

The Labor Advocate
 A PAPER FOR ALL WHO TOIL
 Official Organ of The Building Trades Council of Cincinnati and Vicinity
 ISSUED WEEKLY

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE

CINCINNATI, OHIO, JUNE 30, 1917.

Prohibition.

If prohibition is to be enacted into the law of the land, either permanently or for the period of the war, the proposal should come before Congress on its merits, should be squarely faced, fully discussed and fairly settled. But none of these things was done by the House of Representatives on Saturday when it adopted, as a rider to the Food Control bill, a bone-dry amendment prohibiting for the remainder of the war the brewing and distilling of all alcoholic beverages. Once the stampede started there was no stopping either for intelligent debate, for finding out the facts, or for courageous action. The Lower House voted in and like a crowd. Some hoping and expecting, no doubt, that the Senate could be counted upon to shoulder its accustomed burden of blame for doing its duty fearlessly and discharging its responsibility with a reasonable degree of common sense.

The Food Control bill as it came from the committee and as it has been approved by the President upon the recommendation of Mr. Hoover, who is to be the administrator charged with its enforcement, contained no such amendment as the House in its apprehensive haste attached to it. Neither the President nor Mr. Hoover, nor anybody else in authority, has yet acquired evidence to warrant the declaration that bone-dry prohibition for the nation is essential to the success of the programme of food control for which the Administration is standing.

Therefore the amendment, while it may be technically germane under parliamentary rules, is not honestly connected with the measure. It was put there by sharp practice and doubtless many members voted for it in the realization that by voting against it they would appear before the country as desiring to hold up the passage of the bill upon which so much that is vital to the successful outcome of the war depends. When Representative Lenroot, one of the few really able leaders on either side of the House, endeavored to modify the bone dry amendment by excluding from its terms the production of beer and light wines and limiting it to the prohibition of hard liquor, he found himself upon a roll-call in a minority, although his amendment was defeated by only ten votes.

Now the action of the House for all of its unfairness in form may reflect the preponderating sentiment of the nation. It may be that the people as a whole prefer to go far further than France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy or the Central Powers have gone after three years of war and subject the United States to bone-dry prohibition at the beginning of our war. It may be that the people believe it possible to raise, arm, train and sustain an army of from two to five millions of men in the next three years and do all the other things necessary for America to win the war and add to this stupendous work the job of enforcing absolute and national prohibition. But the proposal is surely sufficiently important to warrant the Congress acting for the people to thresh out the question upon its merits regardless of the time required, and not try to tack it onto a bill the immediate passage of which is urged by the Government because every day's delay endangers our cause, embarrasses our Allies and aids our enemy.

Whatever the decision of the Senate, it is to be hoped for the good name of democracy here and elsewhere that its discussion and disposition of Prohibition will be more in keeping with democratic ideals than the haphazard performance in the House on Saturday. To be enforced a national prohibition law must be backed by public sentiment, and public sentiment is not reflected by legislative sharp practice, but by fair and open debate and the calm deliberation that should always be the fore-runner of a vote that registers the voice of a self-governing democracy.

"What's the Matter With Pomerene?"

We notice by this week's issue of "The Record," a paper edited by Thomas J. Noctor, Democratic leader of Hamilton county, "that between Newton C. Baker, of Cleveland, and James M. Cox, of Dayton, for President of the United States, The Record would support Cox."

This must have been written by the humorist of that wide-awake journal. When it comes to choosing Presidents of the United States, it should be done by somebody who can at least carry their own county.

The last election clearly demonstrated that the Hon. Atlee Pomerene was the favorite Democratic son of Ohio. He carried the State by 35,000, notwithstanding the Democrats of Hamilton county had practically admitted his defeat. Some of his appointees in the Federal building were hustling for Wilson alone, figuring that the Senator who had appointed them was a dead one.

Cox carried the State by 5,000 and Baker never carried it at all. Pomerene has been working for the past five years hand and glove with President Wilson, and when the time comes for Ohio to present her favorite son for the Democratic nomination, President Wilson will have more to say about it than the Hon. Tom Noctor. The President carried the State by 80,000, while Noctor has yet to demonstrate that he can carry this county.

Hon. Atlee Pomerene is the logical Democratic candidate for 1920.

Big Prize Offered.

If Mayor Puchta, a strong member of the National Metal Trades Association, presented the First Regiment with a tramp dog, what would he give to organized labor? A ticket to Longview to the one who sends us the correct answer.

Do It Now!

If the war interferes with your business, combine them.

Capital and Labor Should Read This.

The Labor Advocate received the following letter from one of Dan Kiefer's disciples, it is worth printing and reading if, for no other purpose than to show what socialism really stands for.

To say these wonderful things of Emma Goldman, who believes in free love, free riot, and free deviltry of every kind is more than we can conceive.

To the Editor of the Labor Advocate:

"I note the papers of the capitalists gloat over the gag put on free speech by every champion of the proletariat, and now one of the staunchest of workers' rights—Emma Goldman—is locked up under a fabulous bail, knowing full well the poor of the country can't raise it.

"Why go to war to fight our brothers when we have so much to fight for here?"

"When Germany put a nurse to death some time ago the papers of the capitalists raised a howl. Why don't they howl now when liberty is deprived of one of the 'angels' of the times?"

