



## The Indianapolis Times

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

Dry "Logic"  
 The logic of the drys who so violently oppose a referendum on prohibition is difficult to grasp.

"It is an effort to short-circuit the regular constitutional process for amending the Constitution," they say.

"It would be destructive of, and repugnant to, not only the letter, but the spirit of the Constitution."

"The theory that a vote to resubmit the eighteenth amendment may be a neutral vote is false and can not be sustained. On the contrary, it is an attempt to evade a congressional duty, to surrender a constitutional prerogative, and to shift responsibility."

"Those asking for resubmission have not advocated any definite plan for control of the liquor traffic."

"Prohibition was adopted after all other methods had been tried and failed."

"Under our present financial crisis we need all our energies to work out a plan for the return of prosperity. It is a poor time for congress to advocate a re-submission of the question that would arouse intense antagonism among the people."

It is true that the machinery for resubmitting the prohibition question to a vote of the people may have to be set up through passage of a constitutional amendment.

But, is this a reason for denying that referendum?

Is or is not this a government "of the people, by the people and for the people?"

We recommend for serious reading to the vehement drys the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, which it will be recalled, preceded the drafting of the Constitution:

We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

Examined one by one, the arguments against a national referendum fail to the ground and scatter as leaves in the wind as completely as did Deets Pickett's argument that Finland voted five to one for repeal because of economic pressure.

### Ol' Man River

As you read of the break of levees, the inundation of a third of a million acres, and the peril of the new Mississippi rampage to the lives of hundreds, think also of the cause and cure of floods.

When the Pilgrims landed, America was one gigantic forest as far west as the great plains. The year round, because the winter snows and spring rains were held back by forest carpets, Old Man River rolled blue and peacefully on his way to the sea.

Unfortunately, the first white Americans were not forest-minded. In their eagerness for farms, they cleared, logged, and burned their way into the wilderness. Later, to make quick profits, self-made timber barons invaded the forests for masts, houses and Grand Rapids furniture.

As forests disappeared, floods appeared. The blue waters yellowed with silt. Whole farms were carried southward in solution and deposited on the delta. To losses in vanished timber were added billions in eroded soil, bleached areas, flood damage, and costly repair work.

How far we have gone in the ruin of our greatest asset, the land and its forest wealth, is seen by the fact that in 300 years seven-eighths of the virgin forest has been destroyed, 17,500,000 acres of good farmland have been ruined by gullying, more than 100,000,000 acres have been abandoned by private owners and reverted to public ownership.

In the last decade alone, 46,000,000 acres, an area bigger than North Dakota or Missouri, have gone out of use, and 3,500,000 Americans have left the land.

"In no other nation is depletion of soil resources taking place so rapidly as in the United States," says Dr. O. E. Baker, department of agriculture economist.

Wise conservationists know that the ultimate remedy for floods lies not in levees and by-passes, but in forests. We must restore, by a big and national tree-planting program, the natural reservoirs for flood waters.

And what better time to begin such a program than now, as a measure of unemployment relief?

**Not a Home for Cats and Dogs**  
 The nation turns with hope to the reconstruction corporation. Within a few days this two billion dollar machine for lubrication of credit will be working, and, wisely operated, it should succeed.

The difference between wisdom and un wisdom will be spelled in that one word—lubrication.

Stripped of all its technicalities, the purpose of the reconstruction corporation is to do the thing that the banks of the country have not been doing, namely, extend credit where credit should be extended, but has been denied.

To be clear, in our view of the possibilities contained in the reconstruction corporation, it is necessary to understand why credit that should be extended has been denied. The reason is the banker's recent abnormal effort for liquidity, and that reason in turn runs back to the boom and the mistakes the banker made during the boom.

For example, a bank that took on a certain amount of new defaulted South American bonds and other foreign and domestic cats and dogs, when the storm hit, when that collateral went bad, and when the era of bank failures set in, the bank, with such collateral on its hands, naturally applied the first law of man—self-preservation.

To prepare itself to meet the possible demands of its depositors, it put on full steam ahead for liquidity. To become liquid, it couldn't use the bad collateral. The cats and dogs wouldn't help. Therefore, the bank turned to the only other source from which liquidity could be secured—it's solvent customers.

It began calling their loans, and thereby was created the worst season of credit restriction that this generation ever has seen.

It should be borne constantly in mind that the key to the whole trouble was that size of the past for which the present is being made to pay. The just are forced to suffer for the errors of the unjust.

Now comes the government with its reconstruction corporation to do a job that the bankers, through their lack of vision and of wisdom, failed to do. The purpose is to superimpose on the banking structure

a credit extension the banks in normal times provide, a function on which they, in their scramble for liquidity, have fallen down.

It is to extend credit where credit should be extended and already would have been extended by the banks had they been one-tenth as cautious in boom times as they are today.

It is to extend credit to solvent and legitimate business from which credit has been withdrawn.

And this is vital—it is not to thaw frozen bank assets that should remain frozen. It is not to provide a home for cats and dogs.

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This is good so far as it goes. But this abuse deserves general legislative action. It should not be left to sporadic rulings by one of our more sensible and open-minded judges.

There is grave doubt whether all women are entitled to such generous alimony settlements as they now receive in many cases. Particularly is this true of the many alimony racketeers among the fair sex.

In the case of a devoted woman who is deserted with children after years of labor and solicitude by a husband who suddenly has become infatuated with a chorus girl, the situation is different. Doubtless she deserves all the monetary solace which the traffic will bear.

Yet even in the most worthy cases, jailing the furtive or deficient spouse will achieve little. Stringent laws in regard to attaching the husband's earnings to sporadic rulings by one of our more sensible and open-minded judges.

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