

War Prohibition

Mr. Bryan passed through San Francisco June 5, stopping long enough to address the Ad club at luncheon. His attention was called to a dispatch from Washington setting forth Mr. Hoover's objection to the Randall prohibition amendment. When asked his opinion on the subject he replied:

"Yes, I have read Mr. Hoover's objection as stated in the morning papers, but he does not meet the real issue. The objection which he offers is the same as that which he made last fall, namely, that the prohibition of the manufacture of beer would result in greater consumption of whiskey and other strong drinks. He then estimated the quantity of whiskey on hand as sufficient for two years at the present rate of consumption.

"Mr. Hoover's objection can be very easily met by a bill prohibiting the sale of all intoxicating liquors during the war, as well as their manufacture. There is no reason to believe that he would enter an objection to such a bill because no one knows better than he does the injurious effect of alcohol in the lessening of efficiency among those who use it. War prohibition should include both manufacture and sale during the war. Such a law would not only save for food the breadstuffs now worse than wasted in the manufacture of intoxicants, but it would prevent the impairment of productive power in our country. It is mockery to put our soldiers on the battle line if we are not prepared to feed them while they fight, and furnish them with the ammunition they need.

"While I have no doubt that we shall win this war, it would be folly to shut our eyes to the fact that we are fighting the most militant nation of which history tells. We can not afford to throw away any chances or to permit the reduction of our fighting strength or our resisting power.

"The manufacture of intoxicants is not only a drain upon our food supply, but it is a drain also upon our supply of coal, and we can not spare fuel any more than we can breadstuffs. Our case is still stronger. The manufacture of intoxicants not only decreases the quantity of grain available for food and of coal available for industry, and for the heating of our school-rooms, but the manufacturers of alcoholic liquor produce a drink which decreases the efficiency of those who produce food and fuel. The liquor business, therefore, burns the candle at both ends.

"I shall not assume that Mr. Hoover would attempt to decide for the people whether war prohibition is wise. Everybody knows more than anybody, and no person would be presumptuous enough to try to substitute his opinion for the opinion of the people on this subject. The voters will doubtless communicate their views to their representatives in the senate and house and these representatives will thus be able to reflect the wishes of the people more accurately than any one individual could.

"The Randall amendment does not present war prohibition in its strongest form. A separate bill embodying prohibition of both manufacture and sale during the war would better represent what seems to be the growing sentiment throughout the nation."

THE TIDE RISES

The prohibition tide is rising. Twelve states have ratified—24 more are necessary. But as 20 of the dry states have not yet acted, we only need four of the states now wet, and we are quite certain to have at least six. In fact the wets count only five as certain to vote NO, and they can not control them after thirty-six have voted wet. No state will want to stand in history on the immoral side of this, the greatest moral issue of the generation. Now is the time to get on the Roll of Honor.

Since Nebraska has been leading in per capita contributions to war savings stamps, liberty bonds and war activities, there is less appearing in the eastern papers to the effect that the west doesn't seem to be half awake to the fact that the nation is at war. There have been more flags and more speeches per capita in New York, but we have a clearly defined idea that they do not aid so effectively in the winning of the war as the Nebraska plan.

WHEN FRIENDS DISAGREE

On another page will be found an extract from the Sacramento Bee, containing the comments made on Mr. Bryan's lecture there, by Mr. Chas. K. McClatchy, owner and editor of the paper.

It is reproduced as an illustration of the kindly spirit in which an honest man can deal with a friend from whom he differs radically in opinion.

Mr. McClatchy is a big, brave, brainy man, who has been a tower of strength to the progressive movement in the west. He is opposed to prohibition and he calls his cohorts to battle as courageously as if his cause were as righteous as he thinks it is. But, stubbornly as he contests each inch of the ground, he fights honorably and in the open. He concedes honesty to adversaries and deserves respectful consideration from them.

And what consolation there is in the thought that this liquor issue will soon be eliminated! Within a year the amendment will be ratified; within two years there will not be a distillery, a brewery or a saloon under the American flag—and then, after a few years more, the staunchest opponents of the amendment will wonder how the nation could have tolerated for so long a time such an institution as the saloon—the fruitful cause of corruption in politics, the festering center of crime in the community, and a menace to every home within the radius of its poisonous influence.

Hands will soon be "clasped across the bloody chasm."
W. J. BRYAN.

