

# Prohibition Prohibits in Nebraska

On another page will be found a very interesting interview given out by Mayor Dahlman, of Omaha, and published in the Omaha Daily News. Mayor Dahlman, like a great many of the officials in wet cities who opposed prohibition, is convinced by the facts and ready to admit that prohibition not only prohibits but improves conditions. Such testimony, coming from such a city as Omaha, ought to have a powerful influence in the states where some are still misled by the fallacious statements and unsound arguments circulated by the liquor interests. Omaha fought prohibition for years — the brewers, distillers and saloons furnishing the campaign funds and many of the prominent business men accepting and endorsing their arguments, but Nebraska went dry in spite of Omaha, and the legislature enacted, over the opposition of the liquor representatives, a law honestly carrying out the verdict of the people. Up to the last moment Omaha did her best to retain her crime-breeding, poverty-spreading liquor houses, but she was overwhelmed, and the haunts of vice were taken from her by force. Now her people are convinced that they were mistaken in supposing the saloons to be a necessity, and Mayor Dahlman, her chief executive, with his customary frankness, declares himself a convert to the new regime. Prohibition has triumphed, and those who honestly opposed it will find real satisfaction in the dispelling of their fears. They will be the happier because of the opportunity they now have to support a great moral crusade which is destined to triumph in the nation and throughout the world. Welcome, Mayor Dahlman, to the ranks of the advocates of prohibition!

W. J. BRYAN.

### WHAT IMPUDENCE!

The International Union of Brewery Workmen of America, through its secretary, is sending out literature under the head of "War Against Liberty." One pamphlet gives the government revenues collected—but it does not explain that the money is collected very largely from those LEAST ABLE TO PAY.

It tells how many workmen will be thrown out of employment by the closing of the breweries, distilleries and saloons, but it does not give the number who lose their employment through drink. It gives the amount invested in the production and sale of liquor at one billion five hundred millions, but it does not add that the people have been throwing away more than that sum on liquor annually in order to keep the manufacture and sale going.

The food administrator has finally turned his attention to the millers and the bakers, the men who make the flour of the nation and the men who sell it in commercialized form. He declares that the excessive profits of the miller must be eliminated and that the bakers who have been trailing along with equally substantial profits must dispense with them. After a time it will sink into the minds of the predatory business men that the real test of patriotism is not a willingness to deck buildings with flags and calling everybody traitor who doesn't yell as loud as he does, but in whether he uses the war to increase his own profits.

### MOB LAW INTOLERABLE

The horse-whipping of Minister Biglow by a Kentucky mob is an offense against which every patriotic citizen should protest. There is no invasion of our soil, there is no suspension of court processes, no marital law.

The statutes of the United States are in full force, and government officials are armed with power to prosecute all who are guilty of violating them. If Rev. Biglow had been guilty of any criminal act his accusers could have brought him before the court and secured conviction upon sufficient evidence. To take the punishment into their own hands was a reflection on the government or a confession of the weakness of the case, besides being an outrage upon a citizen. The perpetrators should be arrested and punished — democracy is not mob rule, it is a people's government administered according to the constitution and the laws.

W. J. BRYAN.

### PRESIDENT WILSON'S THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

President Wilson's proclamation, fixing Thursday, November 29, as Thanksgiving day, follows:

"It has long been the honored custom of our people to turn in the fruitful autumn of the year in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for his many blessings and mercies to us as a nation. That custom we can follow now, even in the midst of the tragedy of a world shaken by war and immeasurable disaster, in the midst of sorrow and great peril, because even amidst the darkness that has gathered about us we can see the great blessings God has bestowed upon us, blessings that are better than mere peace of mind and prosperity of enterprise.

"We have been given the opportunity to serve mankind as we once served ourselves in the great day of our declaration of independence by taking up arms against a tyranny that threatened to master and debase men everywhere, and joining with other free peoples in demanding for all nations of the world what we then demanded and obtained for ourselves. In this day of the revelation of our duty, not only to defend our own rights as a nation, but to defend also the rights of freemen throughout the world, there has been vouchsafed us in full and inspiring measure the resolution and spirit of united action. We have been brought to one mind and purpose. A new vigor of common counsel and common action has been revealed in us. We should especially thank God that in such circumstances, in the midst of the greatest enterprise the spirits of men have ever entered upon, we have, if we but observe a reasonable and practicable economy, abundance with which to supply the needs of those associated with us, as well as our own. A new light shines about us. The great duties of a day awaken a new and greater national spirit in us. We shall never again be divided or wonder what stuff we are made of.

