

Should Prohibition Be Modified and Drastic Amendment Repealed?

A legislative act passed without an emphatic mandate from the people is a subversion of the theory of popular government.

And, when a well grounded belief grips the public mind that such legislation is the will of an intolerant minority, the law becomes all the more odious and oppressive. It makes for turmoil, resentment and discontent. It opens the door to the agitator and the radical. It undermines normality and keeps our whole social fabric in a state of uncertainty and foreboding. Not only is it an organic wrong, but in a very definite sense an economic blunder. It makes agitators and radicals of men otherwise orderly and submissive.

Millions of dollars must be spent to uphold it and an army of thousands maintained to enforce it. Taxes accordingly go up, courts are clogged and respect for law and order strained to the breaking point.

The present prohibition enactment is a case in point. The majority of the American people stoutly maintain that prohibition, as we have it, is not an expression of their will. They believe its accomplishment was brought about by artifice and deceit, by intimidation, by a highly organized, highly paid body of professional lobbyists.

Prohibition remains, therefore, a vexed question and looms as the most crucial issue before the nation.

In reviewing the methods that brought it about, pertinent questions present themselves. The public, we believe, is entitled to an answer.

Was the fight for prohibition fairly won, and the tactics used to encompass it honorable or dishonorable?

Did every man entitled to a vote have a chance to register his conviction before it became a law?

Were there, in the stress of national crisis, men so occupied at home that no opportunity to weigh it was given, and to millions abroad no opportunity to vote on it?

Was the mad haste of the "reformers" to engraft it on the Constitution a precautionary food measure or a premeditated conspiracy to disfranchise millions of soldiers serving in France?

Did prudence and fair play dictate that action be postponed till the soldiers returned?

How many millions were raised and spent to accomplish it, and who got the money?

Were members of legislatures intimidated by professional lobbyists, and who are they?

Will the anti-saloon league agree to a Congressional investigation and open its books to public scrutiny?

All this the people want to know, for they feel they have been imposed upon and tricked. They recall that promises made have been shamelessly betrayed; that their homes are no longer immune from invasion; that search and seizure tyranny obtains; that if life depends on an ounce or two of liquor, and you obtain it, you are violating the law, and so is the reputable physician who prescribed it or suggested it. You must not raise a finger to save the dying. The prohibition fanatic is judge and executioner. His will be done—so let them die.

Humanity and tolerance are not mentioned in the prohibition code.

Public Sentiment

IS A NATIONAL WEEKLY, sponsored by many of the most thoughtful, substantial men in the Middle West—men, too, of mixed political beliefs—but solidly of one mind that the paramount issue of the hour is the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment and the protection of the individual liberty of the citizen.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT is a magazine that every red-blooded man and woman will want on their reading table during the stirring months ahead.

Thoughts and acts which stir the nation will be chronicled in its pages. For it will carry to its readers a weekly message of some of America's best mentality on the problems of the day.

Gifted writers whose principles accord with the policy of the paper will contribute of their best to a cause worthy of their brains and labor.

All subjects which concern the political, economic and moral welfare of the country will receive adequate, able review.

You are going to hear a lot in the immediate future, not only of this prohibition nightmare, but of taxation, treaties, the labor situation, railroad administration, profiteering, housing and other problems that perplex the earnest student of government.

All these will call for serious discussion in their turn.

You will know through our Washington correspondent what Congress is doing. He will tell you of its battles and its worries—the men who occupy the public eye—in short, all the important characters in the political drama will pass before you in a weekly review at once timely and happy.

Events and incidents in New York, the world's largest city and the nation's most forceful fomentor of thought, will also be chronicled weekly.

Our correspondent there is perhaps one of the shrewdest, cleverest political writers in the field. His stories will arrest attention, for he knows his town, the big men in it—its highways and byways. He is intimately familiar with all its pulsating problems and he tells of them in a way that fascinates and holds—that makes you feel you are an interested onlooker.

For is going to fly in the coming campaign—of that you may be certain—and PUBLIC SENTIMENT will be found well abreast of the times in reporting its progress and battling for the principles here announced.

Independent in politics, PUBLIC SENTIMENT will support in state and nation the man or woman, republican or democrat, who courageously stands up for a return of the individual prerogatives which the Eighteenth Amendment now denies us.

In the Eastern states the dry enthusiasts are now at work tabulating candidates for office, circularizing voters, employing the same tricks and threats which have always marked their dubious campaigns.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT will watch their antics closely for the next eight months. The plague may spread—the treatment may be drastic.

You will want to read about it from week to week, for every line on every page will be engaging.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT knows the ways and plays of present-day reform quacks and is convinced that only rugged blows backed by proof and sound conviction can bring them to their knees. It is going to strike hard and strike often. There will be no play of nicely rounded phrases in its attack. It will hit from the shoulder, but will never hit low.

But beyond all else, PUBLIC SENTIMENT will dedicate its efforts to arousing the people from the indifference and supineness which enabled a noisy minority to embody in the constitution an amendment they did not want and that many did not understand.

To show them by honest presentation of the facts that "Reformers" are encroaching more and more on their constitutional rights—And to stimulate them to action in combatting that danger is our purpose—our mission.

Support This Fight for Individual Liberty

A newspaper to be a real effective power in championing a cause must have circulation.

It must go into many hands and many homes to tell the story of its mission—to tell it fearlessly, convincingly, truthfully.

You who believe the time has come to call a halt—to stop this wave of blind fanaticism—must come forward with every ounce of help that you can lend. Your individual subscription will help and will be appreciated, but don't stop there. Go out and get others to do likewise, for every man in sympathy with the cause we plead knows others of the same shade of opinion, and to get these others on the subscription list is, after all, the kind of support that encourages and approves.

Opposed to us is a pitiless political organization of professional "reformers" with funds unlimited, and willing to stoop to any device, to any strategy, to any cunning to keep in the saddle. That we have them headed for a fall is our confident belief, but we must pull long, pull strong and pull together, for this is presidential year and the stealthy prohibition bully is already in the open brandishing his club over the heads of spineless politicians; threatening destruction to all who refuse his bidding.

Here and there able and fearless public men are demanding that this terrorism stop; voicing indignant protest at the spectacle of a free people recently invited to become a nation of sneak informers. A year or so ago when stampered legislatures surrendered to their thunder, do you remember with what fe-

rocidity the "Reformers" next attacked the theater, other amusements as well, and tobacco most of all? They sulked away from this for the time being when they sensed a surging resentment at this new attempt to prescribe rules of daily conduct for the people as ruthless and as brutal as the old Connecticut Blue Laws.

BUT—

Make no mistake about it, they have tobacco slated for banishment and a monstrous amusement censorship under way just as soon as they see we sheepishly submit to what they have already handed us.

Prohibition is now the law of the land and as good Americans we must and will obey it, but this fight for the individual liberty of the citizen must continue night and day—continue with gathering courage and grim resolve if this nation is to escape the horrors of a "reform" inquisition.

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