

A SAFE AND SANE VIEW OF PROHIBITION

Which it Will be Worth While for Every Thinking Man to Ponder Over.

EVEN THE FADDISTS

May Very Profitably Take Into Consideration Much That the Article Contains.

(Continued from page 1.)
government, therefore in denial of the franchise there was grave danger to the fabric of government in these United States. This was the most practical and most effective of all the arguments by which appeal for enforcement was supported; and it was the argument that brought forth the wisest and the wisest of men to the aid of the government. It has been discredited in the minds of the people. To vastly many of our people prohibition comes as a slap in the face. It incites to contempt of authority; it incites further to contempt of law. It calls for slighting into the spirit and temper of our people to comprehension of the fact that prohibition is a demoralizing and disintegrating rule. Thousands—tens of thousands—of patriotic and habitually respectful of law hold the rule of prohibition in contempt. Those who hitherto have stood as ardent supporters of government and law become under prohibition in contempt and feeling no scruples of conscience in evading it, something is lost of respect for law in general. Is it possible that prohibition can yield in the way of moral effects anything comparable to the moral loss under its autocratic prescriptions and its meddling enforcement? It is a serious question, a very serious question indeed, if government of the people by the people can permanently endure under a rule which puts upon vast numbers of the people—assuredly a majority—restrictions in disregard of their propensities, their habits, their judgment. The government of the people is a government of the people, and there is no cheerful consent where multitudes are resentful and rebellious, when evasion is practiced widely and with no sense of turpitude. Prohibition makes a crime of that which the over age man and woman does not deem a crime. It creates inevitably in the body social a vast mass of discontent; and upon the basis of discontent millions automatically become, if not actual violators of the law, traitors to the law in spirit.

Prohibition in the minds of all who have observed the means by which it was brought about, is an imposition upon the majority by a minority. Further, although imposed in the name of morality, it has been achieved by a campaign of falsehood, of fraud, of political malpractice, of propaganda backed by sheer force of money. It was imposed as a war measure and it was maintained as a war measure for many months when there was no war. Constitutional prohibition was dovetailed with a fraudulent war prohibition, and "put over" seriously at a time when vast numbers of millions of voters were fighting in alien lands. There is no trick of dirty politics, from intimidation to bribery, from a sharp sharp practice to a coarse swinging of the political bludgeon, that was not employed in its promotion. Incidentally constitutional prohibition violated the first principle in social organization, the rights of property. Take our own state, for example: For more than half a century California has officially promoted the wine industry. The legislature by definite enactments has invited investment of capital and labor in vineyards. Through its State University it has instructed and fostered this industry. No other factor in the industrial life of the state has been so specifically sanctioned by official invitation and suggestion. Thus the energies and the capital of vast numbers of persons have been invested in a business which the world around and for many centuries has been held both legitimate and worthy. Again and again, under urgency of mind or other people's business, the judgment and sentiment of the state has been tested by popular vote with resounding results. Yet now by imposition of law this vast investment is nullified. The wealth created by it has been destroyed without compensation. That which is no crime has been by an important and vicious law nominated a crime. All this by methods which would shame a war course in the lowest levels of "practical politics." And in the face of these sinister achievements there are those among us, familiar with all the facts, professing loyalty to majority rule, who raise their voices in approval and in ecstatic acclaim to the glory of God.

What, let us ask, becomes of our traditional boast of America as the land of liberty, the home of the free, when the country swarms with meddling inspectors and pestiferous spies? And what becomes of our boasted equality of right and privilege when men of means—with spacious cellars and attics—are amply provided and may thus ignore the law, while the man lacking these facilities must endure the restrictions of the law? There is a familiar name for a rule which imposes rules or obligations upon one sort of man and from which another sort may find exemption. It is styled class legislation, and it finds in the present situation a complete and irritating illustration. Will the many whose liberties are restrained by prohibition view with equanimity the continued privilege of those whose means now enable them to smile, even as they regard contemptuously, the impudent activities of a horde of official spies? Will our people submit to the humiliations of the spy system; and, further, will they submit to be taxed in support of that system? Verily, they will not. Verily they will find, within the law or in contempt of it, ways and means of riding themselves of a rule which insults intelligence and offends a self-

respecting and proper pride.

