

The Alliance Herald
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THE SECOND INDEPENDENCE

At last the prohibition advocates have something in the line of opposition that is worthy of their attention. The forces that achieved prohibition by legislation have been so busy tightening up loose screws in the administration of the various laws and chinking up the holes, that they have not given due consideration to the dozens of movements, great and small, which are looking toward a return of the days when glasses can be clinked openly. The victory is won, after a fashion, but the ground must be held.

The dry advocates have assumed, all along, that their efforts are opposed only by the scum of the earth. They have refused to be warned by the fact that the best customers of the bootleggers are the members of the best society everywhere. It is true, perhaps, that the brewers and distillers of the old days were, for a time, extremely interested in overthrowing prohibition, but there must be someone to profit from the huge sales of contraband wet goods, and it stands to reason that the men who are doing the bulk of the handling these days are men of experience. This must be true, else why are so few of them caught?

The leaders in the fight against prohibition are not the bootleggers de luxe, for these people do not care to be publicly interested in the question that means money to them. The people who are now waging the fight are men who are not pleased with the cost and methods of enforcing the prohibition law. A number of good men are disgusted with the Gus Hyers type of law enforcement. The evil of bootlegging is just beginning to be understood, as well as the enormous profits that are derived from it.

A significant meeting was held at New York city on May 9, when the association against the prohibition amendment was formally organized. The members call themselves the "fighters for the second independence." There is already an enrollment of thirty thousand members, and it is expected that by the time the next election primaries are held, the association will be half a million strong.

The most significant aspect of the new association is the quality of the men and women who are affiliated with it. The New York committee includes such names as General Dan'el Appleton, Stuyvesant Fish, Kermit Roosevelt, P. Tecumseh Sherman, Horace W. Corey, Edgar M. Cullen, Dr. Richard Deby, George L. Forrest, Colonel Ransome H. Gillett, James P. Holland, R. Henry Lacombe, Johnston Livingstone, Irwin S. Cobb and others. One of the members is Miss Elizabeth Marbury, chairman of the women of New York state.

Here is an association that the dry forces will do well to watch. These people are, for the most part, widely known. Some of them have world reputations. They represent money—and none of it made from breweries or distilleries; they include successful authors, financiers and leaders of thought. It is time, if prohibition is to be made a success, to organize for the fight that is coming, and one of the best safeguards will be to improve the methods of law enforcement. There is little doubt that the prohibition amendment is growing steadily less popular, and when men and women of this caliber will go on record as opposed to it, it's time to sit up and take notice. If there are evils in law enforcement, it's up to friends of enforcement to get rid of them. With some national leaders aligned against the law, this isn't a case for prayer, but it's a call to battle.

JOYKILLER ON THE JOB

The professional joykiller is always on the warpath, seeking illusions that he may smash. Our pet illusions are being destroyed so rapidly that 'ere long we shall see regular departments of 'Vanished Illusions' in the daily press. We have often given praise that newspaper editors are not the worst offenders—they seldom destroy illusions for the mere love of destruction—but the latest cruel blow has been struck by an editor, D. W. Stevick of Champaign, Ill. It is possible that he is not a born editor and that, like so many of the brethren, has just drifted into the profession through lack of opposition.

Mr. Stevick has just returned from a trip around the world. The fact that he has the money to take one shows that he is made of different clay than most editors. In an address before some press association in his own state, the Illinois man has taken all the romance and a good share of the fun out of Hawaii. He would have us believe that most of the things that have appealed to us in that country are mere fabrications and delusions, intended to take in the gullible tourist. The grass huts, grass skirts and even the sacred hula hula, he declares, are as artificial and phony as the scenes the average "rubberneck" tourist opens his mouth at in Chinatown.

Read him and weep: "Ukeleles, hula hula girls and grass skirts are purely mythical. The importance of Honolulu as a great commercial center is little realized by the American public. The average American picture of Honolulu as a place of romance—a great tropical island with native Hawaiian girls gracefully doing the hula hula, grass huts, grass skirts and ukeleles.

"Many of the dreams are realized expressly for the profit of the tourists. The typical primitive dance of the Hawaiians is little like Belle Fatima's startling muscle dance. The grass huts? They don't exist except in the museums. The modern cottage is much more sanitary. "The grass skirts? They are made mostly in Connecticut and shipped to Hawaii for the benefit of the tourist. Waikiki beach is merely a nice dream place for a tired business man.

"Honolulu is really a great business city—a seaport."

Aw, hell!

