

WIRE TO WASHINGTON

If the Senate has not acted on the War Prohibition bill when The Commoner reaches you, wire the Senate in care of one of your senators, urging war prohibition. A telegram now will help to banish the saloon and help to win the war.

VIVA, GOVERNOR PLEASANT

The Spanish have a word, viva, which means "live," or "life to." It is used as our word hurrah is, but is more euphonious and more expressive.

The Commoner uses it to cheer and commend the chief executive of Louisiana who has just won such a signal victory for the prohibition amendment. Throwing all the influence of his high office and his strong personality on the side of ratification, he secured at the regular session a favorable vote in the house. In the senate the vote, owing to one vacancy, was a tie, and the press announced that Louisiana had rejected the amendment. But a courageous spirit like Governor Pleasant is not so easily baffled. He immediately called a special election to fill the vacancy and then called a special session of the legislature so that a full vote could be had. He now enjoys his reward. The senator chosen at the special election voted dry and Louisiana becomes state No. 14 on the Roll of Honor.

Bravo, governor; you deserve the gratitude of your state and the plaudits of the nation.

W. J. BRYAN.

REPUBLICAN POLITICS

It is very evident that the republican leaders are determined to do their best to take congress. If they can convince the voters to substitute a republican congress for a democratic congress this year they will be encouraged to hope for the election of a republican president in 1920. They say that a republican congress well help to win the war; will they tell the public how a republican congress would distribute the burdens of taxation? That is an important issue.

LOUISIANA FALLS IN LINE

Louisiana ratified the national prohibition constitutional amendment August 8. The vote in the senate was twenty-two to twenty-one, and the house, sixty-nine to forty-one. Thus Louisiana, always classed as a wet state, takes a high place on the roll of honor of the states that have voted to banish the liquor curse from the nation. Good for Louisiana. Next!

WATTERSON RETIRES

The retirement of Col. Henry Watterson from active newspaper work removes from the journalistic arena one of its most picturesque figures. He was a fighter by nature and he cultivated the art for a lifetime. Peace to the warrior—in his hand the pen was mightier than the sword. May the sunset days be his happiest.

MERIT REWARDED

The renomination of James in Kentucky, Owen in Oklahoma, Sheppard in Texas and Thompson in Kansas would indicate that the democrats are putting up their best men this year. And Missouri has done well in presenting Folk for the senate.

MILLIONS FOR DEFENSE AGAINST GERMANY BUT NOT ONE SOUL FOR TRIBUTE TO THE LIQUOR INTERESTS.

LIQUOR DEALERS AT WORK

Following is a copy of a letter, reproduced in the Christian Advocate, which is being sent to those engaged in the liquor business:

"To all our Associates in Business—Buyers and Sellers alike in the trades affected.

"Gentlemen: Please telegraph to the two U. S. Senators from your state to fight and vote against the 'Norris Amendment' which tries to introduce nation wide and absolute prohibition.

"Ask your bank or banks to do the same. Also request your bank or banks to telegraph protests against the 'Norris Amendment' to Hon. Wm. G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury, and to Hon. F. M. Simmons, U. S. senate, chairman of the senate finance committee, explaining in these telegrams the ruinous consequences to all whiskies in bond, none of which could be withdrawn for beverage purposes after the passage of the proposed law, and the consequent disaster to bank loans secured by whiskey.

"Ask all your friends to telegraph protests to their U. S. senators.

"Immediate, energetic action by all is imperative. Only countrywide pressure can avert the impending calamity.

"Send telegrams at once—do not fail—do not delay.

"Yours truly,
"BUDDE & WESTERMANN."

THE NEW ERA

Have you noticed the kind of men who are coming into politics with the advent of prohibition? Keep your eyes on them, they are the growing kind. With the overthrow of the saloon the country gets rid of the most corrupting influence of modern times and enters upon a new era.

FORWARD—MARCH

The Allies march forward. It is at the cost of many precious lives, but that is war. If we can win a peace that will end war forever and make democracy triumphant around the world, the dead will not have died in vain.

If ex-Governor Ferguson will examine the ballots cast by the women of Texas at the recent primary he will have personal reasons for distrusting the feminine judgment. The women did not have to wait until the investigation to find out where the \$156,000 came from. They guessed the source.

If any one doubts that "the way of the transgressor is hard," let him consult ex-Governor Ferguson of Texas. His experience is but another illustration of the truth of this moral precept.

When congress passes national prohibition we will get a new and increased admiration for the water power of the country as an aid to fitting men for war service.

Christ has been called the First Great Democrat—that may be why the kaiser never mentions his name.

The kaiser does not seem to be taking God with him as he retreats.

Hats off to the Sammies—the greatest soldiers in the world.

PRESIDENT DENOUNCES MOB VIOLENCE

President Wilson issued the following statement July 26:

My Fellow Countrymen:

I take the liberty of addressing you upon a subject which so vitally affects the honor of the nation and the very character and integrity of our institutions that I trust you will think me justified in speaking very plainly about it.

I allude to the mob spirit which has recently here and there very frequently shown its head amongst us, not in any single region, but in many and widely separated parts of the country. There have been many lynchings, and every one of them has been a blow at the heart of ordered law and humane justice. No man who loves America, no man who really cares for her fame and honor and character, or who is truly loyal to her institutions, can justify mob action while the courts of justice are open and the governments of the states and the nation are ready and able to do their duty. We are at this very moment fighting lawless passion. Germany has outlawed herself among the nations because she has disregarded the sacred obligations of law and has made lynchers of her armies. Lynchers emulate her disgraceful example. I, for my part, am anxious to see every community in America rise above that level with pride and a fixed resolution which no man or set of men can afford to despise.

CLAIM TO BE CHAMPIONS OF DEMOCRACY.

We proudly claim to be the champions of democracy. If we really are, in deed and in truth, let us see to it that we do not discredit our own. I say plainly that every American who takes part in the action of a mob or gives it any sort of countenance is no true son of this great democracy, but its betrayer, and does more to discredit her by that single disloyalty to her standards of law and of right than the words of her statesmen or the sacrifices of her heroic boys in the trenches can do to make suffering peoples believe her to be their savior. How shall we commend democracy to the acceptance of other peoples, if we disgrace our own by proving that it is, after all, no protection to the weak? Every mob contributes to German lies about the United States what her most gifted liars can not improve upon by the way of calumny. They can at least say that such things can not happen in Germany except in times of revolution, when law is swept away!

I therefore very earnestly and solemnly beg that the governors of all the states, the law officers of every community, and, above all, the men and women of every community in the United States, all who revere America and wish to keep her name without stain or reproach, will co-operate—not passively merely, but actively and watchfully—to make an end of this disgraceful evil. It can not live where the community does not countenance it.

I have called upon the nation to put its great energy into this war and it has responded—

AMERICAN LIVES ARE TOO PRECIOUS TO BE AUCTIONED TO THE SALOONS IN RETURN FOR LICENSE FEES OR A LIQUOR TAX.