

NOTE FROM HEADQUARTERS

Rev. Dr. Dorchester, of the Temperance Committee of the M. E. Conference,

Tells the Public Why He Remains in the Republican Party as a Temperance Reformer—Folly of a Third-Party Movement.

BOSTON, Sept. 29.—The Evening Traveller, of to-day, contains the following open letter from Dr. Daniel Dorchester, chairman of the temperance committee of the Methodist Episcopal General Conference, and the author of the report on temperance to that body:

To an Intelligent Public: Many inquiries have been propounded to me during the past three months, a few of which I do not care to answer in this letter.

I. I am asked why, as a temperance reformer, I remain in the Republican party, while other temperance people have left it?

1. I am not aware that any temperance people have left the Republican party. Not 3 per cent, in 1884, went into the third party; and probably 90 went out of all in the North who favor the more radical temperance measures now in the Republican party. It is not likely to be so inasmuch as a temperance people are more numerous than in any other old ranks and work with the greater mass of temperance people who are more concerned to promote temperance than to build up a party.

2. The only prohibition States—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Iowa and Kansas—are reliable Republican States.

3. The portions of the above States where prohibition is well enforced are the parts which are most strongly Republican.

4. The localities in the North where no license prevails, under local option, are almost wholly Republican.

5. Where license prevails under local option, the great bulk of the no-license vote is cast by Republicans.

6. In the States where heavy "tax laws" have been enacted against the saloon, because it was felt that public sentiment would not enforce prohibition, this aggressive move for temperance has been led and sustained chiefly by Republicans, who will gladly hail still more radical measures when the people are ready for them.

7. To that extent that, in the North, the influence of a sufficiently controlling intelligence, the saloons disappear or are seriously crippled. There are some sad exceptions, but not numerous.

8. The present Maine law was given to that State by Republicans in 1853. The original "Maine law" was enacted as an unpartisan measure in 1850. A member of that Legislature told me that the Democrats were against the measure, but that the Republicans were in the ascendency, but Whigs and Democrats both voted pro and con on the question, without making it a party issue, the Whigs more generally favoring the Democrats. A half dozen years later the Democrats repealed it, as a party measure, and in 1853, the Republicans restored it, in an improved form, and they have kept it to the present day.

9. In New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as in Maine, the original "Maine laws" by the influence of Republicans, have been kept on the statute books ever since they were enacted. Third-party speakers and writers assert that in half a score of States the Republican party repealed the original "Maine laws." These laws were repealed, as party measures. I will not tell how the repeal came about. A great reaction came over the country, owing to several causes: First, large immigration; second, the civil war; third, the Democratic party, during the engrossing events of the war; fourth, neglect of temperance agitation from the same cause, letting down public sentiment; fifth, the reactionary theories of Andrew Johnson, Lincoln Child and Dr. H. L. Bowditch, three of the largest professional and public influences of any in the country. In consequence, the Maine laws fell into disrepute, lost their support in the popular heart, and then no party could have kept them on the statute books, nor would they have been given any value without public sentiment behind them.

10. When they were repealed, the Republican party was in no instance committed to the repeal, the repealing acts being accomplished generally by the Democrats, with enough Republicans to make the needed majority. A few Republicans were prominent in the reactionary movement, just as some Democrats were now opposed to constitutional prohibition.

11. All the most radical temperance legislation in the North for the last century, has been proposed and enacted by Republicans.

12. In Congress the only members who have assailed the liquor traffic and attempted measures against it, in all the temperance States, Colquhoun, of Georgia, and Reagan, of Texas, have been Republicans. Even in voting on the proposed "inquiry into the alcoholic liquor traffic," said Mr. McPherson, in the House, more than six Democrats recorded for it, and only four Republicans against it.

13. The constitutional prohibitory amendments are favored by the Republicans in the twenty Northern legislatures where these amendments have been acted upon, Republicans have proposed them, championed, sustained and voted for them, with few exceptions. In the final legislative vote, not more than from three to fifteen Republicans, in any instance, were recorded against the amendments, while from fifty to 150 Republicans were recorded for them. In the instances where the amendments failed to receive the necessary majority, run Democrats were elected to the Legislature by the help of the third party, running candidates against and thus defeating prohibitory Republicans. In ten of the States where the amendments were submitted to the people, from first to last, to Republicans; and even in the two Democratic States, Tennessee and Texas, the Republicans did more than their share according to their numbers. In those States where prohibitory amendments have been adopted, the Republicans were almost a unit for and, but for the small number of Democrats, numerous instances, Republican State conventions, in advance, recommended the Legislatures to submit the amendments to the people; and, when adopted by the Legislature, the Republican party, formally indorsed it in their State conventions and championed its enforcement.

