

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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Guest Editorial

"The Joker in the Burke Bill"

Recent advertisements in the "Miner" advise the voter to "Look out for 'the Joker' in the Burke Bill". The advertisement further states that "Just as in 1918 the 'drys' are at it again. Protect your freedom—defeat prohibition Vote 313 x No" Billboard advertising advises "Defeat the prohibition bill".

What is the Burke Bill? It is a bill requiring that all intoxicating liquor containing in excess of 14 per cent of alcohol by volume to be sold exclusively in stores of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission. This bill was introduced at the last session of the legislature by Senator Burke of Yamhill county. After its passage by the legislature and prompt signing by the Governor, the wine interests got sufficient signers to a petition to refer the law to the people.

This bill is sometimes known as the "Fortified Wine Bill", because fortified wine was the particular target of the bill. What is fortified wine? It is wine that has alcohol added to fermented wine to increase its alcoholic content of wine made by fermentation is 14% by volume. Many not being satisfied with that amount of alcohol wish more. Fortified wine has an alcoholic content of about 21%.

Why was this bill passed by the legislature? It was passed because fortified wine is exceedingly potent and is the cause of much insanity. According to the records of Oregon State Hospital

17 per cent of patients admitted because of alcoholism. This was an increase of 12% over prohibition days. (These figures are for males only and figures for the last four years are not given because of the abnormal conditions now.) The Superintendent of the hospital, Dr. J. C. Evans states: "It has been our experience that most of these drunkards admit an over indulgence in fortified wine. It is safe to say that at least 50% of them use this beverage. Ordinarily, when asked why they used particularly fortified wine, the usual reply is, 'well, it is easy to get, cheap and potent.'"

Because fortified wine is cheap and easy to get many minors have been found to use it. It is quite a factor in adolescent delinquency. The passage of the bill will take the dispensing of fortified wine out of grocery stores, taverns, etc. where it can now be had without a liquor permit, and place it back in the state stores which have restricted hours of sale. A liquor permit will also be required to obtain it.

The passage of the bill will also restore the Knox law to its original form. When the Knox law was enacted in 1933 it provided that all beverages having an alcoholic content of 14% by volume should be sold in stores and agencies of the State Liquor Commission and that the purchaser must have a permit.

In 1935 the wine interests succeeded in getting the Knox law amended so that fortified wine could be sold outside of the state liquor stores without permit. The Burke bill, which the Anti-prohibition committee says has a "joker" in it and is a "prohibition bill," merely will put the Knox

law in the original form.

Just what the joker is I am not able to see, unless it be that they will try to make the clause about it being unlawful to give fortified wine away mean that a man after purchasing it in the store could not take it home and serve it to his family or guests. It so happens that the courts have already ruled on what it is to give liquor away. They say "It was never intended to cover the mere gift of a drink of liquor by a private person who is in no sense a dealer in liquors, to one of his friends as a mere act of courtesy or hospitality." State vs. Fulks, 207 Mo. 26, 105 S W 733. The insertion of the word "gift" is to prevent getting around the law by pretending to give away something when in reality you don't.

This bill had the support of others besides the so-called drys. Sheriff, Circuit judges and District attorneys supported it. Many members of the legislature who are not prohibitionists, I am told, voted for the bill. Every physician in the legislature also voted for the bill, I am informed. The press throughout the state also gave its support. It was a long battle to get the law passed; then the Wine interests invoked the referendum. THE BILL IS NOW IN OUR HANDS. VOTE "YES" TO UPHOLD THE BILL AND TO ELIMINATE AN AWFUL SOCIAL EVIL. VOTE 312 x YES. IT'S A VOTE FOR SANITY FOR MANY PEOPLE!

Earl F. Downing.

What About Reconversion?

You know how we run a word to death. Well, the present fad is for the word "reconversion." It is a good thought-provoking word - but there is one meaning of it which I don't think has been properly discussed, and which is even more important than business reconversion.

It is the reconversion, not of man power, but of mental power of unity power. The force that backs our fighting men is not merely force of arms. It is the force of coordinated thought. It is practical working together.

We have learned in war how important it is to put aside our personal preferences and to do a job that is in the common interest. Are we, when the war is over, going to forget our hard learned lesson and slump back into a selfish way of life? Are we going to scrap the plant we have built, the cooperative machine that did the job? Are we going to revert to bickering among ourselves?

Why cannot we reconvert this moral force and carry on our crusade? All we need to do is to change the objective of our war - to fight conditions, not men.

We have had a man-power shortage because we had to produce so many weapons of destruction. Cannot we, if we turn the same energy to effect, have full employment producing those things which make life more enjoyable?

