

The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

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Editor and Proprietor Associate Ed. and Publisher
Edit. Rms. and Business Office, Suite 297 Press Bldg.

One Year \$1.00	Three Months25
Six Months50	Single Copy10
In Clubs of Five or more, per year.75	Sample Copies Free.
	Foreign Post, 25c Extra

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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

Speaking of the good old days, do you remember the time when it was a very easy job to get up a discussion of the tariff in any group of men?

The business of government is to protect the people from those who would oppress and despoil them, although it seemed for a time as though it would be difficult to get the senate to accept this fact.

Various methods of adequately dealing with the food speculator and grain and flour gamblers have been suggested by aggrieved individuals, but the inventor of the phrase "hanging is too good for them" seems to have the most followers.

None of the reporters seem to have been enterprising enough to secure from King Constantine an authentic declaration of whether he blames all his troubles on his wife. It would be interesting if only to prove whether a king is just like an ordinary man.

A personal liberty advocate is a man who thoroughly believes in the right of the government to appoint a man and clothe him with power to dictate what our food should be, but who regards it as a breach of constitutional guarantees if he assumes to say what we shall drink.

One pleasant little fiction entertained by a great many farmers has been exploded during the present summer. It was that the untrained boy from the city was a nuisance as a farm hand. One New York Lureau placed 10,000 of them on farms, and they stayed there most of the time, while the demand for more of them constantly increased.

The lawlessness of the saloon and the liquor-maker is responsible in a measure for the banishment that is in store for booze. Iowa has been dry for months now under a law passed by the legislature. In Des Moines the other day \$75,000 worth of liquor was seized by officers. It had been brought into the state there for the purpose of being peddled out to the soldier boys called to train at the cantonment at the Iowa state capital. The men who made the liquor knew that it was to be sold in violation of law and in opposition to national safety. Is it any wonder that decent men, even though they see no harm in drinking the stuff themselves, have resolved to banish an industry conceived in lawlessness and greed and carried on along the same lines?

SIN'S PUNISHMENT SURE

Pleasures are false that bring repentant pain:

The soaring hawk, however swift to fly,

Can not outstrip his shadow on the plain—

That low-flung specter follows till the twain

Alight together on the crag hard by.

—From "The Gravedigger" by Fred Emerson Brooks.

ORGANIZE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION IN IOWA

The temperance forces of Iowa have set about the task of securing constitutional prohibition this fall by uniting their forces under the banner of the "Allied Temperance Committee of Iowa." The following is a statement of the plan of organization, its membership, object, and list of officers who will direct the campaign:

"THE ALLIED TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE OF IOWA, INC.

"Leading temperance men and women from every county of Iowa were called to meet at Des Moines on June 8th to consider an organization of all the temperance forces for the prohibitory constitutional amendment election campaign.

"Out of this meeting came the Allied Temperance Committee of Iowa, with the executive committee named below empowered to perfect the organization.

"The executive committee elected the board of managers as named below, and committed to them the active management of the election campaign.

"Organizations Allied — Women's Christian Temperance Union, Business Men's Temperance Association of Iowa, Iowa Constitutional Prohibitory Amendment Association, The Prohibition Party of Iowa, The Inter-Collegiate Prohibition Association, Iowa Anti-Saloon League, and other organizations.

"Executive Committee—A. V. Proudfoot, Indianola, chairman; H. M. Haner, Des Moines; John T. Clarkson, Albia; G. H. Cummings, Sioux City; Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, Cedar Rapids; George Cosson, Des Moines; Anthony TePaske, Sioux Center; Mrs. L. D. Carhart, Marion; W. J. Pilkington, Des Moines; A. MacEachron, Waterloo; Mrs. Ella M. Hill, Des Moines; Rev. Fred T. Stevenson, Waukee; A. U. Coates, Des Moines; J. A. Mitchell, Des Moines, R. F. D. No. 6; Otis L. Walter, Waterloo; W. C. Barber, Des Moines; Mrs. Anna M. Edworthy, Des Moines; Rev. D. B. Cook, Earlham; Rev. W. B. Sandford, Des Moines.

"Board of Managers—Mrs. Ida B. Wise Smith, Rev. John L. Hillman, Rev. Wm. Parsons, A. U. Coates, W. J. Pilkington, J. A. Mitchell, W. H. Kidder; Central State Bank, Des Moines, treasurer; J. B. Weede, Des Moines, campaign manager.

