STATE WIDE PROHIBITION

One of the most important, if not the most important questions before the people today, and which is being brought to the attention of the State Legislatures, is that of prohibition and abolition of the liquor traffic. Both sides of the question has its allies and advocates, and many powerful arguments, both for and against, are constantly brought to us, through our Legislative bodies, the Press and the Pulpit, many of them presenting such strong arguments on the one side or the other as to seemingly silence all opposition.

But the fact remains, that there are but two sides to the question—one typifying God, and home and country; purity, happiness, and everlasting life.

The other, impurity, crime, misery, desolated homes, and everlasting death.

This is no idle figure of speech. The pages of history are full of chronicles of nations and rulers, going down to destruction, of brilliant minds destroyed, and honored names dishonored because of strong drink, and not one sentence in all its pages that can chronicle a brilliant achievement or noble ambition realized through the same instrumentality.

For years consecrated men and women, on the platform, in the pulpit and through the public press, have been calling attention to the dangers that beset us on every side, have pleaded and prayed that the Christian people of this beatiful land of ours, would awaken from their lethargy and arouse to action before it was too late.

When the war cloud broke over the land in 1861. When the first gun was fired on Fort Sumpter, and its ominous sound echoed and re-echoed through the land from shore to shore and coast to coast. When the 6th Mass. Vols. were stoned and mobbed in the quiet streets of Baltimore on their way to the defense of the National Capitol, we began to realize that the impending crisis which had been predicted and foretold over and over again had at last over taken us, and that war, cruel deadly war was a reality. Not without warning had the calamity come. On the floors of Congress in strong and bitter language, men had declared war was inevitable. Then as now the daily press, the pulpit and from the public platform had been sounded in words of burning eloquence, from the lips of earnest men, who saw with unerring vision, in the growing discontent of one section of the country and the grim determination of the other to save the Union at any cost, that war would be the only solution of the question and that the time for arbitration was past.

And they were branded then as are the men of today who hoist the danger signals, as fanatics, pessimists and cranks, and people folded their arms and rested content with the thought that they were not responsible, and had done their duty when they had expressed their opinion of the unfortunate state of affairs. It took four years of cruel bitter war; it cost a million men, and billions of dollars to crush out that rebellion, put an end to human slavery and end the war.

And it was not until Grant and Lee clasped hands above the bloody chasm at appomattox. It was not until the great Captain, Abraham Lincoln fell beneath the deadly hand of a crazed assassin, that peace came. Peace, bought with such a fearful price. The price of desolated homes, and broken hearts and tear dimmed eyes. The price of thosands of new made graves on the battle field and in the wilderness. The price of ruined mills and silenced factory wheels. A price which can never be computed, can never be realized. But harrowing and dreadful as the Civil War, it sinks unto utter insignificance when compared with the war which is waging over our land today. The war between the powers of good and the powers of evil and sin.

There is no neutral ground, there can be no neutral ground.

The only difference is, that the battle of the bullets is now the battle of the ballots.

Men once opposed to each other in deadly conflict for a principle, now stand shoulder to shoulder, and heart to heart, to free our beloved land from a slavery far worse, far more degrading than the slavery which brought on the conflict of 1861.

And of great argument for the continuance of slavery is the commercial one of dollars and cents versus human lives. Men, who openly acknowledge the terrible evils consequent upon the manufacture and sale of alcoholic drinks; who realize that it is debasing and pulling down our young manhood, upon whom the country depends for its future success and prosperity will, against their better judgment, argue for the continuance of the traffic on the ground of revenue only.

The loss of the licence fee to the State and National Government; the property loss to the owners of breweries and distilleries, and the loss of employment to the men engaged in its manufacture, which can easily be diverted to other sources, are contended, forgetting that while the licence money is flowing into the treasury of the State and of the Nation a far greater sum is being expended in the maintainance of jails and penitentiaries and public institutions of charity to take care of the many victims of the comparatively few, who would be the losers financially.

The love of the almighty dollar has been the curse of this country. We have grown to measure and weigh National questions by the standard of our coin.

Another argument against prohibition is that of interfering with personal liberty. And of what does personal liberty consist? Liberty to debauch and ruin; liberty to take the bread from the mouths of little children; liberty to desolate homes, to incite murder and crime, and to fill our alms houses with ruined lives, and our potters' fields with pauper graves, that the brewer and distiller may be able to live in palatial homes and grow fat on the hard earned wages, wrenched from the hands of the drunkards wives and children.

We have tried local option, but the boot legger, and the blind tiger will find its way into unexpected and unprotected places and his work of destruction goes on. We may drive the serpent from our own garden, and he will show his ugly head in that of our neighbor.

There is but one remedy, that of absolute State wide, Nation wide and world wide prohibition. And it is coming. We must crush out this evil, that our young men may go forth in safety fortified and equipped to fight the great battle for democracy, in which the very flower of our land have enlisted today.

