

The Indianapolis Times

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

The Prohibition Question

That the people, of a vast and growing majority of the people, demand the repeal of prohibition and the ending of the present farce is indicated by the number of aspiring politicians who are changing from ardent dries to hesitating moist.

Those who opposed any suggestion two years ago that the matter might be given back to the people for decision as treason to the Constitution are now suggesting this as an alibi for their records.

A referendum means delay of years. The head of the Anti-Saloon League says that it is impossible and illegal. At best, it means years of gangdom and racketeering.

What people want is a chance to repeal the prohibition amendment. The referendum would come in the selection of conventions elected to ratify the repeal.

Very many citizens who have supported prohibition in the past now believe that the evils it has introduced into American life are intolerable and the law itself impossible of enforcement.

The Capone run the governments of cities and states. Kidnaping and killing are common crimes. Blackmail of business has become almost a recognized part of commerce. The revenue that formerly went to the government is now left with the bootlegger to distribute as bribes.

In the coming primary, where other factors are equal or nearly equal, The Times believes that the people will do well to select candidates who pledge themselves to immediate action on this question.

An endorsement by the Anti-Saloon League furnishes a fairly good warning signal to those who believe that failure to settle this question has interfered with the settlement of economic issues.

Reducing Taxes

Every one will agree that the real tax problem is finding ways to reduce the amount of money taken for the support of government.

No change in method of collection will bring any real relief until every wasted dollar is eliminated from the expense sheets.

For that reason, the new organization of the Marion County Association for Tax Reduction will undoubtedly receive wide support in its efforts to cut the cost to fit the present day public purse.

The fact that the cost of government has grown six and a half times as fast as the national income has startled those who face the loss of property through unpaid taxes into a realization that the time has arrived for drastic remedies.

The so-called luxuries of government, fine public enterprises, can no longer be afforded.

Faced by the stern fact that tax delinquencies are of such magnitude and extent as to reduce the treasury below the present scale of operation, this association invites co-operation in an effort to cut the costs, no matter how unpopular the remedies may be with public employees.

It is fast becoming a question, not of whether the present scale of government and public expenditures are to be retained, but whether there will be any cash to maintain any government at all.

With less income, the treasury is faced by the necessity of caring for a rapidly increasing number of unemployed who must have public support.

One-fourth of present taxes is for interest on bonds issued in the past. That means that the reductions must come from 75 per cent remaining, and, in concrete terms, from either the number or the wage of public employees.

Wage reductions have hit at all private enterprises, both mercantile and manufacturing. There is the greater loss to the workers in these enterprises through reduction in days of employment. Thousands have no employment whatever.

It is probable that the same fate must come to public employees, or that these same employees will be faced with the fact that the time will soon arrive when there will be no money with which to pay any salaries or wages. This has happened in other cities and counties.

The cost of government is mixed in every other grave problem. Possibly this new association has at least a part of the answer.

Only a Dream

Many people are under the impression that the old Prohibition party, which entered the national field in 1889, disappeared when the eighteenth amendment and the Volstead act took the nation in charge.

Not quite. Only four years ago, in the presidential year, 1928, the Prohibition party held a national convention in Chicago, at which 152 delegates, representing twenty-two states, nominated candidates for President and Vice-President. Electoral tickets were nominated in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana and West Virginia.

Moreover, the Prohibition party's 1928 platform contained this highly pertinent and still up-to-date plank:

"The present unsatisfactory enforcement of prohibition, amounting to nullification over wide areas in great centers of population, is the natural result of the acceptance by friends of prohibition of the false political philosophy of non-partisanship (a word substituted for the Anti-Saloon League) whereby the voters have kept themselves divided between and swallowed up in the two political parties, both dependent for success upon the votes of their wet members, who see to it that the arm of enforcement is paralyzed."

This plank seems to us a pretty accurate, penetrating analysis, from the dry standpoint, of the basic grievance of a lot of Republican and Democratic drys, male and female, who have been in Washington lately, breathing dire threats of what will happen if either of the major party platforms contains a damp plank.

