

SHALL WINE AND BEER BE PROHIBITED?

Shall prohibition be one of the main issues in the coming campaign and shall the manufacture of light wines and beer play an important part in a discussion of a question that is daily becoming a widely talked of one, in view of the controversy precipitated by William Jennings Bryan? are questions that are attracting wider and wider attention every day. In view of this, the following from the San Francisco Argonaut is interesting as it epitomizes the views of those who favor a change in existing conditions.

Prohibition.

In the ordering of human society first consideration, as all will agree, must be for the needs and propensities of the normal man. In every community there is a percentage of abnormality and another percentage of adolescence. Infirmity and childhood are properly subject to a guardianship not essential to the welfare and not consistent with the rights of normal men and women. It follows that in establishing general rules—in other words making laws—for the regulation of society there needs be special provision for those members of the community in any manner disqualified for life under its working conditions. Disqualification

MEAT CAUSE OF KIDNEY TROUBLE

Take Salts to flush Kidneys if Back hurts or Bladder bothers

If you must have your meat every day, eat it, but flush your kidneys with salts occasionally, says a noted authority who tells us that meat forms uric acid which almost paralyzes the kidneys in their efforts to expel it from the blood. They become sluggish and weaken, then you suffer with a dull misery in the kidney region, sharp pains in the back or sick headache, dizziness, your stomach sour, tongue is coated and when the weather is bad you have rheumatic twinges. The urine gets cloudy, full of sediment, the channels often get sore and irritated, obliging you to seek relief two or three times during the night.

To neutralize these irritating acids, to cleanse the kidneys and flush off the body's urinous waste get four ounces of Jad Salts from any pharmacy here; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate sluggish kidneys, also to neutralize the acids in urine, so it no longer irritates, thus ending bladder weakness.

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BUSINESS MEN'S MEETING

The Klamath Falls Business Men's association will hold a meeting and dinner at the White Pelican hotel, Friday evening, March 12, at 6:30 o'clock. A full attendance is urged as there are several important matters for consideration.

By order of Leslie Rogers, Pres. 10-12

tion is a broad term; it includes many forms of incapacity, among them insufficient powers of self-restraint. But nobody, we think, will contend that in the making of laws the paramount consideration should be for the incapables of the body social. Nobody mindful of its bearings and implications will contend for a principle in legislation that would subordinate and restrict the privileges of the normal and the efficient to limitations proper and necessary in relation to the abnormal and inefficient. Yet the rule of prohibition as it has now been imposed upon the basic law of the United States is in direct and absolute disregard of this fundamental principle.

The logic of prohibition is basically unsound in that it imposes upon the efficient and self-controlled rules applicable in equity and common sense only to the weaklings of society. Prohibition denies to A that which he may use legitimately because B may make it a subject of abuse. Thus A is penalized in respect of the deficiencies of B. Establish the rule that one may not enjoy that which another may abuse, and the result would be universal demoralization. There are those who drive motor-cars recklessly, risking their own lives and menacing the lives of others. Under the logic of prohibition nobody should be allowed to drive a motor-car. Incidental to navigation of the seas ships are lost and men, women and children are drowned to the loss and distress of society. Under the logic of prohibition navigation of the seas should be prohibited. There is no activity, no development in the field of industry, which has not its victims. Under the false logic of prohibition industry should cease. Thus regarded as a principle, prohibition under close analysis runs quickly into absurdity.

The cornerstone of our system is the principle of individual liberty. It was worked out by a moral people through generations of restricted life under subjection to an old-world mastery. It was in a sense the discovery of our forefathers and it was by them declared and fixed in our national charter guaranteeing to all the "inalienable rights" of "liberty and the pursuit of happiness." For a century and a half it has stood as the basic principle in American life. It has been the stimuli of incomparable achievements in material and moral development. It is our pride and our boast. It is a magnet which has drawn to us the youth, the energy, the hope of other lands. What becomes of this principle—a principle which has led vastly to the enlightenment and progress of mankind—and which remains the hope of the world—under a rule which denies the use of that which the vast majority may use without harm and even helpfully? What becomes of liberty and the rights of property when that which has been produced legitimately and may be used discreetly is subject to seizure and destruction by agents of government? What becomes of the principle of individual liberty when a citizen may not press a bunch of grapes or squeeze the juice from an apple—except for "scientific" and, God save us, "sacramental" purposes—without bringing down upon himself penalties comparable with those due to theft or arson?

Systems established by autocratic power and sustained by force may ride rough-shod over the opinions, the propensities, the liberties of their subjects. But it is an essential condition of government of the people, by the people, that all worthy elements shall respect and support the laws. Is there anybody so deaf and blind to the propensities of human nature as not to know that this may not be when government impinges upon individual liberty, when it becomes a meddling busybody in the sphere of private and domestic life, when it penalizes that which multitudes of intelligent and worthy persons regard as innocent and as within the limits of their natural rights? The wisest of our publicists and statesmen have always maintained that the integrity of our system—a system resting as upon its cornerstone on the will of the people—will be lost when any considerable and worthy element shall find in government a thwarting of its purposes, not a friend and supporter, but an arbitrary master. Decline of respect for and cheerful obedience to law is a certain forerunner of the decline of patriotic spirit. The principle embodied in this theory has enforced many changes, recently and notably the enfranchisement of women. Many women, good women, wished to participate in the affairs of government, therefore in denial of the franchise there was grave danger to the fabric of government in these United States. This was the most practical and most effective of all the arguments by which appeal for suffrage was supported; and it

