

## The National Prohibitionist

Published Every Thursday at  
87 Washington Street, Chicago

The Home Defender Publishing Co., Publishers

Subscription Price One Dollar Per Year

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Subscriptions should be paid for by Express or Postoffice Money Order, draft or check. All remittances for this paper should be made payable to The National Prohibitionist. This is for business convenience. All letters of business character, pertaining to subscriptions, advertisements or other matters, should be addressed "The National Prohibitionist, 87 Washington street, Chicago." All matter intended for publication or relating to the editorial department should be addressed "Editor of The National Prohibitionist, 87 Washington street, Chicago." No business communications should be mixed with matters intended for publication. This inevitably produces delay. Whenever possible, business matters and matters intended for the eye of the editor should be enclosed in separate envelopes, and, in any event, should be written upon separate sheets.

Entered as second-class matter, Nov. 26, 1907, at the postoffice at Chicago, Ill., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Chicago, April 23, 1908

### PARTY WORK: OUR CONVENTIONS

The work before the Prohibition party, at the present moment and for some weeks to come, is the holding of our party conventions in counties and states, and the importance of this work can hardly be exaggerated. Mere attendance means very much. Every Prohibitionist ought to look upon it as a matter of personal duty that these conventions have the inspiration and strength and give forth to the public the impression that can be given only by large numbers.

The business of these conventions is of vast importance. At them we ought to raise party funds in generous sums. Opportunity is wider than ever before and it will be nothing short of criminal if our committees are not furnished for meeting the opportunity. Committees, and particularly committee chairmen, should be selected at these conventions with the utmost of care. The fact that a man "is a good man" or that he has "held the office for a long time," or that it is convenient to shirk a heavy duty upon someone willing to attempt it, though unqualified for its burden—these things are less valid excuses for poor committeemen and poor chairmen than ever before in the party's history. We need the best business management and the best political leadership that can be given by the best qualified men in the party. No man ought to allow his personal desire for position to cause him to seek a position that he is not qualified to fill, and no man ought to allow his disinclination to assume leadership or the pressure of other duties, save those of the most imperative importance, to keep him back from now giving to the party his best service. And no convention ought to choose its committeemen and chairmen in the presence of any consideration other than the welfare of the party.

Another highly important matter that will come before our conventions is the question of delegates to the national convention. Few of our delegations are ever sent, instructed, and this is fortunate. The element of personal choice in the nominations to be made at Columbus will be very small, but at Colum-

bus there will be at issue grave questions of party policy, important decisions as to candidates, for the determination of which we need, not merely some one who is willing to go, but the best-informed, most intelligent and most trustworthy men of the party. No Prohibitionist ought to vote to send as a delegate to our convention any other than first-class men—men to whose determination he feels that he can safely leave questions that have to do with his own and the nation's gravest interests.

And, finally, in the matter of nominations the action of our county and state conventions will be of the greatest importance. It is perfectly safe to estimate that probably ten times more of the candidates whom we nominate will be elected this year than in any year of the party's past history. In hundreds of cases, before this campaign closes, we will find ourselves desiring some candidate of ours to be measured, in the matter of qualifications and ability and training, against the candidates of the Republican and Democratic parties, while thousands of citizens will be seriously considering where their votes shall be given. We need this year to nominate men, not alone upon the basis of their loyalty as Prohibitionists—though no other than a loyal Prohibitionist should ever be nominated on the Prohibition ticket—not alone because of their personal goodness, not alone for the enthusiasm which they may be able to inspire in our own ranks, but upon the basis of their qualifications to perform the duties of the offices to which we nominate them.

We must attend and conduct all our conventions with this thought in mind: OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY; THE SITUATION CONFRONTING US IS NEW. We have become—almost over-night—one of the real political factors of the nation's politics with almost limitless possibilities before us. Every act of our party must now be in accord with this new situation, measuring up to these possibilities.

### POOR MOBILE

The reader will remember that some time since when the report was circulated in the press dispatches that the people of Mobile had reduced the efficiency of their public schools because of the loss of saloon revenue, we expressed a doubt as to the accuracy of the statement, in view of the fact that the saloons do not cease to exist in Mobile until January 1, 1909. This doubt is removed by the statement of papers published in that city, and yet a more careful examination of the case leaves us still very much in doubt upon certain important points in the matter.

What the schools of the city of Mobile have been costing that city it is impossible to determine from statistical sources, since the latest Census Bulletin concerning cities published by the United States government (that of 1905), presents us nothing but blanks in the educational columns opposite the name of Mobile. The *Mobile Register*,

however, tells us that by the closing of the saloons "the schools will lose approximately the sum of \$80,000 annually." An examination of the table, beginning on page 328 of the Bulletin, Statistics of Cities for 1905 shows that Mobile in that year was licensing 245 saloons and twelve wholesale liquor dealers. A reference to page 86 of the same bulletin furnishes the information that the saloon licenses ranged in Mobile from \$30 to \$150 per annum and that wholesalers were taxed \$125. From page 310 we learn that the cities received from the saloons a total of \$18,121, or 43 cents per capita.

Turning to page 298 of the same Bulletin, we learn that the assessed valuation of taxable property in the city of Mobile in that year was \$19,052,625, and that this represented 50 percent of the actual value of the property of the city.

From these facts it is easy to compute that an assessment of nine and one-half tenths of a mill, or ninety-five one-thousandths of a cent, upon each dollar of the assessed valuation of the city would provide a fund equal to the revenue received in the city of Mobile from the saloon, or, since this assessment is upon a 50 percent basis, a tax of four and three-quarters tenths of a mill, or four hundred and seventy-five ten thousandths of one cent upon each dollar of the property of the people of the city of Mobile, would provide for the city the money that it will "lose" when the state shall close its saloons.

This leaves us very much in doubt as to why all this noise is being made about the question.

There are some things, however, that we are not in doubt about. We feel very sure that a city that will starve its schools to death because it expects to lose revenue that amounts to 43 cents per capita of its population, is a pretty small town, whatever its population may happen to be. We also feel sure that taxpayers, who think it necessary to deprive the children of their city of educational advantages that could be provided for them by an assessment of less than one-half of one-tenth of a cent upon the taxable property of the city, are about the meanest lot of "skinflints" of which the history of the Twentieth Century will be able to tell the future.

### THE COSMOPOLITAN'S BLUNDERS: A REVIEW

The second installment of the *Cosmopolitan Magazine's* series, "The Fight Against Alcohol," can hardly be regarded as a success from any viewpoint. Mr. BRISBANE's introduction neither adds anything to the stock of knowledge upon the question, nor clarifies any phase of the subject. Upon the contrary, in some of its phrases it writes Mr. BRISBANE down as more hopelessly benighted than any of his former utterances; for example, when he says:

"Today's question is, Shall humanity achieve self-control, freedom from the domination of alcohol by gradual growth and exercise of will-power in the individual, as hitherto [!!!], or shall men be freed by Prohibition, the imposition of the will of the Prohibitionist upon the will of the non-Prohibitionist?"

It would be safe to offer a large reward for a sentence more utterly foolish.

The article by GUSTAVE PABST, the Milwaukee brewer, is even less creditable than would have been expected from such a source. Boiled down, it amounts to just one sentence—a falsehood at that: "It's good for the race to be tempted to