

The Oregon Statesman
 "No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
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The Digest Poll on Prohibition
 THE latest returns in the Literary Digest poll on prohibition give the following:
 For continuance and strict enforcement... 915,681
 For modification of Volstead Act... 951,475
 For repeal... 1,308,816

In commenting on the showing made by this poll, the Eugene Register remarks:
 "Dries need feel no dismay at the outlook. The Digest poll as heretofore remarked in this column, is an enterprise of no finality, since there is no prospect of the questions it involves being placed before the voters of the land. The majority in congress is overwhelmingly dry and quite likely to be kept that way for at least some time to come."

That so far as we can judge reflects the attitude of the leaders of the dry forces. They view the poll with disdain mingled with complacency. We think they are entirely too nonchalant in thus looking on the Literary Digest poll. The vote is significant, profoundly significant. The dries cannot do like the ostrich, stick their heads in the sand, and refuse to pay any attention to this cross-section of sentiment. They cannot sit back and rely on the technical obstacle which seems insurmountable, namely the difficulty of amending the constitution.

By the same process through which prohibition was written into the constitution, the 18th amendment may be deleted from the constitution. Reliance on the dry complexion of congress is scarcely adequate, for congress is composed of politicians who can turn quickly in their voting as the weather-vane of majorities veers from dry to wet.

The vote which shows fewer than one-third in favor of enforcement of prohibition after a ten-year trial is significant. In 1922 at a corresponding period in the poll of the Digest the number for strict enforcement was 271,954; for modification 290,172; for repeal 146,697. After eight years the majority swings to outright repeal. The prohibitionists cannot ignore public sentiment, even if disclosed in this informal and extra-legal manner.

What is needed is more than the exercise of political power through skillful mustering of dry votes and using the dry bloc as a club over office-holders. The dries need to become aroused to more fundamental considerations than political maneuvering. These are the stirring of the people to genuine law observance, to enforcement tempered with intelligence rather than ignorant ruthlessness and to the education of the people that the evils of liquor indulgence did not end when the Volstead act was written on the statute books.

Prohibition cannot be successfully maintained as a permanent national policy with only one-third of the people in favor of it. The dry drive now must be to demonstrate and preserve the benefits of prohibition in order to win back the support which has slipped in the past eight years. There is no virtue in being blind to facts such as the Digest poll indicates; neither is there excuse at the present time to fly into a panic over them.

The Radio Trust
 SENATOR Dill, who fathered the federal radio commission legislation, and who has long been prominent in legislation respecting the new tool, radio, claims that a new radio trust is being formed in the move of the Radio Corporation of America to take over the radio manufacturing facilities of General Electric and Westinghouse. The Radio Corporation was already the radio trust. It is the dominant concern in the industry, and its control of basic patents gives it a monopoly power making practically every other company in radio pay tribute to it.

The worst feature is that the basic patents were developed by the navy and held by the navy. When the war was over the navy department turned these patents over to the Radio Corporation which was formed by the General Electric and American Tel. and Tel. without any charge for them. The excuse given was that the navy thought the private concern could develop the patents better. Even if true, the navy should have protected the public interest by making the basic patents open to all manufacturers for use without charge and without discrimination.

Radio corporation has grown immensely wealthy out of the growth of the radio industry. Those who have held its stock have profited enormously, though the stock has never paid a dividend. It has had a five-for-one split-up but has put its earnings back into the business.

Oddly enough Radio corporation is the outgrowth of one of the greatest stock-selling frauds ever perpetrated in the northwest. Remember the old "United Wireless" of some twenty years ago? This concern failed but was reorganized or its assets taken over, the stock lacked appeal for a few cents a share, but with the development of radio this company became the nucleus of Radio Corporation's enterprise. The chances are that none of the original stockholders stand with the company long enough to reap the profit of the great appreciation in stock prices that came to Radio.

We sympathize with the striking students at Lincoln university down in Tennessee. The students are up in arms because the school is not accredited or recognized as a standard institution. They have probably gone to the college without knowing its shortcomings. When they found out they were being exposed in getting an education they stand with the faculty members who seek the needed reforms. This business of short-changing young people in colleges under the guise of sectarian religion or religious bigotry is passing. Young people want honest instruction and they'll take their chances fighting the devil.

When the census returns from Turner and Gervais were announced this paper commented on the implications in the population decline in those towns. Now we observe that the Associated Press carries a dispatch to the effect that in the middle west the small towns show a similar decline in numbers of residents. Of a group of small towns in eight states in that section of the country 60% showed a population decrease. The automobile is credited with having chief responsibility for the shift in population from hamlet to city.

