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PAINTERS' UNION WANTS TAX ON HIGH-PROOF ALCOHOL REMOVED

Measure Now Before Congress—If Passed It Will be of Incalculable Importance, Especially to Farmers, Manufacturers and Tradesmen.

It Would Benefit Many American Industries and Hit the Oil Trust's Monopoly Hard—Protection Offered to Prevent Use as Beverage.

At the recent convention of the Painters and Decorators' National convention a movement was started to secure a removal of the internal revenue tax on certain kinds of alcohol. Since then Mr. Marshall of North Dakota has introduced a bill in congress bearing on the subject. Its passage is of vast importance especially to such agricultural states as Minnesota. Not only will it benefit the farmer who produces the raw material from which alcohol is made but it will contribute to his further advantage in a cheap and safe motive power for use on the farm as well as light and heat for his home. The removal of the internal revenue tax will also tend in no small way to lessen the enormous dividends of the Standard Oil company made possible by its monopoly.

The bill provides that free alcohol does not carry with it a license to indulge in the original intoxicant as a beverage. It contemplates that ample protection shall be provided along this line by demanding that it shall contain an obnoxious poisonous substance.

It is not difficult to point out the far-reaching effects which the removal of the tax would have upon the industries of the country, and it is equally simple to produce proofs to show that arguments in favor of free alcohol are based upon sound economic principles. At present alcohol for beverages and industrial alcohol are subject to a tax of more than \$2 a gallon. Industrial alcohol, according to the department of agriculture, could be sold profitably were there no tax on it, for about 15 cents a gallon; and under the increased demand that would be sure to follow, it is possible it could be sold profitably for 10 cents a gallon.

The U. S. at a Disadvantage.
The fact that the United States is the only important manufacturing and commercial country in the world which makes no distinction between alcohol used in the arts of manufactures, is due chiefly to the popular lack of knowledge as to the value of alcohol as an industrial material.

Alcohol is absolutely necessary in the chemical industry, and in the manufacture of most chemicals large quantities must be used. Owing to cheap alcohol the German manufacturers in these lines have developed their industries so that they are the foremost in the world, and have secured almost the entire trade in neutral markets. Not only this, but they sell large quantities in this country, the advantage resulting from cheap alcohol being sufficient to enable their products to be sold here in spite of the protective tariff. The total manufacture of fine chemicals in this country is valued at less than \$5,000,000; the value of these articles exported by Germany exceeds \$50,000,000.

The revenue laws of all other commercial nations of the world, including Great Britain, Germany, France, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Cuba, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentine Republic, Chile and Peru, distinguish between the beverage and alcohol used only for industrial purposes.

The use of alcohol as an industrial material figures prominently in the manufacture of nearly one hundred different articles. These range from articles of household use and necessity to electrical machinery, ammunition and fire arms. But few luxuries find a place in the list. The more common ones are as follows:

Stiff hats, silk hats, women's and children's straw hats, smokeless powder, fulminate of mercury, cartridges, artificial silk, picture frames, mouldings, manufacturers of metal goods, including hardware, brass beds, gas and lamp fixtures, lamps brass, musical instruments, electric fans, bird cages, clocks, toys, etc., coal-tar dyes, celluloid, zylonite, fibroid and all manufacturers of nitro-cellulose compounds and pyroxylin plastics, photographic supplies, electric generators and motors, lead pencils, watches and clocks, oleo-stearine, or steric acid, automobile power boats and small stationary combustion engines, furniture and other polished wood productions, including railway and passenger street cars, carriages, pianos, organs, billiard tables, burial caskets, rattan goods and all polished wood interiors, whips, trunks, shoe dressing, patterns, shoes fire works, emery wheels, pipes, umbrellas and canes, handles, and novelties, chloroform, fusel oil and transparent soap.

The Making of Soap.
Take the item of soap for instance. Alcohol is used in the manufacture of soap as a solvent for clearing up. Transparent soap is made by mixing fat and soda to form a soap mixture in the usual way. Alcohol is then added and an emulsion formed by violent agitation thus bringing the alcohol into contact with every particle of the soap. The alcohol is then allowed to evaporate and now transparent soap is run into moulds and pressed into the shapes in which it is sold.

