

Why Wait?

The friends of the saloon protest against ratification of the national amendment by legislatures NOW in session. "They have no mandate from the people," shout the liquor interests. They do not need it. The saloon is not a new institution; its evils are as well known today as they will be one, two or ten years hence. It is known that the people are against the saloon. They are against it even when the enforcement of the law is by small units; they are still more unanimously against it when the law can be enforced by a larger unit. More favor county option than favor town option. More favor state prohibition than favor county option, and still more favor national prohibition. The larger the unit the more sure the enforcement.

Postponement will not prevent ratification—it will simply enable the liquor dealers to collect a billion or two more from the American people. No time should be lost. The amendment should be ratified at the earliest possible moment.

W. J. BRYAN.

A CONFESSION

One of the arguments made against the ratification of the national amendment is that prohibition, once put into the constitution, can never be taken out. Why? It can be taken out as easily as it can be put in. It requires two-thirds of both houses and three-fourths of the states to put prohibition into the federal constitution, and two-thirds of both houses and three-fourths of the states can take it out. When the opponents of prohibition admit that prohibition can not be taken out of the constitution, they simply confess that they know its success will be so complete as to silence complaint—an unanswerable argument in favor of the amendment.

A REASONABLE REQUEST

The United States can not, of course, regulate the saloons in Great Britain and France; neither can this country refuse to furnish breadstuffs to the Allies, even though they worse than waste part of it by turning it over to breweries and distilleries, but congress might respectfully suggest that our people are denying themselves in order to furnish food for the fighters at the front, and express the hope that the food will be conserved for that purpose. Our allies might, at least, compel their liquor dealers to respect our law forbidding the sale of intoxicants to American soldiers.

W. J. BRYAN.

PEACE PROSPECTS

The Bolsheviki propaganda is threatening Austria and Germany. Labor is in revolt and the harsh measures adopted to suppress it only make more sure the final overthrow of the military party. The toilers of Europe, more and more appalled by the growing war burden, are looking to peace as the only hope of escape from endless servitude. An earthquake is ahead and the rulers are becoming alarmed. No one can tell how near the end may be but until it comes every American must stand by the government and be ready to make any sacrifice that may be required.

BAKER'S DEFENSE

On another page will be found the reply made by Secretary Baker to Senator Chamberlain's criticism. It is more than complete—it gives the secretary a stronger position than he occupied before the attack. He has not only silenced criticism but he has taught his critics a lesson. They will hereafter know better than to make public letters of complaint without first consulting the war department as to the facts. A friend of the administration would do this without waiting for a lesson.

CAN NOT SERVE TWO MASTERS

Press dispatches indicate that some of the government buyers have been purchasing of themselves. They have been, of course, comparatively few in number, but there should be none. The Bible says that no man can serve two masters, and it is not safe to ignore the Bible even when patriotism reduces selfishness to a minimum. The nation's agents should be above suspicion, and they can not be so long as they deal with themselves.

W. J. BRYAN.

WAR SAVINGS

Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps are the most democratic of investments and America expects every American to show love of republican institutions by investing in this democratic security. The aggregate amount of the investments and the number of investors in these war savings securities are in a way the answer of the people of this great democracy to the call of the cause of democracy throughout the world and the vindication of civilization and humanity.

They afford every person, however humble and however small his means, the opportunity to contribute his part, to do his bit, in this great struggle against the military masters of Germany who seek to dominate the world in contempt of justice and right and freedom and without conscience and without mercy.

Surely every American desires to have a part in the defeat of autocracy and the success of liberty and right.

Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps may be purchased at any bank or postoffice anywhere in the United States. Buy Thrift Stamps for every member of the family.

WOMAN'S CONSCIENCE VINDICATED

Woman's conscience has been vindicated. She favored prohibition because the saloon is an evil. She feared the dram shop as instinctively as one fears a snake. For years man's judgment supported the saloon. He thought it brought business to the town, and business reasons outweighed the conscience. But the conscience has triumphed and now the men find, to their surprise, that prohibition is better for business.

If woman had been allowed to vote the saloon would have gone long ago and the country would have had the benefits of prohibition sooner. This is only one instance; there are other evils to be remedied, and woman's conscience will be helpful in these reforms.

Welcome, woman suffrage.

