

THE WINDHAM COUNTY REFORMER

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Windham County Reformer

BRATTLEBORO, THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1902.

'The Days of Prohibition Are Numbered.'

It was several years ago that this remark under this same caption appeared in the Reformer. What was then barely treated as "bluff" is now recognized to be fast-approaching fact.

Perhaps the purpose may not take effect in law this year or in two or four years, but it is surely coming. It may be this very year by frightening the machine misruler into granting a referendum on the subject—the most graceful way out for them, though there are big and alleged obstacles of sincere prohibitionism and plundering interest in the way.

There was no remarkable wisdom in the Reformer's prediction, when made, though it happened to be alone in it. All that was needed was an interpretation of the plain figures in a dozen different towns, large and small, where test votes had been taken with one uniform result.

Of Democrats 69 out of 100 may be counted for local option as a necessity of their philosophy so well summarized by Gov. Seymour when he said it meant nothing to be done by the federal government that could with safety and justice be left to the states, nothing by states that could similarly be left to the towns, or by any power on earth that could be left to the individual without wronging other individuals.

"It is no part of the duty of the state to coerce the individual man except so far as his conduct may affect others, not remotely and consequentially, but by violating rights which legislation can recognize and undertake to protect."

Democracy, therefore, believes that prohibition cannot rightfully go further as regards the sale of liquor than to stop such sales, as to minors, confirmed drunkards, etc., as do manifestly and directly involve violations of the rights of others, and that sweeping prohibition can only be justified when experience has shown it to be impossible otherwise to prevent such abuses, and of this each community is the only rightful and competent judge.

"In favor of sobriety and good morals it disposes a system of coercive legislation which cannot produce them, but must create many serious evils, which violates constitutional guarantees and sound principles of legislation, invades the rightful domain of individual judgment and conscience and takes a step toward that barbarian age when the wages of labor, the prices of commodities, a man's food and clothing were dictated to him by a government calling itself paternal."

The opposing theory of government, Federalist, Whig and Republican, concedes that the people have a right to rule, but believes that the farther the power is removed from their direct control, the more power is centralized in nation and state, the more efficient it will be, the wiser and freer from ignorant passion; while majorities must rule, the majority of a nation or state is safer, and rather to be sought as a rule of action than of towns. Many men believe—and they are the ones that are directing this question, evidently—that neither theory is one to hold fast by, but as Lord Salisbury says, the policy to be adopted should depend on the facts and circumstances surrounding each question.

"We are all Democrats—we are all Republicans" (changing names to fit the present) said the profoundly philosophic and just-minded Jefferson in his first inaugural, after perhaps the most venomous political campaign the country ever saw. And so we are as regards this prohibition question: we differ only as to the best means of reaching the most of good to society. The talk so commonly heard that it is mostly "temperance men" on one side and rum drinkers and rum sellers on the other is only the cheapest substitute for argument and comes from men who yell rather than think. The truth is that each side has its full proportion of votes from both classes, whereof a multitude of illustrations, within everybody's knowledge might be cited.

from Saturday's caucus. The meaning of present developments is that the great majority of men, after 50 years of trial, are satisfied that with regard to the difficult subject of dealing with the liquor traffic at least, the Democratic theory of Home Rule is correct, that in the long run and the great average, greater efficiency and power for good are not secured by placing the control as far as possible from the people, but that on the contrary, the old Democratic maxim is verified, that the further action and functions are removed from the people, the more abuses will be multiplied, and that this is amply proved by the rascalities, the corruptions, the impudent false pretenses and the humbug with which "prohibition" is admittedly honey-combed. So on this question they are determined to apply Democratic doctrine.

