

ALL THE FUTURE Denatured Alcohol Law of No Benefit So Far. GOVERNMENT TOO SLOW Internal Revenue Regulations Greek to Farmers and Secretary Wilson Not Ready With Information About the Methods.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Oct. 5.—Though the denatured alcohol law has been on the statute books for more than a year and a half, the American farmer, in whose interest it was supposedly drawn, has yet to derive his first benefit from its operation. Up to the present time, the law has been non-effective, so far as the farmer is concerned, and has been to but slight benefit so far as the user of fuel alcohol is concerned. Part of the blame rests upon Congress, and part on the departments charged with the enforcement of the law.

The enforcement of this law falls primarily upon the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Unfortunately for the farmer, there is no one at the head of the bureau who takes any interest in the denatured alcohol act. The late Commissioner, Mr. Yerkes, promulgated a set of regulations governing the manufacture of denatured alcohol on the farm, but no one short of an expert distiller or a Philadelphia lawyer is competent to construe those regulations. They are so technical, and the average farmer would have no the slightest understanding of their meaning after reading them through. The first regulation, therefore, must come in the shape of a translation of the scientific regulations. They must be put in ordinary English to be of any value. The new Commissioner, only just sworn in, is not familiar with the duties of his office; he knows nothing of the denatured alcohol act, and so far has not indicated any willingness to aid the farmers in the installation of alcohol stills that will meet the requirements of the law. But perhaps when the new Commissioner's work he will render this most essential service.

Wilson Was Not Ready. Meantime the Department of Agriculture, the farmer's friend, has been caught napping. Usually Secretary Wilson is foresighted enough to pave the way for the enactment of any legislation drafted in the interest of the American farmer, but his department overlooked the denatured alcohol law. Secretary Wilson is not today prepared to instruct the farmers in the methods of manufacture of alcohol; the most advanced way of denaturing grain and crops and those that can find no market, and he is not able to recommend to the farmers what manner of plants they shall raise to meet the demand for utilizing denatured alcohol. This is rare exception to the way things are run in the Department of Agriculture, and the failure in this respect is largely due to the neglect of a bureau chief. Mr. Wilson has investigations under way which will be valuable to farmers who desire to avail themselves of the provisions of the denatured alcohol act, and it is probable that reports of the department will be ready for distribution by the time the regulations of the Internal Revenue Bureau have been put into plain English, but there will be no governmental assistance in this direction before next season. Nothing can be done this winter.

Studying Foreign Methods. A representative of the Department of Agriculture has been spending the past summer in France, Germany and other European countries where denatured alcohol is made, studying methods of manufacture from surplus or spoiled crops. Another agent has been making a study of lamps, stoves and other devices intended for the use of alcohol, and department chemists are now experimenting with denatured alcohol to determine its relative heating and lighting qualities as compared with gasoline and kerosene. In addition, experiment stations of the department have been raising special crops for the manufacture of alcohol, in order to determine whether it will be profitable to produce alcohol on the farm from special crops or to confine manufacture to waste products, as originally proposed.

How Farmers Can Work. But, as pointed out by Mr. Wilson, there is still a great deal to be learned about denatured alcohol before the new law will be of much value to the American farmer. Discussing the question, the Secretary of Agriculture said: "I think it will be profitable to raise special crops in this country, especially in sections where coal and wood are scarce, for the production of fuel alcohol. In such communities as the Dakotas it might be made to furnish heat and light economically. In other communities, possibly, it will be only possible to use the waste products of the farm. For this purpose it might be advisable for the individual farmer to maintain a small still for rainy-day work. It might be practical for a neighborhood to distill its alcohol on a co-operative basis, or it might be more economical for the work to be done by a portable still that will move from farm to farm and work as does the threshing machine in the West. These are questions yet to be solved, and we will have no information as to which method is the best until we have full reports from the men who are investigating.

