

## LINCOLN'S MEMORY SLANDERED

(Continued from Page 1.)

attention may be called to one sentence on its very first page, which contains as black a lie as was ever penned by human hand or uttered by human tongue. It is an assertion that Abraham Lincoln declared "that the injury done by liquor did not 'arise from the use of a bad thing, but the abuse of a very good thing.'"

The man who wrote that either knew that he was committing a forgery in the name of Abraham Lincoln, or he ignorantly quoted a part of a clause uttered by Lincoln, which, if quoted entire, would have shown that Lincoln said no such thing, but that he referred to a former time

when everyone believed "that the injury done by liquor did not arise from the use of a bad thing, but the abuse of a very good thing," and Mr. Lincoln went on to say that there were still some who held that view and he pleaded with the more impetuous friends of temperance not to be too harsh with them.

The dastardly character of this pamphlet may be inferred from this first page. It is utterly unworthy of even charitable consideration.

The answer of an outraged people to such calumnies against the martyred president's memory, uttered in these hours of reverential remembrance, will be the swift and utter destruction of the monster that inspires them.

## Lincoln For Prohibition

When the tide of prohibition swept over the land in the fifties, Lincoln became deeply interested in this new phase of the temperance reform. The man is living today—Major J. B. Merwin of St. Louis—with whom Lincoln made a campaign speaking tour through the state of Illinois in advocacy of a prohibitory law. Mr. Merwin had come west by invitation, to speak in the old State House in Springfield, setting forth the nature and workings of the "Maine" law. Mr. Lincoln, who was present, was loudly called for at the close of the meeting, and in response he arose and made a characteristic short address, forceful and eloquent, on the mission of law.

Mr. Merwin became Lincoln's guest, and the entire night was spent in a discussion of the "Maine" law—of the meaning and design of all law. The next morning Lincoln proposed that they communicate with Richard Yates of Jacksonville, who was at that time the head of the Sons of Temperance in that state. The latter invited them to come at once to Jacksonville and hold a meeting. It was then that Lincoln and Merwin entered upon their canvass of the state.

It was to Major Merwin, later, that Lincoln, on the day of his assassination, said: "After reconstruction the next great question will be the overthrow of the liquor traffic."—A Century of Drink Reform, August F. Fehlandt.

## Job for Canned Congressmen

A dispatch in the Inter Ocean Monday morning concerning the bills pending in the dying session of Congress says:

"All prohibition bills go to the waste basket, with the possible exception of one measure, providing for a commission to investigate the whole subject (of temperance), which is showing some spark of life because a number of Congressmen who will be on the unemployed list after March 4 see an opportunity to get some nice fat jobs out of it. They figure that such a commission as is contemplated, with fifteen members at \$7,500 a year, ought to be worth while. At such a price they are willing to investigate about anything, particularly as the bill contemplates that it ought to take five years to get to the

bottom of the business, and might even take a trip to Europe to find out what to do with the problem.

"Opposition to such a measure is not looked for from the anti-prohibition interests, for the appointment would serve to put off any other legislation on the question for at least five years."

That last paragraph contains the meat of the whole proposition. Nice little plan to delay temperance legislation in Congress by making an excuse to wait for the report of that commission. The liquor crowd ought to go in strong for that bill.

## In the Legislature

The Legislature remains in a state of chaos. On account of our limited space we cannot do more now than make a record of the bills pending on the temperance question.

One has been introduced by Senator Landee, providing that saloon license fees be raised to \$1,000 all over the state, and that a portion of the license fee shall be paid into the county treasury.

Another was introduced by Representative Wilson of Springfield, the text of which appears below:

"Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly: That it shall be unlawful for any person to drink intoxicating liquors of any kind in or upon any railway passenger train, or coach, or closet, vestibule thereof, or platform connected therewith, or upon any interurban car or coach, closet, vestibule, or platform connected therewith, while the said passenger train or coach is in the service of passenger transportation within this state."

County local option laws have been enacted in Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina and Texas, and in most of them tested in the highest court of the state, and wherever so tested they have been upheld.

"The best thought of our country is pledged to sobriety and uncompromising hostility to saloon control."  
—Father James M. Cleary.