Perhaps the purpose may not take effect in law this year or in two or four years, but it is surely coming. It may be this very year by frightening the machine misruler into granting a referendum on the subject—the most graceful way out for them, though there are big and alleged obstacles of sincere prohibitionism and plundering interest in the way. It may be by a bolt and the election of Mr. Clement on an independent ticket. It may follow a three-cornered fight like that which placed John S. Robinson in the Governor's chair in 1853. It may be later by a Democratic victory, on a clean-cut issue and fight. All we know is that there is no possible escape from the conclusion. Our wickedly unjust system of representation may operate to delay it a little, but it can't stop it because the people in the small towns, when they get ready to act, are found to be just as much opposed to prohibition as those of the large towns.

One sizable contributory factor to the result Saturday was those circulars denouncing as "false" and "slandorous" etc., the McCullough statement about the kind of "prohibition" Col. Proctor has in his own hailwick. Intelligent men who can be fooled by that sort of answers to facts from official records are mighty scarce; and when for evidence "a Brattleboro laboring man" unnamed and unknown, is put forward with nothing but "glittering generalities" instead of specific denials, the suspicion is at once warranted among men who will allow themselves to think at all, that the defense knows it can't deny. Really, we should have supposed the gentlemen in charge of the Proctor canvass would have known better. They would if they had gone home and taken advice of their babies!

And to think that he is a son of Redfield Proctor—about the shrewdest and most sagacious man this generation has known! It would be interesting if we could see down into Redfield's insides and what becomes of the "swear words," as he views the utter failure of the federal patronage to help the boy out of the scrape. By the way, did you know that back in ancient times there was a thing called Civil Service Reform? It disappeared in the year one of the present imperialistic Republican era.

Austrian continues to be the land from which the world gets its most progressive ideas in legislation. The secret ballot, the Torrens land system, all the experiments in public ownership, and the democratization of her constitution beyond anything the world ever saw, are now followed by a bill which has passed her senate without a single dissenting vote enabling all her women to vote at the next election for both houses of the federal parliament.

All the indications up to date are that that "spontaneous popular movement" for Proctor is going to prove about the most ludicrous fiasco Vermont politics have ever seen. Well, humbug as a regular diet is not very satisfactory to Vermonters—or at least it is unsafe to figure that there is no limit to their capacity for it. Besides the sense of fair play is quite universal among men.

Machine politics is played out in Brattleboro, and it will no longer be possible for half a dozen or more self-constituted leaders to promise and deliver the vote of Brattleboro to any faction or clique who may ask for it. Brattleboro has discovered for almost the first time that she is capable of choosing for herself and she prefers to do it that way. She also seems inclined to vote for issues rather than men.

It will hardly be doubted now that Mr. Davenport was right when he told the Democrats there was the material in public opinion for them to make a winning fight. Possibly their chance is not gone yet.

If Proctor withdraws—as is being intimated in various quarters—it will be a hard tussle for McCullough. In that event whom would the Proctor delegates support?

The snap caucus idea is to be deplored, and it is hoped that the next legislature will frame a law regulating these meetings—so they can be snared only one way.

Proctor is not near enough in sight to be really called a "rear guard" in this Republican campaign.

In Brattleboro the issue was simply one between prohibition and local option—and local option won.

We do! We do! We do!

POLITICAL DISCUSSION.

OF VERMONT MATTERS BY VARIOUS STATE NEWSPAPERS.

What Editors Throughout the State Are Saying in Regard to Current Political Events—Interesting Points From Many Pens.

No one has to our knowledge even suggested any change in congressmen. Messrs. Haskins and Foster will be re-elected, without a dissenting vote, to continue their good work at Washington.—Hardwick Gazette.

Snap caucus scheming, that involves the holding of primaries without due notice given to all voters alike, deserves and will have emphatic rebuke. The people of Vermont will not stand that sort of plotting, and the candidate whose supporters play that game is in peril.—St. Johnsbury Caledonian.

