

GATE CITY JOURNAL

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GOD'S PLAN VS. PROHIBITION.

Is the enactment of a law prohibiting the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages contrary to God's plan of dealing with objectionable things? This question arose during a recent discussion of the prohibition law. The contention was made that a prohibitory law violated God's method of working in such cases by taking away from man the right of choice; that it was only by resisting and overcoming temptation that we became strong and that a prohibitory law interfered with this plan.

To discuss this question intelligently it is necessary to study the Scriptures and see just what God did in similar cases. From His actions in many cases we can readily construct the principle upon which He worked—and it is the principle we are discussing.

Probably the first prohibitory law of which we have any record was God's command to Adam not to eat the apple from the tree of life. Here we have an absolute prohibitory law, with the death penalty for its violation. The power of choice was given them to violate the law if they wished, and the power of choice is given the people today to violate the prohibition law if they want to run the risk of getting pinched. Apparently there is no conflict of principle here. Coming on down to the Ten

Commandments we note a number of prohibitory laws.

"Thou shalt not kill."
"Thou shalt not steal."
"Thou shalt not commit adultery."

And various others. In each case there is a prohibitory law and a penalty for its violation. In what respect then do they differ in principle from our prohibitory law? The people still have the option of obeying or disobeying any of these laws. But if they disobey, they do so at the risk of incurring the penalty for disobedience. This is true of every law, both human and divine. Hence we can safely accept as a principle that God believes in prohibitory laws but gives us the power to disobey them if we are willing to pay the penalty.

In Christ's time adultery was punishable with death. The two thieves who were crucified with Christ were paying the penalty for violating the law against theft.

A careful study of the Bible must convince anyone that it is not God's plan to allow violation of laws against objectionable or injurious practices without fear of punishment for their violation. True, He allows temptation to exist in the world, but He prescribes a penalty for those who succumb to it. And that is what the prohibition law does. It does not take away the POWER to make or drink booze, but the LEGAL RIGHT to do so and prescribes a penalty for its violation, and in doing so we are merely following the precedent set by the Divine Law Giver.

It is said by those who are opposed to the prohibition law that the law does not prohibit, therefore it should be abolished. We have laws against what is known as the "social evil." It is well known that these laws do not prohibit, and it is generally con-

ceded that they never will prohibit, yet we do not hear any wild clamor for their repeal. Why?

It is claimed that the prohibition law is an infringement of personal liberty. If a man and woman go from one state to another for immoral purposes they have violated the white slave law and are subject to arrest and imprisonment. If there is such a thing as violation of personal liberty this would seem to be it, but you never hear it called that. It is generally conceded to be a necessary protection to society. Why is the prohibition law a violation of personal liberty while the Mann white slave law is not? They are both prohibition laws, one designed to prevent immorality and the other drunkenness. By what principle do we determine that one is a violation of personal liberty and the other is not. Will some one use the columns of the Journal to answer?

Referendum on Bok Peace Award

The competition for the American Peace Award, created by Edward W. Bok, and offering \$100,000 for the "best practical plan by which the United States may co-operate with other nations to achieve and preserve the peace of the world," closed on November 15 at midnight. There were 22,165 plans received.

The Jury of Award, consisting of Elihu Root, chairman; General James Guthrie Harbord, Colonel Edward M. House, Ellen F. Pendleton, Roscoe Pound, William Allen White and Brand Whitlock, has been at work on the plans since the middle of October and is expected to have made its choice by January first. The Policy Committee which has been administering the Award now announces that during January it will present the winning plan to the American people for their consideration and vote.

This "referendum" will be conducted.

1. Through the daily and weekly press.
2. Through the Cooperating Council of the American Peace Award.
3. Through Mayors committees in many communities.
4. Through the universities and libraries of the country.
5. Through local organizations of all kinds.

Organizations whose combined memberships total many millions, have already agreed to submit a copy of the winning plan and a ballot to their members.

The press of the country, both the dailies and weeklies, is generally co-operating with this attempt to secure from the American people a wide expression of opinion on this vastly important subject. Many papers which have a consistent policy of not carrying ballots of any kind have made the first exception in their history in this instance.

With so many agencies of such a wide variety cooperating, the committee feels that the "referendum" should be most effective. However, it emphasizes the need of securing, not a great volume of ballots representing the hasty, unconsidered action of the voters, but the real opinion of the voters after they have carefully read the plan, or a luminous digest of it.

This paper is cooperating with the Committee of the Award in this matter, and we will carry a copy of the winning plan, and a ballot upon which

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MALHEUR

In the matter of the estate of Gustave Adolph Schweizer, deceased.

Notice is hereby given: That Margaret Walrack Schweizer, the duly appointed, qualified and acting executrix of the estate of Gustave Adolph Schweizer, deceased, has rendered and presented for final settlement, and filed in said Court her final account of her administration of said estate and petition for distribution and her discharge as said executrix, and that Monday, the 15th day of December, 1923, at the hour of 11 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, at the court room of said Court, in the Court house in Vale, Malheur County, State of Oregon, has been appointed and fixed by the Judge of said County Court, in an order made and entered by said Judge on the 10th day of December, 1923, as the time and place for hearing objections to said account, the settlement thereof, and the hearing of said petition; at which time and place any and all persons interested in said estate may appear and object to said account and contest the same; and all persons concerned therein are further notified to be present and show cause, if any there be, why said account and report should not be approved, settled and allowed and the undersigned discharged as such executrix.

Margaret Walrack Schweizer, Executrix of the estate of Gustave Adolph Schweizer, Deceased.
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our readers may state whether or not they approve the winning plan in SUBSTANCE.

We commend to our readers this opportunity, perhaps the first that has been offered to the American public, to register their direct opinion upon what the relation of the United States should be upon any international action looking toward the prevention of war.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Services in the Parish Hall first Sunday in every month in the evening Third Sunday in every month hereafter at 11 o'clock in the morning.

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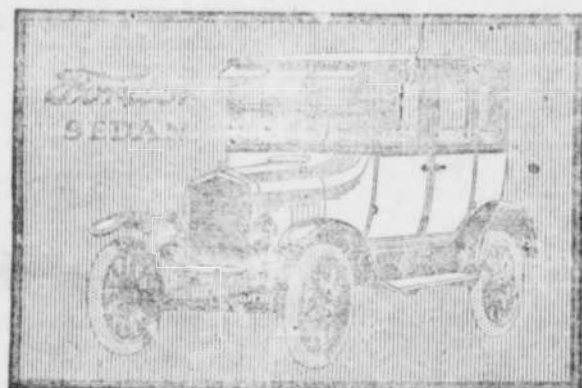
Nyssa, Oregon

Happy New Year

Not merely in pursuance of a time honored custom, but in recognition of the spirit of friendship and good will which takes possession of us all at this season, I extend to you our very best wishes for a happy New Year.

J. BOYDELL

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R. W. SWAGLER

Attorney at Law