

## ECHOES FROM SARATOGA

### THE PARTY PRESS

BY THE REV. JOHN RUSSELL  
Founder of the Peninsular Herald

The temperance reform has been, to me, a question of deep and growing interest from my early manhood. The use of liquor was then a common custom, but I never drank nor used to-



THE REV. JOHN RUSSELL

The founder and editor of the first Prohibition party paper ever published

bacco in any form. My sainted mother taught me to avoid and despise both these evil habits.

Having entered the Christian ministry in my twenty-first year, I became too much engaged in other duties to become very well acquainted with the early literature and movements of the reform. Nevertheless, now at the end of my eighty-sixth year, having given somewhat careful attention to the subject for the last forty-five years of my life, I may perhaps with some propriety claim to possess a fair knowledge of the underlying facts, principles, and social philosophy which govern this greatest moral and political reform of modern times. Doubtless, however, we all have many useful lessons yet to learn on this grave question before the problem is fully solved.

From the very beginning, temperance reformers have shown a wise appreciation of the public press, nor have they lacked people quite competent to write and edit in behalf of their cause. The first volume of the old *Temperance Recorder*, for 1832, published at Albany, N. Y., lies near me as I write, full of "thoughts that breathe and words that burn."

On January 15, 1837, the *Journal of the American Temperance Union* was issued. A monthly sheet of great value to the cause, edited by Dr. John Marsh for nearly thirty years. To the support of this journal, Mr. Edward C. Delavan gave the munificent sum of \$10,000 at one time. To the *Journal*, the *National Temperance Advocate* of New York has been a lineal and loyal successor for over thirty years.

Dr. Marsh, in his "Temperance Recollections," says: "While there were more than twenty local temperance papers in the country, the committee designed making the *Journal* a feeder of them all, and not merely to them, but to the religious and political press of the nation."

Previous to and at the time of the organization of the Prohibition party, a large proportion of temperance journals were published under the auspices of the several secret temperance orders, which had at that time taken up the work of the reform. Chief among these was the Independent Order of Good Templars. In truth, it may be said that the party had its origin in the discussions of that order.

For three successive sessions of the Right Worthy Grand Lodge, the party received the commendation and approval of the order, myself in

each case writing the report on the subject of "political action." Furthermore, on the party question as a clearly understood issue, I was twice elected to the highest office in the gift of that order, and subsequently twice chosen to lecture for the order throughout its international jurisdiction. It will therefore be naturally inferred that the journals published under the auspices of the Good Templar organization were generally open to communications setting forth the claims of the party.

In nearly every state of the Union one or more of such papers were then being published; hence the great debt of gratitude which the friends of the party must ever owe to that temperance organization.

Some five years before the formation of the party, I began the publication of the *Peninsular Herald*, a thirty-two-columned weekly paper, price \$2.00 a year. This, to the best of my recollection, was the only journal in the country which at the first gave full and hearty endorsement to the new party. On the front page of its issue for September 8, 1869, may be found the only tolerably full, fair and reliable journalistic report of the convention which gave the party its existence and its name—a record of which no honest and intelligent man need ever to feel ashamed. This was the inauguration of a sane and honorable method of dealing with such public questions, according to the genius of American politics, in my opinion, the only way to an ultimate honorable victory over the cohorts and oligarchy of the rum power,

without being justly chargeable with "mugwump-ery" and filibustering in politics. Only when well-meaning citizens become wise and candid enough to rise above their old party prejudices and cease trying to do a right thing in a wrong way, will the whole abominable dramshop system be swept out of existence by the stroke of political power.

The *Peninsular Herald* was edited and published by "J. Russell & Son" for about nine years, when it was purchased by Mr. F. N. Newman, and subsequently removed from Detroit to Chicago.

But I have watched with most intense interest the advancing and struggling forces of temperance and Prohibition journalism. And I do not hesitate to express the opinion that greater progress has been made in this direction since the organization of the Prohibition party, in 1869, than in all the previous years in the history of the reform. The *Lever*, under J. A. Van Fleet, first appeared in Michigan, then in Chicago. Then came *The Voice*, under Dr. I. K. Funk, of New York, first issued in September, 1884, then later taken to Chicago under new management. Then, failing to mention many lesser lights, we return to Chicago, where the party had its national beginning, headed by *The National Prohibitionist*, under the management of a man who knows how to edit a first-class Prohibition party newspaper. Let all join in singing of it as we do the flag of our country:

"Long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."

### THE PROHIBITION PRESIDENT: HE'S COMING

An Address at the World's Temperance Centennial Congress at  
Saratoga, N. Y., June 19, 1908

BY CHARLES R. JONES  
National Chairman of the Prohibition Party



CHARLES R. JONES

The Prohibition party was born to put a Prohibition President in the White House, and will live to see one there, backed by a Congress pledged and elected to support him.

The Prohibition party never once in forty years has had a doubt of national victory.

The brewers and the liquor men, aroused by the rising tide of public sentiment against them, have just one hope of temporary escape from doom. They have turned the same trick before and believe they can do it again.

Beaten to the seeming verge of collapse, they will get busy in the very hour of defeat, stab the statute in the back through perjured officials of license parties, and straightway flood the press and confuse the people with their slander and ridicule of deliberately nullified and violated law.

This is at once the secret of fifty years of see-saw temperance agitation, and the incontestable warrant for the Prohibition party and its creed.

The Prohibition party is the friend and well-wisher of every enemy of the drink curse.

As a party it never did and never will quarrel with those who in various ways are striving for the overthrow of the evil.

But for forty years it has never for a moment swerved from its position, which each succeeding advance has emphasized with growing significance, that the final and complete victory of the reform can never be achieved so long as the liquor forces are permitted to remain equally divided in the two dominant parties of the nation, where they now are able to dictate the attitude and policy of either one which may happen to be in power.

By this strategy, which for them is their only salvation, the liquor men have kept their grip upon the lever of the nation's politics, and maintained in Prohibition territory a blighting endless chain of spies and official traitors, whose business it has been to connive at criminal rum-selling and attempt to bring the law into disrepute.

The only effective remedy for this state of affairs, which is rapidly becoming chronic in all Prohibition states and communities, is that offered by the Prohibition party.

Once the liquor politicians and the liquor leaders have been forced or driven by self-defense into one party by the long delayed political union of their opponents, the era of duplicity and vacillation on this question will be over, and the hour of permanent national victory have come.

With the inauguration of Prohibition in state and nation under such auspices, the noisy objections and alleged defects of the policy, so vociferously dinned into the ears of the people by the brewer, would vanish in the twinkling of an eye.

It would be the first fair trial which Prohibition ever had.

If Prohibition, now besieged by its enemies, with its execution largely in the hands of indifferent and unfriendly parties, whose officials have earned their spurs in the old school of political compromise, license and graft—if despite these tremendous handicaps, Prohibition has proved a vast benefit in ten thousand towns and cities and has become the sovereign law of eight states, what success may it not achieve, when once the people decide to administer it through a party of their own, founded on this principle and heartily devoted to the establishment of the policy?