If the caucuses already held throughout the state indicate anything it is that Fletcher D. Proctor will be the third man in the state convention. Mr. Clement has shown greater strength than was anticipated by the supporters of either Gen. McCullough or Mr. Proctor, and while Mr. Clement occasionally captures a town that had been counted on as favoring McCullough, he has captured several important Proctor strongholds. Furthermore, Gen. McCullough is now claimed to be the favorite in many towns, and the first as being for Proctor, two notable cases being Richford and Highgate in Franklin county, which the St. Albans Messenger has been claiming as solid for its candidate.—Barre Times.

Nowadays we remove the wrapper from the Brattleboro Phoenix with caution and deliberation that no word of its valuable contents may be marred or erased; we note over the soul stirring editorials therein contained and learn that Fletcher D. Proctor is too pure, too clean, too far above his fellow mortals to remain long in this mundane sphere, to tarry long in this world of wickedness; we gather that the men supporting him are surrounded by a halo of a righteous cause; we are informed that Gen. McCullough is a poor man, that all the towns and wards who believe in him, who respect him and who are going to honor him by making him governor of Vermont, are reprehensible cusses who would wreck the ship of state and usurp the divine rights of the family of Proctor. And after reading the entire editorial page we borrow soap and water from the neighbors and wash up.—Hardwick Gazette.

There has been so much talk about Democrats voting in Republican caucus and Republicans voting in Democratic caucuses, that it is hoped that the legislature will pass a law at the next session regulating the holding of these primary elections. It has been maintained by this and other papers for a long time that such a law was a necessity but the salons who gather in Montpelier once in every two years have thought otherwise. Under the Australian system of voting it will be a very hard matter to define a Democrat from a Republican so that the most a law can do is to make a man elect which caucus he will vote in, a penalty being made for his voting in any other. A man may declare his politics what he pleases but under the present system of voting just which side he takes can never be known. Under the old system of voting party caucuses were in the control of the party but now they are not.—Barre Telegram.

A Montpelier despatch to the Burlington Free Press says: "E. R. Morse of Proctor was in Montpelier Saturday in the interests of Fletcher D. Proctor's candidacy for governor. He had a private interview with G. A. Smith, the leader of the Clement local option forces here, at Mr. Smith's office, and from which can be gathered the interview would be interesting to the prohibition voters of Vermont. As Mr. Proctor is running on a platform just opposite from that of Mr. Clement's on the liquor question, and is posing as the enemy of license, it would be but reasonable to expect that he would be consistent enough not to trade with the enemy to defeat McCullough, but after a long conference with Mr. Smith it came out that Mr. Morse tried to get the Clement delegation of this city pledged to Proctor as a second choice. Mr. Smith told Mr. Morse that he had done business with the Vermont Marble company for 25 years and had always liked Fletcher Proctor, but that though he was his own brother he would not vote for him so long as he ran on the prohibition platform, and he thought the rest of the delegation felt the same. Mr. Morse left on this poor consolation."

LETTER FROM ATHENS.

Editor Reformer:—Should the voters remain at Newfane or go to Brattleboro, is the question. Personally I do not care a rap, provided Brattleboro pays the fiddler. I am unable to state the opinion of the voters of Athens as I have not talked with any of them about the matter. Several years ago when this same question was being agitated there was considerable talk that if the county seat was to go to Brattleboro, there would be a new county formed by taking some of the northern towns of Windham county and the southern towns of Windsor, with Chester as the probable shire town. At that time many of the voters in Chester as well as those in some of the other towns were very much in earnest and as I remember it the business was in such shape that had the county buildings gone to Brattleboro then, there was every reason to suppose that there would have been a new county with Chester the county seat. What has become of the then new county enthusiasts? Why do we not hear from them?

Athens, Vt. E. S. Kingsley.

Letter From a Newfane Citizen.

