

responded with a spirit and a genius for action that has thrilled the world. I now call upon it, upon its men and women everywhere, to see that its laws are kept inviolate, its fame untarnished. Let us show our utter contempt for the things that have made this war hideous among the wars of history by showing how those who love liberty and right and justice and are willing to lay down their lives for them upon foreign fields stand ready also to illustrate to all mankind their loyalty to the things at home which they wish to see established everywhere as a blessing and protection to the peoples who have never known the privileges of liberty and self-government. I can never accept any man as a champion of liberty either for ourselves or for the world who does not reverence and obey the laws of our beloved land, whose laws we ourselves have made. He has adopted the standards of the enemies of his country, whom he affects to despise.

WOODROW WILSON.

Whether at the primaries or at the polls the voter's most impressive duty is to distinguish between the man who has a real program of economic, moral and political reforms and the one who insists that he be taken at the high value he puts upon his own patriotism. It is highly essential that while the war is in progress only men are placed in positions of power who are intent upon placing the public interest first. This war will not last many years longer, possibly the end will come before the men to be elected this fall have finished their terms, and it is vitally essential that there be men in public office who have a real basic program upon which the work of reconstruction can be built.

One of the problems connected with the winning of the war is that the various states will, if the officers and legislators have vision enough to catch the real meaning of the phrase, find it necessary to consider and solve during the next six months will be how to protect the \$18 a week man with a family from being engulfed in a sea of debt. It is difficult for a man, no matter how patriotic he is, to keep his whole energies bent on winning the war when he knows what is happening to his larder at home as the result of other men's greed in trying to make profits out of the fact that the nation is at war.

When John Sherman said that the way to resume was to resume, he pointed the way to a great many persons who talk a great deal about what ought to be done, but go no further. The way to stop profiteering in the nation and in the states is to adopt means by which profiteering can be stopped. That is to deprive the toll-takers on the road from producers to consumers by building a new and more direct road for the products of the farm to travel to the tables of the consumers.

The government has taken over control of the telephone and telegraph and all other wire communicating companies, and the opinion of a great many intelligent observers is that by the time the government gets through with the consolidations and connectings up it will have made it impossible for an unscrambling ever to occur. Which is another thing for the general public not to worry over.

The democratic state convention of Nebraska was advised by a United States senator, a national committeeman, the governor and a candidate for United States senator not to adopt or to favor any economic program or present the same to the people. And yet there are people who say there are no reactionaries in the democracy.

Old-time republicans are beginning to be suspicious of the competency of the youthful gentleman from Indiana who was named as national chairman six months ago. Mr. Hays has as yet failed to state that there is no doubt but that the solid south will be shortly broken up by the growth of republican sentiment.

There are a lot of German generals who have doubtless begun to wonder, after having witnessed what General Foch terms a counter-attack, what a real offensive by the allies will mean to the fatherland.

Apache scouts are doing excellent work with General Pershing's army in France. Maybe this was the American force that the kaiser has been telling his people is so small in numbers.

War Prohibition

[Statement of William Jennings Bryan in support of war prohibition, before the agricultural committee of the United States senate.]

Mr. Bryan. Mr. Chairman, will you tell me just how much time I have?

The Chairman. You have now nineteen minutes left to present the views of the proponents of the amendment.

Mr. Bryan. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: When I realize how short a time those have had who have spoken before me, I realize that you are very generous with me; and I know how difficult it is for anyone interested on either side to present anything like a complete argument in so short a time.

But those who have spoken after Miss Gordon have been relieved of some embarrassment by reason of the fact that she went over the ground so fully in the brief time she used that what we say who come after her is merely exhortation. I desire my speech to be regarded rather as a brief argument in support of what she so well presented as the representative of the 450,000 women who have now for more than a generation been seeking to emancipate this country from what they believe to be its greatest curse, the drink evil.

Let me say in the beginning that it is hardly possible that we shall be able to convert each other on this question. In order to act, it is not necessary for the members of this committee to have unanimous consent; they will not obtain unanimous consent from those opposed to prohibition any more than they would secure unanimous approval of those in favor of prohibition if they decided to reject this amendment.

The difference of opinion on the liquor question is very deep-seated. I take it for granted that we all will make allowances for individual opinions on the subject of prohibition, when we consider the weight of arguments advanced pro and con.

For instance we have had an appeal from a man connected with the brewery workers union. It is needless to say that no argument that could be made on our side would ever convince a man engaged in the brewing business, or representing those who gain their livelihood from it. No arguments that we could present would convince him that prohibition is a good thing now, or that it would ever be a good thing, for he based his argument upon the theory that beer is a necessity.

