

says that such and such an interest contributed to "our" campaign fund, and must be dealt lightly with, the argument is effective upon many members. The "interest" gets its protection. It pays in party contributions. There is no other earthly reason why they contribute to campaign funds. It is for immunity. And they must generally get what they pay for, or they would have quit paying. Only very rich concerns could stand such expense. They of course expect to and do get their money back off the people whose representatives they have led to betray their trusts. Thus it has been that the great interests have grown so enormously in this country. They are Democrats where the Legislature is Democratic, and Republicans where it is Republican. Their agents are known as lobbyists. They are partisan, bi-partisan and non-partisan. They are always gentle, kindly, courteous and quiet. They hate noise and light, and the confusion of public discussion. Their ways are furtive, their influence sinister, their power corroding. If these gentry should be curtailed in their activities two results may be expected—one, the campaign fund so dear and so necessary to the maintenance of a party machine, is cut off, and the other, the people's representatives in the Legislature would be untrammelled by the influence of that body in enacting laws. My notion is to abolish the professional lobby. They bring disgrace sooner or later—as witness Ohio and Illinois; they bring inevitably corruption; they retard public business; they defile our statutes. When you smash the lobby you will have swatted the mother of party machines.

The business of the professional lobbyist is to either procure legislation which his employer wants enough to pay well for it, or to defeat general legislation in behalf of the public when it tends to curtail his lawless operations. The lobbyist works for hire—works always against the public, and always for interests conspiring to defile the public. His concern is only in his pay. But his employer's concern is much larger. Hence he and his employer fight together against any one or any party proposing to put them on the same footing with the rest of the public. To be sure they do not maintain that a professional lobbyist is a good thing; they do not care to discuss that issue. They prefer that it be not discussed. No more do they desire the merits and demerits of their particular business methods discussed. But they know these matters will be discussed unless public attention is distracted by something else. Hence they, and all who serve them and all whom in turn they serve politically, unite in a clamor to drown discussions of the main issue. False issues must be raised instead. The people must be fooled—and enough additional bought to outnumber those who listen, think and act according to clear judgment. You need not be surprised therefore in this campaign to hear me most bitterly arraigned for all kinds of imaginary or trumped-up things. Personal abuse is an old-fashioned weapon that has done much service in the past in obscuring real issues. In the absence of any real matter for complaint, they will invent, lie, slander, and destroy. Do not think that the interest which deliberately plans to plunder a whole people would stop at any kind of injury to him who dares get in the way. It has already begun in deadly earnest. You might look to see who it is that speaks in behalf of these interests. They employ talent, where it is for hire, always in preference to stupidity. They do not always pay in money. Office is both a good and valuable consideration in such transactions. Then, making their attack under the name of a great political party they can get for nothing the services of the biggest class of partisans—including newspapers of that class—small men blinded by party fury and consumed by small hatreds. Such are their methods, and it is this fight which is now on in earnest before the people of Kentucky.

Shall Liquor Interests or Constitution Prevail?

There are a number of such interests back of this fight against our ticket in Kentucky this year. I will from time to time speak of them and their methods in detail. Today I will mention one only. That is the liquor interest. Its concern is great. It is one of the oldest, boldest and most successful trusts—or rather, two trusts—in the country. The public has not concerned itself much with the commercial features of those trusts, because it was not concerned much whether the price of drinks was high or low. The condition is wholly unlike that presented by manufacturers of other commodities. Hence the whiskey trust and the beer trust have gone along unmolested and uninvestigated in so far as they are simply trusts. The public has dealt more with the question of regulating the retail business, as a matter of policing, rather than with its commercial feature. Among the expedients resorted to by the public is that of prohibiting the sale by retail at all in certain localities, as in sparsely settled rural communities, in the neighborhood of churches, schools, etc. Kentucky undertook in the beginning of the discussion to regulate, not only where and how, but whether liquors should be sold by retail in particular sections. In 1891 the people adopted a new constitution. Among its subjects was that of the retail liquor traffic. It provides that each county, city, town, precinct and taxing district shall have the right to legislate for itself upon the subject whether such sales shall be allowed within those units. The county is named as one of the units. The Legislature is required by the constitution to provide by law for taking the sense of the voters of each of the units. The Legislature has failed and refused for twenty years to carry that provision into effect as to counties having a town larger than the fifth class, so as to make it the controlling unit in prohibiting the sale of liquor. The constitution, made for the people and adopted by them as their protection against even the Legislature, and all manner of oppression, provides a manner of initiative and referendum on the subject of liquor traffic. It was left to the Legislature to provide the details only of carrying the provision into

