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A BEER JOKER

The chief value of the federal beer bill is as a revenue measure at a time of debt and deficit. The only danger involved is that it may be used by organized drys to delay ratification of the repeal amendment.

In this moment of enthusiasm over prospects of beer and more revenue, that fear may seem far-fetched. Nevertheless, it is well to be on the safe side.

Therefore, congress, before final enactment of the beer bill, should throw out the Borah amendment. That amendment would prevent the sale of beer to minors under 16.

There are two objections to this. One is that this further would involve the federal government in a police regulation properly belonging to the individual state. The other objection is that the prohibition of sale to minors implies that the drink is intoxicating in fact.

Clearly, if 3.2 or 3.05 per cent beer is intoxicating in fact, the proposed law is unconstitutional until the eighteenth amendment is repealed; and, under those conditions, would be declared unconstitutional by the supreme court.

Why cross that bridge before we get to it? Why worry about that now? For the simple reason that the dry organizations already are preparing definitely to test the constitutionality of the statute as soon as it is passed.

The revenue emergency, which was great enough to force President Roosevelt to request quick action by congress on beer, is great enough to cause congress to use reasonable caution in drafting the law so that it will not be thrown out by the courts.

Congress should drop the Borah amendment, and then send the beer bill to the White House for signature, so that it can proceed with farm relief, unemployment relief, and the rest of the reconstruction program.

RECOGNIZE RUSSIA NOW

With wars spreading in the far east and South America, and war threatened in Europe, the United States is adding to international chaos and tension by failing to recognize Russia.

The Roosevelt administration can not move too quickly in this matter. The President wants to co-operate for world peace. That co-operation will be dangerously incomplete unless it includes Russia.

Russia is the key to the far east. Russia may be the balancing force between peace and war in Europe. Russia is the only nation which officially has offered total disarmament.

Russia is the only nation still fighting for America's forgotten arm's limitation proposal. Russia, like the United States, has everything to gain by peace and everything to lose by war. Russia wants to co-operate with us for world peace.

And Russia wants to trade with us. We virtually have killed her valuable trade. Since 1930 our annual sales of \$136,000,000 have fallen off 88 per cent. New contracts amounting to upward of a billion dollars are possible upon resumption of normal relations—and, unlike others, Russia never yet has defaulted on her commercial debts.

The biggest corporations in America have dealt with the Soviet government for years and found it trustworthy. Russia probably is the most stable country and safest customer in the world today.

Our closed factories, our unemployed millions are desperately in need of the orders which Russia can provide.

Immediate Russian recognition by the United States would help American business and world peace.

ANOTHER BATTLE FOR BEER

Champions of beer have won their first great battle, but ahead of them looms a conflict of almost as great magnitude.

It centers on the question: "Will the American people drink beer?"

A swelling roar, "Of course we will," answers. But in that roar is as much noise as fact.

Back in the days when foaming schooners slid deftly across the bar legitimately, this was more or less of a nation of beer drinkers. There were hard liquor devotees galore, but the brew fans were in the majority. Could we pick up where we left off when prohibition became the law of the land, the problem would not be such a baffling one.

But times and tastes have changed radically. In the old days of which the poets and barroom bassos sing so feelingly, the most expert drinker was the one who could imbibe the largest quantities and still stay on an even keel. Now, it appears, from cursory examination of a modern drinking bee, that the one who "goes out" the fastest is the most accomplished.

You can't go under with any great rapidity quaffing brimming beakers of brew. It takes time and patience, and capacity also is a big factor.

The younger set wants action and authority in its drinks. And alcohol with ginger ale, or straight gin, turns the trick with amazing celerity.

A city business man (business not specified), who shall be nameless here, confides that he intends to sell beer when the lid comes off. "But," he adds, "I'll still sell something stronger, because most of my customers will demand it."

So here is the second great battle that the champions of beer face. The modern tippler must be re-educated. And, strange to say, no one can help more than the drys.

They have talked of temperance. Here is their chance to help achieve it. Even the most

dense of the liquor foes knows by this time that prohibition and temperance have nothing in common.

