

Is Uncle Sam a Bootlegger?

"The case of Prohibition vs. Uncle Sam, bootlegger, seems fairly conclusive," remarks the Richmond Times-Dispatch, which offers this summing-up of the situation:

"When John Doe turns to the illicit liquor traffic as a means of livelihood and gets caught at it, he goes to jail—that is, if he is so unfortunate as to face an unsympathetic jury.

"When Uncle Sam turns to the same illicit traffic as a means of profit in keeping his merchant marine afloat, where shall he be prosecuted except at the bar of public opinion?"

"When John Doe sneaks down a dark alley and hands over his week's wages for a quart of wood alcohol and fusel oil colored with caramel, he risks death or blindness from his surreptitious potations.

"But when Dives luxuriates in a sea voyage aboard one of Uncle Sam's palatial liners, rare wines of ancient vintage and liquors to tease his palate and addle his brain are his for the price—and Uncle Sam is his bootlegger and his bartender."

William E. Johnson, known to fame as "Pussyfoot," recently took passage for Europe on a British ship, explaining to the reporters that—

"It is safer to ride on British or French ships that are loyal to the laws and institutions of their country than a bootleg scow loyal to the institutions of no country, not even of their own. I don't see how self-respecting Americans can ride on these American alleged ships, anyhow. . .

"The Shipping Board folks declare they can't run their ships at a profit unless they sell liquor. They do sell liquor and yet they are running behind \$50,000,000 a year."

"The thing that disgusts us most is the assumption of the Shipping Board that American passengers will not travel on good lines of ships that furnish good service, unless they can have booze. We've seen enough of American travel at sea to know that that is all nonsense. It's possible the Shipping Board can not run our ships at a profit without booze-selling. But the trouble is not in booze, or in the absence of booze, but in a bungling, incompetent management.

"It may be the Volstead Act needs to be amended to make it clear that our ships come under our Constitution; but something more than that is needed. The boozy Shipping Board needs to be kicked out, to follow the generals who used to insist that we couldn't have an army without provision for soaking the soldiers in beer, and the admirals who used to howl that the navy would go all to smash without lots of grog."—Franklin (Pa.) News-Herald.

More than half of the Republican newspapers in Iowa opposed the nomination of Colonel Brookhart, whom they denounced as a socialist,

anarchist and bolshevik, and now that he has been made the party candidate for United States senator their editors are placed in a most embarrassing predicament. Fortunately, however, they have in the Democratic nominee, Claude Herring, a man of ability with a thoroughly progressive record, and the prediction is made that most of them will refuse to swallow their opinion of Brookhart and support Herring.

MR. BRYAN'S DECISION

(Ocala, Fla., Banner)

Now that Mr. Bryan has declined to enter the race for the office of United States senator from Florida the best thinking people of the state are beginning more and more to realize that a great opportunity awaited Florida if this man so possessed of wonderful parts and influence could have entered that body—how useful he would have been to the state and to the nation.

We feel a degree of pride in being able to say in the discussion his suggested entrance into the race precipitated, no supporter of his said one word in derogation of Mr. Trammell's public record or private character.

Their comments concerning him were along lines of high-toned and commendable journalism and without exception were couched in terms of gentility and the utmost courtesy.

We wish it were possible to make the same observation concerning the comments of those who were antagonistic to Mr. Bryan's entering the race.

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Bryan was three times anointed as the leader of our national democracy; that most of the principles enunciated as the cardinal principles of the party have since been enacted into laws, he was nevertheless denounced as illogical, visionary and unsound.

What are the things he stood for?

That the gold standard would not fix the unit of values or stabilize the international exchange of moneys or perform the functions its advocates so hotly contended.

When put to the test it is now seen that the gold standard as a financial panacea is a deplorable failure.

What else did Mr. Bryan stand for?

The election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people. That is now the law of the land.

Woman suffrage. Marvelous as it may seem, that has also been enacted into law.

Prohibition, more marvelous still, forms a part of the federal constitution.

Anti-imperialism or world democracy.

It is well to remember that Mr. Bryan set the pace for world peace which has since taken shape in the Versailles League of Nations and the Washington Association of Nations sometimes called the Disarmament Conference.

When secretary of state, Mr. Bryan secured the signatures of the diplomats of thirty nations to sign peace treaties embodying the fundamental essence contained in the Versailles and Washington treaties.

He was not only called illogical, visionary and unsound, but was made the target of much

strained wit and unmerited and undignified jibes.

His name was associated with those of Debs, Ponzi and others of unsavory repute; he was described as possessing a noisy and disturbing tongue and a brazen cheek.

Great and unwarranted familiarity was taken with his name. He was called "Grape Juice Bill," and other familiarities equally undignified and belittling.

In reading some of the diatribes of our contemporaries we felt that we could hardly do otherwise than hang our head in very shame.

But we were reminded that the "Father of his Country" in reading what the critics of his day said of him was made sick at heart, and they caused him to say that if he had been an ordinary gambler or pickpocket he could not have been more coarsely or severely censured.

