

Dry Appeals to the President and the Pope

(Literary Digest) Bill number one on the Senate list for the session is Senator Edge's proposal to legalize beer and light wines. And so Prohibition takes its place as a leading legislative issue.

Mr. Clinton Howard admits that Prohibition is not trying very hard to enforce the Volstead Law, and appeals to the Pope to stir up American Catholics on the dry side.

dry enforcement, promising to employ every available resource of the Government to this end. To quote a well-known anti-Prohibitionist St. Louis Post-Dispatch: "It is conveyed to all that having forced an un-American and not enforceable summary law on the American people, the Prohibitionists are plunged in a morass of hysterical desperation."

"As a friend of Catholics, as well as spokesman of many patriotic citizens, I am filled with deep regret in bringing to the attention of your Holiness the fact that the seeming indifference, if not opposition, on the part of many Catholics to the enforcement of our Prohibition law has created a great deal of opposition to the Catholic Church and did much to call into existence the Ku Klux Klan."

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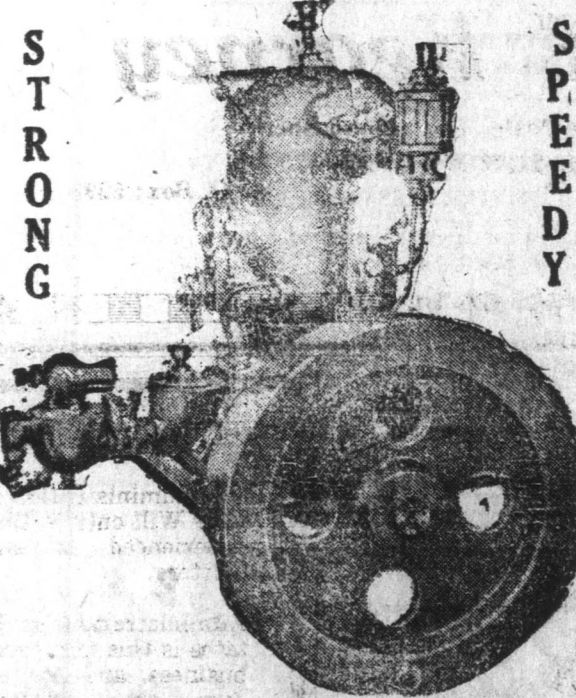
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"The Anti-Saloon League, which has always been regarded by the wets as the most rabid collection of reformers, now turns out to be conservative in comparison with the dry radicals. The radicals are suspicious of the reorganization of the Federal Prohibition unit. What they really want is that the enforcement work be placed in the hands of men who profess a belief in the law as well as in enforcement of the law. The difference between them and the leadership of the League is that the League does not ask an official to believe in the merits of Prohibition and does not care particularly about his personal opinion as long as he makes an honest attempt to enforce the law."

"There is, accordingly, a really serious struggle for leadership now going on between the conservative and radical drys, with many efforts being made to bridge the breach before it widens beyond the skill of the conciliators. The wets, of course, are hopeful that the dry ranks are breaking."

Clinton N. Howard of Rochester, New York, is a veteran Prohibitionist who is chairman of what is known as the United Committee for Prohibition Enforcement, made up of the representatives of twenty-six dry organizations, including the Association of Catholics Favoring Prohibition, the Methodist Episcopal Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals, the Presbyterian Department of Moral Welfare, the Baptist Social Service Committee, and the International Order of Good Templars. In the committee's report, which he wrote and made public on December 2, Mr. Howard said that "the President has done some fine moralizing on the general enforcement of law, but he has never yet definitely and unreservedly committed his Administration to the enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment as provided by his oath to support and defend the Constitution."

The report continues, as quoted in the Washington dispatches: "The American people will not long tolerate the present spurious brand of Prohibition, even upon our recommendation that it is better than what was or will be in the event of some change."

"The bald fact is that locally, nationally and internationally, as applied to importation, the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution is not now in effective operation, and that despite the Constitution and the Volstead Law and the claims of those who find comfort in comparisons in moral conditions, in matter of crime and drunkenness and in arrests, recognized as drink offenses, population considered, there is little improvement between the old license system and the present nullification. The country is being debauched with a flood of poisonous liquor, smuggled in over the border, flooded in over the water, manufactured by hold-over brewers under Federal permit and by countless barn, cellar, garret and home-brew stills, bootlegger and bar-keep, approximating those who formerly were engaged in the licensed trade."

"To say that this is the best that the Federal Government can do, is simply to confess that Prohibition is a failure in the United States after five years of trial."

"The Prohibition law has been enforced half-heartedly, at best, and with definite intention that it should be broken at worst. The law has not been enforced beyond that point where, in the opinion of the enforcers, it would hurt the party in power by enforcing it. They are giving us just enough of Prohibition to irritate the vital organs of the body politic and not enough to act as a purgative to expel the poison from the national system."