The sales of transparent soap throughout the world are enormous, the annual sales of one foreign manufacturer in the United States alone being about 14,400,000 cakes. Very little is made in this country owing to the fact that the manufacture is increased over \$5 a gross on account of the internal revenue tax of \$2.07 per gallon on alcohol.

What is true of soap is in a large measure true of smokeless powder. The weight of alcohol required in making the best smokeless powder is 1.4 times the weight of the finished powder. The internal revenue on this alcohol is \$2.08 a gallon, making the tax on the quantity necessary to use in making a pound of the best smokeless

powder 37 cents. The result is that the sportsman must either be satisfied to use an inferior powder with the danger of excessive fouling and corroding, or pay an excessive price for the best.

The government secures the best powder for the army and navy at the lowest price by allowing the manufacturer to use tax-free alcohol in manufacturing powder for government account. For all other parties tax-paid alcohol must be used.

For Lighting and Heating.
The importance of cheap alcohol is now so well appreciated in Europe that in all the leading countries exhibitions are held annually. In a special report on the exposition held in Berlin, United States Consul General F. J. Mason referred to the use of alcohol for lighting and heating and other domestic purposes as follows:

"The department of lighting and heating apparatus includes a vast and varied display of lamps, chandeliers, street and corridor lights in which alcohol vapor burns with an incandescent flame which rivals arc lights in brilliancy and requires to be shaded to adapt it to the endurance of the human eye. There has been a great improvement in the lamps and chandeliers for alcohol lighting which are up to the best standard of modern fixtures for gas and electricity, with which alcohol lighting is now competing with increased success in this country.

The ordinary shade lamp for every-day use is made of bronze with white porcelain shade and costs from \$1.50 to \$2.50, according to the size and design, giving a light of 30 candles at a cost of one-third of one cent an hour.

Similarly attractive and interesting is the large display of alcohol heating stoves which for warming corridors, sleeping rooms and certain other locations are highly esteemed. They are made of Japaned iron plate in decorative forms with concave copper reflectors, are portable and furnish a clean, odorless and convenient heating apparatus. Cookings stoves of all sizes, forms and capacities, from the complete range with the baking and roasting ovens, broilers, etc., to the simple tea and coffee lamp were in display."

Alcohol burns readily under all conditions without smoking, and is free from disagreeable odors.

Motor Fuel for Farm Engines.
The man who stands in line for the greatest benefit of free alcohol is the farmer. A greater demand will be created for the products of the farm, and in return he will be able to buy a motor fuel at a cost so low that power will be utilized very liberally in connection with work on the farm.

The rapid growth in the demand for liquid fuel has more than doubled the prices of gasoline during the past five years, and the fuel bill for a five-horse-power engine ten hours a day has increased from \$100 to \$150 a year. With gasoline as the only available motor fuel its cost must advance with the steady increase in the number of engines used, since the supply is limited, and cannot be increased in proportion to the growing demand for it.

It has been estimated that making alcohol available as fuel by removing the tax would double the power uses in this country. This would mean an aggregate increase in engine of over ten million horsepower and if these were employed one-third of the time an addition to the working force of the country of a thousand million horsepower hours. At one tenth of a gallon per horsepower this would require the annual consumption of one hundred million gallons of alcohol.

Production of Alcohol.
The farmer has interest in alcohol and the movement for the removal of the tax for another reason: He is the producer from the raw material from which it is distilled. Corn is the principal raw material in this country from which alcohol is made. It can also be made from other materials such as potatoes, beets, unmarketable fruits, damaged grain, etc. A large industrial consumption of alcohol would guarantee a sure market for surplus and otherwise unstable crops. Furthermore the nature of the fluid permits of its being kept for years if necessary, hence when a large crop is raised which tended to create a surplus and depress prices, the surplus could easily be converted into alcohol and stored to prevent any marked reaction in prices in case of failure from short crops the following year.

Effect on Insurance.
Another feature of the matter is insurance. No insurance company will permit a farmer to have at one time any considerable quantity of gasoline on his farm. Since alcohol mixes with water freely a fire started with alcohol is one of the easiest to distinguish. This is not true of gasoline or kerosene, both of which float on water and burn without burning.

The question has been raised as to whether extensive changes would be necessary in the gasoline engine now in use on farms in case the owner should want to use alcohol. This question has been given careful consideration by the manufacturers of these engines and their reply that the changes necessary would be very slight, if any at all. In fact gasoline engines have been operated experimentally with wood alcohol, and the engine made to perform every function intended of it.