"We Socialists know the facts and it is time something is done to stop this slaughter of innocents being forced into the rich man's war. I see lately that England and other countries are in for 'free love' and breeding of men for the future, but when Socialists claim that as a fundamental right, it is wrong, but a Kingly nation sees in it only a halo of glory.

"Between fake preachers ranting against war and then clamoring for it, in a very short time after their 'golden flocks' forced them to change their tune or quit, is it any wonder Socialists refuse to accept a deity of any sort handed out by the fakirs?"

"Another scheme is the poor idiots in labor unions, all fighting for what? High prices of bread, coal, etc.

"If you raise your wages under the capitalist's regime, can't you see you are compelled to pay more for necessities?"

"Dissolve the labor unions and churches, put the necessities of life within the reach of all, cut out wars by bankers and stock jobbers, let the State support the family, and we will have a world fit to live in. I challenge any dispute of my facts, but the Labor Advocate will no doubt refuse these items space as it ranks with the rest of the trimmers of the worker.

David Young, 1310 Wade St.
 The Labor Advocate believes that "Davy" Young, Emma Goldman and all their class should be deported, there may be some excuse for socialism in Europe but there is no place for this viper in this great American country, and we hope that the government will take advantage of the war to crush the head of this snake under its iron heel.

Motz Answers for The Times-Star.

Business Manager C. H. Motz, of The Cincinnati Times-Star, called upon the editor of The Advocate, protesting against our editorial of last week relative to negro employees of The Times-Star assaulting newsboys. His claim is that it is not newsboys that have been assaulted, but that the assaults that have taken place were between supply men of both newspapers. The recent difficulties between the two papers he states was caused by the importation from Chicago by the Cincinnati Post of about a dozen thugs, who, he claims in every instance provoked what trouble there was. In recent trials of three Times-Star employees by jury acquittals were promptly given his employees, it being proven that guns were purchased by these imported Chicago Post employees. Mr. Motz says his recent affidavit was verified by testimony given in these cases by Glenn McCann, a former Post employee. It is Mr. Motz's wish for peace and he declares that he is prepared to immediately discharge any of his employees, white or colored, that may assault a "newsboy," however he feels he must give his supply men, who are being threatened, their right to defend themselves when threatened with assault or assaulted. He informs the editor of The Advocate that it is useless to attempt to make agreements with the present management of the Post as apparently from the number that have been broken they are considered mere scraps of paper.

He Should Know a Fizzle.

Senator Stone says he has discovered that "the Panama Canal was a fizzle," something like those disgraceful national failures, the War of Independence and the abolition of human slavery. The worst fizzle this country has had in this generation is Senator Stone.

Good Angel is Right.

"Procter good angel" says the Enquirer, you betcha, that's what put him to the front in politics and made him colonel of the First Regiment—but what kind of a soldier did he make? and what will he be elected to, after resigning his commission almost in the face of war.

Like a Realized Dream.

Among the subscribers to the Liberty Loan was Emilio Aguinaldo, one-time leader of a Filipino insurrection against the United States. What a pity General Funston wasn't alive to hear the news.

Some Exemption!

The Cincinnati man who claimed exemption from draft because he has a "faint heart" deserves to go in the same company with the fellow who wants to be excused because he is "far sighted."

Of Course They Can.

"All American housewives asked to can," says the Post. But what if they can't, and if they can can, what if their husbands can't eat what they can.

Works Both Ways.

Eight hundred women have mysteriously disappeared from New York and New York is glad that some of them have disappeared.

Top and Bottom.

In the great war argument the submarine and the aeroplane now have the floor, and one of them is over it and the other under it.

Get a Keystone Detective.

Meanwhile a search expedition might be sent out for a man by the name of W. J. Bryan. What became of him?

Some Poker.

"Pershing sees Joffre," says the Enquirer. Good. Now let him raise "papa" about twenty trenches.

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CHICAGO TEACHERS REGAIN POSITIONS

Chicago.—Policemen ejected Jacob E. Leeb from headquarters of the local Board of Education after he was defeated for the office of president of that body.

Chicago.—By a vote of 14 to 5 the Chicago Board of Education has voted to reinstate 68 teachers dropped last June. The list includes officers of the Teachers' Federation. The board had previously passed a rule against trade unionism among the teachers, proposed by President Leeb. Opposition to unions and resistance to salary cuts by the teachers and their refusal to support an educational vocational bill that would only apply to workers' children aroused opponents of this militant organization of teachers, and the Leeb rule was adopted to crush it.

The teachers carried their fight to the State Supreme Court, which ruled that the board has the right to refuse to employ any one belonging to a trade union. The teachers then withdrew from the Chicago Federation of Labor and started a movement to secure reinstatement by having the board reverse itself. While the teachers, as an organization, withdrew from the trade union movement because of necessity, the organized workers stuck by them in their fight for justice. Before the final vote, President Leeb, author of the anti-union rule, arose in his purity and hinted of "deals" with union labor and city aldermen.

Member Holpuch, one of the five who opposed reinstatement, was likewise suspicious because his colleagues would not favor a starvation policy against women who believe in unity.

Then for good measure the board raised the salary of Superintendent of Schools Shoop, who recommended the teachers for re-appointment last year, but was defeated when 68 of them were dismissed.

LABOR MUST BE ALERT.

Lafayette, Ind.—"We must be alert and diligent to see that wartime wages keep pace with war-time prices," is the advice of the Painter and Decorator, official magazine of the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators.