

Why the Colored Race Should Fight Prohibition

Something of the Economic and Social Injustices Which the Race Has Suffered From the Evils of Prohibition

In the consideration of any question of public policy which rests upon the Colored citizen for adoption or rejection, the first question to be asked is, HOW WILL IT AFFECT ME AND MY RACE? Where the policy has been adopted, HOW HAS IT AFFECTED MY RACE?

It is a fact not to be controverted, that NEVER SINCE THE CRIME OF SLAVERY HAS ANY POLICY BEEN ADOPTED WHICH HAS WROUGHT SO MANY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INJUSTICES UPON THE NEGRO RACE AS THE POLICY OF PROHIBITION.

Jim-Crow laws, disfranchisement and social proscription, are mere details against the terrible conditions the race has suffered since the South has adopted prohibition.

The South claimed that it adopted prohibition to lessen Negro crime, yet seven-eighths of the prisoners in the penitentiaries of the South today are serving time for trivial offenses with which liquor had nothing to do. In Georgia recently a twelve-year-old boy was sentenced to serve ten years in prison for stealing a nickle. There are hundreds more such cases.

LIQUOR IS NOT THE CAUSE

The South claimed that it adopted prohibition to lessen crime against the Negro, YET MORE LYNCHINGS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE SOUTH SINCE THE ADOPTION OF PROHIBITION THAN IN ALL THE TWENTY YEARS PRECEDING!

The per capita expenditure for Negro education has always been small, but SINCE THE ADOPTION OF PROHIBITION OVER ONE-THIRD OF THE COLORED SCHOOLS OF THE SOUTH HAVE BEEN CLOSED AND THE OTHER TWO-THIRDS HAVE HAD THEIR APPROPRIATIONS CUT DOWN SO LOW THAT PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR THE NEGRO HAS BECOME A MOCKERY AND A SHAME.

So terrible have been the effects of prohibition upon the economic conditions of the Negroes of the South, that THOUSANDS ARE LEAVING THE LAND OF THEIR FATHERS BECAUSE THEY FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE. The poor whites, ground down to bitter necessity, are begging and fighting for the labor once recognized as belonging to the Negro. In the past six months almost a million Negroes have come north to escape the poverty and hunger which prohibition has forced upon them.

What do you think of it, Mr. Voter?

Turn where you may, Washington, Oregon, the Dakotas, Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado, it remains true that wherever prohibition has been adopted it is the Negro who suffers most. WHY?

Because the majority of the Colored race is forced into the fields of labor directly and indirectly related to the liquor industry. This is not the fault of the Negro. Generally speaking, all other avenues of industry, excepting common labor, are closed against him. IN EVERY STATE THAT HAS ADOPTED PROHIBITION, THE NEGRO HAS BEEN THE FIRST TO SUFFER.

When the state of Colorado went dry, hundreds of Colored men lost their positions, YET NONE OF THE LARGE HOTELS OF THE STATE EMPLOYED COLORED WAITERS. The majority of the Colored men thrown out of employment were engaged in work WHICH HAD NO RELATION WHATSOEVER TO LIQUOR TRAFFIC. Colored men who had been with Denver firms for years were discharged in order to make places for whites; Colored laborers skilled and unskilled, were laid off

by the hundreds to give place to white laborers. This was not because of prejudice, but because white contractors felt necessity forcing them to favor their own race over men of other races in the struggle for existence. That is what prohibition means to you, Mr. Colored Voter.

IS YOUR JOB SECURE IF PROHIBITION SHOULD BE ADOPTED THIS YEAR, DO YOU FEEL SURE THAT YOUR MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD IS SAFE WHEN HUNDREDS OF WHITE MEN WILL BE PLEADING, BEGGING AND THREATENING FOR YOUR JOB? There are men in your race who are calling upon you to vote for prohibition. Who are they? Are they men who work, or are they men who live by your work? For a handful of silver they are willing to sell your home, your labor, your family, aye, even your own existence. When your work is gone, when your wife and babies are hungry, when your feet are sore and swollen from hunting the right to labor as thousands of your race in the Southland are doing today, will these smug hypocrites and Judases give you a farthing for a meal? Consider it well. You cannot afford to look at the subject from the standpoint of a white man. Opportunities will open for him on every hand, but for you prohibition will steal your bread and offer you poison drink!

That liquor causes crime is not meant for you, because the NEGRO OF NEBRASKA IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD CITIZEN.

That liquor breeds drunkards is not meant for you, because the NEGRO OF NEBRASKA IS NOT AN IMMODERATE DRINKER.

That liquor brings poverty was not aimed at you, because OF ALL THE RACES GOD EVER MADE, YOUR RACE ALONE HIDES POVERTY IF IT EVER KNEW IT.

BUT THE FACT THAT PROHIBITION AIMS TO ROB YOU OF YOUR MEANS OF LIVING; WOULD SHUT IN YOUR FACE THE DOORS OF THOSE FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRESS OPENED TO YOU; AND WOULD SEND YOU FROM THIS FAIR STATE WITHOUT A HAVEN OF REFUGE; MAKES IT THE MOST DAMNABLE ISSUE EVER SEEKING SUPPORT FROM YOU!

What shall you do, Mr. Colored Voter? Listen to both sides; weigh well the problems; then consider the truth as we have given it to you. You will agree with us that NO NEGRO CAN AFFORD TO CAST A VOTE FOR PROHIBITION.

How To Vote Against Prohibition

The square shown below will appear at the TOP of the ballot. An X marked in square 301 is a vote AGAINST PROHIBITION.

Yes

300

No

301

Shall the above and foregoing amendment to the Constitution be adopted?

The Nebraska Prosperity League

Opposed to State Prohibition. In Favor of Local Option, High License

President, L. F. CROFOOT
Send for our literature

Treasurer, W. D. COAD

Secretary, J. B. HAYNES
OMAHA, NEBRASKA