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The Question of Prohibition

For the second time within a short period, the question of prohibition under the provisions of the local option law is before the people of Phoenix and of Maricopa county, and will be decided at the polls on the 18th of this month.

Merely because a "prohibition fight" is always the nastiest of all political contests, is marked by the most rabid intolerance on both sides, discloses more of the meanness of human nature on both sides, and is provocative of the worst spirit in humanity, we should prefer to discuss other topics in the editorial columns of The Republican.

While a multitude of other questions will be injected into the controversy before the election, and the public mind will thereby suffer confusion, the paramount question which will be kept in mind by every cool headed voter is:

Will prohibition prohibit? For the liquor traffic as a traffic, there is absolutely nothing to be said. If it were possible to wipe the traffic from the face of the earth, there would be no doubt as to the attitude which would be taken by the average citizen. The traffic would be suppressed by an overwhelming vote.

But so long as the manufacture of intoxicants is not restrained; so long as there is no restriction upon the shipment of intoxicants into any community, such efforts as may be made to control the traffic are precisely similar to man's efforts to control a river in flood. He may succeed at times in so diverting the waters that a "dry" section of land is preserved, but his success in that direction depends always upon local conditions.

There are other sections in which all his toil is worse than wasted. And if attempt be made to dam the flood, disaster follows in time with certainty.

The licensed saloon can be suppressed in Phoenix, of course. But would the suppression of the saloon simply divert the liquor traffic into irresponsible and lawless hands? This is a question which no amount of denunciation of the liquor traffic as a traffic will even begin to answer.

Experience through more than two generations of the attempts to enforce prohibition in the United States is not altogether encouraging, even under the best conditions. The wildly unreasonable prohibitionist and the rabid partisan of the liquor traffic both draw conclusions satisfactory to themselves, because neither is open to the convincing logic of fact and reason. The fact is, of course, that in some places prohibition is a pronounced success. In other places it is a dismal failure. But there are some conclusions which the person anxiously in search of the truth is bound to draw. One of these conclusions is, that prohibition is always a failure in any community in which there is not an absolutely overwhelming sentiment in its favor.

And of course we mean lasting sentiment—a sentiment based upon fixed conviction and not upon the emotions of the moment.

Prohibition in the state of Kansas is measurably a success today, but only after more than thirty years of constitutional inhibition of the liquor business. And it must be conceded that this success is only relative, when it is remembered that in the

revenue district of Kansas-Oklahoma—both states having constitutional prohibition—there are in force more than 2,600 federal licenses for the sale of liquor. Prohibition in Maine is such a failure that, after a century of trial, the people are to vote shortly on an amendment to the constitution so as to provide for license and regulation. In more than half the southern states which in recent years have adopted "state wide" prohibition, the governors—some of them elected on prohibition platforms—are declaring that the experiment is a deplorable failure.

If "state wide" prohibition is here a success and there a failure, due to the condition of public sentiment, it is not to be wondered at that the data on the results of prohibition under local option are still more confusing to the superficial observer and furnish arguments convincing to the partisans of either side, according to their bias of mind.

The investigator who conscientiously searches for the truth is driven to one conclusion always in regard to the results of local option prohibition. He is bound to conclude that its success or failure is determined invariably by local conditions. He finds that prohibition is generally a success in rural communities, and is therefore to be advocated as a policy for rural communities. He finds that it is frequently a failure in cities and towns.

In the light of unprejudiced observation elsewhere, and in the light of all the facts presented by conditions in Phoenix, what is the most reasonable prophecy as to results here?

Two facts stand out prominently. First there is not in Phoenix an overwhelming sentiment for prohibition. On the contrary, it is altogether probable that there is not even a majority for it. Second, we encounter a peculiar condition in this city which is bound to seriously hamper any effort to suppress the sale of liquor. This condition is one which no careful citizen will overlook.

We refer to our mixed population. Leaving to one side all consideration of the unprincipled American who would engage in the illicit sale of liquor, we have to face the fact that we have scores of men in the community for whom ordinary imprisonment is no punishment whatever. The federal authorities are busy with them at every term of court, inflicting confinement in the penitentiary for sale of liquor to Indians. Does any reasonable person believe that a mere sentence to jail would deter them from engaging in the highly profitable business of "bootlegging"? As a matter of fact they would in the judgment of unprejudiced people gladly go to jail for half the time in order to be free the other half to sell poisonous liquor to men and boys in the alleys.

