

BEGINNING TO POP UP EVERYWHERE



—Columbus, Ohio, Dispatch.

### Oklahoma Wine Decision

The following is the ruling of the supreme court of the state of Oklahoma deciding that the shipment of altar wine into that state is legal. This decision, said to be the first of its kind ever handed down by a supreme court, as announced in the Catholic Bulletin recently, is regarded as of nation-wide importance. The holding reverses the one handed down by the district court of Oklahoma county, the Hon. George W. Clark, judge. The syllabus of the decision follows:

"In the supreme court of the state of Oklahoma.

"Urban de Hasque, plaintiff in error, versus the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company, defendant in error. No. 969.

**Syllabus.**

"1. Intoxicating Liquor—Bone Dry Law—Catholic Priests. Chapter 186. Session Laws 1917, prohibiting the receiving of liquors, the sale of which is prohibited by the laws of this state, from a common carrier, does not make it an offense for a Roman Catholic priest to receive altar wine to be used solely for sacramental purposes in Divine worship.

"2. Intoxicating Liquor — Constitution—Altar Wine. The provisions of Sec. 46, Art. 25 of the constitution (Sec. 410, Wms. Anno.), pro-

hibiting the sale and transportation of intoxicating liquors, does not apply to altar wine to be used solely for sacramental purposes in Divine worship, although such wine be capable of use as a beverage, and if drunk in sufficient quantities, will produce intoxication.

"3. Statutes—Letter and Spirit. A thing may be within the letter of the law and yet not within the law, because not within its spirit, nor within the intention of its makers.

"4. Statutes—Construction— Evil Designed to be Remedied. Among other things which may be considered in determining the intent of the law makers is the evil which it is designed to remedy; and therefore this court properly looks at contemporaneous events, the situation as it existed, and as it was pressed upon the intention of the law makers.

"5. Statutes—Action Against Religion Not Imputed. No purpose of action against religion and religious institutions, when properly conducted, can be imputed to any legislative body.

"6. Statutes—Rule of Construction—Intention of Law Makers. It is a cardinal rule in the construction of constitutions and statutes that the intention of the law makers, when ascertained, must govern, and that to ascertain the intent all the various portions of the legislative enactment upon the particular subject, including subsequent enactments, should be construed together and given effect as a whole.

"7. Statutes—Strict Interpretation Not Adopted. When it is apparent that a strict interpretation of a particular statute, construed alone, would defeat the intention of the legislature as shown by other legislative enactments which relate to the same subject, and which have been enacted in pursuance of and according to a general purpose in accomplishing particular results, the suppression of a particular evil, such construction should not be adopted.

"8. Statutes — Construction by Officers. Construction placed on the laws by officers charged with the enforcement thereof in the discharge of their duties at or near the time

of their enactment, which has long been acquiesced in is a just medium for their judicial interpretation."

### PUNISH ALL THE RASCALS

Inquiries into certain army contracts have revealed conditions which would be amazing if we did not know that there have ever been scoundrels ready to bribe officials, rob the government, palm off defective equipment on soldiers—even at the risk of their lives and the nation's fate in battle—merely to pile up filthy money. Such perverts are not merely profiteers. A profiteer is not a patriot, for he takes advantage of the necessities of the people individually or collectively to wring the last cent he can from them. But even a profiteer may have some scruples. He may stop short of corruption, or, what is still worse in its possible effect, of substitution. He would not try to deliver defective material, dangerous to the health of soldiers or perilous to their lives in time of battle. Furthermore, not every contractor who makes high profits can be properly called a profiteer. If his abnormal profits come from his low costs of production, compared with those of his competitor, he is not entitled to personal punishment or reproach. The taxing power should be exercised to rectify whatever inequity has arisen from these abnormal conditions.

But the case of the grafting contractor is entirely different. He is the worst kind of a thief. Not only does he rob the government, but he usually includes perjury and corruption in his operations. These treble crimes justify his being sent to the penitentiary after he has been compelled to make financial restitution. But it is difficult to fix the measure of the punishment due him for imperiling the welfare of the army with his substitutions. This may not be technical treason, but its effects are perilously far-reaching. Every soldier trusts his life to the care and honesty of contractors, workmen and inspectors, and betrayal of this trust is a grievous offense.

The prompt and severe punishment of every rascal, whether contractor or official, is an imperative duty whose performance the country will demand.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### THEY RECOGNIZE AMERICA

The other day a well-meaning friend came into the office and asked if we did not think that American newspapers were having too much to say about America's part in the war. He went on to state that while Americans were no doubt doing wonderful fighting, we must remember that we are still playing a small part in the great game. He was afraid that our allies, seeing so much about Americans in the newspapers, might conclude that we do not recognize their part in the struggle.

In answer to the friend's criticism, we beg to submit a number of headlines from one edition of an English afternoon newspaper, every one of them printed in bold-faced type:

"Americans to the Fore — Over the Top With a Yell." "America in It—Fierce Fighting With the Bayonet." "Americans' Rapid Sweep—Enemy Unable to Get Airplanes Away."

If the English newspapers thus headline the activities of our boys in the fighting, we fail to see that we here on this side are immodest in printing what we do in regard to them. Regardless of the numbers involved, the fact remains that to us here in America the fighting of our own boys is the most important part of the war—to us. It does not mean that we do not appreciate the fight-

ing of our allies when we laud the work of our own. It is not because we love the allies less; it is because we love our own the more.—Columbus, Ohio, Dispatch.

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