

Alabama for Ratification

Alabama is the only dry state in which the wets have made a fight against ratification. There, the opposition was led by Senator Underwood, the leader of the wet forces in the United States senate, and he had the active assistance of several big newspapers that used to make large sums out of the liquor "ads."

The friends of ratification supported Kilby for governor and the state and legislative candidates were pledged to ratify the federal prohibition amendment. The primary was held on August 13 and resulted in a sweeping victory for ratification. The advocates of the amendment have 25 to 10 in the senate and at least 70 out of the 106 members of the house. In addition they have nominated their candidate, Kilby, for governor, and a dry for lieutenant-governor and for attorney general.

The liquor interests made their fight under the standard of state rights, but they could not deceive the voters. The victory in Alabama makes ratification certain. Every southern state will vote yes.

Rev. Brooks Lawrence, the superintendent of the Anti-saloon league of Alabama, did yeoman service and deserves a large part of the credit for the success of the fight. The Commoner extends its congratulations to Alabama and to Lawrence.

W. J. BRYAN.

OLLIE JAMES

Ollie James is dead and grief overwhelms a multitude of hearts. He was a big man; so big that he did not need a pedestal. He stood upon the ground and walked among his friends.

The titles that he won, congressman and senator, were becoming to him, but "Ollie" brought him nearer and made him a companion.

He will be missed—missed in the senate chamber where his vote and voice were always at the service of his party—missed upon the stump where his powerful argument and eloquence swayed his hearers—missed by those who loved him. The wife who shared his triumphs, and ministered to him as his life ebbed out, has the heartfelt sympathy of his personal and political associates. They share her sorrow.

W. J. BRYAN.

FIGHT WON AT THE PRIMARIES

The ratification fight has been won at the primaries—we only need to hold what we have already secured.

If the nineteen dry states ratify—there is no sign of failure anywhere—we only need three wet states to complete the twenty-two more needed. The returns from the primaries show that we have won in Ohio, Missouri, Minnesota, California, Vermont and Wyoming, with Florida, Nevada and Illinois still to hear from.

LEWIS AHEAD

Candidate McCormick, who received the republican nomination for United States senator from Illinois, is running on the fact that he visited the trenches some years ago, but Lewis has the best of it. Jim Ham not only brings back later news but he has the advantage of a narrow escape—his transport was torpedoed. A rescue in a boat is worth two escapes on land.

WITHOUT A ROLL CALL

Bone dry prohibition passed the senate WITHOUT A ROLL CALL! It is not strange that those that opposed it did not insist on going on record. It would not look well a few years hence.

JULY 1, 1919

July 1, 1919, will stand out as one of the most important dates in our nation's history—it will mark the abolition of the saloon. While, according to the letter of the law, the prohibition provided for is to continue only during the war and the period covered by demobilization, the saloons, once closed, will never reopen. Constitutional prohibition will begin not later than March 1, 1920—one year after ratification by the thirty-sixth state. If demobilization is contemplated before constitutional prohibition begins a dry senate and house will, without doubt, extend statutory prohibition to cover the interim. Hail July 1, 1919.

W. J. BRYAN.

THE FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN

The campaign for the Fourth Liberty Loan begins September 28 and closes October 19. It will be for a larger amount than any of the preceding loans. The American people, therefore, are called upon to raise a larger sum of money in a shorter length of time than ever before. There is need, therefore, for prompt action—prompt and efficient work and prompt and liberal subscriptions.

We have a great inspiration for a great effort. The news from the battle front inspires every American heart, not only with pride and patriotism but with a great incentive to do his or her part. There is no shirking, no shifting of the individual burden, no selfishness by American soldiers in France; there should be none here. We are both supporting the same country and the same cause—our Army in one way, ourselves in another. Theirs is the harder part, but at least we can do our part as promptly and loyally and efficiently as they to theirs.

JAMES AT CHICAGO

The following interview with Mr. Bryan was printed in the Springfield, Ills., State Register:

"When the death of Senator Ollie James was mentioned, Mr. Bryan said feelingly, 'Yes, I have just read the announcement. For some weeks the reports have been alarming, but I have been hoping that he had strength enough to resist the attack and return to the senate where he has played so prominent a part for the past six years. He was one of the great men of our party and we shall miss his powerful aid in the campaign.'

