

## Harding Begins Well

President Harding's inaugural address will make a favorable impression on the country. He renews his pledge to aid in securing international co-operation for disarmament and world peace. Two quotations indicate the thoughts uppermost in his mind; co-operation in counsel, and independence in action.

"We are ready," he says, "to associate ourselves with the nations of the world, great and small, for conference, for counsel, to seek the expressed views of world opinion, to recommend a way to approximate disarmament and relieve the crushing burdens of military and naval establishments. We elect to participate in suggesting plans for mediation, conciliation and arbitration and would gladly join in that expressed conscience of progress, which seeks to clarify and write the laws of international relationship, and establish a world court for the disposition of such justiciable questions as nations are agreed to submit thereto. In expressing aspirations, in seeking practical plans, in translating humanity's new concept of righteousness, justice and its hatred of war into recommended action we are ready most heartily to unite, but every commitment must be made in the exercise of our national sovereignty."

Also: "We sense the call of the human heart for fellowship, fraternity and co-operation. We crave friendship and harbor no hate. But America, our America, the America builded on the foundation laid by the inspired fathers, can be a party to no permanent military alliance. It can enter into no political commitments nor assume any economic obligations or subject our decisions to any other than our own authority."

He speaks encouragingly of conciliation in labor disputes:

"I had rather submit our industrial controversies to the conference table in advance than to a settlement table after conflict and suffering. The earth is thirsting for the cup of good will. Understanding is its fountain source. I would like to acclaim an era of good feeling amid dependable prosperity and all the blessings which attend."

And here is an indictment of profiteering that would indicate an intention to deal firmly with this national evil:

"If, despite this attitude, war is again forced upon us, I earnestly hope a way may be found, which will unify our individual and collective strength and consecrate all America materially and spiritually, body and soul, to national defense. I can vision the ideal republic where every man and woman is called under the flag for assignment to duty, for whatever service, military or civic, the individual is best fitted; where we may call to universal service every plant, agency or a facility, all in the sublime sacrifice for country and NOT ONE PENNY OF WAR PROFIT SHALL INURE TO THE BENEFIT OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL, CORPORATION AND COMBINATION, BUT ALL ABOVE THE NORMAL SHALL FLOW INTO THE DEFENSE CHEST OF THE NATION. THERE IS SOMETHING INHERENTLY WRONG, SOMETHING OUT OF ACCORD WITH THE IDEALS OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY WHEN ONE PORTION OF OUR CITIZENSHIP TURNS ITS ACTIVITY TO PRIVATE GAIN AMID DEFENSIVE WAR WHILE ANOTHER IS FIGHTING, SACRIFICING OR DYING FOR NATIONAL PRESERVATION."

His views on the tariff are orthodox, speaking from the Republican standpoint, but there is a ray of hope in his recognition of the fact that we must buy if we would sell.

The conclusion is as fine a combination of noble sentiments as can be found in the whole history of inaugural addresses. He proclaims service as "the supreme commitment of life" and follows this with an acknowledgment of his trust in God and of his faith in popular government. The boys in school will be using for declamation the closing words:

"Service is the supreme commitment of life. I would rejoice to acclaim the era of the Golden Rule and crown it with the autocracy of service. I pledge an administration wherein all the agencies of government are called to serve and ever promote an understanding of government purely as an expression of the popular will.

"One cannot stand in this presence and be unmindful of the tremendous responsibility. The world upheaval has added heavily to our tasks, but with the realization comes the surge of high resolve and there is reassurance in belief in the

God-given destiny of our republic. If I felt that there is to be sole responsibility in the executive for the America of tomorrow, I should shrink from the burden. But here are a hundred millions, with common concern and shared responsibility, answerable to God and country. The republic summons them to their duty and I invite co-operation.

"I accept my part with single-mindedness of purpose and humility of spirit and implore the favor and guidance of God in His heaven. With these I am unafraid and confidently face the future.

"I have taken the solemn oath of office on that passage of Holy writ wherein it is asked:

"What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with thy God?"

"This, I plight, to God and country."

W. J. BRYAN.

### VICTORY NOT YET FINAL

The following advertisement appeared in the Baltimore Sun on December 28, 1920:

"Consider these facts, Mr. Citizen. Then Act!

"The Volstead law is visionary, unnecessarily drastic, ineffective and blasphemous. No appropriations of public money can possibly be large enough to provide for even a semblance of enforcement. It has made law-breakers of a large proportion of our population, and is helping to create a nation of liars, sneaks and hypocrites. The illicit liquor traffic, with its new types of crimes and criminals, is a result of it. It fosters drugs and dope. It is a departure from the principles of liberty laid down by our fathers, and is an unwarranted invasion of personal rights. Its failure is breeding a disrespect for all law in the minds of our people—a serious national menace.

"It will be repealed if those opposed to it will join our association and merely let themselves be counted, so that congressmen may know how many of us there are.

