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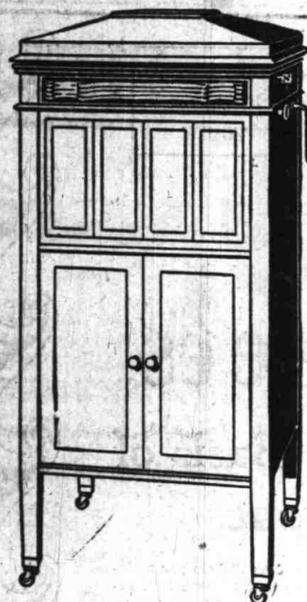
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provisions against the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor, commonly called the prohibition law. That law is vigorously denounced in many quarters as an unwarranted interference with the private rights of the citizen. It is said that it was foisted upon our people by long-haired reformers, backed by an organized minority. The law is denounced as obnoxious and it is asserted that the law is not enforced and cannot be enforced, and a considerable number of people seem to think that it may be disregarded.

My recollection does not accord with these claims. The liquor habit was prevalent with large numbers of our people throughout the history of our country, up to the time of the adoption of the 18th amendment and the laws adopted for its enforcement. With many it was a habit that it was difficult, if not impossible, to overcome, so long as there was a supply of alcoholic liquor to be had, however obtained. And upon that account it is not surprising that more or less evasion of the law has continued since its adoption, but it does not follow that it is not a wise law, or that the reform which it evidenced, was not accomplished before its adoption.

Thirty years ago, when I started out to make my way in the world, every city and town of any considerable size, supported a saloon on most of its best business corners and at strategic points in its best business blocks. They all did a thriving business, not only in dispensing good, bad and indifferent liquors, but in carrying on gambling and all the evils incident to gambling and drinking to excess. In those days many business men pursued the habit of consuming strong liquor, even to partial or complete intoxication in business hours. Many of the foremost professional men were heavy drinkers, and in many quarters it was thought that some lawyers rendered their best services when partly drunk. They entered court and presented causes while under the influence of liquor. Doctors attended their patients reeking with the smell of drink. Railroad men drank as did others having the duty to safeguard the lives and property of others. No party, no banquet, no election, no gathering of a public nature was complete without the accompaniment of strong drink and more or less intoxication.

It was not long thereafter, that observing men came to realize that no man was as proficient or efficient, whatever his vocation, if he had taken an alcoholic stimulant, as he was before. It was realized and appreciated that a great waste of human talent, energy and human value were daily destroyed and wasted by the consumption of intoxicating liquors. Business men began to frown upon drinking among their associates, and by their employees. Indulgence in such liquors aroused distrust by one business associate of another. It became sufficient cause for an employee to lose his position, when done in business hours or out of them. The professional man who drank found his employment gone. His clients or patients did not trust him any longer. Railroad companies and other employers of labor where skill and care in the safety of lives and property were involved, made drinking by such employees a cause for discharge. Merchants, in scanning their lists of "deadbeats," discovered that drinking men made up the majority of such lists. It was discovered that widespread and excessive indulgence in the liquor habit accounted for a large proportion of the public charges, consisting of the impecunious, imbeciles, criminals and the insane; as it did for want and squalor and poverty and neglected children.

In the face of this great waste of human value proceeding from the same cause, the country as a whole, awakened to the truth that the liquor question was not alone a social evil or a political question, but it was a great economic question, concerning which there could be no two opinions as to the need of its correction. Accordingly, the 18th amendment to the federal constitution was adopted by a large majority, conclusively establishing that the reform involved therein, so far as the country as a whole was concerned, had been fully accomplished. Moreover, the 18th amendment was not enacted by the efforts of a determined minority laboring upon an indifferent citizenry, but on the contrary the law was adopted in the face of a most stubborn and determined resistance, fully and completely organized and financed. Of all the laws that have been passed in this country, the prohibition law was most fully, fairly, clearly and aggressively presented to the people for their decision from all angles and in all its phases. And it does not at this time speak well of the sportsmanship and good citizenship of those who were defeated in the contest, to now say that the people were deluded by a few reformers.