In short, it is the old and everlasting question which bothers good citizens everywhere—the question of whether abandonment of the policy of rigidly regulating the liquor traffic is succeeded by a much worse condition.

This question will not be settled in Phoenix by inflammatory speeches and newspaper articles, nor by denunciation as "bad citizens" of the men who hesitate to accept the dictum that abolition of the saloon will abolish the liquor evil.

A Means of Education

Collier's in the current issue seems to acquiesce in a statement by Wallace Irwin in the course of a series of articles on American newspapers that readers of the Hearst papers "read up, through and out of them."

That is, the Hearst papers constitute a primary course for newspaper readers who become educated to a point where they will demand something beyond. May it not be true also that the lower grade of muck raking magazines which appeal to popular passion and prejudice by concealing the merits of one side of a controversy, magnifying its demerits as well as the merits of the other side, will finally educate its readers to a point beyond its power to instruct or rather, to deceive them further? For instance, when a magazine takes the recent supreme court decision in the bank guaranty case and construes the opinion handed down to mean that where an act supported by preponderant public opinion is found to be in conflict with the constitution, the constitution must yield—when we say, a magazine thus pretends to trumpet a victory for "the people," is there not danger that its more intelligent readers will come to believe that they have "read up and through it"?

The people of the United States have stood for a great deal of printed folly within the last decade. They have not only stood for it, but have seemed to like it, but we trust, as Irwin says and Collier's believes, that the seed of common sense is still alive and that when the muck becomes sufficiently filthy, nauseating and rich, the seed will germinate and send sprouts up through and beyond.

After so long a term of almost supreme power Speaker Cannon could not have been expected to be content

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly talking to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only medicine that cures. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

with the empty honor of the minority leadership.

The innocent bystanders likely to be most vitally affected by the approaching special session are Arizona and the American Wool grower.

LITTLE JAMES

(Concerning the Blighting Effect of the Reclamation Act.)

"I never seen," sez my Paw last nite when he come Home an' drunk th' Hydrant Dey, "any Grate Enterprize wich so Utterly Failed of its Purpos as this here Reklumashun Service has. I don't wonder at it's been Attackt by the Los Anglous Times as Incompytent an' Designed to Waste th' Publick Munny with Worsen'n no Results at all.

"We all Spoused at it was Intended to Pervide Moisture for th' Salt River Value so's to Enable us to Raise 10 Crops of Alfalfa where only 5 Grade before; at it was intended to Crowd Back th' Desert to the ft hills an' even up the Mounting Sides; at it was to convert Marry Copy county into a Parrydise till it lookt like a Grate Emroyald with Phenix like a Priceless Jool sat in the Center.

"But just see how fur it's Fell Short of our Expectashuns. We've spent ten milyun Dollars an' fer what? To Crowd Back an' Reprress th' Desert into more Narrover Limnyatashuns? O, no my Countrymen, out fer to Create a Sahairy Rite here in our Mist, Dessolate Beyond th' Dreams of Avyricc, as Dreer as th' land Ore which th' Sphair's Hoof has trod, as th' Pate has trod.

"Wherever th. Reklumashun Service sets up a camp it Blisters th' Country fer jist Six Mile around it. Th' Buttle City of Phenix now sets in wun of them Offal Solitydies wich has been Created by the Reklumashun Service. Where wunst Plenty Smiles an' there was joy an' Hilarity, they aint now nothin' but th' Mones of them 'at is Purrishun of Thirst an' Wastid away that little Strerth they have in Chasin' th' Desert to this here Blie in th' Gize of a Blessin' fell onto th' Land.

"Th' only Relief 'at is afforded th' Dwellers in this Dreadful six-mile Area is th' Miridge wich Springs into Yuc but wen we rush Toward th' Disapper an' we her fun Somenes a Mookin' Laffer an' where we seen th' Miridge they ain't nothin' but Croilin' Snaiks an' Mebbe a Pink Kov.

