

Watchman & Journal

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1900.

ARTHUR ROPES, General Editor

The Voice of the Legal Voter.

Considerable stress is placed by the supporters of the bill pending in the Legislature for the regulation of the liquor traffic on the circumstance which they allege that there is a conspicuous absence of the names of legal voters on the petitions sent to that body praying for the maintenance of the prohibitory law, and almost an equally conspicuous presence of the signatures of legal voters on the petitions for the enactment of the local option bill with the referendum attached.

However the facts may be in this respect, it should be ever remembered that the legal voter is a trustee, not an absolute sovereign. There are minors coming along, all the way from the cradle to the last hour of the period of minority, who will become legal voters. There are girls growing up who will become the wives of legal voters. There are mothers and sisters, also, and these all are the wards of the legal voter, both in the exercise of the suffrage and his capacity as a lawmaker. He is under the heaviest bonds, morally as well as legally, ever to sacredly safeguard the rights and consult the welfare of all these persons outside the limits of the suffrage, and also of the stranger and the alien within the gates. It is particularly incumbent on the legal voter of today, as a good citizen and so far as lies within his power, to see that the legal voter of tomorrow comes into the exercise of the suffrage free from the curse of intemperance. It is especially his duty to refrain from putting temptation to any evil habit or corrupting practice in his way, and to remove any temptation that may become destructive of or injurious to good citizenship. It is incumbent on the legal voter to have a constant regard for the highest well being of every member of the community. It is an exceedingly selfish citizenship that insists on laws for its exclusive benefit, having no regard for the rights and welfare of the State at large. The government of the future is what the minors of the present shall make it, and the quality of the future citizenship in some large measure is in the hands of the legal voters of the present.

One of the worst evils, in its effects on society and government, is intemperance. This truth is true, it is well understood, the evidence is on every hand, it is not a matter of dispute, it needs no elucidation. The men of a former generation, having experimental knowledge of these things, of the direful consequences of the practice of licensing the sale of intoxicating liquors, of its inadequacy for the prevention or control of the appalling evils of intemperance, taking thought for the future of society, enacted the prohibitory law. The men of that generation surviving contrast existing conditions under prohibition with conditions that existed under license. It is the difference between temperance and the riot and demoralization from the unrestrained use of liquors. The men of the present generation, the younger class of the citizenship, do not understand these things as their elders do, and the sophistries of the license advocates have their influence with them. Deliberation, discussion, a campaign of education, would dispel the illusion under which some good and sincere temperance people seem disposed to favor license with its plausible and insinuating accessions of local option and the referendum.

Is Vermont ready to go back to a system of regulating the liquor traffic which the legal voters of 60 years ago discarded by reason of its inadequacy and by reason of the deplorable evils to society which prevailed under it? Is Vermont ready, by the enactment of the bill pending in the Legislature, to treat with any degree of toleration a proposition looking to the restoration of the lamentable condition of society prior to 1850? Is Vermont, "the model republic," to set her sister States an example of backsliding and of retrogression in a great reform?

No matter what safeguards, not existent in the license measures of half a century ago, it is proposed to throw around the new license; can the lawmakers hoop dynamite? The restraints, pains and penalties, with which it is proposed to hedge about the traffic will be as ineffectual to control it as laws to confine exploding dynamite. These are all a delusion and a snare. No honest or conscientious person should be deceived by this dread array of bonds and legal machinery for punishing a licensed dealer who may have sold the dram that froze the brain that raised the arm to strike down a wife or discharge a pistol into the heart of a fellow man. Why tolerate a traffic to feed an appetite for stuff of such criminal possibilities? Trade in intoxicants to feed an appetite is notorious and soulless. The mighty dollar is the thing the rumseller is after every time. He has no mercy on his victim or the

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victim of his victim. The evidence of the condition of society under the license system furnished by communities that shut on Vermont is a complete answer to the arguments of the supporters of license in respect of its advantages over prohibition.

Does any man in his senses, does any legal voter whose name gives unwarrantable authority and sanction to petitions for the enactment of the bill now before this Legislature, contend that the rising generations of legal voters will come into the exercise of the suffrage so well prepared for its duties and responsibilities, if the open saloon is legalized in every community in Vermont? What are the probabilities in such cases? Are the banks, insurance companies, manufacturers, merchants, railway corporations of this city of Montpelier persuaded that a higher degree of integrity, greater efficiency in service, more substantial ground for adding confidence in the young men they employ, would result from legalizing the sale of liquor in eight or ten places—more or less—on the principal streets of the city?