Editor Reformer:—Naturally the question uppermost with us is that of the removal of the county seat. This proposition, if carried out, would strike us a hard blow. We bonded in aid of the Brattleboro & Whitehall railroad in the sum of \$25,000 on assurances solemnly made to us that the county seat should remain here. We cannot believe that the people of Windham county, upon a sober second thought, will favor the removal of the shire and assume the considerable tax involved in the construction and maintenance of new buildings, thus throwing away the valuable property which the county owns here. For the sole reason that a very few people would be better convenience at Brattleboro. Citizen.

Newfane, May 21, 1902.

Stops the Cough and works off the cold.

Laxative Bronchitis Tablets cure a cold in one day. No cure, no pay. Price 25 cents.

MCCULLOUGH'S CANDIDACY.

Forceful Endorsement by Honest John Merrifield.

John H. Merrifield, clerk of the House of Representatives, a member of the House for two terms and a senator from Windham county in his letter dated 1894, writes: "The Phoenix is a strong letter supporting the nomination of John G. McCullough to the governorship and giving the reason for the faith that is in him. John Merrifield is so well known for his probity, for the soundness of his judgment and the sincerity of his motives, that he earned the title in public life of 'Honest John Merrifield.'" Subjoined is the substantial part of Mr. Merrifield's letter which we commend to careful and candid perusal:

The question was recently asked me how as a supporter of the prohibitory law I could consistently vote for Gen. McCullough in view of his attitude on the temperance question. His attitude as referred to by the proposition was justly based on his answer to the well known Dr. Ruslow letter. In this letter Gen. McCullough does not state his personal views, but does state in an explicit way just what course he will adopt on all constitutional bills sent him for approval. This statement is a platform identical, without question, with that on which Mr. Proctor stands. Merrifield, therefore, of the platform of each is that if elected he will sign such constitutional bills as the legislature may send him. Where then this difference in looking at the question from the only practical standpoint? Mr. Clement, the license candidate, says that Gen. McCullough's letter was a case of political suicide. By this he probably means that it was not properly framed as a vote catcher. It could probably have been worded better with this end in view. It is apparent to all that it would have been to Gen. McCullough's political advantage to have framed the letter differently. The fact that he made no bid for the support of any particular class is not to be taken against him from my point of view. I don't question the right of others to look at it differently.

It is said that he did not vote on the license bill when he was a member of the Senate. However this may look to others as showing him an unsafe man to elect to the governorship, I will say that it has no terrors to me in view of the fact that up to the close of his heated canvass the several lights of his opponents, always turned on, have not brought out a single scrap of evidence that Gen. McCullough is other than a temperance man in theory and practice, and a promoter in large measure of every good cause in his community. I am not one who shares the apprehension of many sincere friends of temperance, whose views I do not question, that Col. Proctor would be a safer man than Gen. McCullough to place in the governor's chair, for the reason that he would better be able to obstruct legislation adverse to the prohibitory law.

Col. Fletcher D. Proctor in his second letter does not say that he would disapprove of any constitutional bill that the legislature might pass. Why? Because as an experienced legislator he knows that while the governor is given the veto power by one article of our constitution that power is completely nullified by another article permitting the two branches of the legislature to pass a bill over a veto by a bare majority of each branch. Thus if a bill is passed by a majority of one vote in each branch, the bill could be passed over a veto by the same majority in either branch. For this reason the governors of Vermont have been very sparing in the use of the veto power, rarely using it except in cases where the constitutionality of a bill is involved. So jealous in fact is our legislature of any encroachments on what is considered its prerogatives that in recent years the mere suggestions of the governor as to the merits of impending legislation have often been received by the legislature with scant courtesy. So Col. Proctor of course does not state that he would veto a high license or local option bill. Why? Because he knows that should he attempt such a course in regard to any constitutional bill relating to this question, he would be liable to the charge of impending legislation have often been received by the legislature with scant courtesy. So Col. Proctor of course does not state that he would veto a high license or local option bill.