THE JAPS IN BRAZIL

Brazil is troubled with a problem that has vexed the United States exceedingly during the past ten years—the problem of Japanese immigration. The little brown men have managed to find their way into California in increasing numbers, and there are colonies of them in other states. In every part of the United States where they are present in any considerable quantity, the question of whether they are a benefit or a menace bobs up sooner or later.

And it's some problem. It is admitted that the Jap, as a worker, is perfect. He makes a remarkably intelligent farmer and has no equal as a domestic servant. The Jap is a peaceful man, an active worker, sober minded and adapts himself readily to conditions. But his wants are few. He is able to live on very low wages, and when he comes into competition with white workers, there is no doubt as to the result. The Jap wins. He will work for wages and will live under conditions that would be unbearable for Americans or those who have once adopted the American standard of living.

In the United States the problem is more complex than in Brazil. For in the latter country there are no racial difficulties. Here it is discovered that the Japanese desire to intermarry with American stock—and not only that, but they are doing it. The Brazilians do not care about that. There is already a certain mixture of bloods, and a little more doesn't fret them.

The significant thing is that Brazil is interested chiefly because of the labor competition. The solution favored in that country is small colonies of them, in the sparsely settled regions. The United States might find this a very satisfactory settlement of the problem.

THE MASTER MIND FALALCY

Somebody is always taking the joy out of life. Now comes M. Faralicy, director of the judicial police of Paris, who proceeds to swat the great detectives of literature a body blow. Sherlock Holmes wasn't much of a detective, according to the detective in real life, who really ought to know something about it.

Some of us may have had our doubts about Sherlock, and may feel even a bit pleased that he has finally received his comeuppance, but M. Faralicy's further revelations destroy the very foundations of our private science of criminology. The French detective says that the greatest of all crime solvers is named Chance—just plain, ordinary, everyday luck. And clues—those wonderful things that we have supposed detectives didn't do nothing else but seek and unravel—clues are the bunk.

M. Faralicy is credited with the solution of some of the most baffling detective problems of the last ten years. He is an authority greater than Sherlock Holmes. And this is what he says:

"Sherlock Holmes isn't in the running with Chance. It is easy for a novelist gifted with a certain amount of imagination and knowledge of criminality to solve a criminal problem which he has invented himself.

"Writers of detective fiction make the mistake of devoting too much attention to material signs or clues. The examination of footprints, cigarette ashes and so on and the logical deductions to be made therefrom are the A. B. C. of the ordinary police detective. But nothing is more likely to lead to false conclusions. Twenty or thirty persons may have walked over the ground trodden by the criminal or have smoked cigarettes on the scene of the crime. Scores of ex-

traneous circumstances may have to be taken into account. "No, after all, Chance is the wizard of crime detectors, present, past, and future. His divinity is named Luck! The real art of crime detection consists of grabbing the opportunity which the Goddess Luck presents and utilizing it with intelligence. Therefore, the ideal detective must have his eyes on everything and be able to make a prompt decision. That's his system." Could Sherlock Holmes do better?"

THE CITY MANAGER

(Scottsbluff Star-Herald.) Judging by Alliance reports, that city is distinctly satisfied with the city manager plan of government, the figures showing that under that system of regulation of expenses, the city showed a profit of \$8,840.26 for the past municipal year, or in other words with total receipts of \$29,221.31 and total disbursements of \$20,381.05, the city spent 70 cents for each dollar received. In 1921 the city was \$1,397.83 in the red, but this was nothing as compared with the deficit in 1919 of \$21,544.14, where the city spent \$2.04 for every dollar of income received. In 1919 the total cost of administering the affairs of Alliance was \$42,206.45, as compared to expenses of \$18,810.44 in the past year.

There has at different times been talk of the city manager plan for Scottsbluff, and the plan even went so far as to be seriously discussed by the council. The rather sad experience which some cities had—Chadron, for instance, when attempting the manager plan, caused the local officials to hesitate. Then Alliance voted to try the scheme and the experiment has been watched with much interest. Paralleling Chadron and Alliance, it appears that a city manager is very satisfactory—where the right man is secured and where he is allowed really to manage. Otherwise, the plan is a failure.

BRING ON YOUR HELL

(Emporia News-Gazette.) The other night at a public dance in Emporia seven little girls of 16 came without escort. They spent the evening dancing cheek to cheek with men old enough to be their fathers, and danced dances which could not help arousing passions which should rise not as mere casual emanations of a passing evening, but as the emotions of a life. They were short-dressed girls, and innocent enough. And are not to blame.