was the argument that brought many who doubted the wisdom of change to reluctant consent. It has been disregarded in the crusade for prohibition. To vastly many of our people prohibition comes as a slap in the face. It incites to contempt of authority; it incites further to contempt of law. It calls for slight insight into the spirit and temper of our people to comprehension of the fact that prohibition is a demoralizing and disintegrating rule. Thousands—even millions—normally patriotic and habitually respectful of law hold the rule of prohibition in resentment. Those who hitherto have stood as ardent supporters of government and law become under prohibition haters of government and violators of law. Holding this particular law in contempt and feeling no scruples of conscience in evading it, something is lost of respect for law in general. Is it possible that prohibition can yield in the way of moral effects anything comparable to the moral loss under its autocratic prescriptions and its meddling enforcements? It is a serious question, a very serious question indeed, if government of the people, by the people can permanently endure under a rule which puts upon vast numbers of the people—assuredly a majority—restrictions in disregard of their propensities, their habits, their judgment? Consent of the governed logically means cheerful consent; and there is no cheerful consent where multitudes are resentful and rebellious, when evasion is practiced widely and with no sense of turpitude. Prohibition makes a crime of that which the average man and woman does not deem a crime. It creates inevitably in the body social a vast mass of discontent; and upon the basis of discontent millions automatically become, if not actual violators of the law, traitors to the law in spirit.

Prohibition, in the minds of all who have observed the means by which it was brought about, is an imposition upon the majority by a minority. Further, although imposed in the name of morality, it has been achieved by a campaign of falsehood, of fraud, of political malpractice, of propaganda backed by sheer force of money. It was imposed as a war measure and it was maintained as a war measure for many months when there was no war. Constitutional prohibition was dovetailed with a fraudulent war prohibition and "put over" adroitly at a time when more than two millions of voters were fighting in alien lands. There is no trick of dirty politics, from intimidation to bribery, from a cheap sharp practice to a coarse swinging of the political bludgeon, that was not employed in its promotion. Incidentally constitutional prohibition violates the first principle in social organization, the rights of property. Take our own state, for example: For more than half a century California has officially promoted the wine industry. The legislation by definite enactments has invited investment of capital and labor in vineyards. Thru its State University it has instructed and fostered this industry. No other factor in the industrial life of the state has been so specifically sanctioned by official invitation and suggestion. Thus the energies and the capital of vast numbers of persons have been invested in a business which by the world around and for many centuries has been held both legitimate and worthy. Again and again, under urgency of minders-of-other-people's business, the judgment and sentiment of the state has been tested by popular vote with results known to all men. Yet now by imposition of law this vast investment is nullified. The wealth created by it has been destroyed without compensation. That which is no crime has been by an impertinent and vicious law nominated a crime. All this by methods which would shame a ward boss in the lowest

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levels of "practical politics." And in the face of these sinister achievements there are those among us, familiar with all the facts, professedly loyal to majority rule, who raise their voices in approval and in ecstatic acclaim to the glory of God.

What, let us ask, becomes of our traditional boast of America as the land of liberty, the home of the free, when the country swarms with meddling inspectors and pestiferous spies? And what becomes of our boasted equality of right and privilege when men of means—with spacious cellars and attics—are amply provided and may thus ignore the law, while the man lacking these facilities must perforce and however resentfully endure the restrictions of the law? There is a familiar name for a rule which imposes rules or obligations upon one sort of man and from which another sort may find exemption. It is styled class legislation, and it finds in the present situation a complete and irritating illustration. Will the many whose liberties are restrained by prohibition view with equanimity the continued privilege of those whose means now enable them to smile, even as they regard contemptuously, the impertinent activities of a horde of official spies? Will our people submit to the humiliations of the spy system; and, further, will they submit to be taxed in support of that system? Verily, they will not! Verily they will find, within the law or in contempt of it, ways and means of ridding themselves of a rule which insults intelligence and offends a self-respecting, and proper pride.

There are things that enactments—even fundamental laws—may not do. Laws, however "fixed," become of non-effect when lacking the sanction of public approval and respect. The Constitution provides specifically a method of selecting the President of the republic. In practice we choose President upon another principle and by wholly different means. It is fixed in the Constitution that the black man shall have equality of political privilege with the white man. In practice the black man is disfranchised throughout the Southern States. No way has yet been found permanently to impose upon the American people that which fails to coincides with and find continuing support in the popular will. It was Edmund Burke, we believe, who declared the impracticability of indicting a whole community, as truly may be said that there is to means by which millions of men trained in the precepts of liberty and accustomed to freedom of private judgment in their personal affairs may be denied the exercise of that which is associated with their propensities, their habits, their sense of rightful privilege. For all the victory of the advocates of prohibition, despite their success in juggling the basic law of the land, we venture the prophecy

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that prohibition will fail practically. It will fail because it is founded in a false principle and supported by a false logic, because it is destructive of patriotic sentiment and tends to destruction of loyalty to government, because it imposes upon the majority the will of a minority, because it makes a crime of that which is no crime, because it robs industry and enterprise of that which they have legitimately acquired, because in practice the man of means is still privileged while the poor man is restrained, because it creates an army of spies busy in a hateful censorship of individual conduct, because it was imposed by shameful practice in political management, because its claims of moral reformation of society can not possibly be sustained, because it creates new costs of government and involves largely increased charges of taxation. A self-respecting people, valuing its liberties, resentful of inter-

ference in its private affairs, will rise in the might of righteous wrath and undo—or nullify—in resentment and anger that which has been done in the spirit of tyranny and by the methods of chicanery.

Let no man believe that the Argonaut is resentful of prohibition through motives founded in appetite, still less of sympathy with the vicious phases of the liquor traffic; and among the vicious phases of the liquor traffic we classify the hotel barroom and the beg-lit and be-mirrored "palace" with the dives of the Barbary Coast. There is no such thing, there never has been such a thing, as a respectable saloon. Long before any other journal in this community dared raise voice in protest the Argonaut was an open en-

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