POLITICAL CANDIDATES

Progressive democrats should be on the alert to spot the wolves in sheep's clothing among the candidates for office this year. At a time when the people are intent upon winning the war and not as critically-inclined about candidates, the chances for the liquor and corporation interests putting through their men is greatest. Watch the fellow who is shouting loudest about his patriotism and note who his political intimates are, who are the men to whom he owes his presence in the race and who are backing him strongest. It's worth many millions every month to the brewers to postpone putting prohibition in the national constitution, and they will have their candidates in every primary.

THE BEST FIGHTING MACHINE

The American soldier is proving himself to be the world's best fighting machine. And why not? More has been put into the average American than was ever put into any other average man, and more of hope and opportunity have been placed before him. The American soldier is above the average—he is the average of those selected as most fit for service. He would disappoint expectations if he were not the best soldier the world has ever known. He can be trusted to make good.

LOANS TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS

On another page will be found a communication from Mr. John F. Murray of Berkeley, Cal., suggesting that the government loan postal savings funds to school districts. The suggestion is a good one, the arguments in favor of it are unanswerable.

The Dallas News man celebrated thanksgiving day five months in advance. He says: "One reason why we are glad Colonel Roosevelt didn't go to France is because General Foch has enough to think about already."

That the war is having a tremendous effect in uniting the American people is proved by the fact that Judge Taft and Colonel Roosevelt have made up. When a chasm of that wide a gap can be closed by the necessities of war it will be difficult to argue that war has no redeeming features.

Governor Harding of Iowa has issued a proclamation forbidding the use of the German language in schools, public meetings and churches. Those Mississippi river counties where the brewers always run up their anti-prohibition majorities will have to send their people to a deaf and dumb school or learn some form of the sign language if they want to communicate hereafter.

Guaranty of National Bank Deposits

The following statement was issued from the office of the comptroller of the currency at Washington, under date of June 5:

"The comptroller of the currency is today sending out a circular letter to all national banks inviting their views on a measure before the United States senate providing for the guaranty of all deposits in national banks of \$5,000 and under, upon which interest not in excess of three per cent per annum is paid; and leaving it optional with the national banks as to whether they shall accept the benefits of the guaranty or not.

"The comptroller shows, for the first time in more than thirty-seven years, that five months and five days of the calendar year have elapsed without recording the failure of a single national bank; while 123 applications have been received for charters for new national banks since January 1, 1918. In the same period, thirteen banking institutions under state supervision in ten states have closed.

"The recommendation for federal guaranty of deposits is made pursuant to a statute which makes it the duty of the comptroller of the currency to recommend to congress any amendment to the laws relative to banking by which the system may be improved and the security of the holders of its notes and other creditors may be increased."

"The main arguments presented by the comptroller in favor of the adoption of the guaranty law are:

"First: That it would bring from its hiding places many millions of dollars of hoarded money in all parts of the country.

"Second: That such a guaranty law will afford complete security to some sixteen million depositors in the national banks, whose balances amount to \$5,000 or less.

"Third: That such a law would largely prevent in the future runs on national banks, with the disturbances and panics which they sometimes precipitate.

"Fourth: That the application of this law would contribute more to the unification and solidarity of the entire banking system than anything else that could be done at this time.

"The records show that in the past five years the amount of money which was tied up—the greater part of it only temporarily and some permanently—by bank failures and suspensions amounted to approximately 75 million dollars. The comptroller mentions the case of one bank which failed 27 years ago whose affairs were so badly tangled that the final dividend in liquidation has not yet been paid.

"The comptroller states that the plan which he is advocating for the guaranty of bank deposits has the approval of the secretary of the treasury, the chairmen of the banking and currency committees of the senate and house of representatives, and, including its ex-officio members, of a majority individually of the members of the federal reserve board."

CHARLES WARREN FAIRBANKS

The death of Charles Warren Fairbanks removes one of the really big men of the nation.

Although it was as vice-president that he was best known to the general public, his greatest services were performed as member of the American-British joint commission which dealt with questions of boundaries, Alaska fisheries and similar vexing and delicate points.

As a candidate for political honors he was temperamentally unable to create the intense fervor and enthusiasm which usually marks a heated campaign, but his qualities as a man and as an extremely useful and able public official mark him as one whose name will always be remembered gratefully.—Wichita Beacon.

FRANCE FORBIDS ALCOHOLIC DRINKS IN THE WAR ZONE

A Paris dispatch, dated June 3, says: A decree was issued yesterday by the French army authorities categorically forbidding the selling or consumption of alcoholic drinks in the war zone. Violations of this order will be strictly punished.