effect. This it has refused to do. It did not have even the flimsy excuse that the people did not want it. They did, and do yet. No other local objection has provoked as much discussion or as pronounced and unanimous public sentiment in Kentucky. Still, the popular will and the constitution have been defied. How and why? The liquor interests, particularly the brewers, have prevented it. They have prevented it by means of their activity in politics in Kentucky—in both parties, maybe, in the Democratic party particularly, by which they have controlled the Legislature. They have assessed in every State and territory campaign for political purposes, and they pay. In return they get immunity as against the constitution. They prefer to contribute to the election of State Senators (there are fewer of them), then of Representatives, and lastly to the State executive officers. They are determined at whatever cost that that section of the constitution of Kentucky (Section 61) shall not be carried into effect by legislation. In spite of campaign after campaign in which that issue has been presented in electing Legislatures, and in spite of emphatic majorities pledged to the county unit and the constitution the Legislature has not acted. The liquor interests have defeated it—to the shame of Kentucky—have controlled the Legislature for twenty years, and that against the constitution and the people. A power such as that is dangerous. Well may politicians tremble at its menace, and certain big newspapers dance to its music. A power that is to be feared is a power also to be courted by those who fear it more than they dare it.

Let us clear away first some confusing and misleading statements of those who are today openly fighting the battles of the liquor interests in this campaign. They charge that State-wide prohibition is the issue. That is not true. It is not even proposed by our party as an issue, and could not be adopted except by an amendment to the constitution. Everybody knows that no such amendment is proposed. Nor is it the issue whether a man should be allowed to drink if he wants to. It is not at issue whether sobriety or total abstinence shall be forced on people as a legal instead of moral status. The whole issue is whether the constitution shall prevail on this subject. Whether as to the retail liquor business the constitution shall be a dead letter.

Whether prohibition is wise or unwise as a policy, should be partial or total prohibition, should prevail, are utterly beside the question. For however one may think as to those things the question still comes back. What shall be done with the constitution? Is it tolerable that any interest may have the constitution nullified as to it because the constitution is not thought to be wise? If so then the interests which are monopolies could maintain that Section 198 of the constitution against monopolies be ignored for their benefit. Indeed, whenever it is conceded that any exact, mandatory provision of the constitution may be ignored by any department or business interest, because it is impolitic, or otherwise, the Constitution ceases to have a value as an instrument of protection for the people. So plain a proposition need not be discussed. It seems strange that anyone could be found so serious to dispute it.

The liquor business is now a lawful business where allowed by law to exist. Its interests are therefore to be treated in Kentucky under the constitution as lawful. It is not to be treated differently, only so far as the law recognizes or creates the difference. The liquor business is not a natural right—it is a created right—so all the courts declare. The doctrine is universal. It is the one business that is regulated by law under every government in the world. Its legal status is so well settled in that respect that it is even accepted without further contest by the liquor people. It is also true that many people engaged in that business desire to conduct it strictly within the law. If it is a pity they do not control the business. So many in the business refuse to live under the law, defy it, break it, and corrupt its enactment, that the whole business, as it were, is treated in the public mind as being guilty of those infractions. In simple justice to the law-abiding members this statement is made. The innocent members of the business are thus subjected to a double danger; of being subjected to harsher regulation because of the rebelliousness of their fellows; or, having their business outlawed as the only means of curbing the lawlessness of the majority in it. Instead of fighting society, they might better fight the lawless element in their own calling. But the menace of that lawless element is so imminent and real that society must protect itself. In this State we are committed to regulation—not extermination. Regulation includes, under the constitution, the right to deny the privilege in given communities. The people have deliberately reserved to themselves the right to say in what communities the extreme or modified regulations shall apply. The fight against the people and the constitution has assumed the position by the liquor interests of not only defying the constitution, but of corrupting the politics of the State in order that the defiance may be effective. Not only is the majesty of the law flouted, but the very means of government are debauched that this interest may flourish in spite of the right or lawful regulation. The condition is intolerable. The means are unbearable. The exerted power of the liquor business in politics threatens to overthrow the State government—not by arms, it is true; but, worse, by corruption. A subjugated people may regain liberty; a corrupted people are hopeless.

the people's Legislature? In this there is no ground for compromise, no place for temporizing. The liquor lobby is the bellwether of the whole flock of professional lobbyists at Frankfort. It meddles in all sorts of legislation. It dominates the committee on "morals and religion," as well as the other important committees in the legislative bodies. It and its allies have thwarted all manner of legislation; they use their power of blocking legislation to trade for votes on their special subjects. They are the most blatant and dangerous enemies of the State, and yet they are in control of the legislation of the State.

Constitution and Liquor Question.

