

Dry Forces Issue Call for Service

[From the Nebraska State Journal, May 25.]

The dry forces of Nebraska have issued a call to arms. They are going to make an assault on the Hindenburg line this fall, and they are beginning early to improve positions by securing the selection of the best material at hand for leaders. They point out that German-American alliance influences elected the men who defeated national prohibition ratification at the recent session of the state legislature, and ask that the manhood of the state awaken to the importance of the issue to be settled this fall. Here is the call:

"Lincoln, Neb., May 23, 1918.—To the People of Nebraska: State prohibition in Nebraska is a success. To make prohibition permanent and perpetuate its benefits the national prohibition amendment must be adopted at the earliest possible moment. The dry forces of Nebraska are greatly disappointed and humiliated on account of the action of the governor and the eighteen wet senators in preventing ratification of the national prohibition constitutional amendment at the recent special session of the Nebraska legislature. Congress submitted to the legislatures of the states the constitutional amendment for ratification, but the governor and the eighteen wet senators seemed to be more willing to please the German-American alliance which privately endorsed them in the campaign, than they were the great moral and patriotic element of the people of Nebraska who voted in favor of prohibition by 30,000 majority.

"The people of Nebraska are loyally supporting the President in his every act and suggestion to win the war, and are opposed to continuing for one day more than is necessary the waste of food grains to the value of nearly \$100,000,000 annually that is being worse than wasted by the German brewers. The people of Nebraska object to the German-American alliance nominating and electing men to office in Nebraska who by their vote permit the food that should be going to our soldiers, to be wasted for booze. We must win another dry victory and do our part to destroy Germany's strongest ally in America.

"The only way to insure the ratification of the national prohibition amendment at the next session of the legislature is to elect a governor and members of the legislature who are known to be personally in favor of prohibition and who will not be under any obligation to the German-American alliance.

"We appeal to every voter in Nebraska and to every resident of the state who loves his country to unsheath his sword and fight until every German brewery and every pro-German influence in our politics are driven from our land. The ratification of the national prohibition amendment is the local issue in Nebraska of first importance, and we must take up the fight where we left off two years ago and nominate and elect a governor and legislators who believe in American institutions first—men who will wipe out the liquor business as a war measure, and for the promotion of clean politics and good morals.

"It is the duty of strong, moral men to make the necessary sacrifice to stand as candidates, and we appeal to the dry forces of Nebraska immediately to see that men are nominated in all parties for governor and as candidates for the legislature who will keep faith with public sentiment. Nebraska in her onward march has outgrown wet public officials. The saloon is as dead as slavery and witchcraft. Remember, that men elected by the liquor interests serve the liquor interests when their service is demanded. Let there be no mistake this year. All neutrals should be counted as enemies of ratification.

"With our faces to the future, we hope to give to the nation the blessings which we enjoy as a state."

NEBRASKA DRY FEDERATION,
By W. T. Thompson, president.

C. C. Crowell.

A. C. Epperson.

Members executive committee.

ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE OF NEBRASKA,
By H. F. Carson, superintendent.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION,
By Mamie Clafin, president.
DOUGLAS COUNTY DRY COMMITTEE,
By J. Dean Ringer, president.
Elmer E. Thomas, manager.
SPEAKERS' CLUB,
By A. G. Wolfenbarger, president,
Frank Harrison, manager.
DRY AUTOMOBILE CAMPAIGN,
By W. T. Graham, president.
OMAHA COMMITTEE OF FIVE HUNDRED.

LANCASTER DEMOCRACY MEETS

[From the Nebraska State Journal, May 26.]

At the regular meeting of the Lancaster County Democracy held at the Lindell hotel Saturday night, resolutions were passed upholding the stand taken by President Wilson in handling the war problems and pledging the loyal support of the organization to every plan and suggestion of the President. The resolution follows:

"The Lancaster County Democracy hereby extend to President Wilson, our great war president, its hearty congratulations upon the masterly manner in which he is handling the war and war problems. We pledge him our unswerving and loyal support in his every plan and suggestion to make the world safe for democracy.

"The Lancaster County Democracy club is proud of the progress that Nebraska has made under state prohibition of the liquor traffic. We regret that at the recent special session of the Nebraska legislature the national prohibition constitutional amendment was not ratified, and this club pledges its support to the nomination and election of democratic candidates for governor and members of the legislature who will work and vote for the ratification of the national prohibition amendment immediately upon the assembling of the legislature next January.

"We favor the immediate enactment by congress of a bill prohibiting the use of grain, fruit or other foodstuffs in the manufacture of beer or wine or other substitutes in order to conserve our food supply and use it for the winning of the war.