To suggest these inquiries is to answer them emphatically in the negative. The existence of these places, in all the glory and glitter and blare of the open and legalized saloon, is a perpetual invitation to drink. The existing conditions under the prohibitory system, even if its imperfections were tenfold greater than the most rabid anti-prohibitionist has declared them to be, is infinitely to be preferred. And what is true of Montpelier, in a greater or lesser degree is true of every community in Vermont.

The proper preparation of the legal voter of the future for his duties imperatively demands of the legal voter and lawmaker of the present that he put this proposition to change the system of regulating the liquor traffic firmly under his feet and trample upon it. This demand is reinforced by every consideration of mercy to the wives and children of the legal voters of the future, that they be not made the unnecessary subjects of the sufferings and disgrace, or the victims of the brutal or murderous violence that are directly and indubitably attributable to intemperance.

Constitutional Amendments.

Four proposals of amendment to the Constitution have been offered in the Senate. The first, by Senator Baldwin, repealing the irrational ten years' provision for proposing amendments and permitting proposals of change in the organic law to be made at any regular session of the General Assembly, with the same checks and safeguards in the matter of final adoption of an amendment as exist at the present time.

The second, by Senator Varney, changing the time of electing State officers from September to the day of the general election in November, and the time of the meeting of the General Assembly from October to January.

The third, by Senator Dunning, proposes to create thirty senatorial districts, as nearly equal in population as practicable, in the place of the existing division by counties, the districts choosing one Senator and thus maintaining the present membership of the Senate.

The fourth, by Senator Cudworth, gives the Legislature power to provide for filling a vacancy in the office of Senator or Representative, in case of the death, resignation or disability of the member.

All these suggested changes in the Constitution are of such proper and reasonable character as to demand deliberate and careful consideration. None is trivial, or unimportant. Opinions may differ as to the advisability of this or that proposition, and for this reason, among others of conclusive weight, the Senate and House of Rep-

resentatives should suffer each to come along to the larger body politic for the careful consideration and discussion of its merits or demerits.

Senators do not necessarily commit themselves to approval of these amendments, singly or collectively, by agreeing by the constitutional majority of a two thirds vote to propose them to the House of Representatives, and the members of the latter body, by concurring, simply agree to pass the amendments along to the people for public discussion and consideration. The process is practically the same as the introduction and first reading of a bill and its reference to the proper body for consideration and report. By such action no member commits himself to the support of the bill. That is a matter that comes later. The people ought to have the privilege to consider and debate, in its preliminary stages, any rational proposal of amendment. After this comes the election of a new Legislature, and that body takes up the more serious business of considering a proposed amendment with direct reference to its final adoption. Even if the Senate and House concur in adopting the amendment, the final act which makes it a part of the fundamental law of the State is with the people. The amendment must next pass the ordeal of a popular vote.

There is merit in each of the proposed amendments now before the Senate. The people would very much like to have them up for tangible consideration. This they cannot give unless the Senate and House agree to pass the proposals along to the public. The propriety and wisdom of such action is strongly enforced by the fact that, denied the privilege now, it will not again become accessible until 1910, and there can be little individual or public interest in a matter that cannot be touched for ten years. A wise and intelligent regard for the general welfare, due consideration for the important interests involved in a government by the people, suggest that these proposals of amendment, or any others of a rational character, receive the favorable action of both houses of the General Assembly.

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Final Adjournment.

The biennial question of adjournment sine die before Thanksgiving is beginning to be seriously considered. There are ten more working days before that date, and the leaders in both houses are beginning to seriously question whether the amount of work yet remaining to be done can be given due and proper consideration in the little time now remaining. Not very many but quite a number of measures of large importance yet remain to be acted upon, and some of them are likely to require more or less protracted consideration. The DAILY JOURNAL does not want to hold the Legislature here an hour beyond the time when its duties can be properly terminated, but it would like to see the important business of the session given careful and decent consideration. The worthless bills are being weeded out as rapidly as possible, and each day the two houses have more time to devote to matters of real consequence before them.

The always present question of economy of time is too frequently used in argument to defeat the best interests of the people. It is usually raised at inopportune times, and absolutely ignored when it should be raised. It is not economy in any sense of the word to adjourn for three or four days at a time at frequent intervals during the session, and then cut and slash, burn and massacre, in a wild and senseless scramble to adjourn finally at a given date. If the work before the General Assembly can be given the attention to which it is entitled and everything cleared up before Thanksgiving, well and good. If not, stay until the business can be done decently and in order. In nothing is the old adage that haste makes waste more emphatically true than in legislation for the people. In view of the history of the session thus far, do not invoke the question of the economy of time to the inevitable end that the State be given improper and undesirable service.

