

# The Commoner

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## WAR PROHIBITION

Mr. Hoover's interview, published on the 6th of this month, is virtually a challenge to congress. When he opposed the suspension of the manufacture of beer, proposed by the Randall amendment, and declared that such action would simply increase the consumption of whiskey, he added that the Food Administration would stop the production of BEER if congress would prohibit the sale of DISTILLED LIQUORS. This puts it up to congress and makes war prohibition possible. No time should be lost. Statutory prohibition is now within the reach of the people.

Several months ago the Woman's Christian Temperance Union presented a monster petition asking for prohibition during the war; the National Dry Federation is urging opponents of the liquor traffic to send telegrams to senators and members; and the Anti-Saloon League has employed its great influence toward the same end.

Immediate action is desirable.

Letters will have more weight than petitions; they indicate a deeper interest. Telegrams are even better: they make a greater impression. Send a telegram to the senate in care of each senator and a telegram to the house in care of your member.

Now that Mr. Hoover has made the issue clear, a dry congress can not afford to assume responsibility for a continued waste of breadstuffs or further impairment of the man power of the nation.

W. J. BRYAN.

## The President's Appeal

The President's message on taxation, which will be found on another page, is one of his greatest state papers. It is strong in logic and eloquent in statement. No wonder it resulted in immediate action.

Taxes are high and will be higher, but as long as one American boy must offer his life in his nation's behalf no tax that can be levied on income or property can possibly be as high as the tax on life and blood.

And the President is right in asking that the burden be placed on those best able to bear it

—and none are better able to pay high taxes than those who reap big profits from BUSINESS MADE PROSPEROUS BY WAR.

W. J. BRYAN.

### ARIZONA NO. 12

Arizona becomes state number twelve to ratify — no opposition in the senate and only three negative votes in the house. Arizona's record is illuminating and instructive. The state first secured the initiative and referendum, then it adopted prohibition with permission to individuals to import for personal use. Then came bone dry prohibition by a large majority, and now national prohibition by almost a unanimous vote in the legislature. THE SALOON IS GOING.

### THE WAR IS ON

The dispatches describe the increasing toll that our nation is paying as its part in the world war; and the raids of the divers on the Atlantic suggest the nearer approach of the red battle line; but the American heart does not quail. This is WAR, and it is in the hope of putting an end to war that we fight. Our boys will keep their eyes on this stake on the farther side of the field, not on the bloody furrow in which they walk.

W. J. BRYAN.

### RED CROSS FUND

The second hundred million dollar call of the Red Cross society has been oversubscribed more than the first. This was to be expected. We are farther in the war, Red Cross work is more necessary, and the country more fully appreciates the society's work.

## The New Revenue Bill

The federal government is now collecting something like four billions in taxes, and the President has asked congress to frame a new revenue bill that will raise eight billions, an increasing percentage to be raised from excess profits and incomes. The people will pay any amount that congress sees fit to levy, and will approve of the plan to lay the burden largely on excess profits and large incomes.

On with the tax—the war must be won.

W. J. BRYAN.

### THE ROLL OF HONOR

List of States That Have Ratified the National Prohibition Constitutional Amendment

- 1—MISSISSIPPI, Jan. 8, 1918.
- 2—VIRGINIA, Jan. 11, 1918.
- 3—KENTUCKY, Jan. 14, 1918.
- 4—SOUTH CAROLINA, Jan. 25, 1918.
- 5—NORTH DAKOTA, Jan. 25, 1918.
- 6—MARYLAND, Feb. 13, 1918.
- 7—MONTANA, Feb. 19, 1918.
- 8—TEXAS, March 4, 1918.
- 9—DELAWARE, March 18, 1918.
- 10—SOUTH DAKOTA, March 20, 1918.
- 11—MASSACHUSETTS, April 2, 1918.
- 12—ARIZONA, May 24, 1918.

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