

FEDERAL LICENSES IN DRY TERRITORY

Below will be found a bill recently introduced in the house by Congressman Oldfield of Arkansas. Read it and see if you can find any fault with it. It is intended to prevent the issue of federal licenses in dry territory, except on conditions that will give local authorities notice of the applicant's intention to violate the law. It ought to have the support of all believers in law and order. No one can well oppose it unless he favors putting (or keeping) the government in league with law breakers:

"H. R. 17673.—A bill regulating the issuance of federal license for sale of intoxicating liquors in communities where state or local laws prohibit the sale thereof.

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that all applications for federal license for the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be accompanied by a duly certified copy of the license issued to the applicant for federal license by the proper authority of the city, town, or community of the locality at which the sale of the said intoxicating liquors is to be conducted.

"Sec. 2. That all applications for federal license for the sale of intoxicating liquors in communities where local license is not issued by requirement of law shall be accompanied by legal proof that notice of such application for federal license for the sale of intoxicating liquors in such community has been published in a local newspaper, published in said community, having a circulation therein among bona fide subscribers, if there be such paper so published, and, if not, legal proof of the publication of such notice of application shall be filed with the application showing that due notice of same was published in some newspaper having a circulation among bona fide subscribers living within the community to be affected by the license applied for. Said notice of application shall be published for a period of thirty days prior to the day of application for license, which day of application for license shall be specified in said published notice; and all applications under section two hereof, in addition, shall be accompanied by legal proof that notice of said application for license for sale of intoxicating liquors in such community has been legally served on the executive authority of the said community at least fifteen days before the published day of application, citing the fact of the publication of the said notice of application for license for the sale of intoxicating liquors, giving the name and location of the newspaper containing such published notice of application, and designating by sufficient description the exact location in the locality affected where the said sale of said intoxicating liquors is to be conducted under the license applied for.

"Sec. 3. That it shall be the duty of the commissioner of internal revenue to have a copy of every federal license issued for the sale of intoxicating liquors in communities where local or state laws forbid the sale thereof posted in conspicuous place in the post office at the locality where such license gives federal authority for the sale thereof."

THE CHILD'S BUREAU

Mortality has never thrown up a more substantial bulwark than it has when it attempted to shield itself behind the pretense that the establishment of a national child's bureau would violate the rights of the states. Nothing is more likely to arouse prejudice against the rights of the states than the attempt to prevent the investigation by the federal government of the industrial conditions which are working an injustice to women and children. Those who are coining the blood of children into dividends ought to be driven from ambush and compelled to defend their inhuman practices before the bar of public morals. It is not solicitude for the constitution—it is lack of conscience that leads the representatives of the offending industries to make the objections they do. The rights of the states are endangered—not preserved by the attempt to use the constitution to protect cruelty and disregard of the most sacred and invaluable rights. It is another instance of the putting of the dollar above the man.

Following is a special dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald: Louisville, Jan. 28.—Child labor day was observed in Louisville with sermons from various pulpits and a mass meeting in the afternoon from which went out an appeal for more consideration for the future citizens of the country.

Speakers at the mass meeting declared that the United States was behind every other civil-

ized nation in the care of its children. Andrew J. Peters, a member of congress from Massachusetts, who introduced the bill in the house for a children's bureau, said that the country should be willing to spend one-eighth as much for a study of child life as it does annually for a study of bugs.

He said the bureau of animal industry cost the country \$1,654,750 a year, and the bureau of plant industry costs \$2,051,686, and all that is asked for the children's bureau is \$29,440.

John P. Frey of Cincinnati stirred the audience by declaring that civilized man in Christian countries was the only animal which exploits its young.

"In the brute creation," he said, "we find no animal which exploits its young or seeks to live off the fruits of their work.

"It has been left to civilized men in Christian nations to exploit their young for private profit.

"We are pleading today, not alone for the little children, but for the women and men toilers in our country."

Representative Andrews said that the 1910 census taken in states which keep mortality records showed that the average mortality of children was 27 in every 100 deaths. In California the child death rate is 16, and in Pennsylvania 34 in each 100. The accidents to children, he said, were 400 per cent greater than to adults, showing the child labor should be stopped altogether, or laws enacted compelling the safeguarding of machinery.

At the close of the mass meeting resolutions were adopted indorsing the bill for the children's bureau, which comes to a vote in the senate Tuesday and in the house within the next two weeks.