Notwithstanding the agitation against this law and the propaganda which is constantly spread for the purpose of discrediting it, we find no business man, no professional man and no man discharging great responsibilities, transacting business or the duties of his profession or vocation with liquor on his breath. Nor do we find it anywhere else in the ordinary normal conduct of our activities, manifold as they are. We no longer see the spectacle of the la-

borer man who has performed his week's work, leaving his pay-check in a corner saloon, and taking nothing home for the support of his wife and children for the ensuing week except a strong alcoholic breath. We see women and children that formerly lived in want and fear, enjoying the necessities and comforts of life, purchased by the wages of the husband and father. We see savings accounts increasing in leaps and bounds, where they were rare in the pre-Volstead days. Much more might be said to the credit of the prohibition law—much that is obvious to everyone.

President Coolidge, in his recent message to Congress, said in effect that it is not only the duty of the citizen to observe the laws, but it is his duty to show his disapproval, that he resents the non-observance of those laws by others. President Coolidge, in making that statement, voiced a sentiment that is taking form in the minds of the average citizen, and upon which he is beginning to act in a manner, the certainty and emphasis of which cannot long escape those who have an inclination to evade the law.

The citizenship of this country is not going to allow the government to be defeated or its foundations to be impaired in order to satisfy the appetites of a comparatively few of its citizens for strong drink. Like petty larceny and some other minor crimes, there will or course always be more or less evasion of the law, but it will be no more of a menace to the government than are violation of those other laws, which I have mentioned.

The extent of the power of the American public, when its energy is aroused in any direction, is beyond measure, and whenever the public sets about with determination to enforce the prohibition law, or any other law, we may rest assured that it will be enforced. In respect to this particular law, as with many other laws, the public is slow to realize that the efforts of the law-enforcing officers need to be supplemented by the aggressive assistance of the public at large in order to bring about a proper observance of the law. That understanding upon the part of the public too often comes when insufferable conditions have developed, or following some violent crime. In those cases the public is apt to strike out blindly and punish the innocent, as well as the guilty. For that reason, the active efforts of the citizen in behalf of law enforcement should be constant.

In the early days in California and Nevada, the enemies of law and order brought the communities to such a state of disorder, that the citizens being aroused, instead of pursuing the forms of law, formed a vigilance committee, who tried men summarily, without the protection of the forms of law, and hanged the innocent as well as the guilty, thus committing great crimes in the name of the law. And so it was in other parts of the great west, when the activities of the lawless element appeared to them—and too often to the law-enforcing officers as well—the dominating influence in the community. To correct this false impression, the law-abiding citizens aroused themselves, and in the name of law and order, often inflicted great wrongs upon the innocent while punishing the guilty.

And I notice today that this mob spirit which I have alluded to, is already abroad in the land, threatening the safety of innocent people. Men cannot, when they are angry, even while attempting to pursue the direction of the law, render justice in that calm, cool, deliberate manner demanded by our constitutions. In Philadelphia they have supplanted the regular police force by the United States Marines, officered by a major-general of the regular army, whose directions are to "treat them rough," offering a reward of \$100 for the first bandit killed. Martial law is in effect in the staid, old city of Philadelphia, brought about by the indifference of its citizens to the performance of their obvious duties. About the first thing we will hear, is that some police officer under that regime, has killed some fool boy innocent of all things, except taking a joyride, upon the presumption that he is a bandit. What has occurred in Philadelphia, will occur throughout the land unless the people arouse themselves to a discharge of their plain duties. And there will be more crimes inimical to the freedom and safety of the citizens committed in the name of that law enforcement than could possibly be perpetrated by all the thugs and crooks and bootleggers put together.

