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FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 1924

SUPERINTENDENT M'BRIDE'S REPORT

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF F. SCOTT McBRIDE TO THE STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN CHICAGO, THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1924

The Illinois League's past has much in it in which to rejoice. She has taken her place beside the other states in the Union in the great fight. She got her local option law in 1907. Under it she voted fifty-five of her one hundred and two counties free from saloons, and left ninety-five counties either dry or with but one wet spot.

In 1911 additional legislation was passed for enforcement giving also a zone around the State University and the Soldiers' Home at Quincy. In 1913 a woman's suffrage law was passed, giving the women a chance to vote in local elections if they would cast their ballots in a separate box. This was the first chance to tell the world what the women thought of the saloon. They did a good job of it. There was one county seat that made it unanimous for the dries in the women's ballot box. No woman voter made a mistake. Large cities like Springfield, Bloomington and Danville voted dry by the majorities in the women's ballot box.

In that same session that gave suffrage to the women, the House and Senate passed a residence district bill that was killed by the governor's influence after passing both houses.

Later the blind tiger bill was passed. Then the national prohibition resolution was submitted and ratified by Illinois as the twenty-sixth state in the greatest race for time the state has ever witnessed, the dries going over the goal just two days before thirty-six states had ratified. Following this the Illinois prohibition act was enacted into law and it is counted as one of the greatest state laws ever enacted. It is better and stronger than the Volstead act.

We have just made the hardest campaign so far in our history. It has taken harder work to awaken our folk to the real situation than in any previous campaign. The wets on the beer and wine issue found their

folk active and aggressive. They had candidates in every district. They also had candidates in every district for the legislature and in nearly every congressional district. It has taken the closest organization work we have ever done to win the primary. The League distributed nearly two million leaflets in the recent campaign.

By close organization work by the district superintendents and the field men we made unexpected gains in the recent primaries. We gained particularly in the cities, the places where there was claimed to be some reaction favoring the wets. We gained in Chicago, Aurora, Rock Island, Peoria, Bloomington, Danville, held a solid dry vote in Springfield, Cairo, both wet centers, and held our own in every other district in the state save the one district comprising the counties of Stephenson, Carroll and Jo Daviess. In this district other issues made it impossible to save the day. It may, however, be won back in the election.

As to candidates for Congress the primary was a victory for us. In every district where we fought we won. A minority candidate was lost in one Chicago district, but in all probability this will mean no loss in the election.

As to the United States Senate the nominee of the majority party while governor of Illinois signed all our bills. A wet candidate was nominated in the Democratic primary. This will mean a hard fight for the wet has certain elements of strength that make him a formidable candidate.

It has been well worth while to fight on until and through this primary to bring down to defeat two of the outstanding wet members of the legislature who were candidates, one for Congress and the other for governor, John P. Hart of Aurora, and Lee O'Neill Browne. They both ran on the "beer and wine" issue.

Mr. Browne fittingly closed his big state-wide campaign in Peoria and there he said: "This is your last chance to get beer in Illinois. If you do not elect me governor this time you will not have another chance, for after I have gone over the state campaigning on this issue as I have, if I am defeated for the nomination the candidate who would make that a campaign issue again would be a fit subject for the insane asylum."

Hart, like Browne, has been a wet leader in the House, Browne on the Democratic side and Hart on the Republican side.

I am glad the Lord permitted me to stay long enough in Illinois to help hand these defeats to these foes of most that is good.

A successful primary makes a successful election possible, but the election is necessary to complete the victory.

The next legislature should provide means of state enforcement, either by an appropriation to the attorney general or by establishing a prohibition commissioner under a plan such as is in operation in Ohio and is giving such good results. The next legislative session should show a large dry margin.

The League has not attempted to establish a super-government or to make of the churches of the state a detective agency. But the year has witnessed the greatest progress in the state that has ever been shown. The appointments made in the prohibition units have shown less politics and under the administration of Attorney Edwin A. Olson as United States district attorney, politics has been removed from the federal justice department.