14. My chief concern in this matter is to help the cause of temperance, and I think that the Democrats more effectively and more widely in the Republican party than in the third party. So far as I can judge, after long, close and candid observation, there is more radical temperance work to promote the cause of temperance among the ardent temperance men in the third party, where the preponderance is in the Republican party, than in the third party. And I think the chances for the solution of the temperance problem are fifty-fold better in the old party of great achievements than in the third party, which, after twenty years of the extravagant promises, has no practical temperance results to show.

15. I advise those who have gone out of the Republican party, because impatient on account of slow temperance progress, to return and strengthen the cause within the old lines, now so rapidly advancing.

II. I am asked if I was not disappointed in the temperance plank of the national Republican convention this year.

Not at all. I have not as much confidence in the efficacy of political party action in solving the liquor problem as many seem to have.

2. Party platforms are not merely conventional makeshifts, hastily shaped, for popular effect. This is notably the case with the third party utterances on the woman's suffrage question in 1884, and its utterances on temperance on other topics than temperance this year.

3. It is often the case, and must be so, that party convention utterances will be less binding on many members of a party than the sentiments of their local constituency, which vary greatly on many topics in the different sections of a country so diversified in the character of its population.

4. There are strange ideal notions in regard to political platforms. There is the reform ideal, as seen from a high ethical standpoint,

AND THERE IS THE IDEAL OF THE STATESMAN, LONG ACCUSTOMED TO DISCRIMINATE AS TO WHAT IS PRACTICABLE. THE LATTER LOOKS TO WHAT CAN BE DONE, AND THINKS AN IDEAL LAW WHICH CANNOT BE ENFORCED, IN LARGE AREAS WITHIN THE STATE, OUGHT NOT TO BE ENACTED. THERE ARE SOME THINGS A STATE CANNOT DO. IT CANNOT MAKE THE HIGHEST ETHICAL IDEALS PRACTICABLE SIMPLY BY ENACTING THEM AS STATUTES. IT CANNOT MAKE THEM WELL ENFORCED BY THE GOLDEN RULE. THE TRULY REFORMER WILL HOLD HIS HIGH ETHICAL IDEAL, AS AN ULTIMATE END, AND ADVANCE SOCIETY TOWARDS IT AS FAST AS HE CAN.

It is also the belief of the Statesman that it is the first time either of the two great parties have said anything in favor of temperance in their national platforms. The Democrats have repeatedly declared against "sumptuary legislation," but the Republicans have been silent on this subject. I have examined the entire record. The "Ruster resolution" in 1872, which, the third party men say, was against temperance, had no reference to that matter, as we have been told by General Hawley and other members of the committee on resolutions that year. I could hold up both hands for the resolution, every day, both before and after prayers.

6. The reason for this silence of the national convention has been a general conviction that the suppression of the saloon is a matter for the States and localities, at least for a considerable time to come; and that but little can be effectively done, in a national capacity, until after a temperance reform should have fully prepared the way in the States. This conviction is honestly held by large multitudes of the wise and good men.

7. We could not reasonably expect that the first utterance of a national convention, upon so complex a question, would be of the most radical character. In the language of General Grant, "It is not so much the length of the step which is taken, as the direction of the step."

8. Consider, too, that the temperance sentiment is much more advanced in the States than in others. In the language of General Grant, "It is not so much the length of the step which is taken, as the direction of the step."

9. The plank adopted by the convention, when broadly and discriminatingly viewed, is eminently wise and strong for a national body. The first concern of all good government is the virtue and sobriety of the people and the purity of the home. The Republican party ardently sympathizes with all wise and well-directed efforts for the promotion of temperance and morality.

10. On this plank all temperance workers, however radical, can stand and labor without hindrance; and those not so radical can also work in their own way. Each one judges what he regards as "wise and well-directed efforts." All will judge for themselves. No party lash can or ought to make them do otherwise, for moral reform is a matter of conscience, and not of individual convictions.

