

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1908.—Copyright, 1908, by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association.

SHALL MAINE STAY DRY?

PROHIBITION AN ISSUE IN THE CANVASS FOR GOVERNOR.

Three Republican Candidates for the Nomination—Charges That Much Liquor is Still Sold—Attempts to Have the Question of Prohibition Again Voted On.

BANGOR, Me., June 6.—The liquor question has again come up in Maine. It is perhaps the chief issue in the contest now in progress for the Republican nomination for Governor.

The convention meets on June 30. The canvass has been in progress since midwinter as between two of the candidates, William T. Haines of Waterville and Bert M. Fernald of West Poland. The third candidate, Frederick E. Boothby of Portland, did not formally announce his candidacy until April. Mr. Haines and Mr. Fernald are both wealthy. Mr. Boothby is the general passenger and ticket agent of the Maine Central Railroad. It is admitted that any of these men would be a good Governor.

For fifty years and more Maine has been trying to legislate out of existence and drunkenness out of existence. Prohibition probably has kept the saloon out of many small towns and at times has forced the liquor business to cover in the cities and larger towns; yet it is asserted by opponents of prohibition that the operation of the law has in most cases affected not the quantity of liquor sold but the quality of it and the conditions attending its sale.

In Bangor, for example, where since August last a strike squad of the special Sturgis enforcement deputies have been operating, there is a great abundance of all kinds of liquors and police statistics show that drunkenness has increased. In the year ended March 31 there were 2,381 arrests for drunkenness in this city of perhaps 28,000 inhabitants.

In place of the open saloon there now flourish the club, the fake drug store and the kitchen bar—these last being very numerous. The total number of places where liquor of some kind is sold is estimated at from 150 to 225.

There are several drug stores whose stock consists chiefly of cheap blended whiskey, much of it sold by the bottle and at extravagant prices. In the clubs, of which there are several, almost any kind of liquor, malt or spirituous, can be had by those holding membership cards, and the cards are not at all difficult to obtain.

As for the Democrats, their candidate is already decided upon, although the State convention will not be held until July 19 in Bangor. The Democracy has settled upon Obadiah Gardner of Rockland, who for ten years was master of the State Grange, as their standard bearer in the gubernatorial campaign, and it is admitted on all sides that he will make a strong fight.

He is a temperance man, as he says, by principle and by habit, but he declared at the Fourth district convention that he was not afraid to submit to the people for their decision any question of public policy whenever there seems to be any great demand for it.

NEGROES IN CIVIL SERVICE

MORE AND MORE OF THEM IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOY.

Conditions That Enable Negroes to Win Against White Men in Competitive Examinations—Prospect of a Race Question in Departments at Washington.

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The number of negroes holding Government jobs in Washington in 1892 was 2,897. In 1907 there were 2,786 of them. That is an increase of just about 16 per cent. In the same period the increase in the number of white employees in Washington was only about 9 per cent.

The number of negroes taking the civil service examinations is constantly increasing. Comparatively well educated negroes are perfectly willing, indeed glad, to take minor clerks' jobs under the Government, places which do not appeal to white men of ability for the simple reason that the white man can do better.

The consequence is that the most capable of the negroes compete with whites at least only mediocre ability. Naturally the colored man often comes out ahead in the examinations, and when that happens there is nothing to prevent his getting the appointment. In Washington one Government employee in every nine is colored, and the proportion is constantly growing larger.

The negroes have one very sufficient answer to any grumbling comments on their success in securing appointments. They say: "We don't owe anybody any thanks. We take the same examinations that the white folks do. If they don't want us to get the jobs let them put up a better showing in the examination."

All of which is perfectly true. The trouble lies in the condition already pointed out—that the best brains of the colored people are contented with what the best brains of the whites don't want. As more and more negroes are educated the number that will turn to Government employment as the one field where they are on an absolute industrial equality with white workers is bound to go on increasing.

Most of the negro employees at the capital fill minor places. They are laborers or messengers, watchmen, elevator men and so on. Seventy-five per cent. of them receive less than \$600 each a year.

But there are 292 of them in the District receiving more than \$1,000 a year, and some of them get a good deal more than that. Ralph W. Tyler, auditor for the navy at a salary of \$4,000, is a colored man. So are William T. Vernon, Register of the Treasury, at \$2,500, and John C. Dancy, Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia, at \$4,000 a year.

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One of the woodmen who has been famous for a subterranean bar known as the "bull pen." The proprietor in order to accommodate the rush of business when the throngs of woodmen come to the city, has sprung fitted up the cellar of the house with a rough bar, built a "deacon seat" of planks around the sides of the apartment and padded the floor with straw, and six inches deep to deaden the sounds of conflict. All entrances to this place were protected with heavy doors, and it was hard for any but bona fide customers to get in.

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And what have the Sturgis men done? At first, in the summer of 1907, they made many raids and seized large quantities of liquors, forcing the traffic to rather more secrecy than had been observed before their coming. During the early winter there were occasional raids, but toward spring the activity of the Sturgis force dwindled, and now very little is heard of them, although they are still here, their numbers varying from five to fourteen days by day, drawing each \$3 a day and expenses.

Now these are facts, and yet they will be disputed by many persons. Denial of the facts has always been a prominent feature of discussions in Maine on the subject of liquor law enforcement. Many good and well-to-do men and women devoted to statutory means of promoting a better social life refuse to believe that prohibition is not a success. They have no personal knowledge of how things are going, and are inclined to believe the matter on unpleasant truths as enemies of the law.

Then there are those who defend prohibition for purely political reasons, a great many of whom are interested in the matter and are satisfied to let matters drift as they are going, and those who declare that for the law to be right but that the officials are for the most part faithless. There is no doubt that Maine could be made very dry under the prohibition law were it possible to get the officers who would make intelligent, honest and energetic efforts to enforce it, and the courts would in every case impose jail sentences. This is the difficulty that always has handicapped the law, and probably always will prevent its full application.

On this issue the Republican party in Maine is divided. There has for some years been a demand for the resubmission to the popular vote of the Fifth Amendment to the State Constitution, by which prohibition of the manufacture or sale of liquor became a part of the organic law of Maine. The Democrats are practically united in de-

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Then there are those who defend prohibition for purely political reasons, a great many of whom are interested in the matter and are satisfied to let matters drift as they are going, and those who declare that for the law to be right but that the officials are for the most part faithless. There is no doubt that Maine could be made very dry under the prohibition law were it possible to get the officers who would make intelligent, honest and energetic efforts to enforce it, and the courts would in every case impose jail sentences. This is the difficulty that always has handicapped the law, and probably always will prevent its full application.

On this issue the Republican party in Maine is divided. There has for some years been a demand for the resubmission to the popular vote of the Fifth Amendment to the State Constitution, by which prohibition of the manufacture or sale of liquor became a part of the organic law of Maine. The Democrats are practically united in de-

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