"To me his death comes as a personal loss. For twenty-two years we have been closely associated in political work and I have had reason to prize his friendship. His is one of two faces that stand out before me when I think of the Chicago convention of '96. He towered above the delegates about him and his face was aglow with enthusiasm. He was on the right of me, as I stood upon the platform, Governor Hogg of Texas, a man almost as large in stature as Senator James was on my left. These two faces I remember better than any other amid the enthusiasm of that hour. Governor Hogg passed away some years ago and now Senator James has been called to his reward, both of them men hard to replace in our party and the public life of our nation."

Do you belong to that class of individuals who are wishing that the war would be over quickly? The best way to put that wish into action is to get behind the Liberty Loan campaign, and subscribe for Liberty Bonds to your very limit.

The Hotel Keepers association started out in August to prevent war prohibition. No use; the hotels might as well sell their bar fixtures and open restaurants. Milk will prove more attractive than high-balls.

Steadily, as the march to the grave, the saloon is moving toward the end of its career. "Peace to its ashes"? No, there won't be any ashes—it will keep on burning.

The kaiser's troops have become so accustomed to walking backwards that they may not be able to resume a forward march.

What a Fourth of July we will have next year—not a saloon under the American flag! And never afterwards.

No man can serve two masters—he must be on the side of the home or on the side of the saloon.

The kaiser promised his followers bread with sugar on it but he has given them a very flinty stone.

John Barleycorn must be pretty groggy when opponents of war prohibition don't ask for a roll call!

\$52 per Capita

"Washington, D. C., August 18.—More actual money—gold, silver and paper currency—is in circulation at present than at any time in the nation's history and there is a bigger share for every man, woman and child. A Treasury report today showed \$5,559,000,000 in circulation—\$700,000,000 more than a year ago and \$175,000,000 more than a month ago—making an average of \$52.44 for each person. These figures on the stock of money bear little relation to the nation's actual wealth, or to its credit resources, since these, pyramided on each other, amount to many times the actual money available."

The above dispatch is interesting. In 1896, we had in circulation \$1,506,631,026, or \$21.16 per capita, and the Wall street financiers said we had "enough" and did not need any more.

The quantitative theory of money has been established; relief from the depressing conditions of 1896 would have been impossible but for an unexpected increase in the volume of money after 1896. That increase brought better times just as bimetalists said it would, and now they are talking about the restoration of bimetalism so as to give the world a supply of base money sufficient to support the enlarged body of credit money issued during the war. The world moves; the wisdom of the democrats of 1896 is constantly receiving new vindications.

W. J. BRYAN.

13,000,000 MORE

The second registration shows more than 13,000,000 men between the ages of 18 and 21 and the ages of 31 and 45. While a larger percentage of these will for various reasons be exempt than of those registered a year ago, there will be enough fit for duty to strike terror to the heart of the enemy. The Kaiser will see that the United States has entered the war in earnest and that a victory for the allied arms is only a question of time. The fact that we HAVE the men may make it unnecessary to use them all. Nearly 25,000,000 men between 18 and 45—and such men! In peaceful arts or on the battlefield they make a tremendous showing.

PROHIBITION COMES NEARER

The war prohibition bill fixed May 1, 1919, as the date for the suspension of the manufacture of beer, but now comes an executive order prohibiting the manufacture of beer after December 1, 1918. The order is issued to save coal and foodstuffs, and applies to soft drinks made from food grains as well as to beer. Thus does prohibition come nearer. Now that the manufacture of beer is to stop December 1 instead of May 1, why not shorten the time for bone-dry prohibition from July 1 to February 1.

RUMBLINGS IN GERMANY

Daily defeat is wearing away the fighting spirit of the German troops and stirring the spirit of revolution among the people at home. And why not? The war party promised loot and booty, and disappointment is as great as hopes were high. The tide of battle has turned.

A QUESTION

The kaiser has made very bold claims as to his partnership with God. He used to shout "Onward with God." Query: Did God advance with him? If so, Jehovah must be with the Allies NOW, unless He is retreating with the kaiser—and God does not retreat.

This is a poor time to strike, except to strike for our altars and our fires.

The kaiser's "shock" regiments have been shocked all right.

YES, QUITE DIFFERENT

The republicans members of the house ways and means committee say they will vote for the new revenue bill but announce that, IF THEY WERE DRAWING IT, "it would not have come to the house in its present form."

That is just it. It would have been quite a different bill. They say that they would have RAISED the TARIFF. That is the milk in the coconut. They would shift more of the burden to the backs of the poor.