

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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BUY A LIBERTY BOND

No doubt the amount asked for will be oversubscribed, as in preceding loans. Money is just as necessary in the prosecution of the war as men. The government derives its money from two sources, taxation and loans. Taxation is a lighter burden than military service. As long as soldiers must die for the government, those who escape with the payment of money should gladly pay any amount of taxes levied against or demanded of them.

But loans are still less a burden than taxation. When the government takes money in taxation it does not promise to pay it back; when it borrows it it returns it with interest on it while it keeps it, and interest at 4 1/4 per cent, the rate to be paid on the new loan, is more than the average rate paid by the savings banks of the country.

Therefore when we loan money to the government to carry on the war we not only respond to a call on our patriotism, but make a good business investment. Considering the security back of Liberty Bonds and the rate of interest, it is the best investment in the world.

The moral effect of a government loan depends upon the number participating in it. It is much better that all the people should subscribe for these bonds, each taking a small amount, than that the money should be raised by large subscriptions by a few. Nothing will more discourage the kaiser than to know that the whole country stands back of the government and is ready to furnish the money necessary to win the war.

The War Savings Certificates make it possible for the children to give as well as the older people, and the War Savings Certificate has the advantage of teaching the boys and girls the habit of saving, a habit worth more to them than the amount paid for the certificates.

W. J. BRYAN.

Bravo, Soldier Boys

The nation's heart goes out in rejoicing and in thanksgiving to the brave soldier boys who held the western line against the desperate German charge. British and French withstood the shock with equal steadfastness until the enemy's force was spent. It was a critical moment, with awful possibilities hanging on the result.

The Allies breathe easier since this terrific test of strength. Let us hope that the kaiser, awed by the unspeakable sacrifice that he has compelled, and convinced of the futility of his aggressive plans, will consent to a peace that will rid Europe of the menace of militarism and make the world safe for democracy.

W. J. BRYAN.

TEXAS MAKES A RECORD

The Texas legislature made a great record at its special session.

1st—It ratified the national prohibition amendment by a vote of more than two to one.

2nd—It made 10-mile wide dry zones around the army camps in Texas.

3d—It adopted statutory prohibition.

4th—It gave the women of Texas a vote at the primary. As a democratic nomination is, in Texas, equivalent to an election, this is practically the same as a vote at the election, and avoids the race issue which excites fear in some sections of the south.

Texas has done nobly, and Governor Hobby deserves great credit for his part in what has been accomplished.

W. J. BRYAN.

HERE'S TO MASSACHUSETTS

Here's to Massachusetts; she has done nobly. The legislature ratified the amendment, giving it a large majority in both houses. The Bay state takes her place on the Roll of Honor as No. 11. Next?

Davies, the democratic senatorial candidate in Wisconsin, made a very creditable showing. All things considered it was an excellent race.

WE MUST WIN THE WAR

The battle on the western front is the bloodiest in all history. Instead of discouraging our people and the Allies, it only emphasizes the necessity of resisting to the end. Germany's conduct in Russia gives us some idea of what would happen if France and Great Britain were overcome. Our nation is playing an increasingly important part in the protection of democratic institutions, and the whole people stand behind the government.

W. J. BRYAN.

Responsibility Located

Only twenty-five states more are needed to complete ratification. Twenty-five governors can, by calling special sessions, make an end of the saloon, PROVIDED their legislatures act favorably. Is it not worth while for them to make inquiry and put the responsibility on the legislators?

Every day's delay in ratification gives the saloons a chance to collect three million dollars from the public, besides taking breadstuffs the people can not spare, and menacing the strength of soldiers at the front and producers at home.

Are the governors willing to assume responsibility for the saloon's continued existence when they can, by acting, abolish them?

W. J. BRYAN.

THE ROLL OF HONOR

List of States That Have Ratified the National Prohibition Constitutional Amendment

- 1—MISSISSIPPI, January 8, 1918.
- 2—VIRGINIA, January 11, 1918.
- 3—KENTUCKY, January 14, 1918.
- 4—SOUTH CAROLINA, January 25, 1918.
- 5—NORTH DAKOTA, January 25, 1918.
- 6—MARYLAND, February 13, 1918.
- 7—MONTANA, February 19, 1918.
- 8—TEXAS, March 4, 1918.
- 9—DELAWARE, March 18, 1918.
- 10—SOUTH DAKOTA, March 20, 1918.
- 11—MASSACHUSETTS, April 2, 1918.

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