

## Three Coming Issues

The voters of the country are turning with earnestness to three great issues which promise to be ready for decision within the next few years—Peace, Prohibition and Woman's Suffrage.

First. The peace movement is growing in the United States; it was strong before this war began, and its importance has been emphasized by the bloody combat across the Atlantic. It is true that some of our people have been infected with the virus of militarism; it is true that the worship of the war god has in some sections become more demonstrative, if not more widespread, but among the plain people the love of peace has deepened and an increasing number have resolved to dedicate themselves to the movement.

There are three lines of activity open to those who work for peace: First, the keeping of this country out of the present war; second, the tendering of the nation's good offices to the belligerent nations, with a view to restoring peace between those now at war; and, third, the saving of this country from a policy of preparedness which would lower the nation's ideals, carry it down to the brute level of the pending conflict in Europe, convert this nation into an armed camp, stimulate a military spirit throughout our land and give to our nation the swagger of the nations that put their faith in the sword.

This cause will enlist the sympathy and cooperation of a vast majority of our people in all sections and presents an immediate issue of great importance.

Second: Prohibition is on the way—19 states have already adopted it, ten of them within the last eighteen months. The next few years will see enough states added to the list to give prohibition a considerable majority of the 48 states. This issue is not likely to play a prominent part in the presidential campaign of 1916. The country is not yet ready for it, and it would jeopardize our economic reforms and the work of peace to inject it into national politics at this time.

But it is coming, and as soon as the campaign of 1916 is over both sides will begin to line up their forces for the prospective battle at the polls. It might be more accurate to say that the prohibition forces will, within a year, begin their preparations for the fight; the liquor forces have had their preparations made for many years. In fact, they have been in the fight for nearly a decade, and they have sacrificed party, principles of government, national policies, and everything else for the protection of the traffic in liquor. It has been a one-sided contest so far because the temperance forces have been giving a large part of their attention to economic questions, but the time is coming when this great issue, which is moral as well as economic and social, must occupy the center of the stage—there to remain until decisive action is taken.

The south is leading the fight for prohibition. Of the states which have already adopted prohibition, eight—Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas — are southern states and Arizona and Oklahoma are semi-southern.

Florida, Texas and Kentucky are likely to be added to the number soon, with Maryland and Louisiana and New Mexico later.

The west is co-operating with the south and is furnishing an increasing number of prohibition states. The movement is traveling northward and eastward as is shown by the agitation in Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and Vermont.

There is but one solution of the liquor question and that is the nation-wide extermination of the traffic in alcohol. It has already been condemned as an enemy to health and to the home, and it is now indicted for high treason because it paralyzes the patriotism of citizens in the time of war.

The third issue of the near future is woman's suffrage—in some of the states it preceded prohibition. It came out of the west and is traveling toward the east and south. Industrial conditions have accelerated its growth in the north, but it is not necessarily sectional for it rests upon principles which know neither latitude nor longitude. While prohibition is making more rapid progress than woman's suffrage in the democratic states, woman's suffrage is showing more rapid gains than prohibition in the republican states, but they ought to be companions. The two reforms are largely supported by the same voters. Taking the country over, a ma-

majority of those who favor woman's suffrage favor prohibition also, and an increasing number of those who favor prohibition also favor woman's suffrage. And, it may be added, nearly all the supporters of both prohibition and woman's suffrage are to be found among the advocates of peace.

Here are three great reforms which rest largely upon the same foundation and which are similar in aim, they all look to moral progress. The peace movement contemplates the substitution of the plowshare for the sword; it seeks to substitute the work of production for the work of destruction. Prohibition seeks to rid society of the poison of alcohol which impairs physical strength, weakens mental effort and menaces the morals. Woman's suffrage will bring woman's conscience into the political arena and aid all movements which have for their object the elevation of man and the improvement of the world.

The future is big with opportunity; here is work which will yield substantial advantage to society, and, to the individual, an abundant reward in the consciousness of helpful service rendered.