Alcohol in Cornstalks.
Based upon figures furnished by the department of agriculture at Washington, D. C., the humble cornstalk of the crop raised in Iowa the past season would produce 1,500,000 gallons of alcohol. In a recent letter to a friend bearing on the subject, Secretary Wilson said:

"During the past twenty-five years experiments have been made in this country which show that the cornstalk at the time when the grain is hardening contains from 15 to 15 per cent of sugar and other fermentable matters. If these sugars would be fermented at this time it is easy to see that they would produce an amount of alcohol far in excess of all that is used in the world for technical purposes and beverages."

"It is evident that as natural gas, oil and coal become scarcer, some other source must be found for fuel and light. It seems probable from a careful study from all the conditions of agriculture that alcohol is destined to be the fuel of the future. It is the part of wisdom therefore, in those connected with the agricultural interests of the country to exploit as far as possible all the various sources of supply. In this country the stalk of Indian corn, the yam and the sweet and Irish potato are promising sources of alcohol in the future."

CHINCHILLAS ARE GROWING SCARCE

From the New York Herald:
Consul Mansfield of Valparaiso, writes that chinchilla skins, much prized and highly valued in the United States, England and European countries because of their beautiful color and fine quality of the fur, are a product of Bolivia and Chile only. The consul continues:

"The chinchilla is a small animal that burrows in the ground, and resembles in general appearance a rat, except in the coat, which is a beautiful silken light gray fur. It is found in the Cordillera ranges of the Andes in Chile and Bolivia, the best quality coming from the latter country. They are found in great numbers in the higher mountain ranges. But like all animals whose skins have a high market value, chinchillas have been killed with impunity in season and out of season in recent years. As a result they are threatened with extinction."

"They are captured in various ways, but the most common method is to hunt them with dogs, the fox terrier being the most rapid exterminator of the chinchilla and the absolute lack of protection or regulation in taking them has resulted in a tremendous advance in the price of the skins in the past two years."

"As an evidence of the commercial interest in the fur produced by this little animal, two American and two French firms keep expert purchasing agents in the field during the shipping season—January to July. Coquimbo, Chile, is the chief port of export, that being the port of shipment for the Bolivian product also. Last year there were exported from Coquimbo 12,000 dozen skins, the majority of which went to the United States, one agent shipping 7,150 dozen and another 2,500 dozen to their respective New York houses. Prices last year were almost double those paid in the year previous."

"At the last session of the Chilean congress a bill was passed prohibiting the killing of chinchillas within a certain season and providing penalties for violation of the law. But the natural habitat of the chinchilla in the wilds of the Andes mountains make detections and convictions for violation of the law regulating their killing difficult, and it seems probable that this valuable fur producing animal, like many other wild animals, indigenous to the forests and mountains of North and South America, is destined to early extinction."

WHEN A SULLU RUNS AMOK.

His Act Pre-empted and Often the Result of Religious Prejudice.

From Jolo Cor. Straits Budget:

Another "juramentado" affair here last night resulted in the death of a private belonging to the Twentieth Infantry and the wounding of another. The two soldiers were sitting in front of a native house in the suburban village of Tulai, talking with an Eurasian interpreter employed in the office of the governor when a Moro stepped up in front of them. The interpreter instantly exclaimed "Juramentado," the dreaded word which here keeps both American and Filipinos in a constant state of fear.

As soon as the word was spoken, one of the soldiers drew his revolver, but, unfortunately, it was not loaded. He was immediately cut down by the "barong" (board-bladed parang) of the ferocious Sullu and died soon after. The second man then seized the blade and, after receiving some savage cuts, succeeded in wrenching it away from the savage, who took to flight and has not yet been captured. This was a decidedly unusual ending of such an affair, the Moro usually fighting as long as life lasts, very rarely indeed taking to flight.

Only a few weeks ago when there was a similar case of "juramentado" a mounted sentry of the Fourteenth cavalry was attacked by a Sullu armed with a spear. The horse received a savage cut in the hip the sentry jumped down and shot the Moro dead, escaping entirely unharmed. As the island is now supposed to be at peace, this was considered an exceptional instance, and no special precautions were taken on account of it.