11. While our national platform has been silent until this year, almost every year and for many years the Republican State conventions have contained emphatic temperance declarations. Though not as radical as some have desired, yet these declarations have been clear and strengthening year by year. It is a patent fact that the average sentiment among Republicans has been stronger than that of either the Democrats or the Unionists, and it is showing itself in a practical way by more radical legislation. This is better than to talk loud, and do nothing but to help to elect men Democratic to the Legislature to defeat temperance legislation.

12. The work of enforcing the liquor laws has been advanced within a decade by law and order. Each one judges what he regards as "wise and well-directed efforts." All will judge for themselves. No party lash can or ought to make them do otherwise, for moral reform is a matter of conscience, and not of individual convictions.

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AFFAIRS OF THE RAILWAYS.

September Business. In the month of September there were handled by Belt road engines 2,683 car-loads of live stock against 3,343 car-loads the corresponding month 1887. The decrease in business is wholly due to the failure of the crops last year which forced farmers to dispose of their stock before forced for shipment.

In the month of September there were transferred over the Belt road 59,952 cars against 66,706 for the corresponding month, 1887, 40,101 in 1886, 43,875 in 1885, 38,391 in 1884, 32,181 in 1883, and 24,989 in 1882, the first year the belt road was opened for country.

Last month there were received and forwarded at Indianapolis a total of 93,337 cars, of which number 72,904 were loaded cars, against 100,731 cars, of which number 77,515 were loaded cars. This is a decrease this year of 7,394 cars in total number handled, and a decrease in the movement of loaded cars of 11,109. Not since 1885 was the movement of loaded cars as light in September as this year.

The monthly report of J. M. Brodhead, secretary of Superintendence of the Union Railway Company, shows that in the month of September there arrived and departed at the Union Station 3,586 freight, of which number 304 were special, and 3,282 were ordinary. There were handled 29,564 coaches, the largest number ever handled in any one month at the Union Depot. The large number of specials is due to the language of General Grant, "It is not so much the length of the step which is taken, as the direction of the step."

There were handled at the city freight depot of the Pennsylvania Company last month 27,290 cars, against 25,012,648 pounds, representing 2,627 cars in September, 1887.

The monthly report of Secretary Eckman, of the Indiana Freight Association, shows gains in September as follows: Through weighing the freights on car-load freights, 8,018,500 pounds; on platform freights, 818,513 pounds; total gain, 8,837,013 pounds.

In Favor of Legalized Pools. Geo. R. Blanchard, chairman of the Central Traffic Association, has published, in pamphlet form, the article in which he takes strong grounds in favor of legalizing pools. He quite thoroughly discusses the pool issue in its various phases, and concludes his article as follows: "The law of the last year of their pools under their commissioners. The law has resulted in replacement of rates which were established by the fact that the rates from New York to Chicago are less by some lines than by others. It has stimulated railway contests, involving the demoralization east and west of Chicago. It has stimulated underbidding in weights, false description of goods and misrepresentation of origin, and has resulted in the loss of many jobs. It has not stopped discrimination; witness the amendment pending in the Senate to stop it. It has not operated to reduce through rates, nor has it reduced the rates on local freights. It has not through charges when railroads see fit to war. It put it more than ever in the power of one disturbing railway to reduce the rates of many other lines. It enabled one agent to make reasonable rates, with no power of union by the railways to resist them. The public opinion to pools does not proceed from the shipping who may be injured by the law, but from the fact that if railway patrons alone were consulted, the proposal to secure equal rates by a general pooling of the railroads would be overwhelmingly adopted."

The comparative statement of the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis road for August and eight months is as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Month, August, 7 months, 8 months, 9 months. Rows include Earnings, Expenses, Net, Charges and Improvements, Surplus, Since Jan. 1, Expenses, Net, Charges and Improvements, Deficit.

Personal, Local and State Notes. Edward Coy, who represents the Bee-line at Kansas City, is spending a day or two with friends in this city.

H. H. Cheney, agent of the Lake Erie & Western road at Frankfort, Ind., is this week to be married to Miss Mary Bennett, of Boswell, Ind.

The Michigan Car Company is building three hundred box cars for the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City road, turning them out at the rate of one per day.

