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**WORTHINGTON ADVANCE**  
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It can be said for Stuyvesant Fish that he is a good loser, which is more than can be predicted of Harriman.

A number of southern papers are learnedly discussing the gentle art of kissing. We suppose the event of the prohibition laws that way has brought about something of revival of that pastime.

Mr. Taft is making no contest in the States which have favorite sons in the field, but the delegates will be tipped off to the fact that there will be seats for all on the Taft band wagon in Chicago.

"Nine-tenths of the Democratic editors throughout the country are opposed to Bryan's nomination," asserts the Los Angeles Times. Possibly this is true, but what boots it when Mr. Bryan is in favor of it.

A number of members of the House are objecting to the iron rule of Speaker Cannon, saying that they are automaton. Perhaps the best solution is that the people send bigger men to represent them.

The Ellsworth News has demonstrated that it is a full fledged member of the Annanias Club, and with natural perverseness attributes to the Advance the opinion of the editors of the Men's Sunday Club Column. For such malicious perversity as afflicts the News there is no antidote.

The editor of the Men's Club Column in The Advance questions the soundness of Bishop Grafton's logic, when that prelate expressed himself in favor of license, because he did believe prohibition could be enforced against the sentiments of a large minority. Whatever may be the logic of the question the bishop's observations are unquestionably founded on the experiences of most communities where prohibition has been tried. The trouble with the prohibitionists is that they believe that the abolition of the saloon settles the liquor question, whereas the common experience is that it only transfers the traffic to the drug store, the blind pig or bootlegger, or the neighboring town, as has been the case in Worthington.

**The License Question**

There are only two more issues before the village election, and as we promised our readers to discuss the license question before that event, we shall this week endeavor to present the financial side of the subject, and that from the side of the high license party. The other side has been ably presented for the no license party through the Men's Club Column and fairness to both sides as well as to our readers dictates that both sides of the question be presented.

It is for some reason or other the common experience of all towns that vote out saloons that the step is followed by a loss of business. In some places this loss is sufficient to dwarf the business life of the town while in others it is less severe. While it is impossible to state in dollars and cents the loss suffered by Worthington, the prevailing opinion among general merchants and other dealers is that it has been considerable. It is true that many of our merchants show a gain in business over the previous year, but the unusual condition of a good crop and extraordinary high prices, they argue should have enabled them to show a far greater increase than is the case. It may be that expectations based on favorable conditions may be faulty, and probably are, but there is, however, a hard fact which cannot be so disposed of, and that is that a large number of very good farmers who were regular customers of Worthington merchants and were almost weekly visitors in town, have scarcely visited the city at all the past year. While personally we have no knowledge of any such cases, we are assured by several of our leading merchants that there are many such, and that still others have divided their business between Worthington and other towns. There are less than 1000 farmers tributary to Worthington, and the loss of the business of 100 of these would be a severe blow to its business interests. Reports from other towns show an increase of business for 1907 over 1906 of upwards of 30 per cent, while few if any of our dealers can show an increase of more than 10 per cent and many show none at all. It is argued

by most of our business men that as long as saloons exist in neighboring towns it is suicidal for them to vote no license. This, unfortunately for the business interests, does not appeal to many of the no-license voters, to many of whom the success or failure of the business houses is a matter of utmost indifference. Were the ends of temperance subverted by the absence of the saloons, we would of course have nothing to say. But that such has not been the case is evident to the most casual observer. The innumerable trips made to neighboring towns by booze consumers, and the large quantities of liquor shipped in leads many to believe there has been nearly as much liquor consumed by local people the past year as in any "wet" year. One saloon keeper in a neighboring town has made enough the past year to practically retire from the business and has bought a quarter section of choice Nobles county land and a half section in another state. He attributes his unparalleled prosperity almost entirely to business from Worthington. He passed through town one day this week and while traversing two blocks took orders for fifteen quarts of whiskey. This, license advocates maintain, would indicate to any unprejudiced person that prohibition does not prohibit consumption of liquor to a degree that justifies the city in making the sacrifices in the loss of business and revenue it involves. That the village treasury is out the \$4500 in license money is a fact that sooner or later must become evident in the tax levy.

But the financial side of the license question is the minor half of it. The moral side is that which must eventually prevail, and next week we shall present some observations on that phase of the problem.

Pioneer Press: Gov. Johnson's presidential boom is beginning to show alarming symptoms. Its friends fear it is about to die of inanition. The specialists and wet nurses who have tended it since its birth apparently are losing hope. It gave promise at one time of reaching maturity and was fostered with loving care. It was fattened judiciously on magazine notoriety and the governor's popularity in Minnesota. The young hopeful is comely and possessed of good lungs but seems deficient in the legs. The nurses have done their best, but are unable to make it stand alone. Recently it suffered a relapse and the symptoms are that it is approaching dissolution. Solicitous friends in Washington asked to be permitted to supply a change of diet and climate. It is feared that the invitation will have to be declined. The infant is becoming too weak to venture away from home, nor is it thought there is strength enough left to enable it to sit up and assimilate non-partisan nourishment.