It is, of course, too much to hope—but if the die-hard dries would let the major parties alone for a spell and try to build up the old Prohibition party into a "solid phalanx" until we get this particular issue settled, what a relief it would be from the point of view of logic and political clear thinking.

We know this is only a wild dream. Yet there is the Prohibition party, forlorn, forsaken, but consistent—yearning for those who, by rights, belong to it, but who are, instead, pervading, harassing, and bewildering the other parties!

History will note this as one of the pathetic paradoxes of American politics during the great prohibition error.

Senate Taxes

In throwing tariffs out of the revenue bill, and increasing income and nuisance taxes, the senate finance committee displays intelligence and courage. Necessity of rectifying the income rate ratios remains.

The higher income tax rate on the middle class will hit the professional and small business groups, already hard pressed by the depression. Nevertheless,

this is necessary. In a time of emergency, persons with incomes of \$4,000 to \$8,000 should not be left off with the present 1 1/2 to 5 per cent normal tax, or the house proposal of 2 to 7 per cent; the senate committee rate of 3 to 9 per cent is not unfair in itself.

But the proportion of increase should not stop there. On the time-honored principle of capacity to pay, the ratio of increase should be progressively higher. It is all right to hit the middle class. But on the same theory, the rich should be hit proportionately hard. A balanced budget requires it.

And that is what the senate committee has failed to do.

It began by voting down the Couzens proposal for the war-time rates. Thus, incomes of more than \$1,000,000, instead of paying 65 per cent surtax, will escape under the senate committee plan with 45 per cent. Likewise, the senate committee failed to increase surtax rates on incomes from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000.

That is discrimination against the professional and small business man in favor of the rich.

To rub in that discrimination, the senate committee, while increasing the normal income tax rate on middle class incomes above \$4,000, and thereby increasing government revenue \$58,000,000 a year, at the same time cut out the normal income tax on stock dividends to help the rich, and thereby deprived the government of \$89,000,000 revenue.

The committee threw away another \$8,000,000 of revenue by eliminating the 1 1/2 per cent penalty for corporations filing consolidated returns.

Despite the income tax discriminations, which doubtless will be corrected on the senate floor, the committee properly slapped down another nuisance tax to the tune of \$50,000,000. That was the 2-cent tax on all bank checks in excess of \$5.

This and other nuisance taxes are in place of the beer tax. Every time you write such a check and have to pay 2 cents for the privilege, you will remember that this is necessary because the politicians refuse to legalize and tax the beer which is flowing so freely and so profitably for the bootlegger.

Now Is the Time

In prohibition, as in some other questions, the people are some distance ahead of their leaders.

The final count today of the Literary Digest's national poll indicates 73 of every 100 voters favor repeal of the eighteenth amendment. Only two states, Kansas and North Carolina, voted dry, and only by hair-breadth margins.

The national percentage of those favoring continuance of prohibition decreased from 30 per cent in the Digest's 1930 straw vote to 27 per cent today.

These straws, and the much more potent results of recent by-elections and primaries, already have brought a rout among the political organizations and the office holders. The flops are coming quick and fast.

Senators favoring repeal or resubmission have increased in number from fourteen in 1928 to forty-one now, according to one tabulation. House members have been doing likewise.

Dr. Clarence True Wilson, dry leader, has said he would not oppose a referendum. Arthur M. Hyde, agriculture secretary, and former Governor Byrd of Virginia, prominent dries, have come out with clumsy, time-killing proposals for a referendum. The Anti-Saloon League and the W. C. T. U. are among the few still standing unconditionally for the Constitution's only venture into sumptuary legislation.

The political converts are welcome in the fold of those who have sought reform of the intolerable conditions set up by the dry laws. But this point should be kept in mind: Political leaders, many of them, are trying to straddle the question by approving a trick resubmission or referendum.

The Literary Digest poll, and the conclusive returns of the Pennsylvania Republican senatorial primary, are mandates by the voters for straight repeal. The Digest posed the question squarely—repeal or continuance.