W. J. BRYAN.

### GRAPE JUICE AN ANCIENT DRINK

On another page will be found an extract from an article in the Literary Digest. In the article the following sentence appears: "Naturally there has been grape juice as long as there has been grapes, but not the sort that temperance orators recommend." If the reader will turn to the eleventh verse of the 40th chapter of Genesis, he will see that the drinking of the unfermented juice of the grape was not uncommon in those days. The butler in telling his dream to Joseph said: "And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand; and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand."

It will be seen that it was unfermented grape juice that was served to Pharaoh. Grape juice, therefore, has the prestige of age as a drink, aside from the superiority due to the absence of alcohol. They may not in that day have known of the processes by which it can be preserved in its unfermented state, but they evidently appreciated the value of a drink that nourished without intoxicating.

### DIPLOMACY OR WAR?

The Tribune agrees with The World that the republican leaders in congress can not attack the foreign policy of President Wilson unless they are willing to take the responsibility for war.

It therefore calls upon them to introduce and support a congressional resolution directing the President "to suspend diplomatic relations until such time as Germany shall disavow the Lusitania crime, apologize for the insult to American honor and agree to submit to The Hague Tribunal the question of reparation in money for the murders." Admitting that this course may lead to war, the Tribune insists that it must be followed "without regard to consequences."

We compliment the Tribune on the courage of its convictions. Unlike so many critics of the President, it does not rest content with attacking the policy of the President. It offers a substitute policy, and it offers it to congress, which is the only branch of the government which has constitutional power to declare war. No American has a right to attack the President's policies unless he is prepared to go as far as the Tribune has gone in demanding war in place of the slow processes of diplomacy.—New York World.

## Two Laws Needed

There are two laws which congress should pass immediately—laws demanded for the peace of the country and for the security of its citizens.

First, a law is needed forbidding the clearance or entry of belligerent ships carrying American passengers. If any American citizen is so careless as to his own safety and so indifferent to his nation's welfare as to attempt to ride upon a belligerent ship at such a time as this he ought to be restrained.

This government can exercise no authority over the captain of a belligerent ship, except when he is in an American port. Upon the high seas, a captain of a belligerent ship acts upon the authority and by the direction of his own government. He may at any time forfeit the lives of passengers by attempting to resist capture by an enemy's ship, or even by trying to escape from capture. This nation can not afford to permit its citizens to be subjected to the danger attendant upon traveling upon belligerent ships at such a time as this. It owes it to its citizens to protect them, if they are not wise enough to avoid danger, and the nation owes it to itself to prevent tragedies which might arouse the anger of our people and jeopardize our neutrality, if not our peace. There is no reason why any American should be permitted to ride upon a belligerent ship.

The second law needed is one which will prevent American passenger ships and neutral passenger ships from clearing or entering our American ports if they carry contraband with the passengers. The welfare of the passengers should be the first concern of the captain of a passenger ship. If his ship carries contraband he is naturally anxious to avoid search and seizure, and he must, therefore, divide his attention between the passenger and the cargo. At such a time as this when the risks of the ocean are much greater than usual, the attention of the ship's officers should not be diverted from the care of the passengers to the protection of a contraband cargo.

The two laws above outlined will go far towards safeguarding the lives of Americans and towards the maintenance of our neutrality and the preservation of peace. There ought to be no delay in the enactment of such legislation.

W. J. BRYAN.

### LET THE TEST BE MADE

The New York Tribune calls upon congress to direct the President to suspend diplomatic relations with Germany. The Tribune has been mad enough to bite itself for several weeks, and now it is ready to call him a liar and make a fight!

Let the test be made. If the republicans think we ought to enter into this war, then let them ask for a vote. They will find that the people are against going into this war on either side or against any belligerent. A vote will show that the New York Tribune's proper place is on the other side of the Atlantic, not in the United States.

### THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL SONG

When the Navy league, the Security league and the Defense league get out their new book of censored Sunday school songs, a familiar stanza will be found to read:

"I want to be a soldier,  
And with the soldiers stand.  
Ammunition in my pocket,  
And a musket in my hand."

Those opposed to an increase in the army and navy, an increase in the price of sugar, gasoline, automobiles, stamp taxes and an increased cost of living should immediately write their congressman and senators, and to the President, and register an emphatic protest.