Great Britain, by a campaign of education, has reduced her consumption of hard liquor, and peer, year after year, until the figure is far below that of a decade ago.

The United States can do the same. There still will be enough beer consumed to satisfy the brewers, and the drys will be that much nearer the goal of temperance, if only they will temper their fanaticism with good sense and aid in the educational campaign.

The hip drinker must be taught the error of his (and her) ways. He (and she) must be taught that the only proper way to drink, if one must drink, is after the fashion of the French and Germans.

They can sit patiently, hour after hour, over a bottle of wine or two or three bottles of beer. This may not be so profitable for the house, but it's far better for the constitution, and your innards will last far longer.

So let's make our motto: Don't gulp. Sip.

A SHOE FROM THE PAST THAT FITS THE FOOT OF THE PRESENT

The original function of the investment banker was that of dealer in bonds, stocks and notes, buying mainly at wholesale from corporations, municipalities, states and governments which need money and selling to those seeking investment.

"But they were not content merely to deal in securities. They desired to manufacture them also. They became promoters, or allied themselves with promoters. And adding the duties of undertaker to those of midwife, the investment bankers became, in times of corporate disaster, members of security holders' protective committees; then they participated as reorganization managers in the re-incarnation of unsuccessful corporations and ultimately became directors."—*"Other People's Money,"* by Louis D. Brandeis (now United States supreme court justice), written twenty years ago.

IT MIGHT BE A BLESSING

CENSORSHIP in peace time, speaking in a broad sense, is as much of a calamity as it is a benefit. It has been used with poor judgment on many occasions in the motion picture world. It has become a ghastly joke in the realm of books, with the cheapest brand of lurid fiction passing the barrier and the classics being barred.

But one is inclined to wonder if censorship or some more desperate remedy should not be applied to the radio. The fever for cluttering every program with an overdose of advertising blah seems to have abated somewhat, only to be followed by a more alarming ailment.

This disease seems to be growing more virulent. It is the wave of horror programs which make the evening hideous and send the children of the house to their beds with the chattering jitters.

From 6:30 to 9 p. m. the living room is filled with the moans and strangled shrieks of radio performers dying in indescribable agony, the gurgled threats of gangsters talking out of one corner of their mouths, and in it the heavy-duty cruiser is the most important element.

This ship would be unable to fight for a minute against a dreadnaught; but since the dreadnaught has suffered a decline in relative importance, it is the treaty cruiser which would be apt to bear the brunt of the heavy fighting in any naval war now.

These ships are cruisers, but they yet may have to fill the role traditionally filled by battleships.

Then the spell breaks and he goes to bed to dream of battle, murder, and sudden death, and arises shrieking out of a nightmare.

Maybe censorship is a blessing, if applied to the proper spot.

50,000 PER CENT PROFIT

In putting Uncle Sam's federal house in order and on a smaller budget, President Roosevelt and his administration have the difficult task of reducing expenditures and continuing those functions of government profitable to the people as a whole.

Scientific research is one of the government functions least supported by a political lobby and most useful to the people. All federal scientific research, for agriculture, industry, health, shipping, and a thousand other essential activities costs little more than a dollar out of every hundred spent by the federal government.

We are thrilled by the novelty of such an experiment, delighted at the prospect of action and, possibly, a little too optimistic for our own good.

The nation is being mobilized, not to celebrate an easy triumph, but for a long, hard fight. The call for leadership, the willingness to grant dictatorial powers, the ability to use normal methods, originate in a general feeling that disciplined co-operation has become necessary.

It's going to be rather tough on some of us, especially those who have looked upon recovery as including little more than safety for themselves and their relations to the public welfare.

We have taken steps which promise not only a drastic revision of financial, industrial, and political methods, but an equally drastic revision of the prevailing attitude toward work and sacrifice to those charged with balancing the budget.

LESSONS IN BANKING

One of the things the national bank holiday did for us was to give us a little education about the relative places which currency and credit occupy in the economic life of any country.

The ingenious way in which a relatively small amount of actual cash gets pyramided, through credit agencies, into a large amount of working capital could not have been better illustrated.