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CONSUMPTION

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Take Scott's emulsion of cod-liver oil, and live carefully every way.

This is sound doctrine, whatever you may think or be told; and, if heeded, will save life.

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As To Reorganization.

While Don Dickinson and other Democrats of his class, are moving to reorganize their party along national lines another element is organizing to resist such a movement. A despatch from St. Paul indicates that organization according to Mr. Dickinson's ideas it will not be with the help of Mr. Bryan and his followers. Charles A. Towne, populist nominee for vice president, Senator Pettigrew, George H. Shively, Democratic national committeeman, and several western State committee chairmen, met in that city recently for the purpose of taking steps to prevent this reorganization of the Democratic party and the disintegration of the Bryanites.

A circular was framed, reciting that though defeated, the followers of Bryan are not discouraged, and only need time in which to get themselves together to reappear before the public with all their "isms" combined in a party under a new name. Silver will be the nucleus of the new party, as four or five States can still be counted on to support such a platform. What the name of the new party will be Senator Pettigrew could not say, but undoubtedly Mr. Bryan would be one of its most earnest workers, though not necessarily its presidential candidate.

One reason why Senator Pettigrew is so active lies probably in the fact that a successor to Senator Kyle is to be chosen in South Dakota two years hence, and he still has hopes of returning to the United States Senate.

Clear and Convincing.

Says the Rutland Daily News: "The arguments for prohibition of the liquor traffic made by Rev. Dr. Norman Seaver of Montpelier, whom Rutland is proud to call in a sense its own citizen, at the Congregational church in this city yesterday morning and evening were clear, logical, concise, convincing. While there is nothing to be said on this subject that has not been said a score of times from ten thousand pulpits and platforms, the question of temperance and prohibition of the liquor traffic and the minimization of the evils of strong drink is an ever-living and vital issue. The eloquent and forceful appeal of Dr. Seaver was well received and highly commended on every hand."

License and Prohibition.

Says the Home Guard, the State paper of the W. C. T. U., speaking of the unalterable sentiment of the Vermont "White Ribboners":

Under prohibition the penalties render the traffic unprofitable and uncomfortable to those who violate the law. Under any form of license the penalties must be the same to be effective. But, in fact, they have been the same and never have been effective. Everybody who has any knowledge of the matter knows that license laws are not and never have been enforced. For no consideration will we consent to give legal standing and protection to the liquor traffic. If like gambling, stealing, burglary, arson and murder, the evils of the liquor traffic continue in spite of prohibition, let it be in violation of the law and not under its protection.

Good Thanksgiving Advice.

Gov. Rilkens of New Hampshire says in his Thanksgiving proclamation: "Before another year has rolled around and this time-honored festival has again drawn near, let us strive to make over stronger reasons for our thanksgiving. Let us broaden our horizons. Let us devote more of ourselves to our fellowmen and less to self-seeking. Let us offer to the world a willing hand. Let us face our duties with smiling countenances. Let us show that devotion to our neighbor, to our State, and to our country, which is the truest patriotism."

It would be pretty hard to improve on that.

A local contemporary recently contained this paragraph:

"The death of a man in Burlington from drinking wood alcohol is one of the direct results of the prohibitory law. Cases of death or poisoning from drinking this stuff are not uncommon in Vermont. If the man had been able to buy some decent liquor in Burlington his perverted appetite would not have led him to wood alcohol and he would have been alive today. But perhaps the prohibitionist will say it is better that he is dead."

A man can no more acquire an appetite for wood alcohol than he can acquire an appetite for prussic acid. A man cannot get drunk on wood alcohol any more than he can get drunk on a million volts of electricity. It is swift and certain death. The argument that a man or anything in the semblance of a man drinks wood alcohol because he cannot get whiskey is on a par with that which reasons that a man eats his throat simply because he cannot get any one to assist him in blowing his brains out. The idea of blaming the law because it is enforced and thereby a miserable creature kills himself is a remarkable position. The Burlingtonian who imbibed wood alcohol did not need whiskey. No one needs it. A healthful law is so well enforced that a man cannot find the means of doing himself an injury, and therefore commits suicide. The law is then blamed for his death! It doesn't really seem as if any further comment on this sort of argument was necessary.

