

The Commoner

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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Put none but ratificationists on guard. Democrats and Republicans everywhere should see to it that every candidate for the state legislature is openly pledged to vote for the ratification of the National Prohibition Amendment. Take no chances --- This is the supreme domestic issue until Constitutional Prohibition is secured.

Democracy or Autocracy?

The entrance of the United States into the war has greatly emphasized the conflict between the two theories of government that are thus arrayed against each other. In fact, the result can not but be regarded as a triumph for the form of government that triumphs.

The supporters of monarchy have always contended that an executive exercising arbitrary power was stronger than the head of a representative government. The supporters of democracy have disputed this and believed with the historian, Bancroft, that republics are the stronger because, "discarding the implements of terror, they dare to build their citadel in the hearts of men."

Bancroft is right; and we must, by winning this war, establish the superiority of the form of government under which we live and which we commend to other nations as the one worthy to become the world's model. We can not afford to allow this war to so end that the historian of the future will say, "A kaiser was better able to mobilize the resources of an empire than a

President and congress were the resources of a republic," or that "The oppressed subjects of an ambitious emperor were more loyal to that government than the free citizens of the world's greatest republic were to theirs."

History will not contain so melancholy a page because the people of the United States will continue to respond, as they have in the past, to every appeal made by the government and by the voluntary organizations that aid it in its gigantic tasks. W. J. BRYAN.

A CALL TO ALL

In doing his part in subscribing to the war loans the average man is not only responding to a call upon his patriotism but he is putting himself in position to do his part in the work of reconstruction when the war is over. There will be much to be done in the restoration of normal conditions, in the rebuilding of the waste places and in adjusting ourselves to new duties; and no one can afford to risk having his right to speak then questioned because of failure to aid his government in its hour of stress and strain.

Let ALL help TODAY, and then all can help in that day which will as sorely test our wisdom as the present hour tests our strength and courage. W. J. BRYAN.

THE TEN DISTRICTS

The ten dry Nebraska districts which were so shamefully misrepresented by ten wet senators who refused to vote for ratification have an important duty to perform this fall, namely, to wash away the disgrace by the election of senators who will lead the fight for ratification.

THE RED CROSS DRIVE

The Red Cross Society asks for \$100,000,000 more for its war work. The response should be immediate and generous. Never before has so much been done for the comfort of the soldier—a fact of which every citizen should be proud. The soldier is bearing the heavy part of the burden of war—those upon whom the load rests more lightly should gladly furnish the money needed by the men at the front. Help the Red Cross. W. J. BRYAN.

Are You Watching?

The liquor interests are at work; are you? They are bringing out candidates for the legislature of the non-committal type. Are you bringing out candidates openly committed to ratification? How about your district?

In some of the dry states where ratification has been taken for granted the wets are working like beavers. If they can delay ratification a year it will mean a billion dollars to the liquor traffic and will force upon your state another contest in which brewery money will flood your state.

In the close states the fight is on, but what about those states in which there are no saloons? These are the ones where the danger is the greatest.

Awake, friends of the national amendment, and see to it that a ratificationist runs IN EVERY SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT—that means, in YOUR district?

Are you on guard?

W. J. BRYAN.

It has almost reached a point where the allied commanders, in trying to figure out where Germany is going to launch her next thrust, play safe by hurriedly ascertaining which town has the most churches undestroyed.

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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.