

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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WAR PROHIBITION

The senate has, by unanimous consent, agreed to the consideration of war prohibition immediately upon the convening of congress, August 26.

The national amendment will be ratified before the 1st of April, 1919—this is as sure as any future event can be—and twelve months after ratification by the 36th state the nation will be dry. But we need war prohibition in the meantime. The brewers are using something like one hundred million dollars worth of foodstuffs a year—we can not spare a bushel of grain. They are using some six million tons of coal—we can not spare a ton of coal. They are sapping the strength of our producers of food, fuel and munitions—we need one hundred per cent men at home as well as upon the battlefield.

We are fighting the most militant power the world has known, and can not afford to allow men engaged in the wicked business of selling alcoholic poison to delay victory by impairing the efficiency of those who work or fight.

We must win the war, and win it at the earliest possible moment. Nothing will contribute more to this end than the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor. The soldiers are offering their lives—the people are tendering their money through taxation and through loans; why longer permit the waste of food, and fuel, and man power?

The nation needs effective war prohibition at the earliest possible moment.

W. J. BRYAN.

A Fitting Conclusion

The overwhelming defeat visited on ex-Governor Ferguson at the Texas primary was enough to retire him to private life, but the disclosures that followed the defeat give a fitting conclusion to his career. He became the spokesman of the liquor interests of the state and, for a time, succeeded in shielding them from the wrath of the people. But the end came, as it always comes to the wrongdoer—in politics as surely as elsewhere—and he fell. Then, one calamity followed another until he was compelled to disclose the source of the mysterious loan he made while governor. When threatened with impeachment he defiantly refused to give the names of his creditors. But when it was charged that the money came from the German propaganda fund, he had to reveal

the names of those who advanced the \$156,000, and lo, it came, as many had suspected, from the brewers.

Let the curtain fall on another political tragedy. It should be a warning to the young man in politics. In popular government the fear of the people is the beginning of wisdom.

W. J. BRYAN.

GOVERNOR HOBBY'S STAR RISES

A few months ago Governor Hobby came into the governorship of Texas by the resignation of Governor Ferguson under threat of impeachment. He was confronted with a very difficult situation, but he consulted wise advisers and chose the straight and narrow way. He met the issues manfully and lead the fight for prohibition and woman suffrage. He put his state in line with the moral forces of the nation.

He has just been renominated by over 200,000 majority, and his star still rises. It pays to do right.

ON TO BERLIN

It is glorious news that comes from the front. The allies are pushing forward—the kaiser is retreating. And, as was to be expected, the people are beginning to complain.

Victory is the bread with which the military party must feed the German masses if it would continue in control—and this kind of food is all gone. The people will find a kaiser's ambition too costly—they will some day rejoice that an outside force broke the yoke of the ruling family and set a nation free.

WHISKEY TAX NOT NEEDED

A nation that can borrow of its citizens nine billions in a year does not need to dicker with brewers, distillers or liquor dealers for money to carry on the war.

Liquor Dealers Busy

On another page will be found a letter, reproduced in the Christian Advocate, sent by Budde & Westermann to those engaged in the liquor traffic. The letter is published to show the necessity of prompt action on the part of the friends of war prohibition. If those engaged in the liquor business are to deluge congress with letters and telegrams, the friends of the bill should not be idle.

An OVERWHELMING majority of the people of the United States want the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors stopped during the war and a CONSIDERABLE majority desire that prohibition should continue when the war is over. Write and wire to your congressmen and to your senators. Let them know your views—act at once. Tell them that you favor effective war prohibition at the earliest possible date.

W. J. BRYAN.

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THE ROLL OF HONOR

List of States That Have Ratified the National Prohibition Constitutional Amendment

- 1—MISSISSIPPI, Jan. 8, 1918.
- 2—VIRGINIA, Jan. 11, 1918.
- 3—KENTUCKY, Jan. 14, 1918.
- 4—SOUTH CAROLINA, Jan. 25, 1918.
- 5—NORTH DAKOTA, Jan. 25, 1918.
- 6—MARYLAND, Feb. 13, 1918.
- 7—MONTANA, Feb. 19, 1918.
- 8—TEXAS, March 4, 1918.
- 9—DELAWARE, March 18, 1918.
- 10—SOUTH DAKOTA, March 20, 1918.
- 11—MASSACHUSETTS, April 2, 1918.
- 12—ARIZONA, May 24, 1918.
- 13—GEORGIA, June 26, 1918.
- 14—LOUISIANA, August 8, 1918.