Will Be Success in Time. From all of which it is to be inferred that the time is coming when the manufacture of denatured alcohol will not only afford the farmer a market or a use for his surplus products and simultaneously furnish him a cheap fuel, but it is bound to be several years before the manufacture of denatured alcohol on the farm is generally practiced. The industry would

"WOE," SAYS RIPLEY Wail of Calamity From Santa Fe President. COUNTRY HAS HYSTERIA Even Those in High Places Make Grandstand Plays and Whack the Railroads and Corporations With Knotty Shillelahs.

Mrs. D. Bloch Surprised by Victory in East Side Slogan Contest.

Mrs. D. Bloch, who won the \$50 prize offered by the East Side Business Men's Club for an East Side slogan, received the news of her success yesterday morning at her home, 1924 Grand avenue South.

"Can it be possible that I have won the \$50 prize?" she exclaimed when informed that her design had been accepted by the club committee from among the thousand submitted by 350 different people. She was assured that she had won, and the club would pay her the \$50.

"Well, that is the best luck I ever had," she exclaimed. "While I was coming home with my husband one night I saw that the East Side Business Men's Club was to hold a contest, and I then decided to try for the prize. I began work right away."

Mrs. Bloch's design was yesterday placed in the hands of an artist, who will work it out according to the plans of the committee. It is the intention of the business men of the club to place this design and slogan on their stationery and in their advertisements in the newspapers. Considering the wide publicity the East Side got out of the contest, the club feels that the \$50 will be well spent.

DRINK DEEPLY AND FIGHT Streetcar Conductor Beaten by Young Rowdies of Portsmouth. A new game known as 16 to 1 has been discovered at Portsmouth. That is to say, it is a case of that number of youths drinking one large keg of beer furnished by a happy bridegroom in that suburb, after which they attacked R. B. Stout, a streetcar conductor, and now the police are busy on the matter.

H. H. White and Milton Vernon were the first to be arrested. They were taken into custody last night by Policemen Wellbrook on a warrant issued from the Municipal Court yesterday morning, charging assault and battery. The others when found will also be brought to trial.

Conductor Stout does not know why he became the victim of the hilarious youths, but does know that when he passed near where they were standing Friday night, after they had imbued the beer, they attacked him and beat him without mercy. He had just escorted a young woman to her home and was returning to his own home when attacked.

PHILIP DWYER—Two-story frame dwelling, Sixth, between Harrison and Hill. \$1200.

W. L. YETT—Repairing frame dwelling, Welder and East Sixteenth, \$300.

M. McNAMARA—Excavating for two-story frame house, Nineteenth and Couch, \$150.

O. E. FREYFOG—Two-story frame dwelling, East Caruthers, between East Ninth and East Tenth, \$2000.

J. A. McARTHUR—Repairing frame dwelling, Madison-Park, between Madison and Michigan, \$300.

THE SEASON OF THE YEAR Is now here when lighting fixtures, fire-place appliances, grates and andirons are a necessity. Phone The M. J. Walsh Co., or call at their showrooms, 211 Stark, between Fifth and Sixth, and have your lighting fixtures installed. Office and residence lighting promptly attended to. Both phones.

Has Coffin in Front Yard. New York Herald. Samuel Thompson, a negro, has caused a commotion among his neighbors in Paterson, N. J., by placing a coffin in his front yard. He bought the coffin from a junk dealer, and he declares that it is the coffin of his father. He has no thought of dying, and in reply to the protestations of his neighbors says that the coffin will remain. Mrs. Annie Wright, a neighbor, saw the coffin when leaving her home and she became hysterical, neighbors summoning a physician. Rev. Arthur Titus, a negro minister, later asked the health authorities to take action.

Wail of Calamity From Santa Fe President. COUNTRY HAS HYSTERIA

Even Those in High Places Make Grandstand Plays and Whack the Railroads and Corporations With Knotty Shillelahs.

CHICAGO, Oct. 5.—(Special.)—"Under existing conditions I could not as president of the Santa Fe road advise anyone to invest a dollar in any of the Western States through which our railroad extends," said E. P. Ripley, president of the Santa Fe, today. Mr. Ripley was replying to a question regarding the reported acquisition of the Gulf Coast line by his road.