But where were their mothers? Where were their fathers? Out of what kind of homes did they come? Don't these parents know that girls who go alone to public dances are not respected, and don't they know that when a girl is not respected, she is wolf-fodder?

What are these mothers thinking of, who let their daughters chase around town at night, parading the streets, window shopping and picking up dates and auto rides? There is just one end of that sort of business. And the end costs the town money. These children will sooner or later be on the town, or some other town, spreading disease which make idiot children and defectives and criminals. Sooner or later these girls will mother other girls and other boys as big fools as themselves.

And all because their parents have no sense; all because the homes in which they grow up are not properly guarded. At bottom it is laziness on the part of the parents that makes these children what they are. Laziness is the sin for which society pays. For all the good done in prisons, men expiate all their lives, and sometimes, perhaps generally, find peace and repentance. For stealing done in want, God has forgiveness. For all the sins and crimes there is justification—all but one. And that one is this laziness of parents who slough off their duties and so lose the souls given to them to guard and keep, and thereby release the springs of lust and shame and want and ignorance and misery.

For parents like that hell was builded. For laziness that risks the happiness and usefulness of children, nothing but hell will suffice—not hell for the children, though life brings that hell as they grow older, but hell for the slovenly doleful parents who let the children walk into life's hell fire without thought or warning.

WHY THE EXCEPTION?

(Des Moines Register) The president maintains his position that no bonus bill should be enacted which does not provide the means for raising the funds it will require.

Of course, the president will, when the time comes, sign any bill the house and senate sends to him; he will accept any suggestion of method upon which congress may agree.

But, with that understood, why is there is so much insistence on providing special revenues for this government expense when special revenues are not demanded for the \$4,000,000,000 and more that the government costs?

Why is paying boys who fought the war made different as a government obligation from providing money for the new navy or the new army, or for subsidizing a merchant marine?

The president is urging congress to appropriate for army and navy twice as much as we ever thought of spending before the war, and far more than any people ever spent in times of peace, but nothing is said about tacking to the army and navy bills a special way of raising funds.

The president is making a virtue of emphasizing payment of the boys as a special burden upon the public pocketbook. Why?

FIGHTING CRIME

(Arkansas Gazette) After suffering for months under the well known crime wave, Philadelphia has learned how to put down crime. The method adopted there is novel, almost revolutionary, but it works. Crime is put down in Philadelphia now by enforcing the law.

After the crime wave had brought several murders and several bold daylight holdups, the board of judges which is composed of fifteen judges

of the common pleas courts, met and doubled the number of criminal courts. For five weeks the judges worked steadily and assistant district attorneys were kept in a heavy perspiration. County detectives and members of the city detective force showed unusual energy. They worked with the assistant district attorneys, giving them desired information, serving subpoenas, bringing in witnesses, checking up on juries and doing everything possible to aid in putting down the crime wave. After five weeks of this the criminal dockets were clear. Philadelphia had gone through the biggest list of criminal cases ever recurred in any term of its criminal courts.

The underworld was dazed. Never had there been trials so speedy and sentences so heavy. Never was the outlook so gloomy for hard working crooks. The police reported a great decrease in crime.

In order to make the fight against crime effective, judges broke some long-established precedents. The precedents were broken in order to prevent delays. Since these delays, so usual in criminal court practice have been most rotent in defeating justice, their prevention would seem to be one

of the duties of the courts.

In the record term of the criminal courts in Philadelphia fifty-nine homicide cases, involving sixty-four defendants, were handled and 250 prison cases, exclusive of murder and including highway robbery, burglary, larceny and various other offenses, were tried. Incidentally, hundreds of bail cases were disposed of. The number of first degree murder verdicts obtained during the first five weeks of the term equaled the number returned for all of 1921.

At the conclusion of the clean-up it was announced that the work of the district attorney's office had been brought up to date and that criminals could be placed on trial within a week after they had been arrested for the commission of an offense. The underworld knew what this announcement by the district attorney's office meant. It meant swift trial and sure punishment, neither of which is relished by the underworld. The underworld took notice and there was a great exodus of criminals from Philadelphia.

Of course, any other city can do what Philadelphia has done. All cities should do it.

COMPLETELY OUT

The little boy was weeping bitterly and the kindly lady stopped to discover the reason. "I w-want to p-play war with the other b-boys, but they won't let me. They say I g-gotta be General Pershing," he sobbed. "But that's nothing to cry about—that's a great distinction." "M-mebbe. B-but they're playin' Revolutionary War and he wasn't even borned then."

Herald Want Ads are read.

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