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VOL VIII

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1900.

NO. 22

PROHIBITION TICKET.

- For President, JOHN G. WOOLEY, of Illinois. For Vice-President, HENRY B. METCALF, of Rhode Island. For Member of Congress--7th Congressional District, HARLAN P. DAVIDSON. For Governor, VISSCHER V. BARNES, of Lake County. For Lieutenant Governor, JOSEPH J. HARRIS, of Williamson County. For Secretary of State, BENJAMIN J. RADFORD, of Woodford Co. For Auditor of Public Accounts, JAMES A. STONE, of Sangamon County. For Treasurer, HENRY C. TUNISON, of Morgan County. For Attorney General, FRANK S. REGAN, of Winnebago County. For Representative--8th District, BENJAMIN J. CLOES. For Trustees University of Illinois, ELLA S. STEWART, of Cook County. CLARA A. HARTFORD, of Grundy County. JACOB E. BITTENDER, of Whiteside Co.

Startling Statements.

Few people, perhaps, will be prepared to hear that the criminal classes cost this country more than \$600,000,000. Yet this is the estimate of Mr. Eugene Smith, a New York lawyer, who sustained this conclusion in a valuable and suggestive paper read before the recent congress of the National Prison Association in Cleveland. "This vast sum," he says, "exceeding the value of the entire cotton crop of the United States, exceeding the entire wheat crop of the United States... is all of it spoliation, without any compensating consideration of benefit, a terrifying incubus upon the industry and prosperity of the people."

Literary Digest, Oct. 1, 1900. If it be true that 80 percent of all the crimes committed in the country, are due, directly or indirectly, to the liquor traffic (and there are eminent and thoroughly reliable judges and other high officials by the score who have vouched for it), then it follows that \$480,000,000 of this enormous cost of crime is due to the saloons which our government, National and State, have legalized. Mr. Eugene Smith is not a Prohibitionist, simply a cold, practical lawyer of ability.

If we turn to "Outline of Practical Sociology," by Carroll D. Wright, under the head of "Public Revenue from the Liquor Traffic," pages 393 and 694, we find this statement:

"The revenue derived from the liquor traffic, including the manufacture and sale of liquors of all kinds, for the year ending June 30, 1896, and from other sources, was \$183,213,125. Out of this amount the United States received for internal revenue tax \$114,450,862. Other State and local license fees, or special taxes, amounted to \$49,565,540. State

license fees, or special taxes, \$10,399,016. The counties, \$5,011,225. The municipalities, \$34,155,299.

"To these sums must be added the total funds received by States, counties and municipalities; the tax paid on real and personal property engaged in the manufacture of liquors, and that on real and personal property of establishments engaged in the liquor traffic, the custom duties on imported liquors, and some few other small items to make up the total as stated above of \$183,213,125."

Mr. Carroll D. Wright is a knowledgeable one of the ablest, most accurate and most impartial statisticians in the country. We assume, therefore, that the figures are approximately correct. In a word, it means this: Setting aside the whole moral question of the liquor traffic, setting aside the greater part of life, and therefore productive agencies, setting aside everything else but just the one cost of crime for which the people are taxed, we have an amount almost three times as large of what Mr. Smith calls "sheer spoliation without any compensating consideration" as the whole amount accruing to the government, State, National and Municipal. It is a matter of calculation by the simple rules of arithmetic how long it would take liquor business to bankrupt the government on earth if there were not other ways of money making to offset the fearful loss.

We claim that in the light of the above figures, the tariff question dwindles into insignificant free coinage of silver, 16 to 1 anti-free coinage--both are nothing, and yet this great, glorious country of which we are so proud, and of which we boast so much, is year after year perpetuating just such a losing enterprise, if enterprise it may be called. How long shall this continue? Just as long as parties wedded to a license system remain in power. The Prohibition party is the party ever organized to shut floodgates of this fearful loss.

Inconsistent and Unwise.