The Pennsylvania contest was equally clear cut on this question. "Puddler Jim" Davis was an admittedly weak candidate against a colorful figure like Smedley Butler. Prohibition was the issue, and Davis, advocating repeal, won nearly two to one, with unexpected strength in the rural sections.

The leaders in both parties are moving now to adopt in June straddling resubmission planks, and timorous congressmen are promoting this action, in the hope of fighting off the wrath of the voters in November.

But the people are insisting—if the Pennsylvania primary and the Digest poll mean anything—on action this year to modify the silly one-half of one per cent Volstead definition of intoxicating liquor, and to pass through congress a repeal amendment in time for its consideration by the forty-four legislatures which meet early next year.

Those advocating the veterans' bonus should remember that \$2,000,000,000 is a lot of money. That's all the bankers and railroads got!

Just Every Day Sense

BY MRS. WALTER FERGUSON

IN a recent survey made at Memphis, 51 out of every 1,000 children were shown to display marks of genius.

The general average over the country probably would not fall far below that average.

Yet I dare say no one would be rash enough to assert that 51 out of every 1,000 adults develop into geniuses. What becomes of these superior children who appear to be destined for great things?

I'll tell you. By our senseless submission to convention, we grown-ups contrive to eradicate all evidences of genius by the time they reach maturity. Every time some superior trait manifests itself in a child, there are hordes of us with cudgels ready to beat it down to our own dead level of mediocrity.

We are set on having everybody conform to majority ideas, regardless of how silly they may be. The person who is brave enough to scoff at some of them may, in time, attain a crown of martyrdom, but that's about all.

IN education, in business, in society, in religion, it's the same. We are afraid of new ideas. The educator, even in university circles, who dares to speak the truth as he sees it usually is kicked out of his position.

With higher education so supine, what can we expect of grade schools that are run by political boards? A pupil who dares to question the information given to him is looked upon as highly dangerous.

A business man with a new vision for industrial reform is regarded as a traitor to American principles—whatever they are. A religious leader who tries to establish some concept of the Divine is hounded down as a menace to humanity.

Yet God knows we need geniuses in America. We need a new idealism. We need new spiritual leadership. And where are these to be had unless we let the children work out a destiny for themselves?

Our generation has not done so well. A civilization that sent Eugene Debs to prison and Warren Harding to the White House did not prove its superior ability, if you ask me.

M. E. Tracy

Says:

Except With a Few, the Prohibition Issue Never Has Been One of Morals or Temperance. Temperance Died When the Law Took Command.

NEW YORK, April 29.—The Literary Digest prohibition poll comes to an end with the vote in favor of repeal standing nearly three to one.

Only two states—Kansas and North Carolina—show a dry majority, and that by the thinnest of margins.

Some of the wet states show a thin margin, but more than thirty-six appear to have spoken emphatically.

Only thirty-six states are needed to repeal, or modify the eighteenth amendment.

Vote Conclusive

IT hardly can be assumed that the Digest poll is accurate in every detail. The two states which it shows as dry easily might go wet, while half a dozen states which it shows wet easily might go dry. But that compasses about all the flaws that can be picked with it.

Only idiots and fanatics will question its general accuracy. It removes all doubt that the sentiment of this country has changed toward national prohibition and that, if given an opportunity, the people would either modify, or repeal, the eighteenth amendment.

Temperance Dead

THE change of sentiment can not be attributed wholly to existing conditions, though they have helped to bring it about.

People who are getting alarmed at the increase of crime and racketeering before the depression occurred, but easy money served to keep them quiet. The depression has done little more than make them realize just what the farce was costing.

Except with a few, the issue never has been one of morals, or temperance.

Temperance died when the law took command. That is the usual history of reform.

Straddlers Still

APPARENTLY, Republican leaders have caught on to the switch in sentiment and are ready to get in line with it.

What will the Democrats do if, after the Republican convention, they abandon prohibition? Will they adopt the opposition role, as they have so many times in the past, or will they yield to the obvious drift of public opinion and try to get their share of the credit.

