

house vote, I think, that it is impossible for them to avoid standing up and putting themselves on record."

PATRIOTISM IS THE ISSUE

[From the Nebraska State Journal, March 31.]

Former Mayor Charles W. Bryan, acting chairman of the dry forces of Nebraska, in commenting on the vote in the house of representatives ratifying the national prohibition amendment, said: "The almost unanimous vote of the lower house of the legislature reflects great credit on the patriotism of the people of Nebraska and makes the people proud of the members of the lower house of the Nebraska legislature.

"The rapidity with which the constitutional amendment is being ratified by the various states is more on account of the war than on account of the moral question involved, although its importance morally can not be overestimated. It was loyalty that caused the members of the legislature of Maryland to hasten the ratification of the prohibition amendment by a vote of 58 to 36 in the house and 18 to 7 in the senate. It was loyalty to the United States that caused the wet state of Texas to hasten the ratification of the amendment by a vote of 15 to 7 in the senate and a vote of 72 to 30 in the house. It was the demand of the people in Kentucky to stand by the American forces in this war that caused the lower house of that state to adopt the amendment by 66 to 10 and the senate ratify it by a vote of 28 to 6. It was the patriotism of the wet state of Delaware and the desire that its legislature not be a party in giving aid and comfort to the enemy that caused the ratification in the house by 27 to 6 and in the senate of Delaware by 13 to 3.

"The democratic state of Mississippi ratified the amendment in the senate by 28 to 5 and in the house by 93 to 3. The democratic state of South Carolina ratified the amendment by 28 to 6 in the senate and 66 to 29 in the house. Montana has ratified the amendment by 77 to 8 in the house and by 35 to 2 in the senate. North Dakota has ratified the amendment by 96 to 10 in the house and 43 to 3 in the senate, but South Dakota has won the palm up to the present time. The senate of South Dakota ratified the amendment unanimously on March 19, and the house on March 20 voted unanimously to ratify the amendment.

"There are two things that have inflamed the public mind and caused them to demand the immediate ratification of the national prohibition amendment, first—that every day's delay in the ratification means the worse than waste of food grain that would be equal in value to 6,000,000 loaves of bread daily, enough to feed every American soldier and all our allied soldiers that are fighting for democracy in Europe. The second is that every month's delay means \$100,000,000 profit to the breweries of this country, which are owned largely by alien enemies and which investigation has shown that a large amount of the profits are being used to carry on a propaganda against this country. The public feel that immediate action should be taken to prevent the collection of money from American citizens to be used to fight American soldiers or to be used to poison the minds of our people so that it weakens the country's support of our boys at the front.

"The reports coming to the committee appointed by the mass meeting recently held in Lincoln indicate that the people are becoming tremendously aroused over the newspaper reports that there was an effort to be made in the Nebraska state senate to prevent the ratification of the prohibition constitutional amendment at this session. The almost unanimous action of the house today in ratifying the constitutional amendment shows that the members of the house understand what the feeling is among the people in this state. The state of Nebraska at a recent election voted to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors by a majority of almost 30,000. While the American army is on foreign soil fighting for democracy, I can not believe that there will be an attempt made in the state senate to suppress democracy in Nebraska. I do not believe that Nebraska will prove herself to be less patriotic than her sister states. I do not believe that the people of Nebraska in this hour of the nation's peril will be humiliated by the failure of prompt action on the part of the senate to take its place by the

side of the house of representatives in upholding the American flag."

WET SENATE KILLS PROHIBITION BILL

[From the Nebraska State Journal, April 2.]

"Two widely divergent schools of thought," as Senator Doty of Seward politely calls them, had a thought contest in the state senate Monday. One side was thinking "wet" and the other side was holding the "dry" thought, and they diverged sharply when the smell of booze began to pervade the legislative atmosphere. One followed the old familiar smell and the other rushed in the opposite direction.

