

Results of National Prohibition

By Helen Barrett Montgomery

Sometimes matter of thrilling interest is concealed in the fine print of a Government report. I recently received from the Government Printing Office in Washington a copy of a speech delivered in the Senate of the United States by Senator Wesley L. Jones, of Washington. I have read every word of it, and advise every one to send and get a copy and circulate it as widely as possible. But because I fear that few of you will take the trouble, and because I think that our vigilance ought to be greatly increased on this whole prohibition question, I am writing this abstract for Baptists, in the hope that they will become white-hot supporters of the policy of national prohibition. Our tendency is to regard the battle as won, and to unbuckle our armor, when in reality the wily and unscrupulous enemy is banking on our overconfidence and plotting to defeat the amendment, even now.

Senator Jones shows that the chief cry of the "wets" is that prohibition cannot be enforced, and that by this cry they are actually discouraging some of the supporters of prohibition, whereas the truth is that even the partial enforcement of prohibition is producing effects that are absolutely startling in their number and influence.

To meet the non-enforcement argument he quotes from Mr. Bryan as follows:

"Complaint is made because there are still violations of the law. The law against murder has been on the statute books for over 100 years, and still some murders are committed and not all murderers are caught. The same is true as to the law against stealing. Last year about 2,500 automobiles were stolen in Philadelphia, and twenty per cent. of them were never found. Yet no one suggests the repealing of the law against stealing automobiles."

The attitude of distinguished foreign military authorities toward the prohibition law is cited. General Diaz, of Italy, says: "I have brought no liquor with me, and I intend to drink none while I am here. I believe that while a guest in another country I should show the same respect for their laws as I would show for those of my own nation." General Foch announced that he would follow the American custom and take only water with his meals. Admiral Kato, delegate to the Disarmament Conference, omitted wine in the salute to the Emperor on his birthday, saying, with fine courtesy: "This is a prohibition country, and we will not drink a toast but celebrate *bansais*"—the equivalent of three cheers in the American language. What an example to genuine Americans!

As to the experience of enforcing the prohibition law, Senator Jones shows that the reports from Ohio disclose the fact that "the enforcement department had collected in fines, forfeited bonds, and prohibitive taxes on the illegal sale of liquor an amount which represented four times the cost of the department, or in other

words, enough to carry on the enforcement work for the next two years. It is manifest therefore that enforcement departments properly organized are not a burden on the taxpayers."

The question of arrests for drunkenness is treated exhaustively, and it is conclusively shown from official records that there has been a gratifying decline, one that we should hardly have dared hope for in the present disturbed condition. "Reports from chiefs of police in fifty-one largest cities of the United States, including New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis and cities of that size and former degree of wetness, and with a total population of over 20,000,000, show a slump in arrests for all causes from 960,603 in 1917 to 851,108 in 1920. The total arrests for drunkenness in these cities in 1917 were 307,108. This was cut to 108,835 in 1920, or almost sixty-five per cent. of a decrease."

Police Commissioner Enright, of New York city, shows that crimes like burglary, assault, arson and murder declined from 15,000 in 1915 to 10,000 in 1920. Murders decreased fifty-one per cent. and burglaries ten per cent. in Chicago during 1920 as compared with 1919, and the number of disorderly cases from 38,000 to 32,000.

The reports of the Massachusetts Commission on Prisons shows that the prison population of Massachusetts has declined from 108,185 in 1914 to 56,932 in 1921, and that the prison population of Boston has declined in the same period from 6,000 to 3,000, a percentage decrease of fifty per cent.

In Ohio four work-houses have been closed, and there are 10,000 fewer inmates under prohibition than under license. In Pittsburgh Warden Lewis reports that in 1918 there were 14,684 prisoners committed to the jail; in 1920 there were only 4,712 committed to jail. In the City of Washington there were 6,590 commitments to the work-house in 1914; 2,511 in 1919, and in 1920, 833. Mayor Smith, of Louisville, Kentucky, reports a decrease of eighty-four per cent. in prison population in the first year of prohibition.

In Milwaukee, the "Beer Capitol of the United States," there was a decrease between 1915 and 1920 of thirty-eight per cent. in cases of abandonment, sixty per cent. in drunk and disorderly, thirty-eight per cent. assault and battery, and fifty-nine per cent. disorderly conduct. Governor Brown, of New Hampshire, reports in July, 1921, that there are but forty-three jail inmates in the State. Richmond, Virginia, has increased twenty-seven per cent. in population during the years between 1917 and 1921, but its arrests for drunkenness and disorder have decreased seventy-five per cent.

Senator Jones then compares these results under imperfect prohibition to those

in wet England, and finds a marked increase in drunkenness during the same period. The convictions for drunkenness in 1920 showed an increase of 65.26 per cent. over those of 1919.