It was dramatically, and in some cases painfully, proved to us that we can not do business on a currency basis—not even though the present supply of currency were doubled or quadrupled. We must have credit, and to have credit there must be complete confidence.

It is for that reason that the outlook today is encouraging. Confidence has been restored. We have had a useful lesson in what happens to us when depositors and bankers freeze on to their cash.

From now on the way to full business recovery should be much smoother.

JUSTICE DEALS WITH A MOB

A BAND of alleged klansmen some weeks ago raided the home of David Milder in Long Beach, Cal. Milder was supposed to be a more or less radical labor agitator, so the members of the mob burned a fiery cross in his yard and administered a beating to him, and to members of his family, and to a guest.

But in this case justice proved able to deal

with a mob. The raiders were caught, identified, and taken into court and fifteen members of the mob were convicted, and heavy fines and prison terms are now in prospect for them.

Officers of the law everywhere might well make a note of this action. The danger of mob violence of any kind would be extremely small if the authorities everywhere were as quick to punish such lawless outbreaks as were the authorities at Long Beach.

THOSE POSTOFFICE PENS

CHALK up one score to the credit of Assistant Postmaster-General Evans, who has ordered 4,500,000 new pen points for Uncle Sam's postoffice desks.

"The inconvenience of patrons of postoffices because of improper writing materials has been widely commented on for years," remarks Mr. Evans.

"That is putting it mildly. One of our oldest and most successful gags is the one dealing with the scratchy, unreliable and sputtering pen points provided by Uncle Sam for his customers.

It's origin probably dates back to the time of Benjamin Franklin. Administrations have come and gone, but the postoffice pen has remained unchanged.

And now we are to get new ones—a new one each day for each pen, if necessary! Here, surely, is a minor but welcome triumph for this "new deal."

BEAUTIFYING ROADS

Gutzon Borglum, famous sculptor, has become chairman of the Texas highway park board and is to have charge of a vast program of beautifying the state's highways in preparation for the Texas centennial in 1936.

This program calls, among other things, for the planting of oleander trees along both sides of 8,000 miles of state roads, the planting of palm and date trees along 1,500 other miles of roads and the planting of still other semitropical trees along still other highways.

Texas is buying wide borders of land by its highways to develop parkways, which will be planted with evergreens. And billboards are to be demolished.

Here is a scheme which hardly can be praised too highly. People who motor through Texas in years to come will have much reason to thank the state officials who thought of this program.

A POCKET BATTLESHIP

News dispatches describing the launching of the U. S. S. San Francisco, newest of Uncle Sam's "treaty cruisers" of the 10,000-ton variety, referred to the ship as a "pocket battleship;" and it is worth noticing that that is just about what these new warships are, in spite of the fact that technically they are not battleships at all.

Treaty limitations prevent the building of new capital ships. Nevertheless, there is in existence today a naval armament race, and in it the heavy-duty cruiser is the most important element.

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We have taken steps which promise not only a drastic revision of financial, industrial, and political methods, but an equally drastic revision of the prevailing attitude toward work and sacrifice to those charged with balancing the budget.

Now we must go to the bottom and rebuild.

At present, we merely are getting set for the real task, straightening out our banking system, reducing governmental expenses, expanding currency, liberating capital and credit for the greatest peace-time mobilization of men and money in our history.

We are embarked on a campaign of reconstruction which seems bound to result in some rather profound changes in our social, industrial, and financial alignment if it succeeds.

No one can observe the various moves President Roosevelt is making and not believe that he is setting the stage for stupendous operations. Apparently, he is pursuing a well thought out plan, in which the bank crisis had been foreseen and considered, but which includes vastly more.

Apparently, his great objective not only is to provide work and increase buying power, but to do so in such way as will bring about considerable decentralization of industry and redistribution of population.

Apparently, he is looking for something bigger than the completion of a single project in the development of Muscle Shoals. Apparently, he hopes to interest the whole nation in similar undertakings, and those divert its energy and resources to a sounder purpose than creating concentrated centers with skyscrapers, subways, and double-decked streets.

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