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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way."

Bartender or Gangster?

Senator Arthur Robinson, the particular pet of the Anti-Saloon League, once more announces his fidelity to that organization and dramatically suggests that "Uncle Sam will never become a bartender."

Aside from the fact that prohibition has not only made Uncle Sam a bartender, but a gangster as well, no one will seriously quarrel with the declaration of the senator.

The oratory of Robinson will only serve to call attention of serious-minded citizens to the pure bunk behind most of the dry propaganda, especially that of a professional nature which is intended for the consumption of those who pay their money under a misguided belief that there is such a thing as prohibition.

The testimony of educators, doctors, lawyers, manufacturers, leaders in every walk of life, given before congressional committees is that prohibition has produced more evils than it cured.

The law has broken down. Prohibition is responsible for a rapidly increasing disrespect for all law. It has made drinking popular with youth and in circles where it was taboo before the amendment. It has failed utterly to reduce crime or poverty.

Three years ago prohibitionists were boasting that all the savings of working men were due to the prohibition era. Today no such boast is made. At least some of the plight of working men can be traced to the law because of its contribution to unemployment and the decrease in revenues for government.

Now Uncle Sam, from whom Senator Robinson will keep the white apron, openly admits his gangster attitude. If it be admitted that government control of liquor sales would make a bartender of the government.

It will be recalled that Uncle Sam is sending Al Capone to prison for only one reason.

It is not sending him there for selling liquor, although he is reputed to have controlled the sale of liquor through many states.

It is not sending him there for murder, although he is reputed to have been a master assassin, ruler of his own army of killers.

What Uncle Sam is sending him to jail for is failure to split his profits of murder liquor and vice with the government.

If the government control makes Uncle Sam a bartender, prohibition has made him a gangster.

Dishonest Debt Policies

Politics, the curse of the reparations-war debt is from the beginning, now is making a bad matter worse. According to the plan of the politicians, the reparations conference at Lausanne next week will do what every previous conference of its kind has done since the war—that is, patch up some temporary compromise agreement and then run away from the problem until it catches up with them again in worse form. And America will not be represented.

That method may be all very well for the politicians, whose chief purpose in life seems to be to get themselves re-elected, but it is disastrous for world peace, for world business and for the millions of unemployed in all countries.

If it were not for politics here and abroad the problem could be settled. For the facts are fairly simple. The allied governments in order to quiet the scene could be watched. When the condemned man was marched to the scaffold a murmur which was almost a shout rose in the air.

Before this audience Hangman Ellis proceeded to the task of taking a life for a life. The trap was sprung at 8 o'clock—but something went wrong. After a full five minutes had passed Alphonse Bureau was found to be still alive at the end of the rope. Seven minutes more were allowed to elapse before a second examination was made. Somewhere between the fifth and twelfth minutes Bureau died—of strangulation.

Thus was Yvonne Poulin avenged and the account with society squared. Meanwhile Bureau's wife, whom he married a few days after the murder—and his child, are alive.

Perhaps they still believe that he spoke the truth when, from the scaffold, he read a statement in which he reaffirmed his innocence, and protested that he died a victim of human injustice. But we have the opinion of a jury that the man was guilty."

Finally, the experts at the Basle conference this winter let out the truth, that Germany could not go on paying. That was followed by the recent German statement to the same effect.

Now it is up to the politicians again. But, instead of facing the facts and dealing with them, they plan at Lausanne to fool their peoples again—at least long enough to get the politicians by the next elections.

The same kind of allied deception regarding reparations has characterized the official American attitude toward debts. For twelve years Washington tried to maintain the absurd fiction that there is no connection between reparations and debts. But because of that connection which it did not publicly admit, the Washington government had to make so-called refunding agreements which cancelled those debts from 25 to 75 cents on the dollar—all the while swearing to the American people that the debts would be paid and that no cancellation would be permitted under any circumstances.

Last summer the European economic crisis became so acute and the danger of wholesale central European repudiation of private debts became so imminent, Hoover had to intervene with his belated one-year moratorium plan on both reparations and debts.

At last Washington had recognized the relationship between the two problems, that the allies could not pay us unless they were paid by Germany and that Germany could not pay them unless we continued to loan her the money.

But, however, by refusing to call congress into special session to handle this legislative matter, so mishandled the situation that public sentiment later turned against the moratorium. As a result, Hoover and congress are now running for cover and trying to wash their hands of the issue until after the election.

If American and European politicians continue this long policy of deception and cowardice, there is grave danger of a European financial collapse which in turn will retard American business recovery.

We believe it is the duty of our government to send a representative to the Lausanne conference because there can be no real conference or settlement without America, the chief creditor. We believe America should go into the conference with a definite program.

That program should recognize the unfortunate fact that reparations and debts never will be paid.

America should give her debtors the chance of further debt cancellation in return for foreign armament reduction permitting reduction of American armament expense, or leave the European governments to the remaining alternative of open repudiation and the fatal consequences that entails for their future credit.

If there is any other honest or constructive policy possible for the United States, it has not yet been suggested.

Beer and the Fathers

"Let us appeal to the people according to the methods of our fathers," urges a communiqué today from the Methodist board of temperance, prohibition and public morals.

The methods of the fathers, we learn also today from a letter of Senator Harry Hawes to Senator Hiram Bingham, were to drink and let drink—plentifully of beer and wine, sparingly of the ardent spirits.

George Washington, says the senator of Missouri to the senator of Connecticut, toted not one silver flask, but three, one for his hip, one for his saddle bag, one for his coach. Also, in his own immortal handwriting, he penned a home brew recipe, which for fear of running afoul of the law we refrain from committing to paper. Senator Hawes, however, recommends it for the 10,000,000 contemporary home brewers "to improve the quality."

Patrick Henry, as Governor of Virginia, also dallied with home brew, serving it at state functions at Richmond. He imported from Scotland a consignment of barley, personally conducted by a Scotch brewer and his wife, to "make small beer" as an example to the colonists.

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