As an example of the force of public sentiment as an aid to the enforcement of law and the conviction of offenders, I need only refer to a series of prosecutions instituted and conducted in the state of Oregon a few years ago, known as the land fraud cases. They arose out of violations of the public land laws in this state, committed by numerous citizens of this and other states. In connection with those matters, the government obtained all it asked for its land, but men who were not entitled to get tracts of land, obtained the land desired by them by employing others to take the land, and paid them a small stipend for their services. This action involved perjury and subornation of perjury and the acquisition of titles of lands by persons prohibited by the statute from acquiring the

same. The disclosures made at the time incensed the people, and aroused them to such an extent, that those who had personal knowledge of the transactions of the character under consideration, voluntarily and freely gave evidence concerning the same. Juries convicted promptly when guilt was established, with the result that many prominent citizens of the state were indicted, prosecuted and convicted, and the shame and humiliation incident thereto were visited on their families and associates, as well as upon themselves. Conspiracy to defraud the government or to commit an offense against the U. S. were the charges usually made against those involved. Up to that time the evasion of the public land laws was regarded as unimportant and not involving any considerable degree of turpitude, but when men found themselves confronted by a charge of conspiracy, brought by the United States government, which threatened heavy fines and a term in the penitentiary, the matter took on a very serious aspect, and one which destroyed promising careers, brought on ill-health and immeasurable unhappiness.

That incident of bygone days is an illustration of the inexorable power of the machinery of government for punishing violation of laws, when vigorously supported by the public.

I attended the District Attorneys' Convention in Portland a few days ago, and there had an opportunity to observe all the district attorneys of the state convening together in the interests of law enforcement. They presented as fine a body of young, active, ambitious, earnest men as could be found anywhere. Their appearance at once refuted the imputation sometimes indulged, that they, or any of them, are not in accord with enforcement of the law, or that they are indifferent to the discharge of the heavy responsibility imposed upon them in that connection. All that they need to render their efforts wholly efficient, is the hearty and earnest support of their constituents, the duty of each of whom in his sphere is as urgent as that which rests upon the district attorney himself.

Referring again to the federal prosecutions to which I alluded awhile ago, conspiracy was the charge to which the government resorted to secure convictions in those cases. Conspiracies are formed in the dark, in private rooms, usually only with the conspirators present, and necessarily evidence of the conspiracy is difficult to obtain. In those cases convictions were secured under the rules of evidence which permit the merest detail to be considered in determining whether the conspiracy was in fact formed, and that was supplemented in many cases by offering and giving immunity to the co-conspirators, who might in the case of a sale of moonshine, correspond to the bootlegger. The decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States authorize a charge of conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States, the parties to which conspiracy are the bootlegger and the man who buys his liquor.

In this connection, let me issue a warning to those gentlemen who are large employers of labor, occupy high social, official or professional positions, who think prohibition is good for the common man, but not necessary for them, and acting upon that assumption, freely patronize the bootlegger. Sooner or later, such men will find themselves confronted by a federal prosecution for conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States, in which they are the chief and prominent defendants. Conviction will be secured by giving the bootlegger immunity, and let those gentlemen make no mistake, the bootlegger and all his associates will take immunity and give the needed testimony, and the juries in these cases, as they did



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## LLOYD E. RAMSDEN

387 Court St.

**No Answer Yet for Teel Irrigation District**

Representatives of the Teel Irrigation district of Umatilla county again left Salem yesterday without definite information as to what the state will do for them to get their project under way. Another meeting will be held Feb. 9, and on that date the state irrigation and drainage securities commission has promised to outline the conditions on which it will certify the district bonds.

The district asks the certification of bonds sufficient to complete the project, estimated at about \$2,000,000. This will take up outstanding indebtedness of about \$330,000. The acreage is 16,500, making the estimated cost about \$120 an acre.

The commission will meet Monday to take up unfinished matters relative to the Summer lake and the Talent projects. The letter is asking the certification of \$450,000 bonds.

Read the Classified Ads.

**HOW FARM PRICES HAVE ADVANCED SINCE THE WAR**

Percentage of Gain in Farm Prices Since the War	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Wheat	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Corn	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Butter	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Whole Milk	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Cheddar Cheese	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Swiss Cheese	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Beef	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Pork	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Lamb	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Veal	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Chicken	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190
Eggs	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190

**DID farming pay in 1923?** Farmers are checking up the year's account book to see where they stand. Results are encouraging. Only wheat and hog farmers and cattlemen of the range have suffered heavy losses, according to the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural foundation.

