

us as a Presidential candidate, the moment that he would so aline himself politically as to make his nomination possible. But the Prohibition party, we believe, settled it for once and for all, four years ago, that no man not a party Prohibitionist, can be nominated by the Prohibition party. We cannot place ourselves in the position of having a leader upon the Presidential ticket who anywhere is known by any political designation other than Prohibitionist. This is one of the questions that has to be considered forever settled and there should be no resurrection of it at Columbus.

AND THIRD, THE SPIRIT OF THE CONVENTION. If you ever were enthusiastic, if you ever had faith in the triumph of right, if you ever believed that those who follow the right march under an invincible banner in an ever-victorious army, bring that enthusiasm, that faith and that belief with you to Columbus. Come to Columbus with a glad hand and an open heart for every comrade in the Prohibition cause. Come to Columbus with the rejoicing of those who go up to the gateways of everlasting victory.

And again we say—COME TO COLUMBUS.

### MR. TAFT AND PROHIBITION

That the liquor papers should deliberately forge a pretended utterance of Mr. TAFT and foist it upon the country as his views against Prohibition, is in no way surprising, but thoroughly in harmony with their standards and practices in the past. We take pleasure in laying bare the fraud elsewhere in this paper, but we regret that in presenting Mr. TAFT's actual words, in place of the sentiment falsely attributed to him, we do not seem to be making out any better case for that gentleman.

It seems by no means clear that Mr. TAFT's basal propositions, quoted on page three of this paper, is to be accepted as an axiom or even as a demonstrable truth of political science. To begin with: There is no community, anywhere within the bounds of civilization, where a righteous law cannot be enforced. But in cases where considerable difficulty may be properly anticipated in the enforcement of law, who is he that will dare suggest that law shall bend itself to unrighteousness? It is difficult to enforce the law against highway robbery in the city of Chicago, today. In practically every great city of the country it has proved exceedingly difficult to enforce the law against stealing, when aldermen have been the thieves. In the past there have been numerous cities in our western country where life was by no means safe. Would Mr. TAFT advise us to repeal our laws against highway robbery in Chicago, to enact statutes providing for the legalization of stealing by aldermen, and to make homicide a mere misdemeanor, or is Prohibition something wholly separate from every other public question and to be treated in a wholly different manner?

The real answer is that Mr. TAFT knows practically nothing about the subject of Prohibition; has the haziest possible idea of the foundation and principles and history of the movement. He shows that when he speaks of Prohibition legislation as "sumptuary laws" and in his sneer at "people in the country who are determined to make their fellow citizens in the city better". A man who in this day of the world speaks of prohibitory legislation as "sumptuary law," by that utterance writes himself down an ignoramus,

though he may have been ten times a candidate for appointment to the bench of the Supreme Court.

Mr. TAFT is correct in saying that the "constant violation or neglect of any law leads to a demoralized view of all laws". But the widespread public scandal that he had in view has its origin, not in the enactment of righteous law to cope with the greatest crime of the day, but in the surrender of the very men whom Mr. TAFT represents—the surrender and selling-out of the public officials of the "great" parties to the criminal element.

The passage which is quoted on page three seems to us worthy of special study. There are very many reasons because of which honest citizens who hate the liquor traffic, cannot give their votes to Mr. TAFT. Many of those reasons before election we shall enumerate and dwell upon. Here it is sufficient to call attention to the fact that, by his own deliberate utterance, Mr. Taft is recorded, not merely as an opponent of Prohibition, but as a man who has so failed to recognize the chief of American political issues that he is ignorant concerning it.

### WE'LL LIVE THROUGH IT

A perfect wail of sorrow rises from a certain line of papers that have persistently opposed the progress of the Prohibition movement, and the crocodile tears can almost be seen rolling down the editorial cheeks, over the "awful set-back" that Prohibition has received, on the very eve of the meeting of the national Prohibition convention, in the refusal of the lower house of the legislature of Louisiana to pass a prohibitory law.

The *News & Courier* of Charleston, the *Free Press* of Detroit and the *Globe-Democrat* of St. Louis are chief among the mourners.