Judging from the following editorial paragraph in the New York Evening Post, that city is about to venture on an experiment in which are vast possibilities and which will be watched with all the interest which usually attaches to attempts to "reform the press." The Post says:

"Life in this town will be unusually interesting if the ideal newspaper is started which Dr. Parkhurst says some capitalists are about to endow. The paper is to tell the whole truth about everything. The people are to believe everything which it prints and its opinions will be in no way affected by advertising or by political patronage. It will be just as enterprising as the most successful papers in America and it will cover all the ground which they cover. And it will have convictions of what is right and what is wrong. Besides, it will lead public opinion, instead of following it, as the preacher thinks too many of the existing newspapers do."

This is certainly a most interesting prospect, and its verification will be awaited with much anxiety.

An exchange says:

"Mr. Clark, the copper king of Montana, made a clean sweep. He now controls even the State Supreme Court, and his attorney, Welcome, who was disbanded for attempted bribery of a legislator, anticipates a reinstatement and moral rehabilitation by the newly-constituted bench."

While fighting for his seat in the Senate last winter Mr. Clark's Washington residence was the house on the corner of H street and Vermont Avenue, adjoining the Arlington hotel, which house was for years the residence of Charles Sumner. He will soon be back, a full fledged Senator for six years, and with an income of \$20,000 per day will add materially to the interest of a winter in Washington.

The announcement of the death of Senator Cushman K. Davis of Minnesota is hourly expected. The cause of his illness is blood poisoning from the dye in his hose, which has spread through his system with probably fatal results. Senator Davis is one of the giants in intellect of the United States Senate, one of the commissioners who negotiated the late treaty of Paris and

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one to whose strong, constructive statesmanship the country in general and the Republican party in particular owes very much. The party owns no stronger man, and his death will be in the nature of a public and party calamity.

The Boston Herald editorially says: "The Vermont Legislature is still discussing various propositions looking to the modification of the liquor law, but there isn't much of a chance that the advocates of more liberal legislation on the subject will succeed. If there is a teetotal community anywhere, it exists within the borders of the State of Vermont."

P. S. The above was written, most likely, before any reports from the "annex" of Wednesday night reached Boston.

At the hearing upon the proposed bill forbidding the killing of American Eagles, a Senator asked why it was offered. The reply was, "The eagle is the emblem of the republic, and to shoot one is the same as firing on the flag." Upon this the Senator asked another question: "How is it in Canada? Is it unlawful there to shoot at the British lion?" Which killed the bill!

Senator Kyle of South Dakota in forms the compiler of the congressional directory that he wishes to be counted as a Republican hereafter, and he announces that he will henceforth enter the Republican senatorial caucus and act invariably with the party. The Senator has lost no time in hoisting himself on the band wagon.

Hon. and Mrs. Edward Wells of Burlington tender a dinner and reception at their home this evening to Senator Dillingham, to which many distinguished citizens of that city and the State have been invited.

Two Hearts Bowed Down.

From two bruised hearts comes an agonizing cry. The Hon. GAMALIEL BRADFORD, the most pathetic of the anti-imperialists, says or says that he is "so convinced the republic is dead that he shall not attempt to do anything more for it."

Too quick despairer, wherefore will thou go? The Republic is ungrateful. It has not been guided by you, as it should have been. But give the poor thing just one more chance. You know that it is weak and you are strong; that it is foolish and you are wise. Be as merciful as you are terrible. The republic without you would be more than dead; it would be lonely.

The Hon. Coin Harvey, the most illustrious of Bryanite financiers and economists, read the election figures, saw stars, consulted them and read their awful answers thus:

"In the next decade there will be riots, martial law and much distress and misery in the congested centers of the North, with the people hopelessly subjected to an influence that is slowly bringing about their crucifixion. The people of Arkansas are to be congratulated on having no large city and no extremely rich people. For these reasons I have come here to make my home."

The people of Arkansas are to be congratulated on having the Hon. Coin Harvey as their fellow citizen. They will be rich as long as they have him. As he nurses on the darling horoscope, and, like our ever memorable friend, Robert B. Thomas of the old "Farmers' Almanac," puts forth predictions, "About this time look out for trouble," "About this time there will be ruin and riot," he will begin to be more cheerful. When these dread things happen, Bryanism can open its jaws again.

So we hope that neither Coin nor Gamaliel will remain inconsolable.—New York Sun.

It Just Suits the Liquor Dealers.

