

To the Voters of Ohio

Following is a copy of a letter sent by Mr. Bryan to the voters of Ohio, urging them to abolish the saloon at the coming election:

"My dear Sir:

"The voters of Ohio will be called upon at the coming election to decide a very important question, namely, whether the saloon shall be permitted to exist. The question to be decided today is entirely different from the question at issue when a vote expressed merely a personal opinion or preference. Today the saloon is an out-law, a fugitive from justice. A majority of the American people live in dry territory and are represented at Washington by senators and members who vote for prohibition. National prohibition is only a question of a few years, each state victory hastening the final triumph. The party that espouses the cause of the liquor interests is not only doomed to defeat, but to disgrace, and the voter who takes the side of the saloon against the home casts a vote which can not be excused now, and for which he will have to apologize later.

"We have long understood the evils of intemperance as those evils that manifest themselves in time of peace. To this information is added the knowledge that we have gained during this war—knowledge which proves alcohol even more deadly in war than in peace. Nineteen years ago the canteen was permitted in the United States army, and in the war with Spain each colonel decided whether there should be a saloon in his camp. A few years afterwards congress drove the canteen from the army and made it unlawful for any commanding officer to permit the sale of liquor in his camp. A few years ago alcohol was driven from the navy, and within a few months it has been made unlawful for anyone anywhere to sell intoxicating liquor to a man in uniform.

"The old arguments made in favor of the saloon have been demolished. The automobile routed the personal liberty argument. A man does not have to be run over by a drunken chauffeur more than twice before he learns that no man's personal liberty includes the right to injure another one.

"They used to say that the law could not be enforced. The Webb-Kenyon law recently sustained by the United States supreme court makes the enforcement of state laws possible. The federal government has been taken out of partnership with the boot-legger and brought into partnership with the state. It used to be argued that we could not afford to give up the money derived from the internal revenue license and from saloon license. Russia was willing to surrender a revenue of \$450,000,000 rather than permit the sale of 'vodka,' and the first thing that sober Russia did was to drive the Czar into exile and declare for a republican form of government. Our government is strong enough to authorize any one day a loan of billions of dollars—such a nation does not need to sell its soul to the liquor traffic in exchange for a few hundred millions of revenue.

"If one is not driven to support prohibition by economic arguments, he ought to be susceptible to an unanswerable moral argument, namely, that no citizen can afford to go into partnership with the saloon and share moral responsibility for what the saloon does. The saloon can not exist without votes; therefore, the man who votes for the saloon is guilty equally with the saloon-keeper for the evils which the saloon is known to bring: the alienation of the husband, the brutalizing of the father, the impoverishing of the family, and the ruin of young women as well as young men. These are the fruits of the saloon—the saloon must, as long as it exists, remain a menace to the home and all that is high and holy. I hope, more, I feel confident, that Ohio will improve this opportunity to abolish the saloon and put herself in line with the states that have enlisted in the war against alcohol, man's greatest enemy.

"Yours very truly,

"W. J. BRYAN."

The chap we used to envy because he so often was invited to sit down at meat with kings will have to pick out a new route after the world has been made safe for democracy and warm for crowned heads. Wonder what new phrase to indicate extreme honor and content the powers will then invent.

TWENTIETH CENTURY WINE AND SIXTEENTH CENTURY BOTTLES

"And No Man Putteth New Wine Into Old Bottles."—St. Luke, 5:37

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—Chicago Tribune, Sept. 1, 1917.

Not Wise to Put New Wine Into Old Bottles

William Jennings Bryan * * * was asked at the University club today to give his opinion of the President's note rejecting the pope's peace offer.

"Since the war began," he said, "I have made it a rule not to discuss questions connected with the prosecution of the war or terms of peace. I do not want to violate that rule further than to say that the President has presented a powerful indictment of the German government. His argument is an amplification of a principle very briefly stated in Holy Writ, namely: It is not wise to put new wine into old bottles—the spirit of democracy into autocratic forms of government."

Mr. Bryan refused to go further, saying: "My work, as I conceive it, is to help to unify the nation in support of the government. If I were to discuss the merits of propositions I would continually arouse and encourage controversy. But when I insist it is the duty of every citizen to support his government in any act the government takes, I am presenting a proposition which is not open to dispute.

