

The Commoner

ISSUED MONTHLY

Entered at the Postoffice at Lincoln, Nebraska, as second-class matter.

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Edit. Rms. and Business Office, Suite 207 Press Bldg.

One Year.....\$1.00 Three Months......25
Six Months......50 Single Copy......10
In Clubs of Five or Sample Copies Free.
more per year... 75 Foreign Post, 25c Extra.

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THE COMMONER, LINCOLN, NEB.

And New York, also? This is TOO much.

The "concert of power" has a musical sound, but suppose some of the choir get off the tune.

The enforcement law will not be turned over to the care of any wet nurse—the real mother will raise this child.

The wails and groans now heard from the wets are simply the after pains. The child is born and the suffering will gradually decrease.

The secret treaties that are now coming to light show how easy it used to be to give away other people's property in the dark.

It was the votes of the WOMEN—God bless them—that made New York ratify. No wonder the wet politicians oppose woman suffrage.

Is it the rich of Newport or the poor of Providence that are responsible for Rhode Island's backwardness on the prohibition question?

Wonder if the President knew about all those secret treaties when he put that clause in the fourteen conditions. If not, he made a mighty good guess.

Ratification got on the front page of the eastern papers for two days and then it dropped back to a few lines in the last column of the fifteenth page.

The wets might have controlled one state if they could have put Milwaukee, St. Louis and Cincinnati in one commonwealth without any country district to offset them.

At last accounts the kaiser was still writing away at a furious rate. As he has apparently been a failure at everything else, maybe he will produce something worth reading.

A wet legislator has introduced a bill to create a separate state named "Liberty," to be composed of New York City and a few nearby counties. Why not call it Personal Liberty.

Shooting a revolutionist may become necessary just as a limb sometimes has to be amputated to save the body, but it is better to begin earlier and get the poison out of the blood. Reforms prevent revolution.

That Whistler oil painting for which an American recently paid \$200,000 turns out to be "The Bar Maid." That explains it. Some of the rich New Yorkers will soon be willing to give more than that for anything that will remind them of a saloon.

Premier Hughes of Australia seems inclined to speak slightly of the United States' part in the war. He says we entered at the eleventh hour. So much the more credit for the haste that enabled us to have more soldiers in France than Great Britain had when the armistice was signed.

Nebraska 36

To Nebraska goes the honor of casting the thirty-sixth and decisive vote for the ratification of the national prohibition constitutional amendment. On the final day, January 16, a pretty race for the premier honor was staged between Nebraska, Missouri and Wyoming, but at 10:32 a. m. Nebraska completed the legislative process when the senate voted to concur in the house amendment to a senate joint resolution providing for ratification. The only vote cast against the resolution in either house was by Senator John M. Tanner, democrat, whose seat was won by only six votes, and whose election is being contested.

Missouri missed the goal by a narrow margin. A short time after Nebraska finished the task, it passed the Missouri senate by a vote 22 to 10, and the house by 104 to 36. Wyoming ratified later in the day by unanimous vote.

Although the vote for ratification in both houses of the Nebraska legislature was practically unanimous, the state almost lost its place as one of the thirty-six through friendly rivalry between the two branches of the legislature. A ratification bill was introduced in each branch of the legislature, and each desired that its own particular resolution should be the one that was to be passed as the joint act of the legislature.

On the morning of January 15, the day before the final ratification by Nebraska, the following telegram was received by the associate editor of The Commoner:

"Chicago, Ill., Jan. 15, 1919.

"Charles W. Bryan, Lincoln Nebraska:

"Thirty-one states ratified. Five, including Wisconsin, probably ratify today. Nebraska must not fail below thirty-six. Please confer with governor immediately, have certificate of ratification ready, sign immediately house acts. Then send special messenger to Washington.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN."

Upon receipt of the above telegram Charles W. Bryan immediately conferred with the governor and leaders of both branches of the legislature. All were anxious that Nebraska should be one of the thirty-six states to ratify, but they were not aware that immediate action was necessary if Nebraska was to be included.