Is there any doubt then that, whether McCullough or Proctor is elected, each would take precisely the same course in temperance legislation as would the other? When we consider the propriety of challenging the loyalty to the cause of temperance of any man who for reasons which he counts good prefers to vote for the Benning candidate? Why make the representation and send it broadcast that McCullough and Clement are portions of one serpent intent alike on striking death to the prohibitory law? This charge should have a conclusive answer in the fact that in the two caucuses that Clement has carried thus far the contest, which in each case was a close one, was between the McCullough and the Clement forces.

Four years ago in the governorship contest between Gen. McCullough and E. R. Morse, the latter part of the Windham county Republicans favored the latter, the preference doubtless being because of the fact that the railroad and some other interests of the county would be better conserved by the latter's election. On April 4, 1898, when our relations with Spain had assumed a serious aspect, Gen. McCullough unexpectedly withdrew from the contest, writing a letter in which he stated that he was unwilling to engage in a contest at that time when the efforts of all true Republicans should be directed towards the assistance of the government in its hour of peril. That letter was highly commended by the Republican newspapers of the state almost without exception, nearly all paying a high tribute to the writer. Upon his withdrawal from the contest Gen. McCullough received numerous letters from prominent Republicans from all sections of the state expressing their good will and assuring him of their support for his candidacy in the future.

Taking these expressions of good will so freely came to him to be sincere and honest, Gen. McCullough in due time again announced his candidacy. Has he any right to be in this contest? We are told not. It strikes me differently. I am for him because I believe that political prose meant unsolicited is as sacred as any other and should be kept. I am for him because I believe that Bennington coun-

ty, which has not had a governor during the time that Rutland has had three, is certainly entitled to the assistance of Windham county in return for the assistance so freely rendered us in the past. I am for him because I believe that in this contest he has been shamefully abused and belittled by some of the newspapers of the state. I am for him for many other reasons which I have no space to mention, and as a temperance man, whose loyalty to the cause has never to me been questioned, I shall go to the Newfane caucus next week, if I live, and cast my vote for him, willing to assume all responsibility for the loss of sleep or trouble of conscience which shall come to me as the result of such action.

J. H. Merrifield. Newfane, May 22, 1902.

COUNTY AND VICINITY.

WEST BRATTLEBORO.

Items of news for The Reformer may be left at Stockwell's store, or later, at Wednesday evening. Important items may be telephoned to the office at the expense of The Reformer.

George M. Thomas was very ill last week.

Mrs. N. A. Wood visited friends in Weymouth, Mass., last week.

The ladies' aid society of the Baptist church gave a box supper Saturday evening.

Miss Brooks and Miss Shoemaker of Smith college, visited Miss Kate Fisher last week.

Miss Minnie Stockwell has returned from a three months' trip in Philadelphia, Washington and Springfield.

"A Covenant with Death and a League with Hell," was the subject of Pastor Keneson's sermon at the Congregational church Sunday morning.

The Prohibition rally of last week was largely attended. Revs. Reid and Hammett of Bellows Falls gave powerful addresses, which were well received.

WESTMORELAND.

The people of this place were shocked Sunday to hear of the death of Mrs. Monroe Leonard, which occurred that morning. She broke her hip a few weeks ago. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard buried their only child, a son, some nine years ago. Now he is left a childless widower. He has the heartfelt sympathy of the community in his great bereavement.

GROVE.

Mrs. Alice Whitney of Bernardston and Mrs. Ann Babcock of Randolph are with their cousin, Mrs. A. F. Prouty, for a few days.

News has been received of the death last week of Archibald Gilchrist, who came here from New York, returning there some 12 years ago. His death was caused by heart trouble.

The body of Lyman Brown, who died in Wilmington of pneumonia, was brought here for interment Tuesday in the family lot. Mr. Brown was for many years a resident of this town, going to Wilmington about a year ago to live with his son, W. S. Brown, who is a furniture dealer there. He was highly esteemed by all and the family have the sympathy of all.