Editor of Daily Journal:—J. M. Atherton of the company bearing his name in L. Russell, Ky., dealing in various brands of "Fine Kentucky Whiskies," wrote March 2, 1889, to E. A. Fox of Eaton Rapids, Mich., this expression of his opinion in regard to local option, etc.—all the more significant because he was then and had been for four years, "the official head of the representative national organization of whiskey-makers and whiskey-sellers, the National Protective Association." (I cite from The Voice, N. Y., Feb. 6, 1890.)

"The two most effective weapons with which to fight prohibition are high license and local option. The true policy for the trade to pursue is to advocate as high a license as they can in justice to themselves afford to pay, because the money thus raised tends to relieve all owners of property from taxation and keeps the treasuries of the towns and cities pretty well filled. This catches

the ordinary tax payer, who cares less for the sentimental opposition to our business than he does for taxes on his own property. Local option is local prohibition. The experience is that there is always enough license counties mixed in with the no-license counties to practically supply the latter with all the liquor they need. Sooner or later the trade will be able to defeat the local option feature, but until prohibition is destroyed or its political efforts broken, I repeat that our best weapons to fight it with are high license and local option by township." Have some of our legislators been sending to Kentucky lately for instruction and inspiration. J. E. W.

Fungent Logic. Observations on License and Prohibition.

Editor of Daily Journal:—I trust I am not a crank on the temperance question. I believe that there are men who honestly think that local option and high license, well enforced, would be better than the prohibitory law null and void as it is in some localities. I tell you that as an issue the legal right to drink whiskey so long as he injures no one but himself. I believe that hotels might be allowed to serve it as they serve milk, tea or coffee. I believe that drug stores might be allowed to sell it for medicinal and medicinal purposes, as they sell other poisonous drugs. I believe that the town agency system is the best license law that has been framed as yet. I believe that if the advocate of a license law would give their influence to the enforcing of the present law, that the law would answer all the thirsty needs of humanity.

"But prohibition does not prohibit." It was never intended to prohibit, only to prevent so far as possible the illegal sale and use of liquors. "But the law at present does not do this." True, where public sentiment is in favor of an open saloon. Would this same sentiment enforce the prohibitive clauses of the license law—he selling on Sundays, to minors, and to drunkards? Does any man take seriously the proposition of license as a temperance measure? "It is an awful evil"—so say we all. "We cannot destroy it; let us license it." The State has had a small-pox scare. No one died of the disease. But suppose a doctor had proposed a high license or local option to prevent its spread! The same arguments apply to murder, counterfeiting, theft, and hydrophobia. Suppose a man kept a mad dog that bit people, or an ox that pushed with his horns,—would a man propose he use such dangerous animals? Would society listen to such logic?

Oh yes—"Men will steal so long as there is anything to steal." Now let us license stealing to cure it, or at least to lessen it. Following the logic of the license advocates, we should have something like this: First we say to one man, "You may sell liquor"; to another, "You may steal." Then we say to the first man, "You must not sell to minors; you must not sell on Sundays." We say to the thief, "You must not steal from the young; you must not steal on Sundays." Then we say to the first man, "You must not steal from the man you have made a drunkard." This logic, applied to the thief: "You must not rob whom you have made penniless."

Again: "You may sell to a sober man until you have made him a drunkard." To follow this reasoning, you must say to the robber, "You may steal from the rich till you have rendered him poor." To the liquor seller the State says, "We will help you to recognize the drunkard by arresting him for allowing himself to be made a drunkard." And to the thief we likewise say, "We will help you to identify the man you have robbed by arresting him for allowing himself to be robbed." Oh, but "We will exonerate the saloon keeper from all disgrace and penalty if he will pay us \$1,000." We must also tell the thief that we will protect him if he will give us half the booty.

But, "The people will drink as long as liquor is made and sold, and it will always be made and sold." Perhaps. Yes, and "People will steal so long as there is anything to steal and you need not try to stop them." If you do try it, try license and get a little revenue out of it. Money answers all questions and is a sweet anodyne for the conscience!

"Liquor selling gives business to many people, and makes a great amount of business" (especially in the courts). "And people would not be hurt by it if they had sense enough to stop drinking when they had enough." Logic. Stealing gives employment to a great many people—and nobody would be hurt by it if they had sense enough to hide their valuables!

While man remains depraved he will steal and murder, and sell and drink that which does his life and all its God-given powers, and for this reason laws are needed and made. But men and bad principles must be fought by every liberty-loving and sober-minded citizen. If the license law will remedy the evil, then let's have it, quick! But it seems to me that such a law is out of harmony with history, sacred and profane, and contrary to reason and logic; and then I put forth such a law as a temperance measure is so fairly that I am overwhelmed and can write no more. QUERCUS.

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