

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

VOL. 18, NO. 10

Lincoln, Nebraska, October, 1918

Whole Number 714

PLEDGE CANDIDATES

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.

Not Defeated but Delayed

The failure of the advocates of woman suffrage to muster the necessary two-thirds in the senate, on October 1st, does not mean defeat — it simply means delay. The record of the vote will be found on another page. The President did all he could; his speech to the senate was a powerful appeal but it failed to change a single vote. The opposition to suffrage has dwindled until it is now made up largely of two groups; viz., the southern senators who are largely influenced by the race question, as shown by the willingness of many of them to support it if limited to white women — and another group made up of supporters of the saloon who understand that woman is the greatest foe of the liquor traffic. I do not mean that these two classes include all opponents, but nearly all.

The above classification is made for the encouragement of the advocates of suffrage. The southern senators will change their votes when they are assured that their constituents desire suffrage — and it is probable that some of them will be so informed when the legislatures meet

in January. Those whose votes reflect the wishes of the liquor interests will be free to vote for suffrage after the prohibition amendment is ratified, which is likely to be in January.

The winter is sure to bring changes, probably enough to insure submission of the suffrage amendment by February 15, if not by the first of that month. Suffrage is coming and coming soon.

W. J. BRYAN.

"DELICATE" BUSINESS

Mr. Konta assured Dr. Dernburg, the German propagandist, that the distillers and brewers could be counted on to advance "unlimitable capital" to finance a German propaganda paper if it would fight prohibition, but he suggested that the matter would have to be handled with the "utmost delicacy," and added, "No suspicion of the influences behind it should be allowed to reach the public." But it did reach the public and the result was just such an explosion as Mr. Konta feared. But a few more injuries won't hurt — the liquor business is too far gone to feel them.

THE MAJORITY GROWS

War prohibition passed the senate 45 to 6 (7 1-2 to 1); it passed the house 134 to 27 (almost 5 to 1); it passed the White House UNANIMOUSLY. The majority for prohibition grows.

The President will need progressive democrats in the senate and house to insure equitable distribution of tax burdens while the war continues and to deal wisely with the problems that will demand attention when the war is over.

Our soldiers are marching on to victory. Encourage them by buying Liberty bonds. Failure to furnish the money needed would encourage the enemy.

Go to the polls and vote November 5. The stay-at-home vote indicates indifference, and no one can afford to be indifferent this year.

The Joint Drive

On November 11, a combined drive will be made in behalf of the various organizations that are aiding the government in its effort to maintain in the army the moral standards of the home. Heretofore, these organizations have presented separate appeals, but it has been decided, and wisely so, to combine them and divide according to a ratio agreed upon all subscriptions which do not specifically name one of the organizations as a beneficiary.

The war has exerted a powerful influence in drawing the different denominations nearer together. Gentile and Jew, Protestant and Catholic are fighting side by side; they are sharing risk and glory together. They have learned to respect each other and each has become more tolerant of the other's religion. They are not less religious — on the contrary, their religious convictions have been deepened — but they have learned charity, and that charity will have influence when the war is over.

The joint appeal is a result of this coming together and will, in turn, prove the cause of a still closer union. The response ought to be prompt and generous.

W. J. BRYAN.

CONTENTS

PLEDGE CANDIDATES
NOT DEFEATED BUT DELAYED
THE JOINT DRIVE
"DELICATE" BUSINESS
MR. TAFT ON THE PRIMARY
A GRATIFYING CHANGE
KAISERISM IN MINNESOTA
ATTENTION, NEBRASKA VOTERS!
WET DEMOCRACY IN CALIFORNIA
NO PEACE WITH AUTOCRACY, SAYS
WILSON
PRESIDENT'S WOMAN SUFFRAGE
APPEAL
PROHIBITION: STATE AND NATIONAL
PRESIDENT'S WAR AIMS SPEECH
BREWER GOLD TO BUY PRESS

Write to Your Senators to Support the Woman Suffrage Amendment, or, better still, telegraph. Let Them Know the Wishes of their Constituents and Most of Them will Obey.