The chief difficulty in enforcement has been the breweries that have been defying the law and bribing the men of the enforcement staff. Within the year seventeen breweries have been padlocked for one year and millions of dollars worth of brewery paraphernalia has been destroyed and great quantities of illegal beer and other liquors have been poured into the gutters and sewers. District Attorney Olson has done more enforcement work in the year of his term than his predecessors did during the twelve years that preceded. We have been favored also by the splendid work of the federal judges, Cliffe, Wilkerson, English, FitzHenry and others.

These experiences have demonstrated the fact that when men are in charge of enforcement who believe in law enforcement and try to do so, it can be done. It also commends the program of the Anti-Saloon League in demanding enforcement through the officials with a hearty co-operation between the national, state and local forces. The Anti-Saloon League locally and nationally is fighting to take politics from the enforcement agencies and to establish civil service throughout. More enforcement has been done in Illinois in the last year than in the ten that have preceded.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS, CHICAGO, JUNE 5, 1924

World-Wide Fight and the New Treaty

Prohibition of the traffic in strong drink was never more conspicuous as the greatest moral issue of our time than in the present hour. A most significant development in the world situation is the new treaty now ratified by our Senate aimed at the control of the European smuggling bootlegger. This treaty, though just inaugurated, is resulting in the return of liquor laden ships to European shores where a counter-smuggling is attempted. Governmental complacency by European nations will prove to them a boomerang.

The new attitude of the navy department and the department of justice at Washington as related to this international problem is most encouraging. The activities of the Atlantic coast police are also to be highly commended. It is not too much to say that the international liquor problem is now better in hand than ever before, and the United States prohibition policy is securing respect on the part of other nations and co-operation of these nations with our own government in protecting our people against illicit liquor.

Our fellowship with the World League Against Alcoholism is a constant growth of practical co-operation. Once again we loyally greet our fellow board member, Dr. Ernest H. Cherrington, executive secretary of the World League, and once more proffer our hearty co-operation.

The National Situation as Relating Both to Illinois and the National Parties

The situation in our own country is most interesting. It is already apparent that no national political party dares nominate a candidate openly favorable to the destruction of our prohibition policy. The Eighteenth Amendment has already qualified as an actively achieving portion of the national Constitution. The national political parties are taking their cue from the lesser political units where wet policies and candidates are being steadily defeated.

In our own state the fight is sharply defined in the candidacy of United States senator, Mr. Sprague is openly committed to the beer and wine policy, while on the other hand ex-Governor Deneen has a clear record all through his public life as a friend of law and order. We must never forget that as governor of this state he was friendly to and signed our first great measure, namely, "the township local option law."

We rejoice that in the primary we won the nomination in every congressional district in the state where endorsements were made by the Anti-Saloon League, including Congressmen-at-large where the nominated candidates in both parties are dry. The only candidate endorsed who was not nominated was a minority candidate in one of the Chicago districts, and the candidate nominated by the majority party has a dry record.

Our Political Policies in This State

We cannot state too often or too emphatically that the Anti-Saloon League is non-partisan, non-factional and non-personal in its policy. This policy was never more clearly vindicated than in the last primary endorsements. We deal only in the records as made by candidates. We are careful to state truthfully and fully these records and let them speak for themselves. Thus the candidate in his record presents himself for the favor or opposition of the Anti-Saloon League.

Beer and Wine

The loud call for beer and wine is mostly paid for propaganda and is proving to be a boomerang when used as a political program. In witness whereof note the sad condition of their friend Lee O'Neil Browne of Ottawa in his candidacy for governor on the Democratic ticket. This is a rapidly vanishing issue in political contests from which practical politicians are keeping away.

Mayor and Chief of Police

In the matter of law enforcement in a great city the persistent policy of Mayor Dever and his police department is demonstrating how possible it is to enforce the prohibition laws as well as any other law on the statute books. We have commended Mayor Dever and his chief in former meetings,—today we want to thank him for his continued courage and consistent law enforcement policy.

We desire in this connection to commend the activities