

"PUSSYFOOT" IS BACK: SAYS HE LIKES HOCH

JOHNSON, CELEBRATED PROHIBITION, ADMITS INDIA MAY GO DRY IN 2000 YEARS.—ON WAGON FOR 15 YEARS

New York, Dec. 23.—"Pussyfoot" Johnson breezed into town today on the Adriatic, and took a bucking taxi to the offices of the Anti-Saloon League, where, along toward the dusk hour, he acted as a host to a flock of exceedingly dry reporters, recounting snappy stories of India, picked up in his recent four-months' tour in behalf of the Gospel of the Suppression of Navy Blue Jimjams and the face on the barroom floor.

During the course a reporter with an inquiring mind asked "Pussyfoot" if he liked "hoch."
"Sure, I like it," replied "Pussyfoot," smacking his lips reminiscently. "Why not? I love it. Put that in the paper. Say that 'Pussyfoot' Johnson says he loves whiskey, for does not the Holy Scripture place upon us the injunction, 'Love thine enemy?'" "Does loving your enemy consist in trying to put him out of business?" He flashed his famous low-cut, evening dress smile, and went on to explain that he "went on the wagon" 15 years ago.

In the last decade and a half, he says he hasn't tasted liquor. He says he has no longing for it. He says he cannot remember the name of the town where he had his last drink nor whether he took a high ball or a whiskey straight.

"If you went back to that town and took another drink there today," said the reporter, "you'd never recognize the old stuff."

"They tell me the quality is pretty low," said Pussyfoot.

"That's your fault," said the newspaperman.

"I did the best I could," replied Pussyfoot.

"Well, having lowered the quality," said the reporters, "don't you think you could do something to get the price, if not altogether down, at least to about half-mast?"

"In India," said Pussyfoot, "there are 315,000,000 people. Of this number 62,000,000 of them drink. Our task is to make them see the error of their ways."

"You mean the 253,000,000 who do not drink?"

"No," said Pussyfoot, patiently, "the 62,000,000 who do drink."

"Are the people in India anything like the people in America," Pussyfoot was asked, "do they subscribe in theory to a morality they are unwilling to put into practice?"

"There are over 700,000 villages in India," said Pussyfoot, ignoring the question. "The people speak 160 different dialects."
"At that rate," said the reporters, "if you went out personally to dry clean India, it would take you in the neighborhood of 2000 years before you'd be ready to turn India over to the tender mercies of the Friendly Sons of Volstead."

"Thereabouts," said Pussyfoot. Pussyfoot says he was received like a king wherever he went in India. The reporters reminded the great reformer that of late kings have been handed the ancient and honorable razz. Pussyfoot said no, no; no, indeed. He had not been razzed. Lots of towns he hit he said they closed up everything except the saloons and the people gave themselves over to merry-making. Once he rode on an elephant, he said.

"Did you ever ride on a camel?" asked a reporter.

"Talking about kidding," said Pussyfoot, with apparent irrelevancy, coming over on the steamer a lot of chaps in the smoking-room ragged me a bit. They asked me constantly when the next drink was to be served. I've observed that all drinkers are obsessed with that one inquiry: When is the next drink coming?"

"You'll find, now that you're back in the United States of America," said the reporter, "that the query among the bright young drinkers here is not 'when is the next drink coming,' but 'where is the next drink coming from?'"

Somebody asked if he had ever read that touching line of Kipling: "You're a better man than I am, God-don't Gin."

Pussyfoot laughed and said he never had. And just before leaving the reporter said: "Do you think prohibition will ever return to the United States?"

"Prohibition," said Pussyfoot, in a lachrymose tremulo, "prohibition, like the poor, you will always have with you."

"Merry Christmas, Pussyfoot," said the reporters, as they rose in a body.

"Merry Christmas to you," said Pussyfoot, dryly.

"G" FATAL FOR LANDRU

Paris.—The letter "G" was fatal for Henri Landru, who was convicted of murdering his 10 fiancées, in the opinion of a French fortune-teller. She points out that "G" was the initial letter for Grammbais, the villa where Landru's fiancées met their untimely end, and also for Gilbert, president of the court before which Landru was tried, and for Godsfroy, advocate general of the court.

This fatal letter, the fortune-teller predicted, was leading Landru inevitably toward the instrument of justice the guillotine, the name of which also begins with "G."

POLITE TRAIN ROBBER FLED IN AUTO DRIVEN BY WOMAN

Chicago, Dec. 21.—Police today investigated a report that a well-dressed bandit with exquisite manners, who singlehanded held up observation car passengers on the Baltimore & Ohio night flyer for Washington in the heart of Chicago's South Side last night, had escaped in an automobile driven by a woman companion. Children skating on a pond at Sixty-seventh street say the robber made his getaway in a car which had been parked beneath the railroad viaduct.

We shall eventually have to loan the Germans the money they were going to take from us if they won the war.—Columbia Record.

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