"I take a very gloomy view of the future," he said. "I cannot see how we can escape hard times. The country has been worked into a terrible hysteria over railroads and corporations until the people are likely to do most anything, so long as a railroad or a corporation is hit hard. This hysteria has affected high places and has resulted in grandstand plays where we might reasonably expect to find calm and deliberate judgment."

"I can see evidences of trouble ahead, despite the fact that the railroads just now are busy. In short time there will be two men to every railroad job, instead of two jobs to every man."

"As for railway building, I could not recommend to our directors to build another foot of road in Texas with the laws they have passed there, nor in one or two other states I could mention."

The reason for Mr. Ripley's forbidding probably lies in the fact that the August earnings of the Santa Fe showed an increase in net gross of \$27,000, but a decrease in net of \$35,000. In July the net decrease was \$115,000.

Mr. Ripley's views are shared by President Harding of the St. Paul, but the latter does not express them so freely for publication.

COLLAPSE OF THE BUILDING ONE FATALLY INJURED AND OTHERS LESS SERIOUSLY. During Republican Rally in Waterbury, Conn., Floor Gives Way Throwing Crowd Into Cellar.

WATERBURY, Conn., Oct. 5.—During a Republican rally in the North End Athletic Clubroom today the floor collapsed, precipitating 150 men into the cellar of the building. By the explosion of a lamp the building was set on fire and the crowd of men struggled in the flames and debris almost helplessly.

The fire was extinguished within an hour and when the men were rescued from the cellar it was found that one, Harry Dean, a well-known Republican worker, was perhaps fatally injured. He is now in the hospital. Others injured were John E. Sewell, Republican candidate for Mayor, who had just spoken as the building collapsed, and Senator Irving F. Chase, one of the prominent men of the city.

Tolstoj's Last Book Suppressed. ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 5.—The authorities here ordered the confiscation of Count Tolstoj's book entitled "A Comparative Study of the Gospels."

AT THE HOTELS. Hotel Portland—Karl H. Vesper, A. Kankia, E. F. Armstrong, L. Goldsmith, New York; T. B. Wilmet, San Francisco; R. O. Pottling, Boston; E. B. Whelan, family; City: W. Douglas, W. D. Wood, Seattle; Mr. and Mrs. W. Brown, Kansas City; E. L. Dunlop, Chicago; J. N. Chapman, New York; George Vogel, New York; E. J. Paken, Cleveland; E. E. Chastain, San Francisco; M. Marcus, J. H. Day, H. Fontman, New York; M. Herzog, San Francisco; W. G. Kella, Philadelphia; E. H. Fowler, San Francisco; D. M. Johnson, New York; an Lindenbergh, New York; J. L. Eastland, E. H. Dowden, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. J. Pease, H. E. Nash, H. M. and Mrs. Whitner, New York; B. W. Whitman, San Francisco; D. Griffith and wife, Seattle; W. A. Ketchum, Chicago; the Misses Hanken, St. Louis; J. B. Lewis, New York; H. Hager, Seattle; C. Howers, Yellowstone Park; E. E. Himm, Minneapolis; J. R. O'Neill, New York; D. Conner, St. Joe; H. P. Pottenger, San Francisco; C. E. Brides, New York; M. A. M. Rans, Denver; David Campbell, Pittsfield; Fred Kronsbride and wife, San Francisco; J. L. Ziegler, Chandler; New York; W. T. Crane, Raymond; S. S. Glatzer, Chicago; Mrs. M. L. Berry, city; N. L. Low, New York; R. F. Levis, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Robinson and child, Winnipeg; O. W. Opie and wife, San Francisco; E. F. Ferguson, Nome; Mae M. Taylor, Pendleton; D. M. Scott, New York; W. W. Taylor, Mrs. E. P. Meyer, San Francisco; Emil Beach, Buffalo.

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