition as a party issue. The democracy in some of the larger cities of the country will not countenance this course without protest; the democracy of some of the states will oppose it until opposition shall become hopeless. It is, from all appearances, to be Mr. Bryan's task to educate the anti-prohibition democrats to the point of accepting the inevitable. He began this educational work in Indiana last week; he has continued it in Illinois this week. All indications lead to the conclusion that he has enlisted in the war against liquor with the purpose of remaining in the forefront of the fight until victory shall be won.

He neither beat about the bush nor offered apologies when telling the democrats of Indiana that their first duty to the party, as well as to the country, was to make the state "dry." His Indianapolis address, indeed, partook rather of the nature of a challenge than an appeal to the political organization of which he is one of the most influential leaders. "The democratic party," he declared, "has no power to say whether there shall be a fight for prohibition. The fight is on. If the democratic party refuses to indorse prohibition, it will take a stand squarely against the states that gave their votes to President Wilson. And I say now that the democratic party is under no obligations to party bosses who depend on the liquor interests for their power in politics."

Mr. Bryan, it is plain, is talking for a new democracy, a democracy that, in the future, will not anywhere be used as a convenience by the liquor interests. Judging by his experience in Indiana and Illinois, he will not be disappointed in the response of the democratic rank and file to the prohibition issue.—Christian Science Monitor.

REPUBLICANS IN A SCRAP

A San Francisco, Cal., dispatch, dated Nov. 15, says: Chester H. Rowell, chairman of the republican state central committee, issued a statement today charging that the republicans who undertook to look after Charles E. Hughes during his trip through California not only made a bad job of it, but suppressed and disobeyed instructions from the east. The statement blames them for the loss of the state from the republican column.

"If the advice and practically the demands of the national managers of Mr. Hughes's campaign had not been defied and suppressed by those temporarily in charge of it in California," the statement said, "Mr. Hughes would now be, beyond question, president of the United States."

Francis V. Keesling, chairman of the republican state central committee at the time Mr. Hughes was in the state, said:

"I am not going to say anything. The telegrams were all published at the time."

MISSOURI DRIES TO VOTE AGAIN

A St. Louis, Mo., dispatch, dated Nov. 21, says: State-wide prohibition again will be submitted to the voters of Missouri not later than November, 1918.

In the absence of any law on the subject, there will be no official recount of the recent wet and dry vote cast in St. Louis.

Instead, the dries of Missouri will seek to have a statute enacted authorizing the opening of ballot boxes and recount of votes upon all amend-

ments or laws submitted under the initiative and referendum.

These conclusions, among others, were reached by the legislative committee of the Ministerial Alliance of St. Louis, after a session in the office of the Anti-Saloon league of Missouri.

Following the meeting, Rev. John L. Brandt, chairman, stated the committee believed not fewer than 50,000 dry votes were cast in St. Louis, but that these dwindled to 13,272 after the clerks got through counting them.

"We know there was much fraud in the counting of the ballots," Dr. Brandt said, "but our hands are tied. We have consulted four or five of the best lawyers in St. Louis and they have advised us, much to their own personal regret, that Missouri has no law under which we can contest the count on a constitutional amendment."

Although Missouri went wet November 7 by more than 100,000 majority, the state outside of St. Louis voted dry. It was only the huge booze vote of St. Louis and St. Louis county that kept the saloon from being ousted from Missouri.

In 1910, when the first prohibition fight was made, the wets won by 218,125. They got 126,089 in St. Louis and 12,312 in St. Louis county. The state outside of St. Louis and St. Louis county went wet by 80,000.

This wet majority has been wiped out. The dry vote is sufficient to more than overcome the St. Louis county vote, so that the St. Louis city vote alone stands between Missouri and prohibition.

The reversal in Jackson county, where a 21,000 wet majority was turned into a 3,000 dry majority, was the biggest change in the six years. An analysis of the results shows the big dry gains, with a very few exceptions, all were made in the west half of the state.

In 1910, the dries carried only 36 counties out of 114. November 7 they carried more than 65 counties.

NEWSPAPERS LAUDED FOR BARRING LIQUOR "ADS"

An Indianapolis dispatch, dated Nov. 20, says: The National Women's Christian Temperance Union today adopted a resolution commending the 850 daily newspapers and sixty-eight magazines in the country known to refuse liquor advertisements. The delegates pledged themselves and each member of the organization to use all influence possible to induce newspapers now carrying such advertising matter to drop it at the expiration of present contracts.

FRAGMENTS OF FUN

"The people over yonder had an execution in their house yesterday." "You don't say!" "Yes; they were hanging some wall-paper." — Baltimore American.

Irate Business Man — "You book agents make me so angry with your confounded nerve and impudence that I can not find words to express my feelings." Agent — "Then I am the very man you want. I am selling dictionaries." — Life.

FREE TRIP

"The best thing about this trip," said the retired merchant as he lay back luxuriously in the comfortable chair on the porch of a \$10 a day hotel, "is that it is not costing me a cent!"

"How's that?" asked an envious spectator.

"It's all coming out of my heirs," said the man smiling happily. — New York World.

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