"I seen 'em from Miridge this Afternoon. Th' first wun, I was shury was a Laik of Fomin' Anizer Beer, but wen I gently Approched it at th' Rate of 20 Miles a Hour, it Vanisht an' wasnt there at all. Then I seen a Most Buttle Site wich seemed to be only a few yards ahead. Under a Spreddin Shade tree, I seen more'n a Duzent Large Silver Vessels filled with Crakt Ice from wich Pertruded th' Nex of a grate many Shampagny Bottles an' wen I Strided to th' Spot Where I seen this Vishun, they wasnt no tree or Nothin'. It was jist a Miridge wich had loored me into Workin' up a Bigger Thirst 'n I had before wich God Knows was full Size.

"It was a Sad Day when this here Reklumashun Ack become a Law an' we was led to Believe it was goin' to make th' Desert Blossom as th' Rose. Th' Reel Effect of it is at Wun rant even Haise a Blossom on his nose no more.

"James, Tellyfoam to 'em down to th' Wotter Worx to put on more Pressure. I want to Maik wun more Vain 'n' Fouttle Effort to Aswage this here Offal Thirst which has been Confered onto me by a Paternal Government."

LITTLE JAMES.

Current Comment

Salaries Here and in England. The salary of the president of the United States steel corporation has been cut in half, and yet even the reduced pay would be considered a big allowance for the average European in high position. There are hundreds of men in this country who draw pay in five figures. Mr. Schwab was a veritable king among this class. In addition to his \$500,000 annual salary, he held some \$20,000,000 worth of stock in the billion dollar concern of which he was head. His income at one time was more than \$1,000 a day, or more money than he made in a year only a short time previous to his elevation. No wonder that he could afford the luxury of palatial mansions at Pittsburgh, Bradock and Loretto, the latter his home town, where as a boy he had been glad to do farm work for a few cents a day, and later to carry mails between that place and Cresson.

In Europe such salaries are so very rare that one can count them on the fingers of one's hand. Not a single one of them goes beyond an eight of Mr. Schwab's recent stipend, which was more than the pay of the entire British cabinet. Englishmen are not, however, altogether unfamiliar with salaries that are reckoned in five figures. The lord lieutenant of Ireland draws \$100,000 annually, but he has to spend more than that to maintain his great office. According to records, Lord Dudley expended more than twice that sum. The Archbishop of York has a salary of \$75,000, while the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of London, and

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the lord chancellor are obliged to worry along on a bare \$50,000 a year each. A half dozen or so of English shipping kings also have similar incomes. Colonial governors also are well paid; Lord Dudley in Australia and Earl Grey in Canada, each having annually \$50,000 to \$60,000. The viceroys of India draws more than double that amount. The world of law is exceptionally rich in fat salaries in England, and the judges are far better paid than here. The English attorney general receives \$25,000 a year, and the solicitor general \$20,000; both, however, have additional fees. Then there are five English judges with \$20,000 each, and no fewer than thirty other judges of the supreme court who receive \$25,000 annually. The same amount is paid to but one Scottish judge, and the Scottish lord advocate as well as the attorney general and lord chief justice of Ireland. The report quotes thirty-eight English lawyers each of whom has an income of \$25,500 a year.

Churchmen do not fare quite so well, only nine receiving \$25,000 and over. The archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. The Bishop of Durham has \$25,000. There was a time when he had an income of \$350,000 a year, and he was then the most richly gilded officer in England. Ten members of the British cabinet have to share annually \$275,000 among them, while eight others enjoy an aggregate revenue of \$102,000. Continental European countries do not pay large salaries, and amounts which here, and partly also in England, are not surprising would in frugal Germany or in poverty-stricken Austria, seem like tales from the Arabian Nights.—Washington Herald.

BASQUE SHEPHERDS. The 150 Basque immigrants who landed at Ellis Island the other day will be met in Montana and elsewhere in the sheep raising country of the far west by people of their own race, and great flocks of pure bred merino sheep will present a familiar sight. Even the country itself will remind them of their native provinces in the north of Spain. Basque shepherds are in demand in the Cordillera states on account of their knowledge of the habits and ailments peculiar to the merino. Nearly one-half of all the sheep in the United States are grazed on the Cordillera plateau on Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and Idaho. The sheep raising industry is extensive also in the mountain districts of the three Pacific coast states. Except in the Cordillera country sheep raising is an incident of general farming, and as it is conducted quite as much for mutton as for wool cross bred stock is preferred. In the wool growing states of

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