

# All Kinds of Reforming Done While You Wait

By H. O. BISHOP

For 25 years Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts has been carrying on a steady battle for reforms.

He has succeeded in having more reform measures passed by Congress than any other one man.

He says the lack of funds never bothers him. He starts his campaign first and looks for money later.

In his opinion the one great evil in this country today is laziness. It does more harm than intemperance, immorality or any other vice.

THE oldest, most effective and most persistent reformer in the United States is the Rev. Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts. Twenty-five years ago Dr. Crafts organized the International Reform Bureau at Washington, D. C. Since that time he has been taking in all sorts of reforming—both plain and fancy—and incessantly hammering away year after year until the opposition became weary or disgusted and Congress came across with the desired laws.

This man seems to go upon the theory that he can accomplish any reform provided the battle is continued long enough.

Among the many members of the board of directors and trustees of the Reform Bureau, composed of eminent ministers and laymen from all sections of the country, may also be found the following well-known members of Congress: Senators Arthur Capper, Kansas; J. Crepps Wickliffe Beckham, Kentucky; Wesley L. Jones, Washington; Henry L. Myers, Montana; Miles Poindexter, Washington; Morris Sheppard, Texas; Lawrence Y. Sherman, Illinois, and Thomas Sterling, South Dakota. Representatives William David Upshaw, Georgia; Thomas L. Blanton, Texas; Alben L. Barkley, Kentucky; Ira G. Hersey, Maine; Charles H. Randall, California; Thetus W. Sims, Tennessee, and Addison T. Smith, Idaho.

Dr. Crafts is 70, but doesn't look it by 20 years, and evidently doesn't feel it by 40 years. He has recently mapped out a national and international program of reformation that a husky young chap of 21 would look upon as a lifetime job.

His headquarters are located in the historic building on Pennsylvania avenue, which was occupied by the Supreme Court of the United States after the burning of the Capitol by the British in 1814. This building is only a matter of three minutes' walk from the National Capitol, making it quite convenient for the doctor to present his daily desires to the Senators and Representatives—which he never fails to do.

Dr. Crafts was born in Maine, but went to Boston and Connecticut to be educated in the ministry. In the early days of his preaching he teamed with such illustrious parsons as Henry Ward Beecher and T. DeWitt Talmage in New York and Brooklyn.

Dr. Crafts has found the field of reforming exceedingly fertile. In fact it has been so very fertile in the past years, and looks so very promising in the years to come, that he has planned to erect an eleven-story headquarters for his organization costing \$500,000. Work will be commenced as soon as the present high prices of labor and building materials take a slump.

With the constant broadening of his field of reforming, Dr. Crafts finds that more and more money is needed to carry on the work of the bureau. Last year the expenses were \$42,000; this year they will be \$60,000, while next year's budget will provide for the expenditure of \$100,000.

This money is contributed from year to year by approximately 15,000 different individuals belonging to all sorts of religious denominations in every state in the Union. The donations range in size from \$1 to \$3,000. More than half of the contributions are in sums of less than five dollars.

## Finds Financing Reforms Easy

DR. CRAFTS' method of raising operating expenses is just the reverse from the average reform organization or public institution. He reforms first and collects afterward. "I go upon the theory," said Dr. Crafts, "that the particular reformation I have at hand, is just and righteous, and that the Lord will be with me, and therefore proceed with the campaign even though I haven't a dollar in the world with which to finance it. After the reform is accomplished I merely call the attention of friends of the cause to what we have accomplished, and they cheerfully meet the expenses that have been incurred. We could never accomplish anything if we waited to raise the money first."

"Very frequently it becomes necessary for me to use a good portion of my yearly salary of \$2,500 in the work, but I gladly do so, because my wife and I have learned to live in a modest way.

"Just to show you how it pays to take financial risks in this great reform work, let me tell of my experience on the Mexican border. I was anxious to send Colonel L. Mervin Haus, formerly surgeon-general of the Philippines, but now our Americanization Secretary, on a trip among the Mexicans from Brownsville, Texas, to Los Angeles, California. The Colonel

was willing to undertake this work at the rate of \$2,500 a year and all expenses. I told him to go to it at a time when I hadn't the remotest idea where the money was coming from. A little later I told a wealthy friend what we were doing down there and he gave me a check for \$1,500 which paid all the expenses of that trip.