The annual meeting of the Lake Erie & Western stockholders will be held to-day, and also that of the stockholders of the Cincinnati, Jackson & Keokuk.

West-bound travel is so heavy over the Vandenberg line that the cars are being run out in two sections, and the Indianapolis & St. Louis is hauling extra coaches to accommodate their business.

G. H. Barker, general agent of the Chicago & North Western road, is in the city, and is expected to leave for Chicago to-day.

Superintendent Bennett, of the Pennsylvania line was at the office of the Union Station, in the second story, for their offices, and will remove from Richmond to Indianapolis early in November.

In the thirty-six hours ending August 6, a Montreal coach delivered 1,354 tons of coal. The several St. Louis lines were busy, as well as the Northwestern lines running into Chicago.

The Railroad Clerks' Association is arranging to give a series of musical entertainments. There are some fine musicians among them, and under the direction of Ora Pearson they expect to do a very creditable musical entertainment.

G. H. Graham, one of the oldest messengers of the American Express Company, who has been running between Cincinnati and Chicago for the Big Four road for many years, has been appointed agent of the company at Jamestown, N. Y. Daniel Hoagland takes his run between Chicago and St. Louis, and is expected to leave for Chicago to-day.

The Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis & Chicago Company is still making extensive improvements in the way of raising track, rebalancing, etc. They have some 250 more men than usual at work on the line, and are working two steam shovels and running a construction train.

The cost of arbitrating the suit of the Hoeking Valley Railroad Company against Judge Charles B. Burdick, has been estimated by arbitrators at \$100,000. The railroad company should pay one-half the cost and Judge Burdick the other half. It was a fortunate arbitration for the latter, as the company sued for an immense sum.

The Western Freight Association is to have a new feature in the way of a statistical bureau. The entire territory will be embraced in the compilation of statistics of earnings, tonnage, etc. Each road will have to report its competitor is really doing; that is, if the earnings and tonnage statements are reported correctly.

Anthony Thomas and several other persons who are largely interested in the Chicago, Vincennes & Chicago road, last week spent two days looking over the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City road. This has given rise to rumors that this syndicate is negotiating to get control of the St. L. & K. C. road, which they intersect at Ride Farm.

The Graydon Steam Car-hauler Company will, next week, open branch offices in Chicago and New York. Parties have taken hold with Mr. Graydon, of this city, who have the capital to push the device to the front. The Vandavia will equip several of their trains with the Graydon motor, so satisfactorily it has it performed since placed on two of them.

Track-laying has been completed on the extension of the Chicago & Indiana Coal road from Goodland, Ind., to Nappanee, where connection will be made with the Chicago & Indiana line. The line will be opened for traffic in a few days. It is expected that fully 200 car-loads of coal will be shipped north daily over this line as soon as it is fairly opened.

Building Permits. The following building permits were issued yesterday: William L. Baker, frame dwelling at No. 519 Broadway street, \$2,000; Eli Albert, improvements at No. 3 Hoyt avenue, \$100; H. Taylor, frame cottage, Hillside avenue, near Third street, \$1,500; Barbara M. Kern, improvements, No. 245 Davidson street, \$150; Mary E. Culbertson, two-story frame cottage on corner Bellefontaine and Eleventh streets, \$2,000;

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6. In the States where heavy "tax laws" have been enacted against the saloon, because it was felt that public sentiment would not enforce prohibition, this aggressive move for temperance has been led and sustained chiefly by Republicans, who will gladly hail still more radical measures when the people are ready for them.

7. To that extent that, in the North, the influence of a sufficiently controlling intelligence, the saloons disappear or are seriously crippled. There are some sad exceptions, but not numerous.

8. The present Maine law was given to that State by Republicans in 1853. The original "Maine law" was enacted as an unpartisan measure in 1850. A member of that Legislature told me that the Democrats were against the measure, but that the Republicans were in the ascendency, but Whigs and Democrats both voted pro and con on the question, without making it a party issue, the Whigs more generally favoring the Democrats. A half dozen years later the Democrats repealed it, as a party measure, and in 1853, the Republicans restored it, in an improved form, and they have kept it to the present day.

9. In New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as in Maine, the original "Maine laws" by the influence of Republicans, have been kept on the statute books ever since they were enacted. Third-party speakers and writers assert that in half a score of States the Republican party repealed the original "Maine laws." These laws were repealed, as party measures. I will