

W. C. T. U. Column.

Through the courtesy of the REGISTER this space is granted to the W. C. T. U. It is edited by MARY J. FRASCI, Local Press Superintendent, as appointed by the State Organizer, Mrs. L. LaMance.

W. C. T. U. WATCHWORDS:
ORGANIZER! EDUCATOR! AGITATE!

W. C. T. U. PRINCIPLES:

Total Abstinence: Prohibition of the Liquor Traffic; One Standard of Morals for Men and Women; Home Protection; Equal Suffrage; and the Teaching of Scientific Temperance in Public Schools.

Text and Content of the Amendment.

This amendment will be "No. 10" on the amendments ballot, and will read as follows:

"PROHIBITION. The manufacture of intoxicating liquor is hereby prohibited in this state, except for medical, scientific and mechanical purposes. The sale of intoxicating liquor is also hereby prohibited in this state except for medical, scientific and mechanical purposes. The manufacture or sale of wine for sacramental or religious purposes is also excepted."

The language of the amendment is brief and unambiguous. Both the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquor are absolutely prohibited anywhere and everywhere in the state, except for medical, scientific and mechanical purposes. If the amendment carries, the manufacture and sale of any kind of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes will be in violation of law. According to Missouri supreme court decisions, a constitutional amendment, prohibitive in character, is self-enforcing immediately it is adopted by a vote of the people. So if there is a majority vote for the amendment November 8, Missouri will be legally a dry state November 9.

The REGISTER is devoting much conspicuous space every week to the Anti-Prohibition cause.

Volumes are being printed from every source for and against the state-wide amendment. If the people are reading one-half, they no doubt, find themselves facing contradictory arguments. The same position as we see it, is to stand four square for the amendment as printed above. And so standing and so voting continue the same determined effort in compelling the law to be enforced, should it become a law. The argument that a law to be effective must be backed up by a unanimous public sentiment favoring such a law is anarchistic and a dangerous position for any American. When sentiment has become strong enough to compel the making of a law that same sentiment should and must be strong enough to command its execution. To say that the minority can nullify the decree of the majority is to make impotent any prohibitive law which the people may justly demand. What is the future for America if, in dethroning vice, we must first ask the consent of the vicious for a law to put him out of business? Shall the baser element of society make our laws? If so we are where Tacitus says Rome was, when he said: "Rome cannot endure her evils nor furnish the remedy for them." Have we, as a nation, retrograded and shall we pronounce the failure of a government by the people, of the people and for the people? Nay, verily! Our legislative decisions rather, must be upheld by the executive and in this way made operative. No law is self-operative; hence the necessity of rigid enforcement. Someone has said, "The reason for a law should not be sought in the ease of its enforcement, but in the rightness and utility of its requirement." "All law presumes its infraction and annexes a penalty for that infraction." Says another, "Make the penalty for violation so unprofitable and so uncomfortable that the offender will cease his offense."

We cannot afford to adopt the principle in legislation that any law which meets opposition shall fail of passage. For any one to concede that we have an evil so gigantic as to defy all obedience to law is to admit that we have no stable government and that the will of the majority is subservient to that of the lawless minority. Such doctrine would not startle us, but for a Democrat to present such sentiment is contradictory and beyond explanation.

The contributor to the REGISTER in his arguments contends for local option as the true solution of the liquor problem. Said contributor will confer a favor by making his distinctions clear enough to illuminate the average reader's reasoning. If it is democratic for the majority of each county to rule how is it undemocratic for the majority of the state to rule? Let us all write and talk

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sensibly and fairly upon this great issue.

Is the traffic in liquor right or wrong?

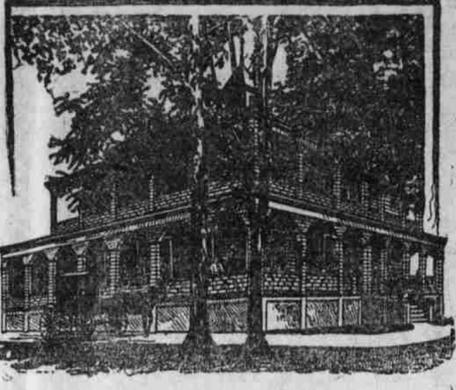
With the multitude of convincing evidence of the evils charged up to it we must brand it wrong.

Then why tolerate it?

Hear, ye readers, this awful denunciation passed upon the business. Judge for yourselves, voters, whether it is right or wrong:

"The rum traffic is lawless, degrading, disintegrating, anti-economic, unjust, dishonest, oppressive, parasitic, domineering—a crime producer and crime-nourisher, a hatchery of almost all evils in society and brooder of all that is catalogued as infamous, an infernal magnet attracting to its black and transforming center whatever is ruinous, fiendish and fatal to mortals. It has not a redeeming quality; it is not entitled to the respect of any being. Its curses have followed generation

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