The "juramentado" is somewhat different from the amok-runner, in that he acts with premeditation. Through family grudges, as a religious fanatic, as a slave of some leader or priest, or any of 101 different reasons he decides to commit suicide by taking with him into the next world the souls of as many Christian "dogs" as he can kill.

He makes careful preparations for the event. He is anointed and shaved, the loss of his eyebrows being especially noticeable. He dresses in white, provided that he is not always the case. He ties up certain of his organs in such a way as to produce agonizing pains; this probably to keep up his courage. Then he makes for the American settlement and fights till he kills.

Owing to the extraordinary precautions which have been taken any serious injury by one of these men has been a very rare occurrence, though a corporal was shot by agitated soldiers about three years ago after having slain the "juramentado." There is an abundance of sentries about the settlement. All soldiers outside the lines are supposed to be armed with heavy revolvers or rifles, and many of these are supplied with dum-dum and "doctored" bullets, for the Moro will fight as long as he can stand and does not mind having a few holes in his body.

OREGON LAND BOARD CANCELS CERTIFICATES

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 27.—The state land board today passed formal resolutions cancelling and declaring void all certificates held by the D. L. Laffrey brothers and allied interests, purchased through A. Kelliker, of Chicago, recently convicted in this city of fraudulent land transactions covering 20,000 acres. The board specifically declares that the D. Laffrey were not entitled to the fraud in making applications, but purchased them from parties who executed frauds.

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and all associate diseases and weaknesses of men, causing pain in kidneys, bladder, abdomen, dizziness, loss of memory, etc., resulting in a loss of sexual power, physical suffering, mental distress, gloomy forebodings and feelings of impending danger.

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We charge nothing for private counsel and give to each patient a LEGAL CONTRACT to hold for our promise. If you cannot call at our office write your symptoms fully.

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Office Hours—9 a. m. to 6 p. m. Sundays: 10 a. m. to 1 p. m.

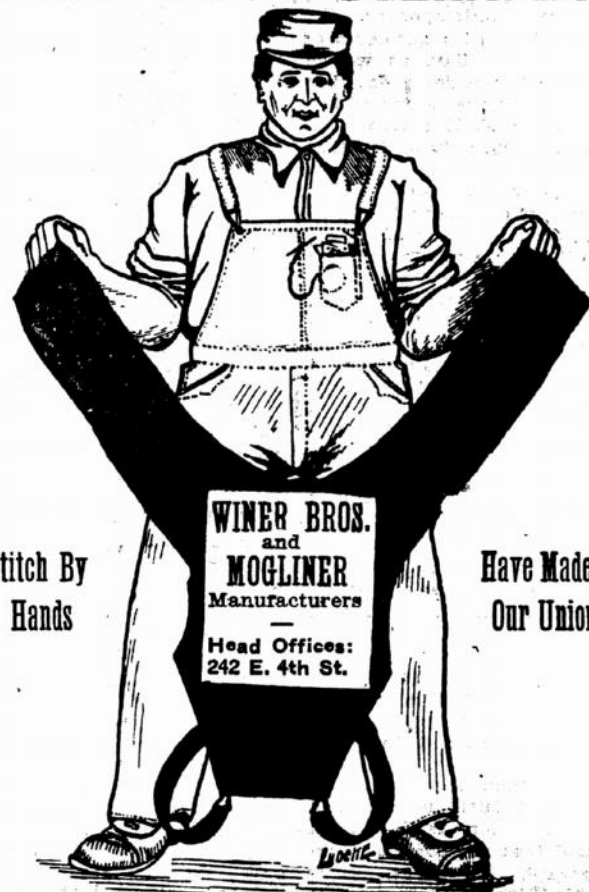
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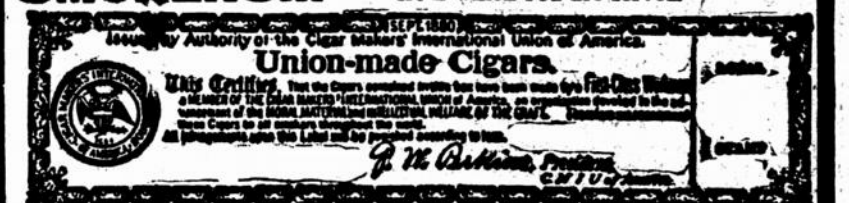
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