

The Nebraska Election

Democratic Liquor Element Annihilated

The Nebraska election resulted in a clean sweep for the republicans. They re-elected United States Senator Norris by a majority of about twenty thousand. The republican candidate for governor, Mr. McKelvie, and the entire republican state ticket were elected by majorities ranging from twenty to twenty-five thousand.

The next Nebraska legislature will contain two democrats in the state senate and thirty-one republicans, all pledged to the ratification of the national prohibition amendment. In the house the democrats will have fifteen, all but six of whom are pledged to ratification, and the republicans will have eighty-five, seventy-four of whom are publicly pledged to ratification, but as the republican state platform endorsed the ratification of the national prohibition amendment and pledged its candidates, the ratification forces in the house are assured of at least ninety-four out of a hundred votes. The republicans also won nearly all county offices in Nebraska.

In order that The Commoner readers may understand the extent of the disaster to the democratic machine in Nebraska, it should be recalled that President Wilson carried Nebraska two years ago by forty-one thousand, and the democrats elected their governor, the entire state ticket and secured a majority in both branches of the legislature. The state senate two years ago stood twenty-three democrats to ten republicans and the house sixty-one democrats to thirty-nine republicans. The democrats also elected nearly all the county candidates two years ago.

SHIP SUNK WITHOUT TRACE

Democratic Boat Goes Down With All on Board

Commenting on the republican landslide in Nebraska this year, Charles W. Bryan gave the following statement to the Nebraska press:

"The democratic boat that was manned by the Hitchcock-Mullen-Gooch liquor, special interest machine, was sunk in yesterday's election as the Germans might say 'without trace.' It was too much to expect that President Wilson could pull through a combination that was entirely out of harmony with the people of the state on economic and moral issues.

"The Hitchcock-Mullen-Gooch machine insisted that the democratic party and candidates should have no platform and that the party should take no position on the momentous questions of the day. This would leave the officers of the machine free to make all kinds of private deals with the various special interests of the state.

"The liquor machine in Nebraska has been completely routed. The members of the incoming legislature are practically all pledged to the ratification of the national prohibition amendment and to the ratification of the suffrage amendment which no doubt will be submitted by congress before the legislature adjourns. The national liquor dealers' association will not be interested in Nebraska politics after the legislature ratifies in January the national prohibition constitutional amendment, and the women of the state have an opportunity to pass on the moral, educational and political qualifications of Nebraska officials.

"At a primary election where only a light vote is cast, the reactionary liquor machine, under the guidance of Mullen and Gooch are able to get the various elements which they control in the cities to the polls and nominate their candidates, but it was a foregone conclusion that the people of the state could not and would not endorse the men and methods of the reactionary element. A number of good men on the democratic state, legislative, congressional and county tickets suffered defeat as the result of the handicap that they were placed under by the Hitchcock-Mullen-Gooch combine. The program of do nothing for the public, make no platform pledges to the public and prevent the state government from being used to protect the public from the profiteers has been discredited.

"The brutal, vicious, inhuman and libelous attacks by the Hitchcock-Mullen-Gooch machine, through their daily publications, against all candidates who opposed them in the primary and at the general election and against the farmers of the state who were seeking relief from the grain elevator, flour mills, stock yards, and

packing combines, and their unjust and treasonable attacks on Nebraska educators and similar attacks on the citizens of Nebraska of German blood whether they were loyal or not was so reprehensible that the candidates of no political party whose campaigns were managed by such leaders could expect to poll a majority of the law-abiding, patriotic people of the state. The Mullen-Gooch reactionary liquor machine has been crushed and routed, and in its defeat it has pulled down to defeat practically every democratic candidate for all county offices, legislative, state, congressional and senatorial positions, a large number of which have heretofore been held by capable democratic officials.

"It is up to the progressive democrats under whose leadership the Nebraska democracy has been of real service to the state and nation as leaders of progressive thought and action to raise the vessel that was sunk yesterday, pump out the moisture from it, man it with a progressive crew who are in accord with the moral, economic and patriotic aspirations of the people, and the democratic ship will yet win victories and be of service to the people of the state and nation."

HITCHCOCK MACHINE BANGED UP

The Hitchcock-Mullen combination is not the political boss of Nebraska today. Its claws have been clipped.

It got exactly what it deserved.

It tried to foist upon the people of this state a reactionary-anti-suffrage-wet-anti-Wilson-pro special interest handpicked regime.

In other words, it selected candidates to serve the personal and political interests of Hitchcock and his set of satellites.

To put them in office, it conducted a vicious and abusive campaign.

The people of Nebraska have administered an emphatic rebuke to both Hitchcock and his methods—Omaha News.