The "wets" won, not because they thought any harder or better, but because they were more numerous. There were more swimming in their school. The dries had a baker's dozen, or thirteen in their little school most of the time, but once when Gates of Sarpy and Wilson of Frontier dodged into the dry school they had fourteen. The wet school paddled along most of the time with eighteen in the group, but occasionally when Wilson of Frontier and Spirk of Saline threw themselves upon the bank, they had sixteen or seventeen in line.

Robinson of Holt consistently refused to admit he was either dry or wet. He stood where the spray was thickest but let it run right off his back. He declined to vote on any of the four or five questions before the senate.

When these two widely divergent schools of thought got through thinking and school was dismissed for the day, it was found that the joint resolution passed by the house for the ratification of national prohibition was dead and that with it died the hopes of any appropriations by this special session of the legislature for the payment of salaries and employes of both the house and senate and for the payment of incidental expenses.

Lieutenant Governor Edgar Howard presided over these two widely divergent schools of thought, and his decisions were promptly overruled except up to the time of the last moment. On the start he ruled the Henry resolution out of order as being in conflict with the state constitution, and also for patriotic reasons which he explained. The Henry resolution provides that the senate will consider no "proposed act for a law, joint or concurrent resolution," not mentioned in Governor Neville's call for a special session of the legislature. The ruling of the chair was not sustained, the vote being thirteen in the affirmative and seventeen in the negative.

Beal of Custer offered an amendment to the Henry resolution to except from its provisions "such bill or joint resolution as authorized by the congress or constitution of the United States." This was defeated by a vote of 14 to 16. The Henry resolution was then adopted by a vote of 18 to 13. A motion by McMullen of Gage to appoint a committee of three from each house to draft a joint resolution asking the governor to amend his call by asking the legislature to act on the national prohibitory amendment was defeated by a vote of 13 to 18.

The dead ratification amendment that had been passed by the house and sent over to the senate for action, pulled down upon the heads of the senators three appropriation bills, including a bill to pay their own salaries for services in the special session, and bills to pay incidental expenses and employes' wages and for the pay-

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The crop of constitutional lawyers in state legislatures seems to have materially increased since the question of ratification of the national prohibitory amendment has been called to their attention by congress. Eighteen members of the Nebraska state senate declared the other week that it was unconstitutional to consider the ratification because the governor had not included it in his call. It is, of course, merely a coincidence that all of these eighteen voted to hamstring the state prohibitory law when before that body in the winter of 1917.

It was argued by the few newspapers remaining in Nebraska that openly espouse the cause of the brewers that it was impossible to know whether the people of the state favored national prohibition, when it was the banishment of the open saloon that they said was at issue when the state voted 30,000 dry. And the next day the house of representatives, the only legislative body in the state that comes direct from the body of the people, ratified the national prohibition amendment, by a vote of 66 to 7.

COMMONER WORKERS

Following is a list of readers who have sent in clubs for the purpose of assisting in increasing the circulation of The Commoner. The name of club raiser and number of subscriptions sent in follows:

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The government expert who reported a few years ago, after what he announced was a thorough investigation of the subject, that the packers made an average of but 15 cents a head on the cattle they slaughtered, seems to have perused a different set of books than the one Francis J. Heney has found in the packers' secret archives.

GET SOMEBODY ELSE

(Paul Lawrence Dunbar)

The Lord had a job for me,
But I had so much to do
I said, "You get somebody else,
Or wait till I get through."

I don't know how the Lord came out,
But He seemed to get along;
But I felt a kind o' sneakin'—like—
Knowned I'd done God wrong.

One day I needed the Lord,
Needed Him right away,
But He never answered me at all,
And I could hear him say

Down in my accusing heart:
"Nigger, I've got too much to do
You get somebody else,
Or wait till I get through."

Now, when the Lord He have a job for me
I never tries to shirk;
I drops what I have on hand,
And does the good Lord's work.

And my affairs can run along,
Or wait till I get through;
Nobody else can do the work
That God marked out for you.