

EVILS OF PROHIBITION

(Los Angeles Times)

Stand up, prohibition, and answer to the following indictment and accept judgment on the truth or falsity of the charges:

You are in the first place accused of being responsible to a great extent for the problem of congested traffic that is today the bugbear of every large city government in America. Since the United States went dry the automobile industry has flourished here to such an extent that nearly 80 per cent of the motor cars in the world are owned and driven by Americans. Had you not abolished the saloon and diverted the millions of dollars from the drink traffic to the street traffic we might still be staggering on in our cups instead of trundling along in our cars.

You are also charged with the appalling attendance of a pleasure-loving people at the thousands of motion-picture theaters. To such an extent have you contributed to the dependency of the American family on the bright lights along film row that today the United States has an almost world-wide monopoly on the producing of moving pictures. Fathers of families who once spent their evenings and their wages at the corner saloon now escort their wives and children to the nearest picture theater. Thus you have made Hollywood possible and greatly worried many minds with the question of public censorship.

Another evil to be laid indirectly to your influence is the overcrowding of our schools and universities. Boys and girls, whose fathers were financially unable to give them an education in the good old beer and whisky days, are now attending the higher halls of learning and scholarship. These are democratizing our classic standards and robbing the university of its once-cherished tradition of exclusiveness besides increasing the burdens of our teachers and professors.

Again you are indicted for aiding and abetting extravagance in the personal habits of our de-alcoholized citizenry. Millions of people, who never before had an extra dollar, today have surplus money in the handling of which they have little experience. Through the joy afforded by such unexpected prosperity the boys and girls of the nation have entered an era of jazz and merriment and open frolic that was impossible in the former wet period, when husbands and brothers took their revels in masculine inebriety over pots of Pilsener and three fingers of straight whisky behind accommodating swinging doors.

Finally you have incurred the animosity of the internationalists by increasing the efficiency of American labor so that the European worker, freed from these shackles on his personal liberty, finds the world's markets are being gradually absorbed by his Yankee competitors. Moreover, in making American conditions so attractive you have caused bitter resentment in the heart of the alien who longs to be admitted to partake in the rigors and restrictions demanded of him by our Eighteenth Amendment. In addition you have produced the paradox that foreigners who declaim your interference with "personal liberty" are breaking their necks to enter the land where that "personal liberty" is denied them.

One more count. By enabling a multitude to invest money in homes and city lots, money that previously was absorbed by the licensed liquor interests, you have created a boom in real estate—especially in Los Angeles—causing excitement and confusion and so creating a new form of intoxication.

Gentlemen of the jury, you have heard the case against the defendant. Is there any punishment you can devise commensurate with the enormity of his many offenses?

LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Streator Free Press)

Violators of the prohibition laws in the past three years have had jail sentences amounting to seven thousand years imposed upon them. There have been 177,000 arrests and thirty-nine millions gallons of liquor have been seized. Eleven hundred automobiles carrying liquor have been confiscated and forty-four booze ships have been taken. Over seventeen million dollars in fines have been collected from the \$18,000,000 fines imposed.

These figures are staggering in size and give an idea of the tremendous effort which is being made to enforce the Eighteenth Amendment. There is criticism which often seems just that proper effort is not being made to enforce this prohibition law, but these figures would indicate that the censure is not entirely justified.

In Streator there seems to be more wholesale disregard for the prohibition law than in other cities, and local people get the idea that the same situation exists

throughout the country. There may be some special reason why the law is not enforced here as elsewhere, but the Free Press does not believe the situation is any different.

The booze runners and peddlers will cease their activities as they realize there is an honest intention to enforce the law, and after they analyze the above figures furnished by Prohibition Commissioner Haynes they will realize they are in a losing game.

\$15,094.50 IS TURNED OVER TO SCHOOL FUND

(Ladd Herald)

Miss Mary L. Uthoff, County Superintendent of Schools, has received from Charles A. Simmington, County Treasurer, the sum of \$15,064.50 in excess of the expenses of his office for the year ending July 1, 1924.

Under the law, as it has been since July 1, 1912, it is the duty of the State's Attorney to collect all fees, fines, forfeitures and penalties and pay the sum so collected directly into the county treasury. It is the duty of the County Treasurer to create a special fund of such money so paid in, which special fund is paid out and distributed by the County Treasurer under the law as follows:

1. He shall pay the salary of the State's Attorney and all assistant state's attorneys.
2. He shall pay the salaries of all lawful employes of the State's Attorney.
3. He shall pay all lawful expenses of the State's Attorney's office.
4. He shall retain an amount sufficient to pay all of such salaries and expenses then due, and also an amount sufficient to pay one quarterly payment of such salaries and of schools.
5. He shall pay the balance then remaining to County Superintendent of Schools.

The amount so received by the County Superintendent of Schools shall be by such superintendent turned into and becomes part of the distributable school fund of said county, to be by said superintendent distributed as now provided by law in relation to said distributable school fund.

The County Treasurer makes up his books and makes settlement as of July 1 of each year.