JOHN BARLEYCORN

John Barleycorn, my jo, John, since nations had their birth, you have, with beastly arrogance infested this old earth. But now you see bells are tolling knells for you, John Barleycorn, my jo. This war has slain its millions, John, and many more must die, but you have killed far more than war, with your old gin and rye; the men who fall on battlefields our prayers and blessings know, but those you slay must die in shame, John Barleycorn, my jo. John Barleycorn, my jo, John, your tricks cannot avail; you cannot set aside your doom by blowing in the kale; nor can the tears of crocodiles which down your whiskers flow avert one hour the bier and shroud, John Barleycorn, my jo. 'Twill be a better world, John, when you've removed your sign, when you no longer poison men with tanglefoot and wine; for every plunk you handle is the price of pain and woe, and that's a tainted sort of coin, John Barleycorn, my jo. You've wearied all the world, John, you've tired the souls of men, and when you chase yourself away you won't come back again; you're letting go by inches, John, but you will have to go, and so skidoo and fare thee ill, John Barleycorn, my jo.

WALT MASON.

MR. BRYAN PAIRS HIS VOTE

The following is taken from the Nebraska (Lincoln) State Journal of November 6:

"W. J. Bryan did not cast a vote at the Nebraska election Wednesday, a duty he has not before neglected. Mr. Bryan is at Asheville, N. C., where Mrs. Bryan has been ill. Her continued sickness made it inadvisable for him to make the journey to Nebraska, and so he arranged a pair with his old law partner, A. R. Talbot, republican, on the state, legislative and congressional ticket."

The organization of a "Where did you get it" society to keep hurling that inquiry at the millionaires the war has manufactured might not have the effect of making any of them give back their swollen profits, but it would take a lot of their joy out of having the money.

Our old friend, the protective tariff, is also sniffing the coming battle from afar. The cat, with its fabled nine lives, can boast of but a brief span of years when compared with this offspring of the marriage of big business with private greed.

WHISKY NOT A CURE FOR PNEUMONIA OR INFLUENZA

Much is being said just now as to the necessity for alcoholic liquors in the treatment of pneumonia. It is evident that lovers of liquor are trying to put up a case for their side, even as patent medicine manufacturers are doing with "cures" for the epidemic with which our country is stricken. The cry that whiskey is necessary to cure influenza or its accompanying pneumonia does not come from physicians, but from the laity who are always ready to give medical advice unasked.

When La Grippe swept the country years ago the medical profession gave whiskey a full trial, with the result that many physicians unqualifiedly condemned alcoholic liquor as a remedy, saying that deaths were more frequent when whiskey was given than when it was not used. Among the outspoken opponents of the use of alcohol in pneumonia at that time was Dr. Nathan S. Davis, dean of the medical school of Northwestern University, Chicago. In a paper read before the American Medical Association, Dr. Davis told of his own experience in Mercy Hospital, Chicago. During a period of thirty years he had never allowed any alcoholic liquor to be given to a patient in any disease. While other hospitals, then using large quantities of whiskey in pneumonia, had death rates ranging from 28 to 38 per cent, Mercy Hospital, with no alcohol given, had only a 12 per cent death rate. This led many physicians to experiment in the treatment of pneumonia without alcoholic liquor. Among these was Dr. Alexander Lambert of New York City, who after careful watching of his cases in Bellevue Hospital said that the death rate in pneumonia was ten per cent higher when alcoholic liquor was used. Dr. Henry Koplik has also experimented with and without whiskey in pneumonia in Bellevue Hospital and has abandoned its use. (See Journal of the American Medical Association for November 17, 1917.)

Last year the writer of this article sent a questionnaire to thousands of physicians asking their opinion of the use of alcoholic liquors in pneumonia. A great many answers were received nearly all of which said that alcoholic liquors are dangerous, the reasons assigned being that alcohol lowers resistance to disease and weakens the heart, already weakened by the disease.

Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson when connected with the London Temperance Hospital gave an interesting account of his non-alcoholic treatment of pneumonia cases. Ammonia was the only medicine used. He gave a three or five grain tabloid of bicarbonate of ammonia dissolved in a cup of coffee, or of coffee with milk and sugar. Careful feeding he insisted upon. In Cornell medical school, New York city, Professor Mearns tells his students not to give whiskey in pneumonia cases.

It has been asserted that alcohol as an antiseptic is useful in epidemics, but careful physicians note that its use is followed by greater depression and by many new and complex symptoms. Patients who recover have a longer convalescence. If alcoholic liquor is a "cure" for pneumonia why is it not a preventive? It is a well attested fact that heavy drinkers are usually fatal cases in this disease. Indeed, as a rule, it is drinking people or patent medicine users who take this disease the most readily.

When alcohol was thought to be a heart stimulant it was freely used by physicians in nearly all diseases. Since science has definitely settled the question that alcohol is not a stimulant but a heart depressant, up-to-date doctors have laid it aside as a remedial agent. The American Medical Association at its meeting in New York last year declared that the use of alcohol in therapeutics "as a tonic, or a stimulant, or as a food, has no scientific basis," and that "the use of alcohol as a therapeutic agent should be discouraged."

The old superstitions as to the remedial virtues of whisky die hard, but they are dying with the people who really study this question. As Sir Victor Horsley, the great London surgeon, said: "No one who has closely investigated the action of alcohol in recent years prescribes alcohol. Every one will feel relief when it is abolished."—MRS. MARTHA M. ALLEN.

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It begins to look as though the lockout against members of the reigning princes' union in middle Europe will result in many a king's son wondering what in the world he was born for.