A QUESTION OF VERACITY

As Lloyd-George and Congressman McCormick differ widely as to what the former told the latter, it might be worth while for the senate military committee to investigate the question of veracity. How can we hope to reach the maximum of efficiency with our great military leaders so wide apart on the facts?

SITUATION QUITE DIFFERENT

The situation in the United States is quite different from the situation in Europe when the combination cabinets were formed. But a small part of our man power has been called—but a few billions have been borrowed. We do not have to resort to the desperate expedient of revolutionizing our official machinery.

Recent events would seem to indicate that Kaiser Wilhelm has discovered there is no royal road to peace, either.

GIBBONS DENOUNCES "DRY" AMENDMENT

A Baltimore, Md., dispatch, dated Feb. 5, says: In strong and decisive language Cardinal Gibbons denounced the national prohibition amendment and declared that legislators of the states should not bow to the "fanaticism that seems to be ruling us in this respect."

He declared that some of the law makers seemed to be acting through cowardice in going against their strong convictions and giving their vote for the amendment when it is brought up. "I feel," said the cardinal, "that if the amendment is ratified, there will spring up in all parts of this country illicit stills that will manufacture a low grade of whisky that will do more harm than the good grade is doing. Beer and light wines will pass out of existence.

"It will be a calamity if this amendment is adopted. It will be only a step in the abridgment of other liberties that we enjoy."

Wealth Must Bear Its Share

Congress is called upon to raise more taxes. How will it apportion the burden? Answer—Wealth must bear its share. Congress has done well in this respect, but it must do better. The income tax should be increased and the excess profits tax should be made heavier. The soldier gives his ALL; he puts up his principal, even life itself. Why should anyone be allowed to grow rich out of war profits while the masses stint themselves to carry on the war? ALL ABOVE A REASONABLE PROFIT would not equal the tax now collected on blood.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE DEMOCRATS LEADING

With a majority of the democratic states dry, with three-fourths of the democratic senators and two-thirds of the democratic congressmen voting for national prohibition, and Mississippi, Virginia, Kentucky and South Carolina the first to ratify, the democratic party is leading the fight for the abolition of the saloon.

BACK UP WILSON, BRYAN URGES

[From The Virginian-Pilot, Jan. 31.]

William Jennings Bryan, former secretary of state, struck a note of patriotism in his address at the Y. M. C. A. last night that thrilled and enthralled his audience. He spoke before a gathering that filled the gymnasium to overflowing on "The Prince of Peace."

Championing Christianity, and urging the necessity of a firm belief in the Almighty God, the Nebraska statesman prefaced his spiritual lecture with a ringing appeal to Americans to stand behind the President of the country in this hour of need.

Spontaneous outbursts of applause that manifested the true feelings of the typically American audience interrupted the great commoner of the west as he drove home his facts. No greater assurance could be given that Norfolk was behind the country to a man. The simple, forceful language of Mr. Bryan, devoid entirely of figures of speech, impressed all who heard him.

BRYAN OFFERS SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In an editorial in "The Commoner," William Jennings Bryan offers something new as a working plan for government ownership of the railroad systems. "The Dual Plan," he calls it, and contrasts its advantages with that of direct federal ownership in an interesting way.

As he has done many times before, Mr. Bryan has offered in the editorial some food for thought. Thinking people all over the country will consider his suggestions, not only from the standpoint of "pro-Bryan" and "anti-Bryan" sympathy, but with the thought of economic advantage to the country. For the people of the United States are at last awakening to the need for intelligent and unbiased study of economic conditions and economic remedies.—Miami, Fla., Metropolis.

Judging from only a superficial analysis of the matter, we are of the opinion that the kaiser's method of requiring workmen to secure a license from him to strike is likely to result in Germany's chief manufacturing industry becoming that of making bolsheviks.

MARYLAND HOUSE PASSES PROHIBITION AMENDMENT

An Annapolis, Md., dispatch, dated Feb. 8, says: The house of delegates today passed the resolution ratifying the federal prohibition amendment by a vote of 58 to 36. The resolution has reached the third reading stage in the senate and its final passage by that body is virtually assured, probably within the next few days.

Henry Clay had only half of Mr. Bryan's joy. He never became president though he may have been right. But comes the U. S. and virtually acknowledges a part of the silver theory of the Orator of the Platte, and actually nationalizes the railroads.—The Chicago New World.