These statements were promptly disavowed by a number of Prohibitionist leaders, including the officials of the Methodist Board of Temperance, and by Anti-Saloon League officials, who express their confidence in President Coolidge. A statement was given out by Secretary Mellon affirming the sincerity of the enforcement organization under his control, and reading in part, as quoted in the Washington News: "Efforts have been made all over the country to enforce Prohibition. We have tried to enforce the law to the fullest extent of our capacity and ability. General Andrews has reorganized the entire Prohibition service, and he has found the very best man to carry out the law."

Two days after the publication of the report on Prohibition enforcement Mr. Howard sent a letter to the Pope, in which, after calling attention to the National Prohibition policy, he said:

"The appeal to Pope Pius is similarly condemned by the St. Paul Pioneer Press as either 'incredibly foolish' or 'an absurd attempt to arouse religious prejudice in behalf of the Volstead Law'; and by the Springfield (Mass.) Union as politically stupid. Of course, says the Indianapolis News, 'the question is a purely domestic one in connection with which there can be no appeal to Rome or any other foreign authority.' Mr. Howard, remarks the Hartford Times, 'seems to have forgotten that the most frequent charge against the Catholic Church from Ku Klux Klan sources is that Catholics submit to 'foreign dictation.'"

There would seem to be more difference of opinion over the Howard criticism of the President. Says the St. Louis Star: "It is as proper to hold the President responsible for failure to enforce laws as it would be to give him credit if they had been enforced. Does any one think that the President's friends would refuse credit if the law had been enforced, and the public was acclaiming him for it?"

"The President, in the last analysis, is responsible alike for the good and bad accomplishments of his Administration. It may be 'good politics' to evade responsibility where the issue is unpopular, but it will not increase an administrator's reputation for strength and direction. It tends to establish a cunning habit of being able to sidestep an issue. While most people probably will not take the United Committee seriously, they think it is strange that Secretary Mellon would do so for the President. Recognition of the charges that the President has evaded enforcement only emphasizes the fact that they must strike close home."

But it is considerably easier to find editorial defense of the President. The Springfield Union thinks it absurd for the Prohibitionists to "attach all the blame for non-enforcement to the one man who has done more than anybody else to give a semblance of validity to an unenforceable law." Frank R. Kent, political correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, considers the assault on the President simply one more case of bad judgment on the part of Prohibition leaders. For—

"More than any other President, since the law passed, Mr. Coolidge has tried to enforce the law. The whole atmosphere of the Administration is drier, and no better evidence of the sincerity of his desire to enforce the law could be given than his appointment of General Andrews."

If any answer were needed to the Howard attack it is found, observe the Washington Post and New Haven Journal-Courier, in the fact that at the very time Mr. Howard was sending his letter to the White House, the enforcement authorities were rounding up in New York the ring leaders of one of the greatest of all bootlegging syndicates."

President Coolidge's own attitude toward enforcement has been recently restated in the shape of an indirect White House announcement printed in a New York Times dispatch from Washington in part as follows:

"President Coolidge believes Federal agents everywhere should prosecute Prohibition law violations 'involving the possession of liquor for personal use with the same vigor that they do organized bootleggers.'"

"President Coolidge believes that Prohibition enforcement should be emphasized at the sources of supply, but at the same time he has made it plain that it is the business of the Federal Government to prosecute liquor cases of whatever source wherever they may arise."

Several editors even suggest that it isn't the Federal Government but rather the dry forces themselves that

are to blame for the situation they deplore. "The Anti-Saloon League's legislative habit of indicting men who will vote dry while their private activities are all on the other side of the question may be cited as a concrete example of why Prohibition enforcement is 'what it is,' we read in the Chicago Evening Post. And The Journal of Commerce of the same city points out that: "When the Volstead Law was passed, the Prohibition leaders won Senatorial votes by keeping a civil service provision out of it. The result has been that Senators have been able to dictate most of the import-

ant appointments." The Prohibitionists are reminded by the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot that "there is such a thing under heaven as a law that can not be effectively enforced." The Louisville Herald-Post in the South and the Manchester Union in New England agree that what Prohibition leaders ought to do is to try to create a public opinion which will destroy the market for illicit liquor and drive out bootlegging by making it unprofitable. "By adding soda to water when cooking vegetables, we lessen the flavor

and water entered her hold. The captain then decided to put in here for repairs. A survey of the vessel will likely be held to-day. A large assortment of Carriage Whips just arrived—40c., 60c. and 80c. each. BOWRING BROTHERS, LTD., Hardware Department.—dec20.31 The fitted or semi-fitted dress and the two-piece style are most fashionable for evening. Very smart is a white jersey sweater striped in black and worn with a black skirt.

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Fish Carrier Enters Port IN LEAKY CONDITION.

The schr. Frances E. Moulton, fish laden for Oporto, arrived in port yesterday afternoon, in a leaky condition. The vessel left Burgeo on December 21st, with a cargo of fish, shipped by the Burgeo & LaPelle Export Co., and after a few days at sea, she ran into boisterous weather, with the result that the vessel was badly tossed about, sustained damage to her decks

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