LITTLE CENSUS SITUATION



"WHERE'S EMILY?"
 by CAROLYN WELLS

WHAT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE.
 PREPARATIONS are being made for the marriage of lovely Emily Duane to Rodney Sayre, upstanding, young New Englander, at her home, "Knollwood," in exclusive Hillside Park. Among the guests are Pauline Pennington, Emily's best friend and her husband, Jim Pennington, the author, Lal Singh, Hindu fakir, popular with the fair sex of the park, is also present. Emily is thrilled with the diamond necklace presented to her by Rod. Pauline, jealous of Emily's triumphs, seeks to belittle Emily's elaborate plans. When Burton Lamb, Rod's chum, discusses Emily's quest in her will to Lal Singh, she informs him it will be void the day she marries.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY.
 "Oh yes, you can see the baby. I'll show her to you myself."
 "All right, but there is ten minutes. Good-by."
 Emily hung up the receiver, left the booth, flung her arms around Black Pearl and danced her down the hall, then ran back to the lounge.
 People were leaving, and though Emily gave farewells to a few, she whispered to Aunt Judy to stand by that for her, and told Betty Bledley to help Mrs. Bell. Then she hurried toward Sayre, who was where she had left him, and as she passed the Penningtons, she saw they were just going.
 "Bye-bye, Polly," she said, "come over for rehearsal soon after six unless you're afraid of the undertaker."
 "Oh, I'll be here, Emily. If I'm late, don't wait for me; you can get along."
 "Sure. Don't come unless you want to."
 Emily didn't like Pauline's attitude, but she was so full of another matter she gave it no thought.
 "Roddy-doddy," she said, and he knew she was about to wheedle.
 "Well?" he said, snatching a kiss from the back of her neck, "what's up?"
 "Kitty Laurence's baby is here!"
 "No!"
 Sayre's pretended interest was so ludicrous Emily pinched him.
 "Keep still! I don't want any body to know it, or the girls would all look over from the window and run over to the hospital, just a minute, to kiss it."
 "Kiss the hospital?"
 "No, silly, to kiss the baby. It's a girl—a darling, sweet little girl. And you know there's no such sure-fire good luck as to kiss a new-born baby. And I do want our wedding to be a success."
 "Good Lord, Emily, what a kid you are! Am I to go along?"
 "I should say not! You stay here and fend off inquiries. If any one says 'Where's Emily?' you say, 'Why, she was here a minute ago, or something silly like that.'"
 "Don't be gone long."
 "Indeed I shan't. Why, they won't let me stay more than a minute, I know the nurse, you see, and she'll let me have a peep at the baby when she doesn't let anyone else. You hold the fort here, don't budge from this sofa, will you?"
 "Do hah, I won't," and Rod looked at the picture of half-witted obstinacy.
 "Oh, Roddy, you are so sweet!" and Emily kissed him heartily, not caring whether they had spectators or not.
 "Listen, dear. I've got a much better good-luck charm for you than that. I've a gold piece to put in your shoe. They say—"
 "Oh, I know all about that. I'll have that, too. Save it for the wedding. Now, Rod, don't fuss. I'll be gone in a minute. I won't be a minute, and after say, ten minutes you can tell them where I am if you like. For I'll be home by that time. You don't tell them at first, for Nell and Betty would come flying over, too."
 "And I'm to sit here until Your Royal Highness returns?"
 "Yes, right here on this very sofa. Don't budge."
 So, with a sigh, and Rod Collins went toward him, and Rod beckoned him to a seat by his side.
 The older man sat down, lighted the cigarette proffered him, and then said:
 "I envy you, feller."

"Yes, you may," returned Sayre, who liked the old chap, though he knew him but slightly.
 "You see, I've known the Duanes, root and branch, all my life, and there's no finer stock anywhere."
 "I can believe that," and Rod smiled at him.
 "But there's one thing—"
 "Ah, I thought there was a catch somewhere!"
 Abel Collins grinned.
 "Yes, and it's this. There's a streak of stubbornness in the whole family. It's always there. Dormant, maybe, or prominent. But there. I'm giving you this tip for what it's worth."
 "It's worth a lot, Mr. Collins. Don't think I undervalue it. But if I didn't already know it. Do you think I could know Emily as I do, and not be aware of her—well, we'll call it firmness of character?"
 "Call it all the pretty names you like, it's stubbornness, obstinacy, pig-headedness, that's what it is."
 "There aren't three men in Boston I'd allow to talk like that. But I know your affection for my girl, so you may say what you choose. And after all, even pig-headedness isn't a crime."
 "No, sir; it isn't. At least, not in Emily. In her father, it came mighty near being. Oh, well, it's her only flaw, and, knowing it, you can make allowances."
 "Yes," said Rodney Sayre, "I can make allowances."
 "Where's Emily?" demanded Betty, coming to Sayre a few moments later.
 "Why, she was here a minute or two ago," returned Rodney, mindful of his instructions.
 "Well, where is she now?" and Betty grew impatient.
 "Isn't she in the present room?"
 "No, I can't find her anywhere. And everybody has gone home, except the wedding party, and the Rehearsers will be here pretty quick. Oh, it's awful to be maid of honor to a bride like Emily! Do help me, Rod. Don't sit there grinning like a Chinese god of happiness! Get up, and find Emily."
 "No, no, you get Black Pearl; she'll smoke Emily out. Or ask Aunt Judy. I can't run around looking for the bride."
 Betty went off, and then half a dozen young people from nearby houses came knocking in. They swept the rest of the bridemaids and ushers and with the house party made up the wedding procession that was to be rehearsed.
 The minister arrived and for a moment cast a damper on the gaiety going on.
 But the irrepressible spirits of the younger generation soon rose above such an influence, and gay speeches from the men and shrieks of laughter from the girls made the house ring with merriment.
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