Instead of building the paraphernalia of war, cannot we build homes? If we fought slum conditions, poverty and disease with one tenth of the energy we have put into fighting people, we would destroy an olden enemy and assure the future for those who follow. We have worked hard to make our soldiers healthy and strong - to face death and mutilation. Cannot we work as hard to make our children healthy and strong, to wipe out the plagues of disease?

When in forums, my audience expresses concern about the problem of peace, I ask how many are doing community war work. Most of them are. Then I ask how many gave as much time to their community in peace. The silence is awful. However, there was a man once who broke it by saying, "We get it."

Reconvert to peace by all means - but do a complete job with the same energy used in war. Can't you see what a Utopia America could become? And we could bring it about!

The Miner for Quality Printing.

Politically Speaking

Democratic . . .

Robert E. Hannegan, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, returning to New York from a swing through the West declared in a statement released to the press, that after consulting with people and party leaders in all forty-eight states, he can now report strong local confirmation of his personal belief that "Thomas E. Dewey will make a showing against President Roosevelt in 1944 no better than that of Herbert Hoover in 1932."

The Democratic voters and party workers, said Mr. Hannegan, "are greatly encouraged by recent progress in getting people to register and insuring a better turnout at the polls than we originally expected." There is still much hard work to be done there he asserted, but "the steady concentration of our efforts on a larger vote is now showing real pay-dirt. People are aroused, our rank and file workers are becoming increasingly active," he said, adding:

"I now believe that as a result of these efforts, we will have a larger maximum vote in November than was originally anticipated."

If the reaction to the President's fighting speech—the one he delivered on September 23—follows generally the samples that I have been able to observe in the brief period following, Mr. Hannegan said, "then you may look for an even greater determination to get out and work to see that the will of our people is registered at the polls." The President's speech, he emphasized, "has electrified the country."

On the other side of the picture, Mr. Hannegan said, "I found a pretty general agreement throughout the land that Mr. Dewey's first campaign efforts have been a failure." The more Mr. Dewey talks, he said, and fortunately for the electorate he must talk—"the more of that middleground of undecided voters mainly Republicans by tradition, he will force over to the Democratic side."

"This is safe to predict," Mr. Hannegan declared, "just as it is safe to assume that the people of America abhor deliberate untruths, little ones or big ones." Time and again, Mr. Hannegan said, I have been told on this most recent trip, that "Dewey can't get away with it because the people know that what he's been saying about the depression, war preparedness, and about getting the boys out of the Army—those things just aren't so, and everybody knows it."

The fact that people do not agree with Mr. Dewey's statements on these points, Mr. Hannegan said, "it not nearly so damaging to his cause as the fact that they do not believe that he believes them himself. This is enough to condemn and defeat any candidate for the highest office in our country."

Mr. Hannegan accused Mr. Dewey of using the old technique of sectional appeal, "which used to work before the days of radio and nationwide wire service." A political candidate, he said, could promise his way cross-country and back this thing for the east, the other thing for the west, and it didn't matter too much if they conflicted. "Today," he said, "the people of the manufacturing districts of the east can hear the promises he makes to the west, and the farmers can hear what

he promises both," adding: "The result is that when he promises everybody the world with a little red fence around it, nobody is going to take his seriously."

Republican . . .

Political activity is very brisk in all thirty-six counties of Oregon, according to a survey just completed by Mrs. John Y. Richardson, Vice-chairman of the State Central Committee of Oregon, who this week completed a swing through eight southwestern counties.

In twelve days Mrs. Richardson held seventeen meetings, putting the finishing touches on Republican women's organizations.

Few Republican and independent voters will go unsolicited in an attempt to get out the biggest vote in Oregon's history. Women were never more important in an election, the state Vice-chairman discovered. Present trends indicate that sixty percent of the vote to be cast will be women, due to war conditions and the shifting population.

All twenty-four precincts in Deschutes county have been completely organized, according to a report turned in by Mrs. S. P. Runge of Bend. This is the first time in the county's history that one hundred percent organization has been perfected.

Four women chairmen were cited for outstanding organizational work by the state vice-chairman. They were: Mrs. May Young, Roseburg; Mrs. Ada May Smith, Newport; Mrs. Hazel H. Waterman, Corvallis; and Mrs. Doris Woodburn, Salem.

October 25th. is a red-letter day for Oregon women Republicans. It has been designated as "D-Day". The object is to double Dewey's vote by special activity among women voters. It was announced by Mrs. John Y. Richardson.

"D-Day" was organized when it became apparent that in order to win, Governor Dewey would need the vote of fifteen million American women. Oregon Republicans are out to turn in two for one.

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