This is the second distribution which the County Superintendent of Schools of Bureau county has had since July 1, 1912, when the present law went into effect. Before July 1, 1923, the County Treasurer had not been able to turn over to the County Superintendent of Schools any excess earnings. Under the administration of the present State's Attorney, Carey R. Johnson, a reserve has been built up and the County Treasurer of July 1, retained as required by law an amount sufficient to pay the salaries and expenses of the State's Attorney's office then due, and also an amount sufficient to take care of the quarterly payment of such salaries and expenses.

The State's Attorney pays no bills himself. The payments of his office are paid by the County Treasurer upon bills presented to and approved by the Board of Supervisors. Included in the expenses of the State's Attorney's office are the expenses of all investigations employed to secure evidence of violation of the Illinois prohibition act so that the above sum of \$15,064.50 is the net sum remaining after the County Treasurer has paid all the expenses of the State's Attorney's office and kept back a fund sufficient to pay one quarter's additional expenses.

This amount has been placed to the credit of the Distributive Fund. Section 14 of the School Law provides that upon the receipt of the amount due the county from the state school fund the County Superintendent shall apportion the same, together with other funds held for distribution.

VOICE FROM THE TOMB

(Danville Commercial-News)

An organization operating under the name of The National Association Opposed to Prohibition announces that it is about to inaugurate a vigorous campaign to defeat members of Congress and of the Legislature from wet districts who vote dry. As a first step, it is announced, the association has compiled and is about to publish in pamphlet form the prohibition records of the members of Congress from Illinois and the members of the state Legislature in 1919, 1921 and 1923. The records of about three hundred fifty representatives will be covered by this publication.

The purpose of the association seems not to attack directly the prohibition amendment to the Constitution

of the United States, but to procure the repeal of the Volstead act and such state laws as have been enacted to aid in the enforcement of prohibition. . . .

The saloon is as dead as human slavery or as the tortures of the inquisition. Civilization advances slowly, but it ever advances—never takes a step backward. The American people have advanced more rapidly than have the peoples of the old world. This is true in regard to education, of labor legislation, of suffrage, of religion, of civic righteousness, and of temperance. And in no instance have any of these reforms lost ground, but on the contrary they are making new conquests and adding greater blessings to the nation every hour. The American people having deliberately destroyed the saloon, and in doing so freed themselves of mankind's most virulent plague, will never restore the vice, the degradation, the poverty and the desolate homes that invariably followed in the wake of the old-time American bar.

This association declares that the Volstead act is anti-Christian, and calls Christ to the witness stand to prove it. Such contemptible sacrilege is in entire keeping with the spirit and the purposes of the movement and the men behind it. Rather than invade the sanctity of heaven in search of evidence, why not summon the wives and children of the husbands and fathers whom the saloon dragged down to destitution and disgrace? They know.

ONTARIO STAYS DRY

(Rockford Register-Gazette)

The great province of Ontario, Canada, has voted dry again. A most determined onslaught by the wets has been thrown back at the polls by a considerable majority.

The situation over the border is much the same as it is in the United States. The wet strength in Ontario was decisive in the city districts; the rural districts stand revealed as rigidly dry.

The rural resident sees more clearly the benefits of the dry regime, its dividends in health and prosperity, its economical power. The teeming centers of population are heedless; it is there where law is the most frequently flouted and false standards of living are raised. Where law is most respected the vote is dry.

The proposition which the Ontario dries resisted successfully was the sale of liquor by government control. The dry knows that the government "store" can work quite as much misery as the old saloon. The results are the same whatever the means of distribution. The verdict in Ontario will hearten the dries on this side of the line in their unyielding fight for enforcement of the statute which is making America a richer and a happier nation, the envy of all others.

AMERICA HEADED FOR WORLD SUPREMACY

Geo. McGinnis

For centuries England has been the great work shop of the world. The roar of her furnaces, the clang of her hammers, the whirr of her machinery, the shriek of her factory whistles have made the hum of industries in other nations pale into insignificance.

The sails of her commerce have whitened the waters of all the oceans as they carried her manufactured goods into every land. Do you wonder that on an area about the size of Illinois she supports a population of forty million that have grown rich in industrial pursuits?

But the leadership of England in manufactured goods is slipping from her hands, for America is supplanting her as the great workshop of the world.

The statisticians, in seeking an explanation for the increase in factories and the constantly advancing superiority of American workmen attribute it largely to prohibition. It simply stands to reason that when workmen substitute milk for booze that the brain is normal, the eye clearer, the nerve steadier, the hand surer and the workman more efficient and there is far less time lost by sickness. In other words, America, through prohibition, is economizing her greatest asset—human resources. The nation that wastes the least of its manpower will outstrip in production, prosperity and general advancement every nation that devitalizes its people with booze.

"Rome, Greece and Carthage, where are they?"

Gone glimmering thru the lapse of things that were
A school boy's tale, the wonder of an hour."

In seeking the cause of their decay we find the prime factor in removing them from leadership in the world and casting them on the scrap pile of nations was booze.

America is headed for world supremacy and as America goes so goes the world.