You will have observed that I have apparently assumed in this discussion that the constitution requires that the county shall at some time be the controlling unit in voting out the sale of liquor by retail. It would not be fair to debate to make any such assumption if it were really an open question. I do not think it is open. However, certain learned newspaper men have taken the opposite position. They deny that such is the meaning of the constitution. Certain lawyers contributing to their columns sustain their views by expert opinions on the subject. They assert, and will (I take it) attempt to maintain that Section 61 of the constitution means that the precinct must be the controlling unit, whichever way it may vote on the question. These papers have gone so far as to impute to me dishonesty in assuming the attitude I have taken in stating the meaning of the constitution. They say my declaration is fraudulent, and the construction false. I will not bandy epithets. They are neither evidence nor argument. Conceding to my adversaries even honesty of purpose and a desire to state the question in its true aspect, I must nevertheless maintain my declared construction of the constitution—a construction which has also been characterized as dogmatic. My own opinion, in view of my interest in my own candidacy, might be taken by the public with allowance, however good my opportunity for having formed an accurate opinion on the subject. The construction which I assert to be the correct one is, it is true, my opinion as a man and a lawyer. It is shared, I know, by many others more capable as constitutional lawyers. Still, that would leave the question an open one for discussion, if that were all. The opinion shall from time to time be more fully elaborated in these debates, so that the public may have the amplest opportunity for weighing it on its merits. But today I go no further than to say that the construction for which I contend is the construction placed on the section by the Court of Appeals of Kentucky—the supreme judicial tribunal of this State—that tribunal to which is confided by the constitution and laws of the State the final, conclusive decision of such questions. The decision was given in a case—in a number of cases, in fact—in which the question was squarely and necessarily presented for determination, and which the Court was bound to settle. It was settled after elaborate argument before the Court by able lawyers, who had carefully and fully studied it, and who presented every one of the arguments against the conclusion reached which our adversaries are now presenting. The court was composed of seven members, one of whom at least was a member of the convention which framed the constitution. The opinion appears as the unanimous judgment of the court. If there is now a dispute as to what that provision of the constitution means, to what source must the public look for enlightenment? To interested parties? To politicians having a race at stake? To newspapers seeking a political issue, or serving the objecting liquor trade? Or to that court which you have established for the settlement for you of just such controversies? I will not maintain that the courts are infallible, even in their construction of laws; nor that thereafter the public may not refuse to accept their opinions as conclusive when further legislation is proposed. But I do maintain that so long as the opinion of the court stands, it is the law of the land, and is sufficient justification for any man's assumption that that construction of the constitution is the correct and legal construction. If the political representatives of the Democratic party assembled to write a platform for this campaign, inspired by certain powerful newspapers desire to attack the court's construction of the constitution; if they dare appeal from the Court of Appeals to party voters, putting the question of party expediency first, that is their privilege, to be sure. In that event, I will feel called upon, and will undertake, to defend the court's construction as the legal construction, as the logical construction, and as the best policy for the State to adopt, even if the constitution were silent on that point. But the liquor interests will not abide the decision of the question adversely to themselves, no matter who decides it. If the Legislature so declares the law, it is attacked as unconstitutional. If the courts sustain the legislation, the courts are denounced and the members maligning. If the executive officers undertake to enforce the laws thus enacted and construed, these interests defy the officers, violate the law, and seek to debauch justice. Then they unblushingly assert that the law is impolitic because it can not be enforced. Then they attempt to appeal from the Legislature, from the constitution, and from the courts, by packing political committees, manipulating conventions, and finally by corruption, by a hired press, by the boycott, to elect a body of magistrates who will enact and construe the laws as they demand. It is this interest, reckless of means and indifferent of all save its own ascendancy, which has controlled the politics and legislation of Kentucky for more than a quarter of a century, and which is now proposing to continue that domination, which is leading as well as backing the fight against our ticket.

It may not matter so much to the people of Kentucky, aside from the means of selection, whether a set of men calling themselves Democrats, or another set calling themselves Republicans, be in possession for a term of the State offices. But it is a question of the

largest concern what interest selects and dominates those men. The concern is more than ethical. It involves more than pride and decency in politics. It involves your tax rate; it involves the efficiency and sufficiency of your school system; it involves the state's power and resources to grow in material development. It involves whether we shall stand still as a people, or go forward in industrial progress.

Our party is not fighting the liquor business as a business. We are fighting its methods in politics. We are proposing to put it out of politics. We are proposing this because it debauches politics; because it corrupts politicians; because it perverts legislation; because it is destroying popular government in this State.

To be sure, this is not the only question involved in this campaign. A number of others, equally important, are presented by our platform of politics. They will each be discussed in order hereafter, each making a separate issue. You will be readily able to summarize them all in one sentence, as containing one significant, elemental principle, which is, the enlargement of the people's power in their government.