"And while we render thanks for these things let us pray Almighty God that in all humbleness of spirit we may look always to Him for guidance; that we may be kept constant in the spirit and purpose of service; that by His grace our minds may be directed and our hands strengthened; and that in His good time liberty and security and peace and the comradeship of a common justice may be vouchsafed all the nations of the earth.

"Wherefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do hereby designate Thursday, the twenty-ninth day of November next as a day of thanksgiving and prayer, and invite the people throughout the land to cease upon that day from their ordinary occupations and in their several homes and places of worship to render thanks to God, the Great Ruler of nations.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done in the District of Columbia, this 7th day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and forty-second.

WOODROW WILSON.

"By the President: Robert Lansing, Secretary of State."

If the matter were investigated it would probably be found that a considerable amount of the criticism that has been hurled at the farmers because they did not drop all of their necessary work and hurry their wheat to market came from millers who were anxious to pile up their profits before the food administration got around to them.

# The Result in Ohio

At this writing the fate of the prohibition amendment in Ohio is still in doubt, each side claiming a majority. While The Commoner earnestly hopes that the final returns will be on the side of the amendment, it ventures to extend its congratulations to the friends of prohibition no matter how the election may have gone. Defeat by so small a majority is a triumph for the cause, and, since it foreshadows a certain success when the question is again tested, it brings more joy to the hearts of the advocates of prohibition than to the friends of the saloon. This is the third vote that Ohio has taken within three years. In 1914 the majority against the proposed prohibition amendment was about 84,000; in 1915, when the issue was again presented, the majority was cut down to about 54,000; now, two years later, the margin—even if the amendment is defeated—is so narrow that the prohibitionists will be able to enter the next campaign with the certainty of victory if another campaign is made before national prohibition is submitted.

The reduction of the wet vote in cities like Cincinnati and Cleveland is very encouraging; it indicates an awakened civic conscience that gives promise of advance along moral lines.

Now that it is known that Ohio would ratify a national amendment if submitted, a new impetus will be given to the cause of prohibition in the nation. It is not presuming too much to say that the result in Ohio practically insures the submission of national prohibition, and the anti-saloon wave has risen so high that the endorsement of the amendment by three-fourths of the states is almost as certain as its submission. Congratulations to the brave men and women of Ohio who have come to the help of a great cause at this critical time!

Nov. 6 will be remembered as a redletter day in the prohibition fight. Ohio carried the cause a long stride forward.

W. J. BRYAN.

### WHY CONTINUE THE WASTE?

The Masonic Observer, published at Minneapolis, calls attention to the fact that a part of the potato crop may be lost through freezing unless cars are furnished to ship them, and it adds that "thousands of refrigerator cars are regularly assigned to breweries and in daily use on the railroads of the United States and loaded to full capacity, carrying beer for saloons and blind pigs." It wants to know why millions of bushels of barley are allowed to be wasted in the form of beer while the people are denying themselves wheat in order to economize food.

If we will save the hundred million bushels of food grains annually converted into beer, it will be easier to persuade the public to save at the table. It is inconsistent not to include the big beer leak and give attention only to the smaller family leaks.

Uncle Sam has loaned the allies around three billion dollars since he entered into the partnership of war. With that amount of lubricant the war machines ought to be able to do effective work.

### A NEWSPAPER INACCURACY

"Chandler, Ariz., Nov. 6.—William J. Bryan, former secretary of state, was saved from a wild bull by the presence of a mesquite tree on the desert here yesterday. Mr. Bryan and R. A. Hayward, superintendent of the Pima Indian reservation, were duck hunting when they were chased by the bull and succeeded in reaching the mesquite tree. Other members of the hunting party shot and killed the bull.

"Mr. Bryan was unhurt, but lost part of his hunting suit in the flight from the animal."

The above press dispatch having been widely published, Mr. Bryan begs to make the following corrections:

1st.—The animal was a steer instead of a bull.

2nd.—The steer was not wild, but simply vicious.

3rd.—The person "treed" was not Mr. Bryan but another member of the hunting party.

4th.—As Mr. Bryan did not see the animal until after it was killed, it is hardly necessary to add that he did not lose "a part of his hunting suit in the flight." With these corrections the story is substantially true.

W. J. BRYAN.