Corn, cotton, lambs and butter are selling from 50 to 100 per cent above the pre-war level. Butter, cheese and whole milk prices all show a yearly increase over those of 1922. Milk averaged nearly 50 cents a hundred higher, cheese from 5 to 7 cents higher on the Chicago market, and 92 score butter started at 12 cents higher last January and has held above 1922 prices.

Corn prices are soaring. The upward trend reached its height in October when No. 2 yellow corn sold for several days on the Chicago market at \$1.14. It is not likely that October's high price will be duplicated, still there isn't much evidence of any cheap corn from the 1923 crop.

Poultrymen made money in 1923, but not as much as they made two years ago, due to expansion of production. Egg production increased 4 per cent last year. Receipts of dressed poultry jumped a good 25 per cent. Prices are working lower, but the profit margin of the poultry dollar still measures above the average of most farm products.

For two years corn belt cattle feeders have been working at a profit. Corn and feeder cattle have been cheap, beef cattle high. Good steers at Chicago during 1923 averaged \$10.00 per hundred against \$8.96 the first eight months of 1922. Range cattle did not fare so well. Feeder cattle are selling low, even those that go as beef.

Oats are down when compared to corn. Still the producer is working at a reasonable profit. Hay brought higher prices than in 1922.

King Cotton is up. For three years there have been short crops. In spite of higher prices, increased acreage and an ever-increasing demand, the boll weevil is taking its toll. The potential cotton area is 40,000,000 acres, half of which is situated in regions unfavorable to the weevil. Here the loss is light and farmers of this area are making handsome profits.

Wheat and hogs are two laggards to farm prosperity. Curtailment in hog production has been started, though the results will not be felt until some time next summer, as both the spring and fall pig crops are large. Wheat growers, too, have declared for a substantial reduction program. The price pendulum promises to gradually swing to the other extreme, but the upward trend of the wheat market may not take effect before 1925.

### JUSTICE JOHN McCOURT TALKS

(Continued from page 3)

the happiness and safety of the American people for all time, however numerous the population might become, and however complex society and its commercial enterprises might be. The duty of the citizens to observe all laws continues regardless of the number of character of the laws that the people think necessary to adopt for the regulation of their conduct. While by reason of the greater number of laws, the duty becomes more difficult, our facilities for understanding those duties and our capacity and ability for performing them has correspondingly increased.

Under despotic governments, where laws are made by decree or edict without regard to the needs or requirements of the people, and upon the whim or caprice of the ruler, naturally those affected by the laws voice their just protests against laws adopted in that manner by resistance to their enforcement. In this country, that situation is altogether different from that which prevails under the rule of despots. Here laws, with very

few exceptions are the outgrowth of changes and development which have taken place over a considerable period of time, and finally find their expression in the form of a law after that change and development has been completed. The law thus adopted is the expression of the people themselves as to the provisions that are necessary for their guidance under the conditions that have developed. Until that time, they have lived under a different law or no law upon the subject-matter. Not only is the law thus adopted, the expression of the people themselves, but such enforcement thereof as occurs, finds its power and force in the people themselves, and unless they observe the laws generally, and enforcement is carried on aggressively, the government in the end must fail and when that time comes, nobody will be safe in any light of his rights, because the disposition of one man or group of men to oppress or wrong other men or other groups of men is present today among all peoples, including our own, as it has been in all ages.

It is sometimes said that every law is the pet aversion of some man or men. Those entertain-

ing such an aversion to any particular law, are careless in observing the same. In such cases the individual may feel that it is unimportant that the law should be observed by anyone. Or in cases more numerous, he thinks it is a fine law for everybody but himself—he need not it. For instance, most of our citizens are perfectly in accord with the traffic laws, the violation of which endanger lives and property. But many of them frequently break those laws, and sometimes with results equally dangerous to the peace and safety of the community as arises from the indulgence in contraband booze.

Another example of the trait under discussion, is the law against gambling. Some men think it is a fine law for minors, women and men who cannot afford to gamble, but to deny them the right to a little friendly game of poker, is invading their private personal rights. Others think the game laws are made for the so-called sportsmen or for the fellow who only goes hunting once a year.

The law that is receiving the most attention at the present time, is the constitutional and statutory



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