At the very threshold of any policy for improving conditions in the State is the prime cause for those conditions—the corruptionist in politics. Unless he can be removed from his position of advantage all our other efforts will be in vain. Otherwise, legislation of a remedial nature is impossible. Many important provisions of your constitution have lain dormant for these twenty years because of his presence and pernicious influence. Entrenched in power, accustomed to its successful sway, backed by unlimited means, a political strategist and a public enemy, he will fight bitterly every effort to dislodge him. His utility to party bosses is so essential that they will be his allies in the fight. They know full well that party platforms, public speeches of candidates, even party and personal pledges, are impotent if they can maintain their position of vantage. Clean legislation can not flow from a polluted source. Remove the pollution from the fountains of political power, and all other reforms are possible. But not otherwise.

Whether Kentucky will undertake that kind of cleaning up is the question. Whether you will follow the course of New Jersey and California—ridden by political bosses and made to serve powerful monopolistic interests—or whether you will allow a continuance of those conditions, is the supreme matter.

This campaign is to unfold that program. Hear not alone one side, nor one speech. Hear all. Then decide for Kentucky's honor, and progress.

MEDITATION.

One beautiful twilight eve just after the golden sun had sank to rest in the faraway west, I sat and gazed on the placid waters of the La Bell.

The soft night air seemed to linger and sigh in a tree near by, and occasionally I could hear the dip of a boatman's oar—perhaps some tired fisherman going over his lines for the last time, ere he rowed home to greet hearts true love at their humble door. As I sat and watch this beautiful river drifting, silently drifting on, I thought of the countless thousands who had drifted to the great beyond, and then as I thought of the loved ones, who are still drifting, silently drifting. On every star that appeared in the soft blue sky seemed to be golden crowns of white robed angels bringing messages from loved ones who had drifted on but then I hear sweet voiced angels singing, yes, we shall know each other there. Although the waves rolled mountain high and my bark is weak and frail I shall never fail for my saviour is my stay and He always leads the way. And then our lives seemed misrowed on the bosom of the sea. As I thought of the tempest and the wild raging deep, the place where the waves never sleep.

And then I wrote:—
We're on life's boat far out at sea
With our sails all unfurled
We're swiftly passing through this world,
Although the tempest around us beat,
Our rest will be so sweet,
When we meet at Jesus' feet
With our Saviour at our side
There we shall evermore abide.
—Contributor.

Attack Like Tigers.

In fighting to keep the blood pure the white corpuscles attack disease germs like tigers. But often germs multiply so fast the little fighters are overcome. Then see pimples, boils, eczema, salt rheum and sores multiply, strength and appetite fail. This condition demands Electric Bitters to regulate stomach, liver and kidneys and to expel poisons from the blood. "They are the best blood purifier," writes C. T. Budahn, of Tracy, Calif., "I have ever found." The make rich, red blood, strong nerve and build up your health. Try them. 50 cents at J. H. Orme's and Haynes & Taylor's.

From the Hickoryville Clarion.

Somebody must be dead in Lem Higgins' family. He is wearin' his pants at half mast at this writing.

There was a fire three weeks ago last Thursday at Anse Judson's house but it was put out before any damage was done,

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and everybody went home disappointed.

William Timmitts has put a new burglar-proof screen over his cheese case, and about twenty-five or thirty of our astute politicians will have to eat at the restaurant in the future.

Grandpa Bibbins, who is 96 years old, says he expects to live long enough to see Bryan elected President. We don't feel like calling an old man like Grandpa a liar, but we don't mind saying that he can stretch the truth about as far as any feller without breaking it. Let us hope he lives long enough to pay his back subscription to the Clarion.

There was quite an accident at the general store the other day. Ho! Peters dropped a lighted cigar stub in a box of celluloid collars and a whole dozen of 'em was destroyed before Wide Awake Hose Company arrived on the scene.

Elihu Bibbins had the misfortune to sprain his wrist while pitching quates back of the post-office last Tuesday and has been unable to attend to his regular

business, which is whittlin' out in front of the general store.

MEXICO

We have been visited by a good rain which we are very thankful for.

Sunday was our meeting day. Bro' Eaton was here filling the place of Bro. Henry, our pastor, who is very sick at his home in Marion.

Aunt Becky Holoman is not expected to live much longer on account of her condition and age.

Mary Thomas, of Marion, is at the bedside of her sister, Becky Holoman.

Mrs. Lillie Boswell, of Domascy, Ark., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Myers.

Mrs. J. O. Tabor, of Marion, was visiting in Mexico Saturday and Sunday.

Several attended the camp meeting at Piney, Sunday.

Our school commenced here Aug. 7th with W. O. Wicker as teacher.

Our protracted meeting begins the second Sunday in October.

Elsie Wicker, of Texas, came in on a visit Saturday.

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For Coughs and Colds.

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