

The National Prohibitionist

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Chicago, July 2, 1908

JULY FOURTH

— I see
Freedom's established reign; cities and men,
Numerous as sands upon the ocean shore,
And empires rising where the sun descends!
The Ohio soon shall glide by many a town
Of note; and where the Mississippi's stream,
By forests shaded, now runs sweeping on,
Nations shall grow, and states, not less in fame
Than Greece and Rome of old! We, too, shall boast
Our Scipios, Solons, Catos—sages, chiefs,
That in the lapse of time yet dormant lie,
Waiting the joyous hour of life and light.

Philip Freneau, who was a roommate of James Madison at Princeton and the friend of Jefferson and others of the great in our history, wrote these words before the morning star of American Independence had risen, in 1771. Today we see the fulfillment of the prophecy, wonderful beyond any possible dream of the prophet. We would not spend the Fourth of July in vain if we devoted it to careful meditation upon the high responsibilities that are ours, in inheriting, as we do, what the fathers in the past won for us. But we shall spend it better if we will consecrate the day to the achievement of some deed worthy to rank with theirs, in service for our country and our fellowmen.

THE CONVENTION: A LAST WORD

The great convention is at hand. This is the last number of *The National Prohibitionist* that will reach all of the delegates before they leave their homes for Columbus, and we take the liberty of saying what may, perhaps, be regarded as a sort of "last word".

Let us go to Columbus, each of us, remembering that great utterance of Lincoln, "We shall not fail—if we stand firm, we shall not fail. Wise counsels may accelerate or mistakes delay, but we shall not fail." For many of us not everything that happens at Columbus may be wholly satisfactory, but let each of us go carrying his quota of the best goodwill and wisdom and courage that we have and determined to accept in good faith whatever shall be the outcome of the united wisdom of all of us.

There are three things, it seems to us, that are specially important:

FIRST, THE PLATFORM. We must so phrase our views of the issues before the American people in the utterance which we make at Columbus that the platform shall

challenge the attention of all our fellow citizens for its sober common-sense, its statesman-like grasp and its clear-cut expression. There will be no more important duty before the members of our state delegations when they arrive at Columbus than the selection of the men who will form the committee on platform. No man ought to be chosen for that place upon the ground of anything save his qualifications to present the Prohibition issue in the clearest, strongest, most attractive manner.

SECOND, THE CANDIDATES. From the beginning *The National Prohibitionist* has had no candidate, save the ideal—a brave, strong, well-furnished PROHIBITIONIST, able to stand before his fellow citizens throughout the whole land and challenge their suffrage as the champion of the greatest political issue. We have no choice as to what section of the country this man shall come from. We care not at all what phase of religious belief he may follow. We are not concerned about his past history, save that it shall be clean and honest. The one prime qualification, in our judgment, is that he shall be a representative of the Prohibition issue, as the Prohibition party has stood for it for almost forty years. Less than at any other time in our party's history can we afford now to play the fool or take any step that savors of retreat or compromise or obscurity of our issue. We stand, not for some general, vague opposition to the saloon, not merely for the abolition of the liquor traffic, but for the placing of the government of the nation and state and municipality in the hands of a political party that holds as its first principle the Prohibition of the traffic in alcoholic intoxicants. No man can be our candidate in any proper sense and with any advantage to the party and the cause who does not occupy that same political position.

We may be pardoned, perhaps, if we even mention names of suggested candidates with some personality. In the far East, at Boston, is the Hon. J. B. LEWIS, whom not a few of his fellow citizens would be glad to see the standard-bearer in 1908. In New York lives ALFRED L. MANIERRE, for whom, it is understood, the New York delegation, at least, will be solid at Columbus. In Detroit JOSEPH P. TRACY, endorsed by the Michigan state convention, is considered the most desirable candidate. In Peoria lives the Hon. DAN R. SHEEN, whose name has been prominently mentioned from one end of the country to the other. St. Louis is the home of WILLIAM B. PALMORE, the gallant old Confederate soldier for whom thousands of Prohibitionists are anxious to vote. In Dallas J. B. CRANFILL is best known, but is known for his work in behalf of the Prohibition cause throughout the whole nation, and has already been honored, more than a decade ago, by nomination for the second place on the Presidential ticket. From the Pacific coast, California will come with a large and enthusiastic delegation, not only instructed for FRED F. WHEELER, but every

man championing WHEELER as his personal choice.

We cannot here repeat the things which have been said concerning these men, nor shall we attempt to present the merits of each or pay any tribute of praise to any one of them. With all sincerity we can, and do say, that any one of these men would, in our judgment, be a perfectly satisfactory candidate for the Prohibition party in this great year of the nation's history. For not one of them would we need to blush when his character and reputation stood revealed before the world. Any one of them is amply qualified to take the high position of President of the United States and perform its important duties to the credit of the men who should elect him and the welfare and honor of the American people. There is not the slightest ground for the idea that the Prohibition party is without a suitable standard-bearer. We can take our choice from a group of princes—men whom we have known and tried in long years of service.

One name has been omitted from this list, the absence of which will be noticed by many. We have not referred to OLIVER W. STEWART. This is not because that gentleman has not been mentioned—and mentioned prominently—for the Presidential nomination. In the Illinois state convention the motion was made that Illinois' delegation be instructed to present the name of Mr. STEWART to the national convention and to labor for his nomination, but that motion was withdrawn at Mr. STEWART'S own request, and Mr. STEWART'S consistent attitude for many months past, as known by his friends, far and wide, is that for numerous and weighty reasons, however much he may appreciate the honor, he can not consent to have his name presented to the convention as candidate for President in this campaign.

There are two other men who have been prominently mentioned but who have never been publicly identified with the Prohibition party. Both of them are men who have rendered important service to the Prohibition cause and both of them are men of the highest personal integrity, of clear record and of enviable standing among their fellow citizens. Most of our readers will know at once that we refer to the Hon. SEABORN WRIGHT of Georgia and Judge SAMUEL R. ARTMAN of Indiana. We need not attempt to say here anything of our high estimate of these gentlemen. No reader of this paper has failed to discover our admiration for both of them. But we feel that it is obligatory upon us to point out one vital fact—until these gentlemen, by unmistakable declaration shall place themselves within our ranks, we cannot, in consonance with our own dignity as a party and our duty to the cause, choose either of them for the service of leadership. For ourselves we say, with all frankness, that either Mr. WRIGHT or Mr. ARTMAN would be perfectly satisfactory to