Most presidential candidates on the Democratic side have come out wet, but the party still contains a lot of dry sentiment, or, more accurately, perhaps, a lot of straddling sentiment.

A Vital Issue

PROHIBITION will play a very important part in the coming campaign, not only because of the change in sentiment, but because of the way people are being pinched and threatened by increased taxes, while the profitable business of bootlegging goes on free.

More votes are likely to turn on it than on any other issue, because more people have been thinking about it for a longer time.

Prohibition is something which the average man and woman think they understand. It is one of the few problems in connection with the federal government that gets down to where they live.

No Mystery Here

AVERAGE people find themselves confused by such problems as the tariff, world court, farm relief, power and Russian recognition, but not by prohibition. They know exactly how prohibition works, what it has done to make life miserable and why the idea of ever enforcing it is hopeless.

You don't have to explain prohibition to men on the street, or women in the home. There is nothing mysterious, or obscure about it as far as they are concerned. They see it staggering through the neighborhood, smell it at social gatherings, run into it at every turn.

Questions and Answers

IN how many world series baseball games did Ty Cobb play? In those of 1907, 1908 and 1909.

What is the origin of the proverb, "a cat has nine lives"? It dates back to ancient Egypt, where the cat-headed goddess, Pasht, was said to have nine lives.

Where is Moresnet? It is a small district in Belgium on the German border, four miles southwest of Aix-la-Chapelle.

From what book was the motion picture "Bought" adapted? From "Jackdaws Strut" by Harriet Henry.

What is the record attendance for a major league baseball game? The record was 85,265 at a double-header at the Yankee stadium in New York, between the New York Yankees and the Philadelphia Athletics on Sept. 9, 1928.

Under the reign of what English queen was the act uniting England and Scotland passed? The act of union of 1707 was enacted during the reign of Queen Anne.

How far is the moon from the earth? A varying distance, the mean of which is estimated at 238,840 miles.

Are peach blossoms hermaphrodite? Yes.

How many counties are there in Texas? 254.

In what book is Mrs. Polly Toodle a character? "Domby and Sons," by Charles Dickens.

Where is the town of Ystalyfera? In Wales.

Play Ball!



DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

Sigmoid Irritation Cause for Worry

BY DR. MORRIS FISHBEN
Editor Journal of the American Medical Association and of Hygieia, the Health Magazine.

THE human being has a long intestinal tract, which has many curves and sections. Near the lower end is one section called the sigmoid, which recently has been given serious concern.

It seems that late in life portions of the wall of this sigmoid may become inflamed and be the subject of serious chronic irritations, leading to growth of cancer.

Because of the position of the sigmoid in the abdomen, it is difficult to examine and frequently the irritative condition goes on for many months before becoming sufficiently severe to cause the person to seek the attention of a physician.

The physician makes his diagnosis by careful examination of the bowel, including the giving of bar-

ium enemas, and thereafter using the X-ray, which presents an accurate picture of the condition.

The chief dangers from pouches or diverticula of the sigmoid arise from the setting up of irritation leading to cancer, or from a sudden perforation of the diverticulum, such as occurs also in ulcer of the stomach.

Obviously it is important to find out if the condition is present and to adopt suitable measures to prevent its progress before it has reached such a serious stage.

Among the measures which will prevent diverticulitis and which will inhibit its progress are the adoption of a diet that is soft and which does not contain the usual roughage present in whole wheat bread, brown bread, bran, celery, coarse cereals, the skin of fruits and similar substances.

Such patients are asked to take regularly small amounts of mineral

oil, which lubricates the bowel and softens the food mass.

Under the direction of a physician, drugs may be given which have a quieting effect on intestinal action, also arrangements may be made for washing out the bowel at necessary intervals.

In washing the bowel with enemas, precaution must be taken not to have too great pressure, since pressure of the fluid may increase the danger of perforation.

In an article on this subject, Dr. A. E. M. Woolf suggests that the amount of fluid used be small and the can or rubber bottle used at a minimum height which will permit the fluid to run in without being forced in.