"We have similar experiences in our work of making surveys and gathering evidence in cities all over the country that are infested with brothels, dives and bootleggers. We first do the necessary work and then influential citizens pay our expenses.

"For many years we have kept a man in China waging a war on the opium curse, and other friends have gladly provided the requisite funds for that work. The same financial experience is true of New Zealand, England and Scotland, where we have had men pushing prohibition."

Dr. Crafts is convinced that more people can be reached by street corner speeches than by going into a church. His pulpit is usually an automobile, and he gets an audience quickly through the aid of an assistant who plays a cornet and sings.

Sparsely clad, dark-orbed, shapely-figured and ultra-affectionate ladies known from country hamlets to the big towns as "movie vamps" are the pet aversions of this famed reformer at the present time. In speaking of their "violent, voluptuous and vicious doings," he vehemently declared: "These vampire women who infest the moving picture shows are worse than saloons."

All of the nationally shown vamps, from Theda on down the line to the baby variety, may have to vamoose from their studio haunts and take up milder vocations if Dr. Crafts succeeds in prevailing upon Congress to pass his famous bill providing for a Federal Board of film censors.

## Says World Is Lazy

"LAZINESS OF LABOR" is another item that Dr. Crafts thinks needs touching up by national leaders. Here are some of his warm comments on that much-discussed subject:

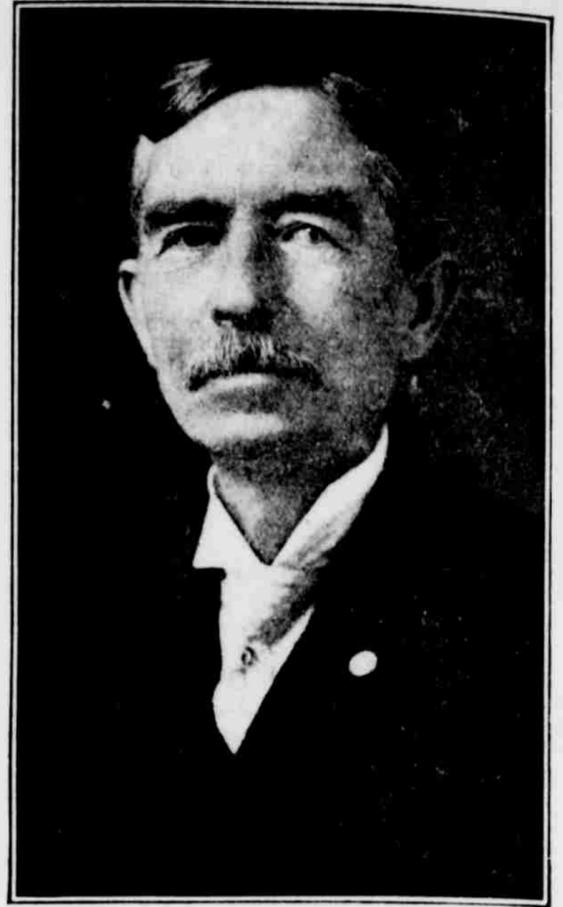
"The chief trouble with the world today is laziness. It is doing more harm than intemperance, immorality or any other vice. Churches have spoken for the 'minimum wage' and 'collective bargaining.' There is need now for application of the Ten Commandments to the labor problem; for example, 'Six Days Shalt Thou Labor,' as God's reply to the childish proposal to reduce work, when the world needs more production, to six hours a day of five days. Eight hours is the limit of reasonable reduction, leaving two-thirds of six days per week and one full day besides for leisure. And that eight hours' service for God and man should be rendered with joy. It would brand us as one of the 'child races' to take three-fourths of each day for rest and play. That is nearing the tramp's ideal.