"Our object: Iowa permanently DRY by the constitutional prohibitory amendment. Get out the whole vote—Have an honest election.

"Vote 'Yes,' October 15th."

Success to their efforts.

The paltriest argument of all those brought forth to prevent the government from making this nation dry was the last one urged in the debate in the senate. It was that unless this government gave the workingman his beer he would strike back and break down the country even when it faced a powerful enemy at war. It was an insult to the worker in that it placed him upon so low a level of patriotism that he preferred to bring his country to ruin rather than give up his beer. It was a libel upon labor to imagine that it would strike for the right to get drunk. Labor is poor enough paid now, and it would welcome the opportunity to save some of the money now wrested from it by the cold greed of the brewer through the lure of bright lights and music.

The eastern magazines have joined the eastern newspapers in declaring that the government should lose no time in giving the railroads an increase in rates. It is difficult to determine whether this championship is due to ignorance or is part of a carefully-prepared propaganda. Not one of the great western roads is in need of a dollar of increased income. The Burlington earned \$32,000,000 on its capital stock of \$110,000,000, according to its own report, while the Union Pacific paid 10 per cent and the Northwestern 14 per cent dividends and passed millions over to their surplus.

The food experts insist that the duty of the American people is to eat more corn bread and thus save flour for the hungry of Europe. If congress were to pass a law making the eating of corn pone obligatory, the republican papers would seize upon that as another sign that the south is in the saddle at Washington.

Peace Resolution

Senator La Follette of Wisconsin introduced a peace resolution in the United States senate Aug. 11, 1917, calling upon congress to "determine and declare definitely the objects and purposes for which this government shall continue to participate in the European war." Senator La Follette's resolution, after citing past peace pronouncements of various belligerents, says:

"Whereas, There has recently emanated from official and unofficial sources, both in this country and abroad, statements indicating that we are to continue in the war until a peace is obtained which gives to the entente allies, or some of them, punitive damages and territorial advantages as a result of the war; and,

"Whereas, The people of this country do not know the terms of the secret treaties or agreements existing among the entente allies defining the advantages, if any, either in the way of indemnities or territorial acquisitions or commercial privileges, which is expected to receive as a result of the war; and,

"Whereas, There is naturally a widely expressed demand coming from the people of our own country for some declaration of the purpose and object for which the United States is expending, in the first year of the war from \$13,000,000,000 to \$17,000,000,000 of money and raising by draft and otherwise an army of 2,000,000 men, ostensibly for service in foreign countries; and,

"Whereas, The people have a right to know with certainty for what end their blood is to be shed and their treasure expended; and,

"Whereas, In this free government, congress, in whom the war making power resides, under the constitution, is charged primarily with the responsibility of deciding upon the objects of the war at its commencement or at any time during its existence; now therefore be it resolved

"Resolved, By the senate (the house of representatives concurring), that the constitution vests in the congress as the accredited and lawful representatives of the people, full authority to determine and to declare definitely the objects and purposes for which this government shall continue to participate in the European war.

"Resolved, further, That the congress hereby declares that this government will not contribute to the efforts of any belligerent for the purpose of prolonging the war to annex new territory, either in Europe or outside of Europe, nor to enforce the payment of indemnities to recover the expenses of the war; but the congress does hereby declare in favor of the creation of a common fund to be provided by all the belligerent nations to assist in the restoration of the portions of territory in any of the countries most seriously devastated by the war, and for the establishment of an international commission to decide the allotment of the common fund.

"Resolved, further, That congress declares that there should be a public re-statement of the allied peace terms, based on a disavowal of any advantages, either in the way of indemnities, territorial acquisitions, commercial privileges, or economic prerogatives, by means of which one nation shall strengthen its power abroad at the expense of another nation, as wholly incompatible with the establishment of a durable peace in the world."

In their last dying frenzy the liquor makers of Nebraska, just put out of business by prohibition, hired solicitors to rake the highways and byways of the state for 32,000 names of voters with which to suspend, under the operation of the referendum, the law passed by the legislature which gave the women of the state the right to vote for President and for city and county officers. The men of Nebraska should take immediate steps to test the sufficiency of a petition secured under such circumstances. A number of men who signed have already risen up to declare that their signatures were secured by false pretenses and representations.

Colonel Roosevelt continues to exhibit his sore toe with considerable glee. "They wouldn't let me go to Flanders," he says. What he means is that the President desired men sent to the front who had enough real experience as leaders to insure proper handling of men. The enlisting office has never been closed to the colonel.