

Catholic Society for Prohibition

Resolutions unanimously adopted at the 47th annual convention of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of Illinois, held in St. Philip Neri hall, Sunday, June 23, 1918. Chicago, Illinois:

"Grateful to Almighty God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon us during the past year, we, the members of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of Illinois in convention assembled, again renew our filial devotion to Holy Mother church and with all the vigor at our command we earnestly pledge our undivided loyalty and support to our illustrious and peerless President, Woodrow Wilson, in his noble efforts to establish and maintain human liberty and democracy for all mankind.

"We keenly rejoice at the great progress the holy cause of temperance and sobriety has made throughout the world since our last annual convention.

"It is indeed consoling to know that today, amidst the din of battle, and the roar of cannon, the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in every land, but particularly in our own, has been greatly curtailed and its evils lessened to such an extent, as to cause our fighting forces, the pride of our country and the hope of the world, to be more efficient in the discharge of their patriotic duties, and their general conduct more exemplary whether training at home or achieving military fame and glory on the fields of Marne or on the heights of Verdun.

"We heartily commend the secretaries of the army and navy for what they have done in raising the morale of their respective branches of government by eliminating from training camps all sources of evil, and prohibiting liquor dealers from selling or giving intoxicating drinks to young men honored by wearing the American uniform, the grandest costume in all the world.

"We congratulate congress for passing the constitutional prohibition Amendment and look forward with pleasure to the happy day when more than the necessary three-fourths of the states will triumphantly ratify same. And to this end we urge upon our Catholic voters the necessity of co-operating with our non-Catholic brethren in electing to the various legislatures, as occasion requires, only those whom they believe will loyally support a measure ratifying and confirming said amendment.

"We rejoice at the decision of the supreme court of Oklahoma granting the constitutional right of the church to procure wine for sacramental purposes, a right that we sincerely hope will never again be questioned on American soil.

"Believing, as should be apparent to all in this important crisis in our country's history, that the conservation and preservation of all food materials are highly essential to the success of the ennobling cause for which our armies are now contending on the battlefields of Europe, we call upon congress to immediately pass such legislation as will prevent the further waste of food material during the continuance of the present war.

"We note with pleasure the ever increasing number of our leading Catholic publications and also of our Catholic people, who are becoming interested in the success of measures having for their object the complete destruction of the liquor traffic. We firmly believe that with the aid and

co-operation of our Catholic press and Catholic citizenship, the evil and blighting influences of the liquor traffic would soon disappear, and so would earnestly urge upon all whose positions in the commercial, professional and social life of our country entitle them to prominence, to continue taking an active and energetic part in ridding our nation of the saloon and its attendant evils.

"We are extremely grateful to his Grace, the Most Reverend George W. Mundelein, the beloved Archbishop of Chicago, for the splendid encouragement given our work during the past year, and we take this opportunity to publicly congratulate him on his splendid achievements, not only in the religious life of the Archdiocese, but in every field of endeavor that goes to make for sobriety, civic righteousness and generally a higher standard of citizenship. May God spare him to the people of Chicago, whose spiritual destinies he so admirably guides, is our fond and earnest prayer.

"We are also indebted to many priests in Chicago and elsewhere for their zeal and activity in keeping before the public the many advantages and never failing virtues of a sober and temperate life. We feel confident that with the active co-operation of the clergy and the laity in this noble work, the many vices and evils following in the wake of intemperance would soon disappear, that our city would soon be filled with happy and contented homes, that the world would be a brighter and happier place in which to live, that love, prosperity and peace everywhere would reign supreme, making our existence here an earthly paradise like unto that life beyond where we are told life is perfect and joy complete. Respectfully submitted,

"Wm. J. Kinsella, P. B. Flanagan, Chas. V. Ogden, John J. Brennan, John F. Cunneen."

VETO FOR INCREASE IN PRICE OF WHEAT

A Washington dispatch, dated July 12, says: In vetoing the \$28,000,000 annual agricultural appropriation bill because of its amendment fixing the government guaranteed minimum wheat price at \$2.40 a bushel, the President informed congress today that he did not believe the farmers of America "depend upon a stimulation of price to do their utmost to serve the nation and the world at this time of crisis." The President said the patriotic spirit of the farmers has been "worthy of all praise and has shown them playing a most admirable and gratifying part in the full mobilization of the resources of the country." He added that the bumper crops they have raised this year have relieved "the anxiety of the nations arrayed against Germany."