The editor of the Inter-Ocean, in his edition of the 17th inst., seems to feel very bitter to the Prohibitionists, and makes a very vinegary attack upon the public speakers in that party. Very possibly some of the Prohibitionists are more tart in their statement of principles than either wise or in good taste, but we fail to see any ground for the Inter-Ocean's attack, nor does it present any arguments or reasons to prove its assertions. It makes bald statements, without

any evidence whatever of their correctness, and yet it says concerning a prominent Prohibitionist: "Speaking in the name of temperance and high morals, he indulges in the baldest misrepresentation and in foul innuendo," yet the writer seems not to recognize that this is just exactly the offense of which he is guilty, when he says a little further on, "He is cutting down the Prohibition vote in every State, and adding nothing to the strength of those who 'probably' pay his campaign expenses." Why does not the writer talk what he knows, and not talk about what is "probably" true, making a mere guess at it. In the first place, we fail to see that it is any matter of his as to how, or by whom, prohibition expenses are met, even if he knew.

In the second place, it has at least a very funny look about it, when a paper so bitter against Prohibitionists as the Inter-Ocean should be so worried to think a Prohibition speaker is "cutting down the Prohibition vote in every State?" We would naturally suppose, if the writer had been at all honest, that he would have gloried in the fact, and not have been so worried about it. As a matter of fact, in the early days of the Prohibition party it should not be forgotten that the Republicans, laboring, doubtless, under a misapprehension, were very bitter and unreasonable in their attacks upon Prohibitionists, and made the silly claim that they were prohibitionists, as if a Republican is a man who votes the Democratic ticket, and a Democrat is some one who votes some other ticket than his own.

We don't hesitate to confess, however, that too often the Prohibitionists, feeling that the Republican party was, by all its precedents and instincts, the party which should foster prohibition, they too, the writer included, too often struck with too incisive, and possibly vindictive remarks. The Prohibitionists, as a rule, have learned better. We believe the better class of the Republican party have also learned the foolishness of such methods. We have been quite in touch with prohibition work this fall, and have not yet heard a single speech that was half as severe against Republicans and Democrats as they have been severe against each other; but, somehow, Republicans and Democrats have foolishly thrown mud, misrepresented, maligned, and we might say, at least in spirit if not in fact, slandered and libelled each other, and yet somehow our Republican friends regard everything said by

Prohibitionists which reflects upon Republicans as "raillery," "innuendoes," "foul innuendoes," "total absence of manliness," "vileness," and so on, ad infinitum.

Our Democratic friends have always been more liberal in their treatment of Prohibitionists than their opponents. We have never, however, given them very much credit for it, for the simple reason, that we believe they too are laboring under a great misapprehension of the actual facts in the case. Allow us to candidly suggest, that the Prohibitionists believe they are right. That is their privilege. The Republicans also claim they are right. That is their privilege. So, also, do the Democrats. Assuming that the supporters of all three parties wish to be right, and believe they are right, wouldn't it be vastly more manly and dignified and conducive to the best interests of humanity to treat each other with common courtesy and respect, resting assured that Jefferson, in his inaugural one hundred years ago, was right when he said, "Errors of opinion may be safely tolerated where reason is left free to combat them?"

High License.

High license is the monopoly of competition, the mother of crime, the instigator of abomination.

High license is un-American. Our forefathers wrote in blood that all men are equal before the law, but in the license system the government says to the man who has the five hundred or one thousand dollars, you can sell, but to the poor fellow that has but fifty or one hundred dollars, you haven't the stuff! Why not say to the grocer, you cannot sell any groceries till you pay a license of five hundred or one thousand dollars. Why not say the same to the baker, clothing men and a hundred other vocations.

If that saloon is right and its business legitimate why put the business under a license? To do so is un-American.

It is doubtful if a saloon keeper can be found who is not an habitual law breaker. It has become an inherent part of their business and no man who will look the facts in the face can deny it, and yet christian men will vote for such traitors to the laws of our country to go on in their crime. There is not a saloon in America that stands alone, but with it there goes a degraded, howling mob, disturbing the public peace in every hour of the day and night, reaching its climax Sunday nights. Drunken men, more like a beast, goes forth to turn his family from

their home, or beat some half starved wife, or murder in cold blood his innocent child, and yet christian men will vote that this may continue; and all this is crowned with women's departments and houses of prostitution, where men and women are found wallowing in the mire of corruption that would be an insult to hell itself.

I see them now, and I write as I have seen them before. Tramp, tramp, tramp the besotted host are marching. They are past home, past respectability, past honor, past hope, past God, d-y-i-n-g--dead in the arms of hell, made possible by the vote of christian men.

How long shall these things be, oh flag of liberty! The day already dawns, and the golden sun beams shall soon shine forth in glorious noontide, when they that love flag, country, man and God shall have fought the battle and won the principles of the Prohibition party.

W. O. THOMAS.

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