"Such an association has been formed, with branches in many states. Its membership, already large, includes women and men prominent in the pulpit, in business and the professions, in society and in politics."

It shows that the fight is not yet over but such evidences of activity on the part of the wets will arouse the dries. There will be no backward step.

### LUMBER PROFITEERS

A St. Louis dispatch, dated Feb. 23 says: "Charging violation of the Sherman anti-trust laws, the government today filed in federal district court here injunction against the Southern Pine association, 61 corporations and 69 individuals.

"Granting of a permanent injunction for the purposes specified would amount to dissolution of the association, it was explained.

"The suit alleges the association has operated to curtail production to enhance prices and that as a result profits on sales of yellow pine advanced from \$6.41 a thousand feet in 1918 to \$30.45 in 1920."

The above item marks the beginning of another suit against profiteers. God-speed the courts and hasten conviction. The Federal Trade commission reports a conspiracy so unblushing as to be almost beyond belief. What is to be said in defense of our government if it is not able to protect the public from an organized raid upon the homes of the land? The crime begins in grand larceny, but the criminals must know that many lives will be sacrificed because of the exposure they compel.

Justice waits.

### MUNICIPAL TRADE COMMISSION

The city of Miami, Fla., is adopting a new city charter. One of the clauses of the new charter will authorize the city commissioners to create a Municipal Trade Commission with powers similar to those of the Federal Trade commission. This is a very much needed board. Every city should have one.

Bristol, Tenn., is moving in the same direction. (See copy of act on another page.) The Bristol act authorizes the city commissioners to provide for the election of a trade commissioner.

Time will show which is the better, one commissioner or several. Both plans promise good results.

The money saved in the forenoon of life enables us to rest during the weary hours of the afternoon.

## Time for Remedy

The following item carried by the Associated Press will interest the farmers:

"Washington, Feb. 28.—The federal farm loan act was held constitutional today by the Supreme Court. This is the act under which land banks were established to extend loans to farmers.

"Millions of dollars in loans to farmers have been held up pending a decision of the court in this case, which was brought by Charles W. Smith, a stockholder in the Kansas City Title & Trust Company, who sought an injunction to restrain that institution from investing its funds in bonds issued by the farm loan banks.

"The act was attacked on the ground that Congress was without constitutional authority to establish farm loan banks and to exempt their bonds from taxation. Justice Day, who rendered the opinion for the court, said the power of Congress to establish banks had, in a broad sense, been upheld by the Supreme Court in the days of Chief Justice Marshall.

"The court is sustaining federal court decrees dismissing injunction proceedings brought by Mr. Smith also said that Congress had the authority to exempt the bonds of the bank from taxation."

After nearly a year's delay, during which the farmers lost many millions of dollars, the Supreme Court sustains the constitutionality of the Farm Loan act. Is it not time for a law that will protect the public from such suits? Should one individual be permitted to injure millions?

W. J. BRYAN.

### PROHIBITION PROHIBITS

Attention is called to the following news item published in the Chicago American on February 1, 1921:

"In 1920, 125 patients were treated at this home, 107 alcoholics, 16 drug addicts and two mild mental cases. During the years 1910 to 1919 inclusive, the average number of patients was 921 a year, and of these an average of 56 per cent per year had the worst form of alcoholism, delirium tremens. Last year the home had only three cases of delirium tremens. In the old days before prohibition, one out of 15 men coming to the home suffered in this way. Now only one out of 41.

"The decrease of alcoholism among women is even more noticeable. Of 47 women received last year, only 16 were treated for alcoholism, against 78 in 1919 and 106 in 1918.

"There is a decided increase in the age of male patients, most of whom are now between 40 and 50 instead of under 40."

And yet there are those who say that prohibition is a failure.

### A MATTER OF MONEY

On another page will be found a London dispatch that will be read with interest by those interested in the Sabbath question. The London actors have voted against Sunday playing; they are human even when not religious. They need rest for the mind and body—even those who are not as sensitive as they might be to their spiritual needs. When the Sunday question is thoroughly understood it will be found to be largely a matter of money. The anti-Sabbath crusade is backed by those greedy for box-office receipts just as the personal liberty crusade was backed by the breweries.

### STUDY

Study is a letter of introduction to all that man has recorded on the written page. It gives one the companionship of books, and the benefit of the experience of others. It acquaints him with history and with passing events; it makes known to him the laws that God has impressed upon nature and it opens to him the inexhaustible treasures of the Bible.

"Time is money," it is said; it is more valuable than money, for, wisely used, it brings not only money but satisfactions that money cannot buy. Time spent in study yields a larger return than capital invested in material things.

Study has its direct advantage in the store of wisdom into which it leads one, and it confers an indirect benefit also in that the habit of study gives one a control over his mind that counts mightily in every walk of life.

Study is next in importance to service and it greatly increases the value of the service that one can render.

W. J. BRYAN.