One of the most convincing exhibits of this pulverizing reply to the claims of the wets is found in the statistics regarding inebriate asylums. B. E. Neal, president of the forty-five Neal Institutes for Inebriates, reports:

"During the twelve years before the Volstead Act became effective, we treated more than 125,000 drinking men and women. Chicago and Cleveland Institutes treated more than 100 patients a month; Los Angeles and San Francisco averaged twenty-five to fifty a month. To-day Neal Institutes still operating do not average two patients a month. Drinkers are not turning to the use of drugs."

The Washington Home for Drunkards report in the Chicago papers of February 1, 1921, that during the years 1910 to 1919 they treated an annual average of 1921. In 1920 they treated only 125.

"The chief Keeley Institute at Dwight is closed and has been taken over by the Health Department for injured soldiers, with accommodations for 230."

Dr. Horatio N. Pollock is authority for the statement that within two years after the Eighteenth Amendment became operative, "There were no State hospitals for inebriates left in the United States. The State Asylum for Inebriates in Minnesota is now a hospital for mental diseases. The Connecticut State Hospital for Inebriates is now a part of the Norwich State Hospital for the Insane. The State Hospital for Inebriates at Knoxville, Iowa, has become a United States Public Health Service Hospital for the treatment of mental defectives. These are the last of the State institutions for inebriates to be converted to other uses. The New York City Industrial Colony discontinued receiving inebriates in October, 1918, and was permanently closed in December of that year."

The report shows that two-thirds of the labor leaders interrogated by the *Literary Digest*—345 out of 526—answered "Yes" to the inquiry as to whether prohibition had benefited the working man.

The evidence from the banks is so voluminous that only a sample can be given. The Peoria clearing house report shows a gain of \$32,000,000 in the clearings of the year 1920 over the year 1919. The Comptroller of the Currency reports as follows, November 8, 1921:

"Stagnated industry, business depression, and growing unemployment under ordinary circumstances would be expected to reduce the savings deposits, but they did not. Returns from 623 mutual savings banks, located principally in New England and the Eastern States, show that on June 30, 1921, these institutions held deposits amounting to \$5,575,181,000, credited to 9,619,250 depositors. One year previously the same banks had deposits of \$5,186,485,000 and

9,445,327 depositors. This June the average deposit was \$579.59, and a year ago it was \$549.14. According to these figures there was a gain of \$338,336,000 in the deposits of these banks and a gain of 173,933 in the number of depositors during the fiscal year. In the same period there was a gain of \$30.45 in the average deposit. That unemployment increased during the last fiscal year is generally known, and that the trend of wages was downward is undeniable. Under these circumstances men and women ordinarily would be compelled to draw upon their reserves in savings institutions, and as a result the deposits of savings banks would be expected to shrink. Instead they expanded in the volume of deposits, the number of depositors, and the size of the average deposit."

One of the most eminent educators in America, Dr. C. W. Eliot, ex-president of Harvard, said in addressing the Twentieth Century Club in Boston, October 29, 1921:

"There are three classes whose testimony I find most valuable—district nurses, school nurses, and social workers of all kinds. All these can give testimony to the good effects of prohibition legislation on families, chiefly families of the working men. A district nurse recently called on a woman who was expecting her confinement. The woman said to her visitor, 'I have got four children, already. This one that is coming will be the first born above ground.' The nurse did not quite comprehend, but the woman went on: 'The only way I used to be able to get money was to take it out of my husband's pocket when he was helplessly drunk in my room. I took what was necessary, but I never could get enough to hire any room that was not in a cellar. All my four children were born underground. This one is going to be born above ground.'"

"The district nurse followed that case through confinement and had the pleasure of seeing the husband positively attentive to his work and bringing all his earnings to his wife. Then on the last visit the nurse made, she had the pleasure of seeing him holding his little girl in his lap. She was very neatly dressed, already. It was Sunday morning, and this father, who had never given a cent to his wife until the prohibition amendment came, was curling the little girl's hair in order that she might look pretty when he took her to Sunday school."

Infant mortality rates have fallen in 512 cities from 101 in 1916 to ninety in 1920. At this rate 25,000 fewer babies died in 1920 than would have died had the same conditions existed as did four years before.

Dr. Thomas A. Hyde, of Christ Hospital, Jersey City, writes under date of September 17, 1921:

"As a hospital executive, I would have you know that I regard the prohibition movement as a tremendous humanitarian blessing. The passage of the Eighteenth Amendment brought an instantaneous change in the character of our work. Our men's ward since the enactment of it has not been comfortably filled, which prior to that time was filled to overflowing. The ambulance was accustomed to answer ten or a dozen calls on a Saturday night; one or two calls soon became the rule. Neither did we experience a "dope" epidemic."

Tuberculosis is showing a marked diminution in the number of deaths since prohibition. In Chicago there were 1,175 fewer deaths than in 1918:

"There is a decrease all over the United States, but not so marked as here. This is due in part to prohibition. People are get-

ting more sleep and are not carousing and drinking so much."