"We favor the co-operation of the municipal and state governments to assist President Wilson and his associates in preventing profiteering.

"We commend to the careful consideration of the voters of Nebraska the suggestions and plans recently announced by former Mayor Charles W. Bryan outlining plans whereby the state and local governments in Nebraska could supplement the work of President Wilson in protecting the people of Nebraska against profiteering, and we assure Mr. Bryan that this club will co-operate in making a practical application of the remedies which he suggests.

The Lancaster County Democracy pledges itself to assist in the nomination and election of democrats to office who will loyally support President Wilson in his conduct of the war and of candidates who favor a legislative and executive program which has for its object the supplementing of the practical plans of the President for winning the war and protecting the people of Nebraska against all war profiteers."

Officers for the ensuing year were elected. They are: President, N. Z. Snell; secretary, Sterling Mutz; treasurer, Henry Branch.

Under the direction of the government a large number of ornamental railroad heads who have drawn large sums are being dismissed, duplicate ticket offices closed, unnecessary trains that travel half the time half empty across half the continent, useless duplications of effort dispensed with. If this keeps on much longer even E. S. Ripley will concede that Justice Brandies did know what he was talking about some years ago when he said economies amounting to a million a day could be inaugurated.

Kaiser Karl has signed an agreement with Kaiser Wilhelm the principal points of which, as we read them are, that in consideration of the Austrian people helping Germany to gain control of Austria and her neighbors the Germans will agree to allow the Austrians to work for their board and clothes for the remainder of the time the earth keeps revolving. Kaiser Wilhelm seems to have as great a genius for making treaties as for breaking them.

Why Sec'y Daniels Made Navy "Dry"

[From interview with Secretary Josephus Daniels, Sunday School Times, Sept. 9, 1917.]

One day, shortly after I had become secretary, a gentleman came into the department to plead for the restoration of a young relative of his, who had been dismissed from the navy for intoxication. I showed him the record, which proved that this young officer had not only been drunk, but had at the same time made a public exhibition of himself. I explained that there was no course to be pursued but to act firmly and finally in approving the court martial which had recommended the young officer's dismissal.

When I made it plain that the young man must inevitably pay the penalty, this gentleman protested earnestly and with much feeling against what he insisted was the injustice his young relative had received at the hands of the navy. "Now that he is the product of your system," said my visitor, "you have turned him out in disgrace." He then went on to tell me the following story of the young man's life. Said he:

"I am a Friend, a Quaker, and the boy's father was a Quaker. He was a little shaver when his father died, and the lad came into my home, and has always been to me as a son. I never even had so much as a glass of wine in my home, and when the boy left for Annapolis to enter the naval academy he did not know what the taste of liquor was like. I gave him to the American navy, pure-hearted, unsullied, believing absolutely in the old-fashioned Quaker ideas in which he had been reared.

"In the seven years you have had him in the navy you gave him wrong ideas about drinking. You taught him that it was all right for a gentleman to have his toddy. You legalized the wine mess. You had a code that made a youth feel that he was narrow-minded if he turned down his glass at the table; but now that my boy has been ruined by you and your system, the navy kicks him out, and puts a stigma on him."

Much more than this he said, but this is the substance of his strictures. He was a strong man, and his feeling for the youth whose drinking had wrecked his life was pathetically deep and genuine. When he went out, I could not throw off a stinging sense of justice in his accusation. All day it haunted me that in the discharge of my official duty I had been compelled to approve a decree for which a navy practice was largely responsible.

For days I was oppressed by the thought that every young man in the navy, many coming from homes like that described by my Quaker visitor, was subject to similar temptation.

As time went by there were more court martials—not many, but enough to add to my profound conviction that the old Quaker had pointed out unerringly the path of duty.

I knew very well what the issuing of the wine mess order meant. I counted the cost. I knew that many officers in the navy, temperate, honorable, as high-minded as King Arthur's knights, without fear and without reproach, would resent it, resent it bitterly; they would feel that the order would convey a wrong impression to the world.

I realized that the order would be assailed by a multitude of people who would regard it as puritanical. I anticipated that the protest against it might reach into the houses of congress. But if I was at any time tempted not to take the step for any of these reasons, the reflection that every year there came into the navy hundreds of young men, some of whom might find their undoing in indulgence, made my duty plain. If I had not issued it I could not have rested with a clear conscience unto this day.

As you know, the storm did break. Some naval officers did fear that the order was a reflection upon them. The penny-a-liners considered it a windfall for them, and much cheap wit was indulged in at the expense of the order. The cartoonists of some big dailies also considered it food for thought. Tragic pictures they drew of Mumm's Extra Dry, with a frightened look on its face, "walking the plank," to take its doomed plunge into Davy Jones' locker, from