

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.

The Gulf Bridged

The coming of prohibition will be a real blessing to the Americans of German birth and descent—it will bridge the gulf that has separated them from the rest of the people. German brewers have used the German American Alliance to make a language barrier between the German Americans and their neighbors. The liquor interests have tried to keep their countrymen in beer gardens talking about the fatherland and denouncing the so-called "temperance fanatics" when they should have been mingling with their fellow citizens and cooperating in improving social conditions.

The end has come; with the exit of this sordid and conscienceless group that grew rich by poisoning the minds as well as the bodies of their brothers, the men and women of Teuton stock can become a part of living, aspiring, progressive America.

The boys, returning from the army, will bring back the spirit of comradeship and, having learned the fallacy of the argument that beer is a necessity, will enter upon the sober work of citizenship with clear brains, steady nerves and a hope that they have before not

known. Prohibition will be a boon to all—to none more than to German Americans.

W. J. BRYAN.

IT SURPASSES EXPECTATION

One million men in France—who would have believed it possible. And less than 300 lost at sea—thanks to Daniels. Where are the critics who found fault with the war department and with the secretary of the navy? Baker and Daniels have made good.

No wonder the President is pleased with his cabinet. The republicans will find difficulty in convincing the country that their party could have done better.

DEMOCRACY

In this country the child of the humblest citizen can, if he improves his opportunities, aspire to the highest positions in business or state. We must keep the way open between the child and the stars.

GEORGIA NO. 13

For once at least 13 is NOT an unlucky number. Georgia is state No. 13 to ratify the prohibition amendment and thus takes a higher place on the Roll of Honor than those that come later.

THE PROFITEER

On another page will be found a report on profiteering. Until profiteering can be PREVENTED the excess profits can be taken away by taxation—but it is better to prevent them.

SENATOR FORD

Why not? Michigan could not do better than send Mr. Ford to the senate. He has measured up to every responsibility in peace and war. Here's to Senator Ford.

The kaiser has been in the habit of shouting "Onward with God!" whenever his army has gained an advantage. Will he shout "Backward with God," as his soldiers retreat in northern Italy?

The opportune rise in the Piave river just in time to route the Austrians has so overjoyed the people of the United States that it will be a long time before anyone complains of a flood.

Bank Guaranty

The Commercial and Financial Chronicle of New York is making the usual Wall street attack on the proposed bank guaranty law. (It will be found on another page.) The Wall street banks voluntarily give special security to cover deposits made by the federal government, the state governments, the city governments and the school districts, but they protest against securing the small depositors who need it most. They join together in insuring the stockholders against the burglars on the outside of the bank, but consider it a hardship to join together in protecting depositors against the burglars on the inside.

The bank's business rests on PERSONAL SECURITY, and it does not hesitate to bankrupt a farmer or a merchant who has given security for another but it cries out against the injustice of making all banks contribute to a fund to secure all depositors.

But bank guaranty will come in spite of their squirming, just as postal savings banks came in spite of their opposition. More strength to your arm, Comptroller Williams.

W. J. BRYAN.

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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.
- 13—GEORGIA, June 26, 1918.