Insanity is on the decline, for the first time in years, since prohibition went into effect. Fillmore Condit, an expert in figures on insanity, has shown that prohibition checked the increase and turned the scale downward in the number of cases of insanity. In 1917 New York had 391.9 insane for each 100,000 of the population; in January, 1920, 374.6. In California there were 1,094 less than there would have been if the normal increase had continued. The California Lunacy Commission recently stated that the taxpayers are saving about \$2,000,000 a year in the care of the insane.

It is often claimed by the wets that drug addicts have increased. This claim also is shown to be without foundation:

"In New York a regulation requiring registration of addicts who wished to buy drugs went into effect about three weeks after war prohibition became effective. The United States Treasury Department commission quoted estimates ranging from 80,000 to 4,000,000 addicts for the entire country; legislative investigations in New York brought out the opinion that, roughly speaking, there were from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 drug addicts in the city, then a wet city in a wet State. Since July 19, 1919, drug addicts have been required to register, and the records show about 13,000 users in the State, besides probably 26,000 unregistered cases who obtain drugs illicitly.

"Minnesota had committed twenty-six addicts to State institutions in 1918, seventeen in 1919, and four in 1920. Chicago had an average of 12.50 cases a month at the House of Correction in 1919, and 11.25 cases per month to May 1, 1920."

One of the clearest testimonies comes from Evangeline Booth, of the Salvation Army, who, if any one, ought to know the facts of prohibition:

"Our social secretaries tell us that drunkenness among the men frequenting our hotels and industrial homes has almost entirely disappeared; that men who previously had not enough money to pay their way from one day to another now have money in the bank. In one of our hotels there are 120 men with banking accounts of considerable amounts, who previously could not keep a dollar for twenty-four hours.

"In another hotel twenty-five men, who before prohibition could not master a dime among them, have deposits ranging from \$100 to \$500. Paul Stoker, a man who drank every cent of his earnings, has saved \$700 since prohibition came into effect. An increase in prosperity and thrift is universally acknowledged. The State of Minnesota reports a saving increase of \$17,000,000 for the year.

"Needless to say, the experience of our own slum officers emphasizes these benefits. 'Father buys us clothes, since prohibition; he used to drink all the money up,' said a little girl of six in Hell's Kitchen last week. They find the home better cared for and less divided, and where they used to get mother and children only to the meeting, the whole family now attends.

"The entire army world seems to have heard of our boozers day—how year by year we have celebrated Thanksgiving holiday from six in the morning, collecting drunks from the park benches, feeding them and sobering them up, and saving them with huge and lasting results. But last year they were not there, and so we gave the day to the poorest children in the great city."

Cannot each loyal Baptist who reads these words write to his local paper, calling attention to them? Send a copy of the paper to friends; discuss it in the Sunday school class. If he be a pastor, preach about it. If she be a woman talk about it at the next missionary or club meeting. Everybody spread the glorious proof that prohibition really prohibits!

Dedication of a Hymnal

("The New Baptist Praise Book")

BY ROBERT B. PATTISON

Music has ever been one of the hand-maidens of religion from that day of the long ago when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Praise has ever been comely for the upright.

Therefore we, the members of the Main street church, Binghamton, New York, now dedicate this, our new hymnal, to the glory of God and will come into his presence with singing and into his courts with praise!

And to the honor of Jesus Christ who when he had sung a hymn went out into the shadows of Gethsemane!

And to the praise of the Holy Spirit through whom this book was prepared for the comfort and guidance of the people!

We dedicate it also to the spiritual growth of all who may ever use it; to the encouragement of all in faith and hope and love; to the strengthening of all in prayer and sacrifice; to the advancement of justice and brotherhood; to the salvation of all who would grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

To the comforting of those in grief; to the quieting of those sick in body; to the quickening of those sick in soul; to the inspiration of the young; to the heartening of the aged—we dedicate this book!

To the sanctifying of the church; to the honoring of the home; to the ennobling of the Nation; to the blessing of the world—we dedicate this book!

Thus, O Lord God, we dedicate this book to thy service. Thus we will sing of thy lovingkindness and justice, of thy power and thy mercy. We will sing with the spirit; we will sing with the understanding also, singing unto the Lord as long as we live, praising our God while we have any being; speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with our hearts unto the Lord.

My praise shall be of thee, O God, in the congregation. O Lord, open thou my lips and my mouth shall show forth thy praise! AMEN.

"Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne.

"Let those refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But children of the heavenly King
Should speak their joys abroad."

All sing Gloria Patri.

Christ did not cause the broken meat to be gathered up till all were filled; we must not begin to hoard and lay up till all is laid out that ought to be, for that is withholding more than is meet.—Matthew Henry.