

Nebraska's Lesson

Two years ago the opponents of prohibition controlled the democratic primary and nominated for governor the candidate selected by the liquor interests and indorsed just before the election by the German-American alliance. The state adopted a prohibition amendment by 29,000 majority, but the wet candidate was elected, being pulled through by President Wilson's large vote, but with a majority of only 6,000 when the President had 41,000. Instead of recognizing the right of the people to banish the saloon and acquiescing in the decision rendered at the polls, the governor continued his subserviency to the liquor interests and refused to include in his call for a special session the consideration of the national prohibition amendment, which had then been submitted. A majority of the state senate (also indorsed by the German-American alliance) following his lead, refused to consider the amendment, thus denying to Nebraska the honor of being state No. 12 on the Honor Roll.

After this disgraceful misrepresentation of the moral sentiment of the state he had the impudence to present himself to the people for indorsement.

At the election just held he was defeated by about 24,000 majority and carried down with him a democratic candidate for the United States senate, the state ticket, the legislative ticket and the congressional ticket. He and his advisers made the name of the democratic party odious, and the voters of the state administered a rebuke that ought to bury the wet leadership beyond the hope of resurrection.

The democracy of the nation has cut itself loose from the saloon—in a few states, conspicuously in Nebraska, the leaders chained the party to the corpse of John Barleycorn, willing to be his champions even in death. "They sowed the wind and they have reaped the whirlwind"; their day is past.

The democratic voters should, at the next primary, repudiate the leaders who have taken them through the "valley of humiliation" and should make the party once more a force among the progressives of the nation. For twenty years Nebraska democracy led the nation in the fight for economic reforms; it can do so again if it will.

W. J. BRYAN.

WELCOME, REPUBLICS.

The republics of Europe are our nation's reward for the blood and money expended in the great world war. What recompense, measured by territorial additions or pecuniary indemnity, could bring the satisfaction that we derive from the creation of republics out of the wreck of kingdoms and empires?

It was unfortunate for Mr. Taft that he allowed himself to be led into the attack on the President, and yet it was not strange for it is the Taft end of the republican party that protests most loudly against the economic reforms which have come under a democratic administration.

Senator Lodge's gun is not dangerous at the muzzle, but its kick removed his colleague, Mr. Weeks, from the senate.

A peace will hardly be worth the cost if universal military training is necessary to maintain it.

With ex-Governor Walsh in the senate from Massachusetts Senator Lodge's poison finds an antidote near at home.

THE ELECTIONS OF 1918.

The election of a republican congress, while deplorable at this time, is not surprising and should not discourage democrats. The President's veto will prevent any reversal of economic policy during the next two years, and by that time the republican majority will be on the defensive. Fortunately the enemy was so demoralized and utterly routed that a republican victory could not have given them any encouragement. The greatest menace offered is republican opposition to the constructive measures which will be necessary after the war, but even here a clear cut issue between the parties may make a democratic victory in 1920 more certain. The country will not long entrust the republican party with power.

W. J. BRYAN.

How Will it Seem?

How will it seem when peace comes back once more,

After these desperate days of shattering pain?

How will it be with all of us again, When hushed forever is the thunder of war?

There still are primroses by many a shore,

And still there bloom, in many a lovely lane,

Hawthorn and lilacs; and the roses's stain

Is red against full many a garden door.

Oh, days to be! Oh, honeyed nights of sleep,

When the white moon shall mount the quiet sky!

Shall we be wholly happy when buds creep,

Remembering those who dared to bleed and die?

Can we be glad again? Or shall we weep

For those who told this sad, glad world goodbye.

—Charles Hanson Towne, in Harper's.

THE IDEAL REPUBLIC.

The spread of Democracy as shown by the springing up of republics throughout Europe at the magic touch of the United States recalls Mr. Bryan's remarks on the ideal republic in his speech of acceptance of 1900, as follows:

"I can conceive of a national destiny surpassing the glories of the present and the past—a destiny which meets the responsibilities of today and measures up to the possibilities of the future. Behold a republic, resting securely upon the foundation stones quarried by revolutionary patriots from the mountain of eternal truth—a republic applying in practice and proclaiming to the world the self-evident proposition that all men are created equal; that they are endowed with inalienable rights; that governments are instituted among men to secure these rights, and that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. Behold a republic in which civil and religious liberty stimulate all to earnest endeavor and in which the law restrains every hand unlifted for a neighbor's injury—a republic in which every citizen is a sovereign, but in which no one cares to wear a crown. Behold a republic standing erect while empires all around are bowed beneath the weight of their own armaments—a republic whose flag is loved while other flags are only feared. Behold a republic increasing in population, in wealth, in strength and in influence, solving the problems of civilization and hastening the coming of an universal brotherhood—a republic which shakes thrones and dissolves aristocracies by its silent example and gives light and inspiration to those who sit in darkness. Behold a republic gradually but surely becoming a supreme moral factor in the world's progress and the accepted arbiter of the world's disputes—a republic whose history, like the path of the just, 'is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.'"

The farmer is the hero of the battle with John Barleycorn. He deserves the largest share of the credit, for he began the assault when the enemy was proud and insolent, and he has never rested for a moment. Prohibition started in the country districts, then swept the agricultural states and now makes the nation dry.

Here's to the democratic South that led the fight against the saloon, and to the West which entered the contest early, and to the conscience of the entire country that made the triumph complete.

Now let the dry legislatures instruct their senators to vote for the 'submission of suffrage. What do you say, Nebraska?

Farewell, Alcohol—Howdy, Water.

The Fight is On

The election of a republican house of representatives at Washington reopens the economic fight which has been practically suspended since our nation entered the war. Revenue bills originate in the house and the republican theory of taxation will be followed in the preparation of these bills—the theory which, exemplified by the Aldrich bill, divided the republican party in twain and made possible the democratic victory of 1912.

The issue is as old as history. Demosthenes, in his oration on the Crown, cites among the worthy things he had done a change in the laws "compelling the rich to perform their duty" and "stopping the oppression of the poor." He says that "the rich were getting off with small payments" while "citizens of moderate or small fortunes were losing their substance." He does further and declares that the tax dodgers tried to bribe him (that was the ancient method before they learned how to control legislation by means of large campaign contributions).

The fight is on; let every democrat gird himself for the contest. The struggle will begin when war taxes are to be reduced to a peace basis—the republican leaders, unless they have radically reformed, will favor reductions that will throw an increasing burden upon the masses and lighten the load on the few with large incomes—the masters of big business. By 1920 the people will understand the republican program and be ready to veto it. It is going to be a sure enough war—get ready, democrats.

W. J. BRYAN.

UNITED WAR WORK FUND

The close of the war should not lessen our interest in all the activities connected with the well being of our soldier boys who are yet in camp. It will be many months before demobilization can take place, and the needs of the organizations carrying on this work will be greater than ever for several months to come.

It is necessary that we shall nourish the spiritual needs of these soldiers. No soldier will return from this war just as he was when he entered it; he will be stronger or weaker for his experience—stronger if he resists temptation; weaker if he yields. Therefore, we must be interested in throwing about these soldiers an environment that will be helpful and wholesome. A number of organizations are helping in this work. The Young Men's Christian Association, the Knights of Columbus, the Jewish Brotherhood, the Lutheran Brotherhood, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the Salvation Army. These are some of the more important of the organizations that are helping the government to maintain in the army the moral standards of the home. These organizations have a claim upon our hearts and upon our pocket books. We must be interested in the morals of these men not only when they return home but we must be interested in their morals while they are soldiers.

It is not too late to make your contribution to the United War Work fund. The work of these organizations has the hearty indorsement of the allied governments, and is greatly appreciated by every soldier in camp. You can not better show your gratitude to the soldier boys who have helped to win the war than by making a generous contribution to this cause.

On another page will be found an interview given out by Senator Martin pledging the democratic senate to a reduction of expenses. It will be a difficult task and should be commenced as soon as peace is assured.

Will the wet democratic organization in Nebraska accept responsibility for the overwhelming defeat in Nebraska or will it lay the blame on the democratic administration.

THE GREATEST THANKSGIVING DAY

November 11 will be remembered as the world's greatest thanksgiving day. Prayers of gratitude were offered up in churches, in cathedrals, in synagogues and in mosques. In Berlin the French "Marseillaise" supplanted the German "Watch on the Rhine". The shouts were "Foch, the Liberator," instead of "Hoch der Kaiser." Having given vent to them, the people are now ready to second the President's efforts to make permanent through loving service the victory won by force. W. J. BRYAN.