

Senators Vote Tax on All Spirits

A Washington dispatch to the New York Herald, dated June 5, says:

By placing an enormous tax on all foodstuffs used in the manufacture of distilled spirits, the senate finance committee today proposed to make further production of whiskey and other spirits prohibitive during the war. If the new section of the revenue bill agreed upon by the committee is passed by congress, beers, malt liquors and wines will be the only "war drinks" possible of manufacture.

In addition to the present tax of \$2.20 a gallon, liquor tax of \$20 a bushel (from \$6 to \$9 a gallon), upon all grain, cereal or other foodstuffs used in manufacturing whiskey or other distilled spirits for use as beverages was written into the bill.

No additional tax will be placed on distilled spirits in bond, and it is estimated that they are sufficient to supply the country for more than a year.

At the same time the committee voted to prohibit the importation of any distilled spirits made from cereals, grains or other foodstuffs, except for mechanical or scientific purposes.

Mr. Gore's Statements

The prohibition amendments to the bill were offered by Senator Gore, of Oklahoma. They were adopted by the committee by a large majority vote.

The first of the Gore amendments reads as follows:

"In addition to the tax imposed by existing law on distilled spirits, there shall be levied, collected and paid, on the materials from which such spirits are manufactured after the approval of this act the following tax: On all molasses, syrups or substitutes therefrom a tax of \$5 per wine gallon, and on all grain, cereals and other edible products and materials a tax of \$20 a bushel of fifty-six pounds, and every distiller using any such materials shall keep such records and file such returns and bonds, and the tax shall be paid at such time and in such manner and subject to such credits as the commissioner of internal revenue, with the approval of the secretary of the treasury, may prescribe or require; provided that the distiller shall be entitled to refund the amount of the tax paid on such materials when the spirits manufactured therefrom are withdrawn from the tax under existing law, or withdrawn and used exclusively for the manufacture or preparation of medicinal components; provided further that such spirits shall not be withdrawn from export except upon the application of an accredited representative of a nation now at war with the imperial German government, in which application it shall be declared that such spirits are withdrawn for use in furtherance of such war."

Mr. Simmons Sees Prohibition

Commenting briefly on the section, Senator Simmons, chairman of the senate finance committee, said: "The tax makes prohibitive the use of grains in the further manufacture of distilled spirits. There is no additional tax on spirits in bond."

The second Gore amendment provides:

"That no distilled spirits manufactured from grains, cereals or any edible products, molasses, syrups or substitutes therefor shall be imported into the United States from any

foreign country or Puerto Rico or the Philippines, except for industrial, mechanical or scientific purposes under directions of the secretary of the treasury."

The action of the committee does not stop the manufacture of beers, malt liquors or wines. It does not prohibit the sale of intoxicants. And it is the expectation of the committee to be able to raise as much revenue, if not more, for a year at least, by the prohibitive tax as would have been raised had spirits distillation been allowed to continue. That depends, however, on the duration of the war.

It is not believed that the committee's action will stop the "drys" in congress from attempting at least to make "war prohibition" in all forms the law of the land during the war.

There is a very active force still trying to stop the sale as well as the manufacture of alcohol drinks. The senate judiciary committee has several such bills before it for consideration late this week.

It is the opinion of the conservatives in congress that the best the "drys" can hope for at this particular time is what the senate finance committee proposes. They declare it a step forward toward complete prohibition, and that may result before the end of the war.

ARMY PROHIBITION BILL IS EFFECTIVE

A Washington dispatch, dated May 24, says: Reports reaching the war department indicate that the war army acts prohibiting the sale of liquor about military camps or to enlisted men and officers in uniform is being observed rigidly. Even hotels and restaurants have refused to serve liquor to guests of army officers wearing the uniform on the ground that such a sale would be to the officer and would make the management liable to a fine of not more than \$1,000 or not more than one year's imprisonment or both, which the act provides as penalty for violation.

The law forbids not only sale but even possession of liquor of any kind at military camps or clubs. A bill applying similar restrictions to the navy is pending.