Congress was informed the President did not believe that such inelastic price provisions as contained in the bill could be administered in a way that would be advantageous to the producer and consumer because they establish arbitrary levels which are quite independent of the normal market conditions. The administrative method in fixing prices, he said, has been entirely satisfactory and should be continued.

A fixed minimum price of \$2.40 a bushel, the President said, would increase the price of flour from \$10.50 to \$12.50 a barrel and would put an additional burden of \$387,000,000 this year on the consumers. Such an increase in price, he said, would force a similar increase in Canada, thus enlarging the whole scale of financial operations in this country and by the allied governments and affecting practically the entire world.

Coal Operators Ask for War Prohibition

A Washington special, dated July 12, says: The National Coal Association, composed of bituminous operators, has submitted to the fuel administrator a plan for speeding up coal production, in which it recommends nationwide prohibition of liquor for the period of the war as a means to the end desired. The plan with its prohibition recommendation has been laid before President Wilson by Fuel Administrator Garfield. The war, it is declared, can not be waged with the most important industrial activity handicapped by the drink habit among its millions of employes.

The operators' committee has also addressed a personal letter to all senators and representatives, laying down the argument that the country can not have both liquor and its necessary amount of coal next winter. The situation, it is urged, is critical now and immediate relief must be sought in the way indicated.

Supported by Statistics.

The committee has in its possession recent statistics to show that the liquor traffic is regularly curtailing the production of coal in practically every mining section. Operators complain that after every pay day there is great difficulty in making up labor crews because men take three or four days to have a spree and loaf around drinking places and in a great majority of cases remain away from work to recover from the effects of drink.

Many who get back in less time are unfit for good work and for a week are seriously incapacitated for normal service, it is asserted.

The statistics cover wide areas in Illinois, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, where comparisons can be made for a period of two or three years between the output of "dry" and "wet" territory. The men who recover, the committee declares, with greater constancy and correspondingly larger output in every case in "dry" sections. The normal output of the bituminous coal industry is 400,000,000 tons and this year, in view of the speeding up of war industries the mark is set for an increase in this total of 100,000,000 tons. The operators agree, almost unanimously, that this can never be attained or even hoped for with drink conditions as they now are.

Statement by Hamilton.

A. R. Hamilton of Pittsburgh, chairman of the committee, made this statement on the committee's action:

"Our committee is composed of practical operating men, representing all the principal producing districts of the country. They are men of all shades of personal opinion. Some come from "wet" states, some from "dry" states and some from states partly "wet" and partly "dry." They all told their stores and presented their figures to show not only the relative efficiency of the mines as between "wet" and "dry" states, but the difficulties of working out any practical benefits from drink restriction along the border line between "wet" and "dry" territory. The result was a determined and unqualified stand for national prohibition.

"The committee feels that the drinking evil has become so rampant in the mining communities that its complete elimination is fundamentally necessary in the effort to speed up the mines sufficiently to get the 100,000,000 additional tons of coal this country will require this year. It is now up to congress to make a clean cut choice between booze for the min-

ing communities and coal for the war and the public."

A MIGHTY CHANGE OF OPINION

Six years ago last January, Frank H. Hitchcock, postmaster general in the cabinet of President Taft, recommended national ownership of all telegraph lines. He was promptly repudiated by his superiors and his party, and for a time it was thought that he might be forced to resign. His successor in office, Albert S. Burleson, advocated the same policy for five years, meeting nothing but fierce opposition.

Now, under the stress of war and with an inexcusable strike threatened, we find a recommendation by Mr. Burleson, supported by the President, that the government take over the telegraphs and telephones accepted almost everywhere by the people as logical and necessary.

The American people are pledged to win the war at any cost. As they are sacrificing life and treasure to that end, so will they surrender, if need be, many theories and traditions to which they have tightly held. Whether the great renunciation in these matters is to be permanent or only temporary, like our vast armaments and almost incredible expenditures, must be left to time and experience.—New York World.

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