Dry your tears, dear friends, and be assured that not even a ripple of sorrow will flow over the wide rejoicing of the Prohibition convention. The Prohibitionists never dreamed of the settlement of the drink problem by legislatures composed of either Republicans or Democrats, or of both. We expect ebbs and flows, and more ebb than flow would not in any way surprise us. But, so far as comfort is to be had from the course of public events in the last twelve months, our cup of rejoicing is full. Georgia, Oklahoma, Alabama, Mississippi and North Carolina have joined the Prohibition column, not since the last national Prohibition convention met, but within a short year. Under the scanty opportunity given them by local option laws, the people have risen against the oppressor in a dozen other states, and even in Illinois, sixteen hundred saloons have been closed forever. That in Louisiana, a state where a year ago the passage of a prohibitory law would have been looked upon as utterly impossible, the liquor interests have succeeded in saving themselves for the time by a narrow margin, will not worry us at all. About even the momentary triumph of the whisky machine in Tennessee, we mourn not at all. Tomorrow is coming.

"Thanks awfully" for your solicitude, but we are doing very nicely, thank you.

### LOCAL OPTION

The Philadelphia *North American*, which has been strenuously laboring for the adoption of a local option law in Pennsylvania and just as strenuously insisting that it is in no way a Prohibition paper, has been recently much concerned over the reckless way in which the license courts have ridden over the will and welfare of the people in the matter of granting saloon licenses. Not—so far as we can learn—that the situation is worse than in other years, and not that the license courts of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania are sinners above all public officials to whom the regulation of the liquor law is committed, but

that it has suited the convenience of the *North American* to call public attention to these matters this year.

It might very properly be called to the attention of the editorial intelligence of the *North American* that were its policy carried out and a local option law enacted in Pennsylvania, such an accomplishment would not go a single step toward remedying the condition against which it protests. In those states that have enjoyed local option longest, the excise regulations are as hopelessly mal-administered and the administration of the affairs of the government toward the saloon are in the hands of as unscrupulous politicians as is the case in states where there are no local option provisions, as, for example, in Pennsylvania.

No law that is born in the sin of legalizing the liquor traffic ever was or ever will be honestly and faithfully administered.



Not one blacklisted saloonkeeper is a member of the Milwaukee Retail Liquor Dealers' Association.—*Milwaukee Sentinel*.

Which signifies that the association has a splendid pull.

Prohibitionists will find poor comfort in the present state of public opinion on the liquor question in Maine and Georgia.—*Beverages*.

*Beverages* is evidently slightly mixed by forming its conclusion backwards from its own experience.

There is no reason why the saloon should not be as reputable as any other business institution.—*The Register, Wheeling, W. Va.*

Substitute for "the saloon" prostitution, house-breaking, horse-stealing and body-snatching and you'll have a group of equally truthful statements—and all equally creditable to the moral tone of the *Register*.

### MRS. CRAWFORD DEPARTS

#### Widow of Lamented New York Leader Sails for the Blessed Country

Mrs. Margaret Crawford, widow of the late Francis G. Crawford, departed from this present life on Sunday, June 21, at her home in Williams Bridge, New York City.

Mrs. Crawford was born in Enniskillen, Ireland, sixty-eight years ago, and came to America with her husband in early womanhood. To her faithful comradeship was due a great part of the success that lifted Francis G. Crawford from the position of an honest but poor laborer to that of a man of wealth and influence in the community.

Like her husband, Mrs. Crawford was an ardent Prohibitionist and has attended every national convention of the party since 1884. At the time of her death she was vice-president of the Williams Bridge W. C. T. U. and an active worker in the Olin Methodist Episcopal church, which owes its existence largely to her husband's generosity.

Mrs. Crawford leaves six children, James C. Crawford, recently the candidate of the Prohibitionists of New York city for mayor, Francis G. Crawford, and four daughters.

Among those who knew her Mrs. Crawford was held in the highest esteem and her death will be regretted by a wide circle of workers, while her own work and generous contributions to the cause will be sadly missed.