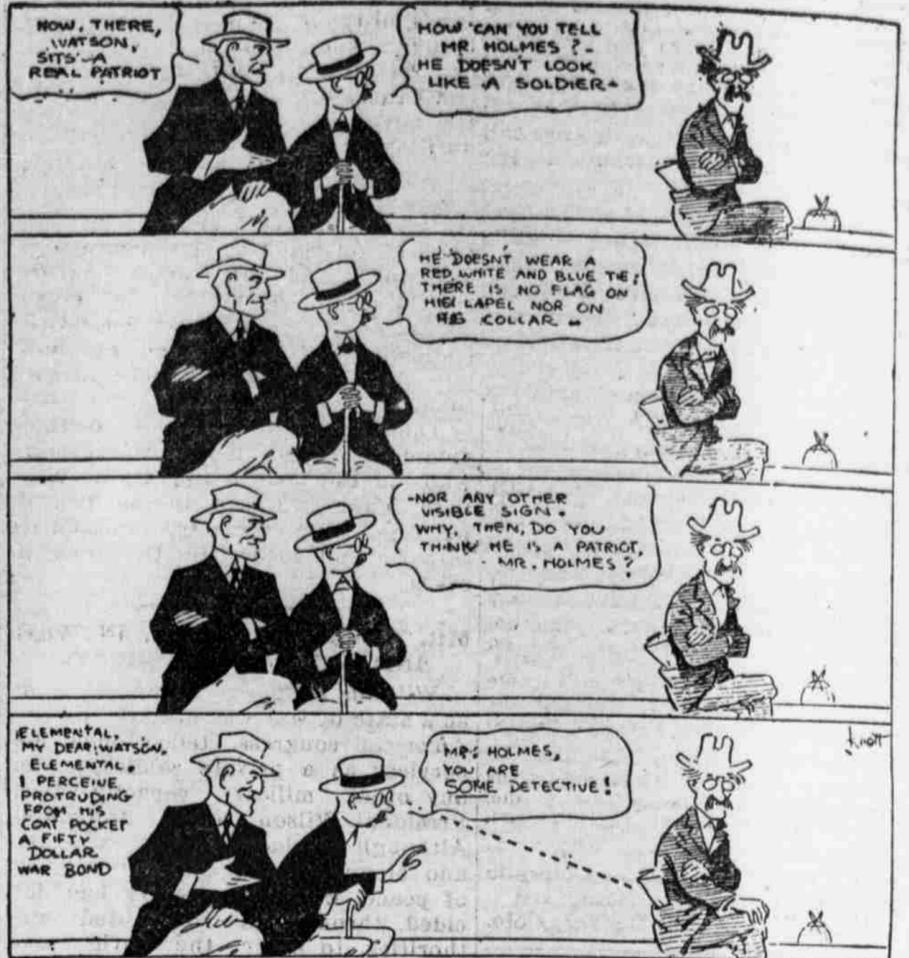
FOOD PRODUCTS AND DETAILS

Before starting on his tour in advocacy of larger food productions Mr. Bryan obtained from the agricultural department important statistics bearing on the subject. His addresses, therefore, will not be merely rhetorical flourishes, tickling to the ear and entertaining, but sober performances carrying facts and practical suggestions. As he will be treating of the soil and many of its products, he will keep his feet on the earth, and pack his talks with matters of the everyday.

This example should be copied. When a famous rhetorician goes upon that tack, others should note and follow.

The subject is as yet undeveloped. It came upon the country as a startling surprise. Such a thing as food shortage in the United States had never before been discussed except in an academic way. Students of government and of our national development had now and then in speech or writing offered some observations under that head as something that might happen; but the suggestions had never reached the busy circles

CONCLUSIVE PROOF



—From The Dallas (Texas) News.

in America engaged with ordinary affairs.

Suddenly the subject is in everybody's mouth and mind. We are all talking or writing about it. It is no longer academic, but the opposite. We are told by the most competent authorities that our supplies are short and must be greatly increased. The matter must be taken up at once, and by as many people as can assist in making up the deficiency.—Washington Star.

MUST DRIVE SALOON OUT IN TIME OF WAR

[From the Dallas, Texas, News, May 25.]

"We must drive out the saloon, in order that our soldiers may measure up to a soldier's duty, and in order that our people at home may be strong to support the government during the war. We must forget that we are democrats or republicans, and one and all unite to drive out the greatest enemy the home has ever had. We must furnish everything from men to money to make this war a success."

This was the appeal of the Hon. W. J. Bryan, speaking at the Hon. park coliseum last night to an audience that filled that great building to its capacity—the gathering being composed of members of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States of America, here from every part of the United States, and of Dallas citizens generally, as well as visitors from nearby points. Mr. Bryan, who is an elder in the Presbyterian church, came to the general assembly by invitation to deliver a temperance address, and the public meeting at which he spoke was in charge of the temperance board of the church, and was held at the Coliseum in order to allow the general public to hear the distinguished orator.

"Purchase of Liberty Bonds"

Mr. Bryan urged, as the patriotic duty of every person who can do so,

the purchase of Liberty Loan Bonds; urged greater food production and, of even more importance, the conservation of food and care by housewives and all others, in avoiding food waste. In this connection he inveighed against the use of grain to manufacture alcoholic drinks at this time, when the world needs bread.

NO TIME FOR THE SNEER

[From the Asheville, N. C., Times.]

Every little while the Times reads in some exchange a sneering comment concerning William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Bryan needs no defender—but it is against the policy of this newspaper to overlook an opportunity of standing up for the "other fellow." It is ill-natured for any individual to indulge in sarcasm concerning the tender of services on the part of Mr. Bryan. The tender was made in a manly fashion and in modest and loyal language. Mr. Bryan wrote Mr. Wilson:

"Please enroll me as a private, whenever I am needed and assign me to any work that I can do. Until called to the colors, I shall, through the Red Cross, contribute to the comfort of the soldiers in the hospital and, through the Y. M. C. A. aid in safeguarding the morals of the men in camp."

In appreciation, Mr. Wilson replied acknowledging the offer and expressing his confidence in the loyalty of Mr. Bryan. In the meantime, Mr. Bryan goes steadily at a task which marks his genuine manhood. He speaks for the nation and the administration—urging confidence and support. Well known as an advocate of peace and bitterly opposed to war, Mr. Bryan realizes the seriousness of the situation and stands by his country, its people and their need. In The Commoner, under his signature, he says:

"The nation has entered the war. Men differed as to the wisdom of going into the war, but the government has acted, and there is no long