

## The Progress of Prohibition

(From the Pentecostal Herald.)

"That you may appreciate the progress of the temperance reform, I will give the first pledge we have any record of. It was as follows: I solemnly promise I will abstain from everything that will intoxicate except at public dinners, on public holidays, and other important occasions."

"The first law regulating the sale of liquor was passed in a village on Long Island and ran thus: 'Any man engaged in the sale of intoxicating liquors who sells more than one quart of rum or brandy to four boys at one time shall be fined one dollar and two bits.'

"From this beginning, the movement has grown into one of the greatest achievements of human civilization, national prohibition.

"Yet while I rejoice with you over where we came from, I am disposed to ask in the words of the doughboy's war song, 'Where Do We Go From Here, Boys?' We can't stay where we are.

"The Eighteenth amendment, though signed by a thousand pens, does not mean final victory. A custom a thousand years old cannot be destroyed in a single year, any more than can a stagnant pool be turned into a crystal spring in a moment.

"It is said, the eagle's greatest difficulty is in rising from the earth. It must get above the tree tops into the upper air before it can strike with equal vans. But the higher it rises the faster it flies. This national prohibition eagle is only a year old. It hasn't had time to spread its wings. Give it one-tenth of the time license had, then gather to celebrate and you will find the eagle soaring above the storms of opposition and the Eighteenth amendment as firmly set in the constitution of our republic as the fixed stars are set in the heavens.

"A few more years and the drunkards of now will be gone to their Potter's Field. We honor the boys who sleep in the poppy fields of France. As long as springtime comes and flowers bloom, the highland heather, the shamrock and the rose will keep Mizpah watch over the graves of America's dead who sleep beyond the sea. But what about the millions strong drink has slain. Let them write their own epitaph:

"In Potter's Field where ragweeds grow,  
In graves neglected row on row,  
We drunkards lie.  
We envy those in Flanders' Fields,  
Who died brave warriors on their shields.  
Their glorious deeds can never die.  
Ragweeds will shut us from the sky,  
In Potter's Field."

"Ten years hence drunkards will be few and far between; the boys of now will be young men reared under a different regime. The present stock of liquor in bond will be exhausted. The hillside by the illicit stillside will be still, men will take their toddies from the ripples of the rill, boys will grow up soberly, mothers cease to cry, and then we'll sing 'Glory Hallelujah, the nation's gone dry!'

"I do not mean there is a day approaching when there will be no liquor made or used, and the Eighteenth amendment not be violated. All the prohibitory laws from the Ten Commandments down to the traffic laws to control the automobile drivers of Lexington are violated every day. The penalty for murder is death on the gallows or in the electric chair, yet murder is a common occurrence. The penalty for stealing is the penitentiary, yet banks are robbed in broad daylight and burglars prowl the night hours.

"The question is not does prohibition prohibit, but, does it lessen the evil it is designed to cure? Is less liquor sold and used in Lexington now than when one hundred saloons were open? Do we see as many drunken men on the streets Saturday evenings? Has North Limestone between Main and Short improved?

"Recently, Charles Wendle, of Chicago, asserted crime had increased in Chicago since prohibition went into effect. Rev. Scott McBride looked up the record, and he says: 'There were twenty-eight less murders and nineteen thousand less arrests for drunkenness in Chicago last year under prohibition than the last year of license.' Peoria, Ill., was the whisky capital of the United States. The Peoria Transcript of Oct. 16, said: 'For forty years Peoria has had its workhouse, its inmates ran as high as two hundred at a time. Since July 1st only one in-

mate, and since his time recently expired the workhouse is only a memory.'

"Let me give you a concrete example of what prohibition does where it has had a fair trial. I gave eighty address in the campaign for constitutional prohibition in Kansas thirty years ago. For two years after its adoption conditions were discouraging. Saloon keepers became bootleggers, blind tigers hid in alleys and cellars. The order was 'violate the law, break down public sentiment and get resubmission.' That's the policy now. At the end of five years the liquor men of Kansas asked their leader, Senator Lowell, to lead the fight for resubmission. His reply was 'You have waited too long. Empty jails, prosperous business and happy homes are the results of prohibition. The procession has gone by. Now after thirty years Kansas is the richest state in the union per capita, over fifty jails are without an inmate, she has less paupers, more home owners and less renters. In 1880 her illiteracy was 25 per cent, now less than 2 per cent.

"Listen to what General Leonard Wood said of Kansas soldiers in the late war. He said: 'I find Kansas men and boys grade higher in morals, obedience and stamina than the men in other camps. The percentage of disease is the smallest and the discipline the best I have ever seen. They were brought up in a clean atmosphere, they started right. Tell the Kansas people for me that they have the finest, the cleanest, the healthiest and most vigorous soldiers in point of endurance we have ever seen, and the records show this.'

"What prohibition has done for Kansas it will do for Kentucky, and before it is as old as the Kansas law, sunshine will take the place of moonshine in the mountains of our state. What it has done for Kansas, it will do for the United States, making this the most prosperous, the happiest people of the sweetest century of the grandest country the eye of God ever looked down upon.