REASONABLE BURGLARY

Mr. President: We, the burglars of the United States, beg to call your attention to a grievance. For years we have suffered injustice at the hands of the courts. There is a law, which, by its terms, prohibits EVERY COMBINATION FOR THE COMMISSION OF BURGLARY. We most respectfully ask that "the rule of reason" be applied. We submit that the law should be construed to prohibit only UNREASONABLE BURGLARY. To this end we ask for the appointment, as justice of the supreme court, of a criminal lawyer with a record which will assure us that he will sympathize with our efforts to rob the public to a reasonable extent. We need not present our argument in favor of our business—it is a natural development of our civilization. If we have not established as many colleges and libraries as the trust magnates it is because we have been hampered by a construction of the law urged upon the court by demagogues and disturbers of the peace who have appealed to the passions of the mob and arrayed the people against us. Knowing of your sense of fairness and appreciating what you have done for the trusts we cherish the hope that, while we do not collect as much as the trusts, you will put us on the highway to the prosperity which they now enjoy. Respectfully, etc., THE BURGLARS.

MAKING A BEGINNING

The democratic caucus has acted wisely in deciding to save for other purposes the money that the jingoes wanted to use on new battle-ships. It is time for some nation to call a halt in the senseless waste of money in preparation for wars that ought never to come and no other nation is in so good a position as ours to set the example. The democratic party is making a good beginning in a great cause when it refuses to be stamped by the ship builders and the supersensitive gentlemen who are always seeing war clouds.

MR. METCALFE'S PLATFORM

On another page will be found the platform upon which Mr. R. L. Metcalfe, associate editor of The Commoner, offers himself for the democratic nomination for governor of Nebraska. It deserves careful perusal. The Commoner will be pleased to give space to the platforms of other candidates for this important office.

HERE'S A PLAN

Congressman Cullop's success in putting a publicity rider on a judicial bill suggests the propriety of putting a publicity rider on the post office appropriation bill. Why not confine second-class privileges to papers and magazines publishing the names of owners? Such a provision would be an enormous protection to the public.

HOW THE BEEF TRUST OPERATES

An Associated Press dispatch from Chicago says: A code telegram showing the average selling prices and margins for Armour & Co., the National Packing company, Morris & Co. and Swift & Co., for sales of dressed beef in Boston for the week ending July 16, 1910, which was received at the Chicago offices of the National Packing company, was introduced in evidence at the packers' trial. The message, which was received in the due course of business, was addressed to Vice President Patterson, head of the dressed beef department; Assistant Manager Munnsike and President Edward Tilden of the National Packing company.

It was the first time in the trial that Edward Tilden, president of the National Packing company and one of the defendants, had been mentioned as having received the prices and margins of competing companies. The telegram was sent to Chicago over the company's private wire by Manager Perkins, in charge of the National Packing company's branch house in Boston.

After some hesitation Joseph J. Riesch, formerly head of the shipping department of the National Packing company, identified the telegram, but said he was not certain that the figures were the same as on the paper he produced before the federal grand jury, which returned indictments against the packers.

Assistant District Attorney Godman made a statement in court to the effect that the telegram was the same as the witness had produced before the grand jury and it was admitted in evidence. The telegram says:

"Boston, July 16, 1910.—Patterson, Munnsike, Tilden: 11:52 minus 29. 11.27 minus 30. 11.11 minus 40. 10.77 minus 13.

"PERKINS."

Riesch interpreted the message to the jury and said that the first row of figures was the grand average selling price and the second row was the minus margin, which indicated that the beef had been sold that week below the test cost.

He said the first price was for the sales of Armour & Co., the second for the National Packing company, the third for Morris & Co., and the last for Swift & Co. At the top of the message was an inscription in pencil by the telegraph operator showing it was received at the Rookery office of the company in Chicago at 2:13 p. m., July 16, 1910.

Riesch testified that all the time he was connected with the beef department of the company similar telegrams from Boston and New York, giving the selling prices and margins of the packers' "big four" were received at the offices of the National Packing company in Chicago each week.

Details of the methods of distribution in the dressed beef business were explained to the jury in the packers' trial by John G. Wheeler, superintendent of branch houses for the National Packing company. Monthly reports, he said, were made by each branch house manager, showing the number of pounds of dressed beef handled, together with the margin and average selling price. From these figures a trial balance was prepared each month showing the net profits at each branch house.

Branch house managers were paid a fixed salary, but each house was allowed for expenses 5 cents a hundred pounds on all dressed beef sold, Mr. Wheeler said.

This commission is expected to cover every item of expense, even bad debts, included in the operation of the house, according to the witness.

A WALL STREET VIEW

On another page will be found a special dispatch from the Houston Post's Washington correspondent. It is interesting because it shows what absurdities must answer for arguments when a man attempts to champion the predatory interests. It is also interesting to hear of men being forced to vote for publicity out of fear of their constituents. It is a pity the Houston Post does not show some respect for the opinions of the plain, every-day people who, being honest themselves, want honesty in government and who favor publicity as a means of securing honesty. Why does not the Post poll its readers on the question of such publicity as to recommendations as provided in the Cullop amendment?

A GOOD IDEA

Congressman Sisson of Mississippi has introduced a bill putting a tax upon concealed weapons and estimates that it would add two millions a year to the nation's revenue. A good idea: two millions taken from the necessities of life and laid upon the luxuries would be in line with democratic promises.