"Formerly the thoughtless public seemed to think that increased wages came out of capital, but at last, when increased wages for railroad men were openly paid from increased freight charges that put up the price of everything that everybody buys, the idea got into the public mind that increased wages are added to the cost of production and passed on to the ultimate consumer. It is, therefore, the concern of us all that no one should get more than his fair share of wages—at our expense."

## Combats Wine and Beer Plans

THE proposition of Governor Edward I. Edwards, of New Jersey, and other prominent citizens throughout the country to soft-pedal the Eighteenth Amendment in such manner as to relieve the terrific Saharaishness of the country to the extent of permitting the occasional quaffing of light wines and beer, has caused Reformer Crafts and his watchful associates to take up another notch in their reform belts. These gentlemen are just as bitterly opposed to wine and beer as they are to whisky. They say alcohol is alcohol, no matter where it lurks.

At the present moment, Dr. Crafts is organizing a nation-wide crusade of education to combat the idea of light wines and beer. In order to overcome the demand for such drinks, he proposes to arouse the reform and prohibition element of the country to such an extent that reform teams composed of preachers, lawyers, women speakers and musicians can be employed to visit every nook and corner of every county



DR. WILBUR F. CRAFTS

of every state in the Union, making speeches in the towns and scattering literature at farmhouses and rural post boxes. The chief object of such a campaign, of course, is to prevent the election of any one to Congress who might be in favor of modifying the strict Volstead law.

The following are some of the most important measures Dr. Crafts has been instrumental in getting through Congress:

Gillett Act, to break up "divorce colonies" in territories; Wellington Amendment, to limit divorce to one cause in the District of Columbia; Broderick Act, to increase penalty for statutory offense in the District of Columbia; Hepburn Act, to prevent importation and exportation of obscene matter; Smith-Lodge Amendment, to prohibit opium traffic in the Philippines; Teller Amendment, to close Sundays by "contract" at St. Louis Exposition; a similar amendment covering the Jamestown Exposition; Johnson Anti-Canteen Amendment; Bowersock Amendment, to suppress liquor selling in immigrant stations; Gallinger Amendment, to forbid liquor selling in old soldiers' homes; Humphrey Act, to facilitate use of Federal liquor tax receipts as evidence; Gillett Act, to forbid sales of liquor, opium and firearms by American traders in Pacific Islands having no civilized government; Lodge Senate Resolution, favoring international treaty to forbid selling of liquor and opium to uncivilized races; Sims Amendment, forbidding race track gambling in the District of Columbia; Rodenberry-Simmons Act, forbidding interstate shipment of prize fight films; Kenyon Red-light Injunction Law; Porto Rico Prohibition Referendum Law Amendment to Jones Bill; War-Time Prohibition.

## The Plans for the Future

HERE is the reform program for the next few years: Enforcement of national prohibition, including total abstinence campaigns.

Extension of prohibition, by act of Congress, to American citizens abroad, except where treaty provisions prevent.

Extension of prohibition to all countries by re-enforcement of existing agencies with lectures and literature.

Federal motion picture censorship.

Interstate anti-gambling bills.

Constitutional amendment prohibiting sectarian appropriations.

Uniform marriage, divorce, and anti-polygamy amendment.

Bills to provide one day's rest in seven for District of Columbia and Territories and for government employes and persons engaged in interstate commerce.

Child labor laws.

Better state laws, especially extension to all states of Iowa "red light" injunction law.

Restoration and improvement of Bible reading in schools and homes; also posting of Commandments in schools, courts and on churches. Semi-weekly posters for churches.

Banishment of cigaret advertisements from periodicals by protests of patrons.

To assist in the enforcement of reform legislation by inspection, and by campaigns in schools, churches and especially among immigrants to inculcate higher respect for law.

A building, constructed and supported by endowments that can be made the permanent headquarters for an international reform movement.

Institution of a training school for moral reformers and preparation of standardized reform literature.

Promotion of treaties for world-wide prohibition of opium and alcohol, save as guarded medicines.

Awakening of public sentiment against flooding China with American cigaarets and beer.

Co-operation with local forces in Latin America to repeat Porto Rico's prohibition victory.