But I think you have a right to consider this fact, viz: that those for whom he speaks do not represent all of the members of the American Federation of Labor. You have the right to take into consideration also the fact that when that federation met it confronted not only the possibility, but even the probability—I might say, the certainty—of national prohibition. If they had anything to say in favor of beer as a necessary form of food, if they had anything to say against the wiping out of both the manufacture and sale of beer, the time to speak was when that convention, representing the federation, was in session.

He said that they learned of the war prohibition movement about an hour and a half before they adjourned. The members of that convention knew that war prohibition had been discussed. They knew that a year ago a bill passed the house, which, when it passed the house, included beer as well as whiskey; and it passed by almost a unanimous vote.

And they knew that it was stricken out in the senate only because the representatives of the beer industry were able to frighten the country; they threatened to prolong debate and delay the passage of the food bill. To prevent delay, beer was dropped out; and because it was dropped out, the brewing interests have had over a year now that they would not have had if that bill had passed the senate as it passed the house.

Senator Gronna. I think it is only fair to say that the bill was favorably reported from the committee on agriculture to the senate.

Mr. Bryan. Yes, that makes it stronger.

Senator Thompson. And I want to call your attention to senate bill 2357, which I introduced myself on May 24, 1917, and which was also favorably reported to the senate.

Mr. Bryan. Yes. These people secured a lease of life for one year in that way; and they did it because the friends of prohibition were more

patriotic than the enemies of prohibition; the friends of prohibition were still willing to eliminate the beer clause in order to hasten the passage of the food bill.

The members of the American Federation of Labor knew that this question was before the country; and they might have acted on war prohibition, had they thought it wise to act. They certainly knew that national prohibition was before the country, and that 12 states had already ratified the prohibition amendment; and that five of those states were wet when that amendment was submitted.

Facing the almost certain adoption of the national amendment, the laboring men, if they had any protest to make, ought to have made it in convention. These officials assume to speak for the labor organizations of this country, and you know that some of the labor organizations were not only not represented in the list which that speaker gave, but are in favor of prohibition.

Take, for instance, the railroad organizations, which represent, I suppose, the largest of the organized labor organizations. Those organizations are not fighting prohibition; some of them have declared for prohibition.

These facts ought to be taken into consideration when you consider the statement made by the representative of the brewery workers.

A word about Mr. Colby. Mr. Colby says he is afraid that this amendment, if adopted, will affect shipbuilding injuriously. As Bishop Cannon very well said, it is better to rely on history than prediction. It is better to take facts than guesses as to the future—an ounce of experience is worth a pound of prophecy. The facts are that where we have prohibition the efficiency of labor has not been decreased, but on the contrary has been increased. The facts are that shipbuilding is carried on more rapidly without intoxicating liquor than with intoxicating liquor.

For instance, at Mare Island, it was made dry, and they got out their ships there on record time. Does anybody say that they would have done better at Mare Island had those people been allowed to have liquor? Bishop Cannon also gives the experience down in Virginia; and here we have this telegram from Massachusetts which has been read to the committee.

Secretary Daniels declares that the dry shipyards at Charleston, Portsmouth and Bremerton show increased efficiency.

If you will take the experience of Great Britain, you will find that they had this same matter to deal with, and that they met the same opposition that we have had. Those advocating prohibition over there have been able to show what the actual effect of intoxicating liquor is. The premier, Lloyd George, standing before parliament, gave the statistics to show that the effect of intoxicating liquor upon men making ammunition caused a loss of 150,000 men's work a day, at the time when Great Britain's life was trembling in the balance. Lloyd George is also responsible for the statement that Great Britain is fighting Germany, Austria, and drink; and then he added, that so far as he can see, the greatest of these enemies is drink. If we want to invoke the experience in Europe, that is the experience over there.

But, while Mr. Colby's argument would seem to be completely answered by experience in Europe, as well as in this country, the advocates of war prohibition can easily meet his objection. If Mr. Colby is convinced that the efficiency of the men working in the shipyards will be increased by the use of intoxicants why does he not ask for an exception in their favor? It is not necessary to continue saloons everywhere in order to supply liquor to the men in the shipyards under the control of this board. If a mustard plaster is needed it is applied—not to the whole body but only to the diseased part; why not follow the same course here. If the committee is impressed by his argument, the war prohibition amendment can include an exception in favor of employees of war work boards whenever such boards present to the President a written request for the sale of intoxicants to their employees in such quantities and under such conditions as the board shall prescribe, provided the President approves their request.

This is not a sectional question. Some people speak of it as if it might be sectional and say that we should consider the interests of the wine

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