

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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RATIFY NOW

Vote only for legislative candidates who favor ratification. Fourteen states have ratified — twenty-two more are necessary. These can be secured at the coming election if the friends of the amendment do their duty. The sentiment in favor of the amendment is overwhelming but it must be expressed at the polls to be effective.

The voters should lay partisanship aside and vote for the DRY legislative candidate against the WET candidate regardless of party. A republican legislator who will vote to ratify the national prohibition amendment is better than a democratic legislator who will vote to defeat the amendment and retain the saloons. And, of course, the reverse is also true — a dry democrat is better than a wet republican.

Vote only for legislative candidates pledged to ratification and our fight will be won when the polls close next November.

W. J. BRYAN.

The Republican Appeal

Chairman Hays, of the republican national committee, has presented an appeal for his party through the Forum. It begins with an opening paragraph, which, although but seven lines long, contains three inaccuracies, as follows: (1st) "The majority of the citizens of the United States are republicans"; (2nd) "because the greatest individual prosperity of this nation was developed under the policies for which the republican party stands"; (3rd) "and because of the confidence in the future which that record warrants."

At the last presidential election — the last national expression of the people, the democratic party had a majority of some five hundred thousand. What evidence has he that the majority has changed?

Individual prosperity has never been greater

than under the administration of President Wilson. Why does Chairman Hays ignore this period?

If he is wrong on the record he is wrong on making a prediction upon it. It sounds like the old republican boast, but it is strange that it should be repeated in the face of the solid accomplishments of the democratic party.

He then discusses the war in such a way as to raise no issues, and follows it with a suggestion of the real solicitude of the republican leaders. After the war, the country, he thinks, will "need a protective tariff more than ever before." That is the plan—reduce the income tax and put the burden on consumption so the poor man will pay more than his share while the protected manufacturer profits at the consumer's expense.

He is alarmed, too, at "the socialistic tendencies of the present government." If he wants us to return to private ownership of telegraphs why does he not say so.

And what railroad plan has the republican party? He does not say.

And he is entirely silent upon the most important question of all: HOW WOULD THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, IF GIVEN CONTROL OF SENATE AND HOUSE, DISTRIBUTE THE BURDENS of government? Would it put the load on the big incomes and excess profits? Or would it transfer the burden from the rich to the poor? That is the overshadowing issue just now. Mr. Hays should be specific and then the voters can decide more intelligently whether they want to turn congress over to the republican party.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE KELLOGG RESOLUTION

The Kellogg resolution is now a law and the President has power to establish dry zones around mines, shipyards, munition plants and other industries. Here's to the President, may his arm be lengthened as he draws. Why not use the north temperate zone and save further trouble?

The Fourth Liberty Loan

September 28 has been set for the beginning of the 4th Liberty Loan drive, and it is important (1st) that it shall be as LARGELY OVER-SUBSCRIBED as former loans; (2nd) that it shall be oversubscribed QUICKLY. An immediate oversubscription will do more than anything else could to hasten victory. Delay, on the other hand, or a falling off in subscriptions, might revive the waning hopes of the enemy. The boys at the front are risking their all—the folks at home can afford to risk their money. The government cannot promise that any son loaned to the army or navy will come home, but every dollar loaned has a guaranteed return, and it not only comes back without a wound but it brings with it a rate of interest higher than the average rate paid by the savings banks of the country. Subscribing for Liberty bonds is the easiest form of patriotism there is.

W. J. BRYAN.

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.

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