Obviously the occurrence of any of the dangerous complications mentioned should be the signal for immediate attention by a competent medical adviser.

Ideals and opinions expressed in this column are those of Dr. Morris Fishben, a well known writer and are presented without regard to their agreement or disagreement with the editorial attitude of this paper.—The Editor.

IT SEEMS TO ME BY HEYWOOD BROWN

"SUPPOSE," writes H. K. B., "you never had been to New York, and suppose that, lured by a violent pink circular in the railroad ticket office, you had determined to go there this spring. And (if you're still with me) suppose that, after a great many evenings spent in squeezing the budget, you and your wife decided that by letting the milkman wait a month and by putting off the rent you could have \$100 to spend—after the tickets are bought—and that you could stay in New York from Sunday noon till Thursday night."

"No, if you've caught your breath, here is the question: 'Knowing what you do of New York, what would you advise these hypothetical persons to see? How would you advise them to spend their time and their money? I hope you won't come on party to any conspiracy fostered by the landlord and the milkman and advise us to stay at home.'"

THE letter of Mr. B. comes from South Bend, Ind., and I would not advise him to stay at home. On the contrary, I would urge him to come to New York, with his hundred dollars or without it. Landlords and milkmen can wait. They have had practice.

But, unfortunately, I am not the person to give the advice. I wish I were. I'd like it even better to be the person getting the advice. It would be great to be young, a resident of South Bend and the possessor of \$100. I mean if you were on a train waiting to catch your first glimpse of this magical city.

Only the other day our own Justice John Ford, who loves clean books, handed down a judicial decision in which he said: "New York is the finest city on earth. It is a beautiful city; a glorious, kindly city; the finest place on earth to live in and die in."

Never having died here, I wouldn't like to be as dogmatic as that. Nor do I know whether it is "the finest city on earth." I've never

been to Butte, Mont., or Burlington, Ia., and I spent only two hours in Omaha. I do like New York better than Paris or London or Peking, but there have been days hereabouts when I would rather be in Havana.

But I am drifting away from the point. Mr. B. has said nothing about staying here. He still has his landlord and his milkman, and South Bend. It's a five-day New York for which he would like a compass and a chart. H. K. B. isn't explicit enough. I don't know whether he likes Shakespeare or musical glasses.

Justice Ford would have it: "We find here sweetness and light, happiness and contentment, decency and morality. We ask no more of earth, and it is New York City we have to thank for it—God bless her!"

Of course, at times, after a couple of rounds on the house, I have felt a good deal like that myself, but it isn't a mood which can be sustained for five days. And certainly not for a hundred dollars.

It is my notion that the best plan for any stranger heading in this direction is to have no plan. If New York were brand new to me, I think I'd just get on a bus and ride until the end of the line. It doesn't matter what bus. Some

day before experimenting as to whether this is the best of all possible cities in which to die, I think I'll try just that.

And some day I'm going over to the Statue of Liberty. Unlike most New Yorkers, I have been to the top of the Empire State building. Even in a planless five days that suggest the George Washington memorial bridge, Sunset is a good time, but my personal preference is for about 3 o'clock on a moonlight morning.

Maybe the moon doesn't stay up that late, but I stick to 3 o'clock in any case. I think the young visitors ought to be jealous of their waking hours. Sleep is precisely the same here as in South Bend. Prairie people have no notion of what a sunrise can be until they have seen one creeping up out of the canyons and falling across the meadows of Central park.

Still, come to think of it, those narrow plots might not seem much to folk who live out by the edge of the wilderness. Trees and grass never do mean much except to us who live in cities. Out of all the world it is penthouse people who are faithful to nature after their fashion.

Just an Old Naturalist

AND speaking of primitive things, the couple from South Bend should be sure not to miss Babe Ruth. I feel that he belongs among the authentic landmarks of Manhattan. Of course, we have cathedrals and art galleries and museums, but those are known in other cities.

The visitor wants to see something which is quite unlike the offering of any other metropolis. That ought to be easy. What is it of the characteristic feature? Why, of course—only New York has the New York speakeasy.

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