"Personally, having come up through great tribulation, through the tangled forest of prejudice, persecution and dangers, I rejoice with exceeding joy in this anniversary celebration. When we consider the progress of the past, we have both faith and hope for the future. When license laws were back of the saloon we had cause for worry, now that we have the law back of us let the other fellow worry.

"Recently in Chicago two hotel men were brought before the Federal court for violation of the prohibition law. They pleaded guilty, doubtless expecting a light fine. Judge Landis fined one ten thousand dollars and six months in prison, the other twenty-five thousand dollars and three years in prison. Let the other fellow worry. In San Francisco, Dec. 22, one lawbreaker was fined five thousand dollars, another ten thousand dollars, and both sent to prison for two years.

"Last year in Kentucky, Virginia and North and South Carolina, 775 illicit stills were destroyed, 376 moonshiners arrested, and the fines paid the government reached nearly a half million dollars.

"The brewers and saloonmen are planning a campaign to elect enough congressmen in 1923 to restore wine and beer saloons. They propose to so violate the law as to break down the sentiment behind it. But they have another worry coming. They will find a dead wall lifted against their hopes. On their way to Washington they will meet millions of American women with ballots in their hands, saying as did the French at Verdun, 'They shall not pass.'

### SALES OR TURNOVER TAX CALLED GRAND LARCENY

"The sales or turnover tax would be the worst kind of 'grand larceny' in taxation and would be daily robbery on a cruel scale of those who haven't sufficient income to maintain an American standard of living," said William H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists, in his capacity of vice president of the People's Reconstruction League, in a statement issued today. The statement said, in part:

"For a family with an income of \$2,000 the average tax payment under the sales tax would be 4.5 per cent of the total family income; for a family with an income of \$1,500 it would be 5.7 per cent and for a family with an income of \$1,000, assuming approximately the same purchase of necessities, it would be 8.6 per cent.

"Because of the pyramiding of such a tax, however, since the payer adds a profit, the real cost of a sales tax to an average family with an income of about \$2,000 would be about 8.6 per cent of the family income; for a family with an

income of \$1,500, 11.4 per cent; for a family with an income of \$1,000, over 17 per cent. These figures are approximate.

"One of the bankers advocating the sales tax before the House committee on ways and means remarked that poor folks who could not pay the tax had the alternative of merely refraining from consuming."—Washington Star.

### A GOOD DEMOCRATIC MEASURE

President Harding and the Senate are to be congratulated on ratification of the Colombian treaty.

It is, in all respects, a good Democratic measure.

It was made necessary by the hasty act of a Republican administration.

It was conceived by a Democratic secretary of state.

It was first presented to the Senate by a Democratic president.

It failed because Republican senators opposed it in obedience to a party call.

Democratic senators who voted for it at the request of a Republican president took a stand consistent with a position which they have maintained for seven years.

Republican senators who joined them did quite a flipflop.

Fifteen Republicans bolted the administration, which may mean nothing, or a great deal, as one prefers to believe.

President Harding won his point, but only through the co-operation of Democratic senators.

His point was Wilsonian to the core.

A fourth of his own party proved insubordinate, and bitterly so.

The shadow of Theodore Roosevelt still lies athwart the path of Republican harmony.

The influence of Woodrow Wilson is still a factor to be reckoned with.

President Harding finds more or less assurance in following in the footsteps of his predecessor.

He also finds more or less probability of a party split.—Houston, Texas, Post.

### WHISKY LOSING CASTE AS A MEDICINE

In 1914-1919, when the battle was raging for the adoption of the Eighteenth amendment, the saloon interests raised the cry that prohibition would prevent the physicians from securing whisky necessary for medicinal use.

It now appears that either the wets or the doctors are in error as to the medicinal value of whisky.

According to the American Medical Directory there were 112,238 practicing physicians in those states that were wet at the advent of national prohibition. Of these physicians, only 33,379 physicians—29 per cent—took out whisky permits. Seventy-one per cent did not regard alcohol as sufficiently valuable in the practice of medicine to take out permits to prescribe it. Evidently the medical profession is rapidly adopting the view that whisky has no therapeutic value.—American Issue.

### A LOSING SLOGAN

Henry Watterson wants a Democratic party with "To Hell With Prohibition" as its slogan.

Mr. Watterson's ignorance of the dry sentiment of the voters of this country is inexcusable, for last November a referendum was had on the question of weakening the Volstead code and the voters overwhelmingly sustained the law as it stands.

He may not have recognized it as a referendum, but to all intents and purposes it was just that, for it was an issue in practically every congressional district where the liquor interests had the least hope of electing a wet congressman.

It is doubtful if any slogan could be devised that would more surely put any party into the "also ran" column than that suggested by Mr. Watterson.—American Issue.

The Nebraska legislature, almost solidly Republican, acquired a case of cold feet at the very close of the session and killed all of the bills the leaders had decided must be enacted into law which restored the convention system in a large measure. Instead it amended the primary law only in that it went back to the caucus system of selecting county convention delegates and places the selection of delegates to national conventions in the hands of state convention. The reason was that they were faced with a threat of a referendum, and they knew what would happen at the next election.