At the time the above telegram was received, the lower house had its own resolution on third reading before final passage and had passed the senate bill on second reading. If the members of the lower house had held out for their own bill, it would have taken three more days for the senate to pass the house bill and Nebraska would have lost its place on the roll of honor. Under the decision of the parliamentary leaders of the house and senate, it would take one more legislative day to pass the senate bill which would complete the ratification. Mr. Bryan, in order to save time, suggested that the house convene at five minutes past midnight on the night of January 15 and place the senate bill on its final passage under the legislative day, January 16. While this plan seemed to be satisfactory to the house leaders, and while they were conferring on the subject, an amendment was offered to the senate bill by a member of the house attaching the names of the authors of the house bill to the senate bill. This amendment was passed by the house, which made it necessary for the bill to again go to the senate for the senate's acceptance of the amendment. As the senate was not in session, and would not be until the following morning, and no time could be gained by holding the midnight session, the house adjourned until 9 a. m., January 16.

Immediately upon convening the house completed its part of the ratification, and the senate was waiting for the house to send over its amended bill, so that no time was lost by the senate hurrying through its acceptance of the house amendment, which completed the ratification at 10:32 a. m., January 16.

The lieutenant-governor, who was presiding in the senate, had made all necessary arrangements to expedite the signing of the ratification bill, and the governor had the certificate prepared in advance ready for signing to be forwarded to the secretary of state at Washington. While Nebraska was the thirty-sixth state to pass the ratification legislation, it was the twenty-first state to get its certificate in the hands of Acting Secretary of State Polk at Washington.

The dry forces of Nebraska are jubilant over the fact that Nebraska delivered the final knock-

GONE DOWN FOR THE LAST TIME



Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
John Barleycorn is sent below!

—Exchange.

out blow to John Barleycorn and feel that they have been well repaid for their continuous activity during the past six years in behalf of a dry Nebraska and a sploonsless United States.

Hereafter, in Nebraska, no person born in a foreign country can participate in any election until he has obtained full citizenship which means at least five years' residence. The constitution formerly permitted voting after six months' residence. The fact that Nebraska is now a dry state, with her erstwhile brewers engaged in other business, makes it unnecessary to have a constant supply of newly-arrived immigrants for voting purposes.

The German brewers are going to ask the Americans for more grain—they want to improve their beer. Let us hope that some plan will be adopted by which the export of foodstuffs for such a purpose be VOLUNTARY. Step up, gentleman—all who want to take bread from their children and send it to the brewers of Germany, here is your chance.

Ralph Pulitzer writes that drunken soldiers, some of them officers, are giving the people of Paris a bad opinion of the United States, but his paper, the New York World, is leading the fight for booze in the United States. He ought to make his editorials harmonize with his news columns.

The wets have always been pleased to class prohibition as one of the "blue laws." Yet Connecticut, the home of the original famous blue laws, has been the only state thus far that has refused to ratify the national prohibition constitutional amendment.

On another page will be found a strong editorial written by W. R. Hearst for his papers. It is a song of rejoicing and strikes a high note. Will the other New York editors follow Mr. Hearst's example or will they continue to mourn the death of John Barleycorn and slander those who supported prohibition?

When the people of a city vote to give a gas company a franchise to do business and furnish illumination therein we presume it would be perfectly proper, in referring to the result, to say that a light vote was cast.

SHAME ON NEW YORK DEMOCRACY

New York's democracy in the legislature put a final stain on the party's honor when it "died in the ditch" with the saloons—and it did so not only after forty-three states had ratified the amendment but when it was certain that the Empire state would cast in her lot with the friends of the amendment.

The liquor interests must have had a firm grip on the souls of these men to be able to compel them to defy the conscience of the state when they knew they were impotent to stay the tide that has overwhelmed the traffic in strong drink. Now that this corrupting force is dead is it not possible for the democrats of New York to reorganize and put the party in that state in line with the progressive thought of the country? We have important work before us. Will New York democrats help, or must reforms continue to come in spite of them?

W. J. BRYAN.