There are things that enactments—even fundamental law—may not do. Laws, however "fixed," become of no effect when lacking the sanction of public approval and respect. The Constitution provides specifically a method of selecting the President of the republic. In practice we choose Presidents upon another principle and by wholly different means. It is fixed in the Constitution that the black man shall have equality of political privilege with the white man. In practice the black man is disfranchised throughout the Southern States. No way has yet been found permanently to impose upon the American people that which fails to coincide with and find continuing support in the popular will. It was Edmund Burke, we believe, who declared the impracticability of indicting a whole community; as truly may it be said that there is no means by which millions of men trained in the precepts of liberty and accustomed to freedom of private judgment to freedom of personal action can be denied the exercise of their propensities, their habits, their sense of right and wrong. For all the victory of the advocates of prohibition, despite their success in juggling the basic law of the land, the will of the people is still a fact. The will of the people is still a fact, because it is founded in a false logic, because it is destructive of principle and tends to destruction of loyalty to government, because it imposes upon the majority a crime of that which is still privileged while the poor man is still restrained while the poor man is still restrained, because it creates an army of spies busy in a hateful censorship of individual conduct, because it was imposed by shameful practices in political management, because its claims of moral reformation of society can not possibly be sustained, because it involves large increased charges of taxation. A self-respecting people,

valuing its liberties, of interference in its private affairs, will rise in the might of righteous wrath and unguile—that which has been done in the spirit of tyranny and by the methods of chicanery.

Let no man believe that the Argonaut is resentful of prohibition through motives founded in appetite, still less of sympathy with the vicious phases of the liquor traffic; and among the vicious phases of the liquor traffic we classify the hotel bary Coast. There never has been such thing, as a respectable saloon. Long before any other journal in this community dared raise voice in protest the Argonaut was an open enemy of that civil institution. If ever the saloon served a legitimate purpose, that justification long since passed. But the necessity for destroying the saloon did not and does not justify the indignities of individual rights—the invasion of personal liberty—involved in absolute and wholesale prohibition with its attendant demoralization. If the leaders of the "great moral movement" had been honest, if they had been faithful to their principles, they would have pursued a course vastly different from their campaign of fraud and political intimidation. Under a movement void of principle and inspired by sincere moral purpose there would have been submitted optional propositions: (1) Exemption of the saloon from taxation; (2) Restriction upon the sale of "hard" liquors; (3) Absolute prohibition. Is there anybody to doubt the result of a plebiscite upon these alternative propositions? There is no doubt. And by a vote equally overwhelming there would have remained unchallenged that out of the turmoil in which the country is now involved there will come a rule confirming extinction of the saloon while permitting in other respects the free exercise of private conscience and of individual discretion.

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We venture the further prophecy that out of the turmoil in which the country is now involved there will come a rule confirming extinction of the saloon while permitting in other respects the free exercise of private conscience and of individual discretion.

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ONE MODEL 79 OVERLAND ROADSTER. This car has been newly painted and overhauled. Top and side curtains in good condition. Has one new tire, and others good for considerable mileage. Equipment includes shock absorbers, electric lighting and starting, etc.

ONE MODEL 90 OVERLAND SEDAN. This car was purchased new by one of the officials of our Company last September. It has new Dominion Nobby tread tires on all four wheels, including new tubes, and one new spare fire complete. It has just been most thoroughly overhauled and handsomely painted. It is in perfect running order, and has always had good care. This car can be sold for about two-thirds of the price of a car of the same type today.

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ONE OVERLAND MODEL 83-B. This car has been newly painted and overhauled. The top and upholstery are in good condition, as also the tires. The owner is purchasing a new car from us, and we are therefore able to sell this car at a reasonable price.

ONE OVERLAND BIG 4 TOURING CAR. This car has been thoroughly overhauled, and the paint is in good condition, as also the top and upholstery. The tires are all in good condition, and the car is equipped with a powerful motor, and has a comfortable and roomy body. The only reason that this car is for sale is that the owner has purchased a new sedan type of car.

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