**Roosevelt's Democratic Following**

William Jennings Bryan indorses every statement made in President Roosevelt's red hot message; Jeff Davis made the motion to print 10,000 extra copies, and Justice Gaynor is moved to say, that Roosevelt is one of the greatest men of the age. It really begins to look as though the new Democratic platform may bristle with Rooseveltian ideas.—Anoka Press.

**What's in McClures?**

The March McClure's leads off with an article on Governor Hughes by Burton J. Hendrick. "People know so little about him," has been the universal complaint, and Mr. Hendrick's article is a timely turning on of the light. Ellen Terry's monthly contribution is a chapter called "Memories of Booth and Sarah Bernhardt," in which many other famous ones figures besides the great American actor and the ethereal "Miss Sarah." General Pickett's widow, in a charmingly intimate article, "My Soldier," recalls the part played by the gallant Confederate general in the Civil War. Georgine Milmine, in Chapter XI of Mrs. Eddy's Life, tells of the founding of Mother Church and the adoption of a son. Contributors of verse include Florence Wilkinson, A. E. Housman, Floyd Dell, and Ruthello Anshutz. There is a cover and an illustration by Iyanowski, a striking portrait from Life of Governor Hughes by George T. Tobin, and illustrations by Eric Pape, Frederic Dorr Steele, Blenden Campbell and others.

Ellsworth News: At his home in this city on Saturday morning, February 22, 1908, occurred the death of Sylvester M. Butcher, after a two years illness with stomach trouble.

**Washington Notes**

There is genuine concern among Republican leaders, including some who are not particularly partial to Secretary Taft, over the programme of the anti-administration forces who are bent on bringing to Chicago contesting delegations from every southern state. Senator Foraker's name is generally used as anti-Taft candidate, but "uninstructed delegations" is the cry, the purpose being to secure if possible, a large number of delegations to trade with. In many of the Southern states, the Forakerites are dealing with the negroes. In Alabama, however, this is not the case. The negroes will have none of the anti-administration crowd and accordingly, the Forakerites are dealing with the so-called "Lily-whites" or anti-negro faction. One William Youngblood, a Lily-white leader, is going about the state hiring a hall in each town where a district convention is being held and, with the liberal use of money, is "electing" a contesting delegation without pretense of regularity. In many of the southern states the men who are at the front of the anti-administration movement are those who have been discharged by Presidents McKinley or Roosevelt, for dishonesty or incompetence, or both.

The programme of the anti-Taft forces who are amply provided with money, is to bring all these delegations to Chicago and endeavor to have them placed on the "temporary roll" of the national convention. Of course it cannot be pretended that these delegations are entitled to such recognition, but their hope is to influence the National Committee to seat them regardless of the merits of the cases. When the convention is called to order the roll of the states will be called and as each is named, its chairman, elected by the majority of the delegation, rises and names three men for membership on the committees on credentials, resolutions and permanent organization, respectively. Of course if a majority of spurious delegates are placed on the temporary roll, the men named for the credentials committee will be anti-Taft. Then the credentials committee will pass on the various contests and the result must be obvious. Only anti-Taft delegates will be placed on the permanent roll wherever there is a contest. It is obvious, therefore, that if the anti-administration forces can control the National Committee they can control the convention, although that is admittedly a big IF.

The feature of this situation which occasions anxiety to the leaders, however, is not the possible outcome of the programme, but the effect which, however it results, it will have in the election. Let the people become convinced that a Republican candidate for President has been nominated by the corrupt manipulation of negro delegates from states in which there is practically no Republican vote and the result will be to make Democratic votes by the million, say the wise ones. Again, suppose Taft is nominated, will not the fact that such a concerted effort was made have a decidedly serious effect on the fortunes of the party? Can any party have it become generally known that there is even a possibility of such corruption in its national councils, or that such quantities of money have been expended to sway its choice without grave loss of confidence? These are the questions which some of the most disinterested leaders are asking.

Judge Mills was never selected by the people for railroad commissioner. He was always favored by the railroads and always favored them. There was never any great secret about it that we know of. The writer speaks of what he knows when he says the merger railroads not only contributed to Mills ante-convention fund, but that in 1904 an official of the merger roads was in the convention Hall ready to assist in securing him the nomination by any method that might be necessary. This year the people should not allow the railroads to name the candidate for so important an office.—Northfield News

In an address delivered in the Lyndale Congregational church, Minneapolis, before the Lyndale Fraternal association, Warden Wolfer charged the cigarette with being a deadly enemy of society, declaring that to banish it would "kill off one of the most active influences which help to make criminals." His topic was "The Relation of the Church to the Criminal Classes."

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