So history is but repeating itself. Minnows do not hesitate to nibble and bite at whales.

We call to mind the lines of Byron:

"He who ascends to mountain-tops shall find
The loftiest peaks most wrapped in clouds and snow;

He who surpasses or subdues mankind
Must look down on the hate of those below."

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

William Jennings Bryan is a guest in our city and El Paso is glad to have Mr. Bryan in its midst.

A good many citizens of the United States have voted for Mr. Bryan at one time or another and a good many citizenesses would have voted for him had they been able to in the dark ages when free silver was the reigning issue.

One thing about Mr. Bryan—he always has an issue and he it remarked that while numerous persons are apt to regard his side of his issues as visionary, it quite often happens that eventually, after they have quit being exclusively Bryan issues, they do become issues.

Witness prohibition. . . .

One thing about Mr. Bryan that we all love—he is an uncompromising fighter for what he believes is right. Neither sarcasm, ridicule, argument nor political expediency can sidetrack him when he once decides to start. And America loves a fighter, whatever his line of activity may be.

Consequently meetings at which Mr. Bryan speaks are usually attended by persons of all sorts of political beliefs. They are willing to listen to what he has to say because they know that he is thoroughly convinced that what he is saying is the right thing to say. And he has the respect of America—which is more than can be said of a lot of politicians who have been convicted of expediency.

In matters of religious controversy, persons of any religious belief can listen to Mr. Bryan. Mr. Bryan is to talk this afternoon at Liberty hall. Those who attend will at least be interested.—El Paso, Texas, Times.

Wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.—Proverbs viii, 11.

MRS. OLESEN'S VICTORY

A Cloquet, Minn., dispatch, dated June 20, says: To the country at large she may be Anna Dickie Olesen, but to this city of 8,000 population she will always be Mrs. Peter Olesen, though even her husband, who is superintendent of Cloquet's schools, insists that the "Anna Dickie" be substituted for the "Mrs. Peter" when she is referred to in newspapers.

And tonight the little family of three—especially the husband and 14-year-old daughter, Mary—was thrilled with the knowledge that the wife and mother had been chosen to "pioneer a trail for women in politics," as Mrs. Olesen herself has termed it.

"It is no personal tribute," she insisted tonight to the Associated Press.

"It is only the endorsement of the Democratic state platform, as formulated by the state convention that endorsed me for the Senate. I sought to bring that platform to the members of our party; my nomination is simply an evidence of its acceptance." But there was no denying she was

happy—happy and enthusiastic, almost eager to be into the campaign for the November election, which she will press as persistently as he did her primary campaign, she said.

"I am deeply grateful to the people that have stood by me in the primary campaign," she said. "I did not seek the nomination in the Minneapolis convention but having accepted it, I did the best I could—with the limited funds at my command—to make an effective campaign for the furtherance of the party's interests." It was as Citizen Olesen she gained the nomination, she insists, and not through any advantage gained by her sex.

"I made no plea for recognition of women in politics; I was and am ready to accept on equality with men whatever the fortunes of politics may offer."

"Now that I am nominated," she continued, "I will do the best I can for the party throughout the fall campaign, and I think we will have a united party when the November election comes round.

"It is for the common people I stand; the true democracy of the land. If elected in November, I shall

do the utmost to serve the people well.

"During my primary campaign I set up as my motto—and I shall continue to keep it before me in the fall campaign—the words of George Washington:

"Let us raise the standard to which the wise and honest can rally—the event is in the hands of God.

"My campaign, my desire for the nomination, were not for personal vanity or gain at all; my one desire is to serve the people of the Democratic convention and the other people of the state who nominated me. I have no personal ambitions at stake; everything is for the people."

Not more than \$500 was spent by Mrs. Olesen in her primary campaign, she said tonight. She visited nearly 40 towns and cities in every section of the state, traveling in a small sedan automobile given her by friends. Most of the time she did her own driving.

It was only after she received the endorsement of the Democratic state convention that Mrs. Olesen became known as Mrs. Anna Dickie Olesen. A ruling of the state's attorney general's office that she could not legal-

ly file as Mrs. Peter Olesen necessitated the change to the name that appeared on the ballot today.

Interest in the welfare of young girls four years ago brought Mrs. Olesen to the attention of her community, then the state, as she took up the cause of girls through the agency of women's clubs.

In 1918 she became president of the Women's clubs of the Eighth Minnesota district and later was named a vice president of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs.

During the war Mrs. Olesen delivered many patriotic talks, and these brought her to state-wide attention. Subsequently, with hostilities at an end, she engaged in chautauqua work.

Mrs. Olesen explained her party affiliations with the assertion that she was just "born a Democrat," an admirer of William Jennings Bryan.

Born in Le Sueur county, Minnesota, 36 years ago, Mrs. Olesen came from a family which had pioneered in Minnesota. Her grandparents made this state their home in 1856, and both her grandfathers were Civil war veterans.