"Ours is the best government in the world—it is a people's government—and the government speaks for the people. The alternative is anarchy—the substitution of the individual's opinion for his government's decision."—From an interview in Chicago Journal, Aug. 30, 1917.

THE CRUSADE AGAINST GAMBLING

The Washington papers announce that the police have notified local societies that raffles are gambling devices and will not be permitted in the District of Columbia even for the benefit of charity. Good. The raffle is just as much a game of chance as the wheel of fortune, and even more objectionable because it is sugar coated. The more worthy the object the more attractive the vice—and therefore the more dangerous.

Gambling is a poison: it is as destructive to morals as arsenic is to the body. Gambling overthrows God's law of rewards; it unfits its victim for honest effort and legitimate accumulation. The District of Columbia is setting a good example to the states—it is worth following.

Perhaps it is a vain and useless wish, but there are some persons who like to keep informed upon the prospects for the future who look forward some day to reading a review of financial conditions and a prediction of what is going to happen soon that does not insist upon regarding the effect upon the stock market as the most important thing to consider.

When the matter was suggested that the packers were getting more than they were entitled to, the representative of one of these great concerns said that for the last six years the average profits of his company was 10 per cent. For a business that makes such small average returns as that, the packers seem to have been able to multiply their investment very rapidly.

Our Banking System

Following is a copy of a letter sent by Comptroller of the Currency Williams to Secretary McAdoo, under date of August 21:

Hon. Wm. G. McAdoo,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am sure that it will be gratifying to you to know what the figures tell us as to the improvement which has taken place among the banks of the national banking system as a result to a large extent of an improved system of national bank examination, of greater thoroughness in these examinations, and from the policy of insisting that the national banks shall observe the provisions of the national bank act, intended for their protection and the protection of their depositors and shareholders.

I have before me a statement of national bank failures for the fiscal years from July 1, 1897, to June 30, 1917.

The average losses to depositors for this entire period was reported at .009 per cent of total deposits. The year ending July 1, 1914, 19 national banks failed, with estimated resulting losses to depositors of \$1,505,000, or .018 per cent.

The following year, ending June 30, 1915 (the first full year under the present comptroller), there were only 16 national banks failed, with estimated loss to depositors of \$441,000, or .005 per cent.

The next year, ending June 30, 1916, there were 15 national bank failures, the estimated losses being reduced to \$352,000, or .003 per cent, while for the year ending June 30, 1917, there were only six national bank failures, estimated losses being \$369,000, or .003 per cent.

It is interesting to note that although the losses have declined from \$1,505,000 for the year ending June 30, 1914, to \$369,000 during the past fiscal year, deposits in the same period have grown from 8,185 millions in 1914 to 12,769 millions at the present time.

Although the deposits in the national banks at this time are approximately 100 per cent more than they were just 10 years ago, the sum total of losses for the past 12 months is less than one-half of what it was for either of the three years ending June 30, 1908, 1909 or 1910, and about one-seventh of what they amounted to for the year ending June 30, 1906.

There are grounds for hoping that we may be able to reduce still further the numbers of national banks failing per annum, and to increase the percentage paid to depositors of those that have to go into liquidation.

I also have the pleasure of reporting that there are at this time in operation in the United States 7,653 national banks, a greater number than ever before reported in the history of the national banking system, and we have in the office under investigation applications for approximately 175 additional charters for national banks.

Faithfully yours,
JOHN SKELTON WILLIAMS.

The metropolitan newspapers are calling the farmers slackers because they did not drop all of their fall plowing and seeding and other work and start hauling wheat to market, and are demanding that the government force them to do so by threatening to reduce the fixed price in the near future. You see millers and other profiteering friends and associates sometimes own or are able to get the ear of city newspapers and thus aid them to get as much wheat as possible that they may grind into flour and sell before the government can get around to fixing flour and bread prices.

FOUND ON A DEAD SOLDIER

Ye that have faith to look with fearless eyes
Beyond the tragedy of a world of strife,
And know that out of death and night shall rise
The dawn of ampler life;

Rejoice, whatever anguish rend the heart,
That God has given you a priceless dower,
To live in these great times and have your part
In Freedom's crowning hour.

That ye may tell your sons who see the light
High in the heavens—their heritage to take—
"I saw the powers of darkness put to flight,
I saw the morning break."