From the depths of our sorrowing hearts we wish to thank all who tried to lighten the heavy burden of grief laid upon by the death of our loving and dearly beloved husband and father. We know others have trodden the same path but that made it no smoother for our feet. For every word and act of kindness to the loved one gone before, to minister and singers and the many friends we can only trust that in time of sorrow you may find those who will be so thoughtfully kind.

Mrs. A. M. E. Prouty and Family.

GILL.

The friends of Edmund Smith received news Saturday of his death at his home in Fairwater, Minn. Mr. Smith was a native of Warwick. He came to this town when 15 years of age, working for the late Peter Delvy until he was 21. He went to Minnesota about 45 years ago and settled in Fairwater, where he has since lived. He was 77 years and 7 months old. He leaves a widow and one son, Escor B., in Fairwater.

E. A. Lyons has been repairing his horse barn.—H. L. Hosley has put an addition onto his barn.—J. W. Levittre is repairing his house.—Mrs. J. L. S. Moore is spending a few weeks with her sister in Brooklyn, N. Y.—Mrs. William Franklin has been visiting friends in Orange.—Mrs. E. L. Kelley, who has been visiting friends here, has returned to her home in Michigan.

PUNEY.

The Baptist church was filled to overflowing and chairs had to be brought in Sunday morning at the union memorial services. Col. W. H. Greenwood post, No. 90, G. A. R., and the Woman's Relief corps attended in a body. The post was largely represented and also had a number of visiting comrades with them. The church was tastefully decorated with bunting, national colors and potted plants. Crossed flags were over every window, bunting was festooned over the choir and rostrum, while back of the pulpit was a large American flag. The choir rendered two beautiful anthems. Rev. Bennett of the M. E. church read the scripture and offered prayer and Mrs. Whitman recited a poem. The sermon was preached by the pastor, the Rev. E. K. Perkins, M. A., from 2 Samuel xxiii: 12. "The Lord wrought a great victory." The congregation gave the closest attention to the speaker for nearly an hour as he reviewed the sacrifices, sufferings and glorious achievements of the boys in blue during the war of the Rebellion, showing how by them "the Lord wrought a great victory." All joined in singing America and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Bennett.

WEST DUMMERSTON.

There is quite a force of men on the quarry and with the aid of the wide gauge they are shipping tons of stone daily.

Work has begun on the dam and there is quite a force of men at work. It looks as though they meant business we would ere long see our town lighted with electric lights.

WANTED.—We would like to arrange with a lady to call upon families in West Brattleboro and transact some business. Liberal pay. Write us, Ullery & Co., Brattleboro.

Brattleboro, Vt., May 22, 1902.

Have just taken a look at our \$4.98, \$6.50, \$7.50, \$10.00 and \$12.00 Suits. They are surely

THE BEST VALUES ever offered IN BRATTLEBORO.

How about our line of

LADIES' WAISTS AT

98c, \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$1.75, high as \$3.75.

They are the kind made to fit.

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5 cents to \$3.50 at Wholesale and Retail.

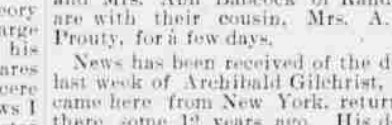
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Our sizes and prices are right. The quality is second to none.

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BUY YOUR PLANTERS,



VALLEY GRAIN CO.

SALT. FEED. SHAVINGS.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

LEON C. WHITE, Electrician.

Headquarters at Electric Light Station.

NATIONAL BISCUIT CO.'S

Crackers, Cookies and Package Goods.

GRANGE STORE,

For Sale!

The Geo. F. Moseley Farm in Vernon, Vt.

F. J. BAILEY, Brattleboro, Vt.

Carriages, Sleighs,

AND ALL KINDS OF Household Goods Stored.

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BOSTON MEMBERS N.Y. CONS. STOCK EXCHANGE

Pil Excelsior, The Great Nerve Stimulant.

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