Let there be no compromise. May our Legislators stand firm for the right and place Maryland our Maryland in the great white column of States which have already thrown off the shackels, and banish for ever from our shores, the curse of the liquor traffic which has so long blotted and stained her fair name.

Carroll County dry! Maryland dry! the Nation dry. God Speed the day.

COUNCIL OF DEFENSE NOTES

The District Committee appointed by Mrs. James Pearre Wantz, leader for Westminster District, met at the home of Mrs. Wantz, March 1, 1918. At the some time and place, was held also a meeting of the Thrift Committee, of which Mrs. James W. Beacham is Chairman. This Committee is helping with receiving canned fruit, preserves, etc., to be used to feed the soldiers who come through Wstminster. The following was received from Mr. Baetjer, Food Administrator for Maryland, in reply to an inquiry from the Westminster Council of Defennse:

"With reference to your inquiry regarding the farming people in your section, we can advise you that the United States Food Administration permits farmers having corn meal or hominy in their possession in a quantity sufficient to offset the amount of flour which they wish to purchase, to present to the dealer or miller a certificate stating that they have in hand an amount of corn meal or hominy equaling in weight the amount of flour which they wish to secure for their own need, and this corn meal or hominy has not been used nor will not be used as an effect to secure other flour purchases. This certificate is acceptable as an offset to other substitute cereals which they otherwise would be required to purchase and will enable them to secure their flour by its use."

These Committees are planning a "Thrift Entertainment," admission free, but a thrift stamp will be given for your quarter. Rev. Edgar T. Read and Mr. John N. Cuningham addressed the committee, urging the sale of Thrift Stamps. Mrs. Robert Sargent Shriver, Chairman of the Carroll County Commission of the council of Defense, Women's Section, and Mrs. John H. Cunningham, who has charge of the Liberty Loan Section, were present.

Mrs. Wantz has charge of the Liberty Loan for Westminster. The other members of her Committee and thir sections are as follows: Mrs. J. D. Belt—Volunteer service & Education; Mrs. J. S. Myers—Registration & Employment Department; Mrs. James W. Beacham—Thrift Department; Mrs. D. S. Shipley, Vigilance.

Mrs. Robert Sargent Shriver attended the monthly meeting of the Council of Defense, held in Baltimore March 7th, and gave her report for Carroll County.

The County Commissioners have appointed the following Road Commissioners to serve for one year:

Freedom District—Burton Wilson.
Taneytown Dist.—J. N. O. Smith.
Uniontown Dist.—Guy S. Formwalt.
Myers' dist.—Jno W. Flickinger.
Woolery's Dist.—Geo. W. Beam.
Woolery's Dist.—Henry M. Buckingham.
Manchester Dist.—Ezra Frock and John W. Yingling.
Westminster Dist.—Grier S. Robertson and Noah Brown.
Hampstead Dist.—Harry F. Richards.
Franklin Dist.—Edgar S. Jenkins.
Middleburg Dist. —Geo. W. Winemiller.
New Windsor Dist.—William R. Hesson.
Union Bridge Dist.—John E. Buffington
Mt. Airy Dist.—Arthur M. Gosnell.
Berrett Dist.—James M. Pickett.

BARE BRANCH

We had spring like weather for the last few days. Roads in a very bad condition.

The public sale of Mr. Upton E. Myers held last Thursday was well attended and good prices were obtained.

Those on the sick list are Mrs. Jacob Frock and Miss Mary Myers.

Mrs. Olive Eckard, Mrs. Ida Louey and daughter, Esta, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Koontz and son, Paul, and Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Helwig spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Helwig.

A BILL INTRODUCED TO AMEND CHARTER OF WESTMINSTER

To the Sentinel.

Dear Sirs:

Apparently there is a misconstruction, by some people, of the actions of the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster, in relation to the Legislation being sought at Annapolis. The public is entitled to know what is being done in its behalf.

The Bill introduced a short time ago contained three sections dealing with the general and police powers of the town, the Fire Company, and the right of condemnation. It was prepared by me on resolution of the Mayor and Common Council.

The first section is simply the present section of the Charter dealing with the general and police powers of the municipality with an addition, which increases the police power of the town by authorizing it, "to have and exercise within the limits of the City all the power, commonly known as the police power, to the same extent as the State has or would exercise said power within said limits". This is the same power Baltimore City has had for years.

The second section simply carries out the recommendation of the town's meeting in reference to a fire truck.

The third section deals with the power of condemnation. It is broad and general, and authorizes the town agree upon a price with the owner. If erty it may purchase, where it can not to asquire by condemnation any propmeans that if the City had to have land for some municipal purpose, and could not agree on a price, the case could be tried in Court and a jury decide what was a fair price. It is the power every municipality should, and all public service corporations do have.

Under the present Charter of the Town it can condemn only land for streets and surface drains, pursuing a rather antiquated method. When the State forces the town to carry out its sewage disposal plans which are aready on file this power will be absolutely necessary to secure rights of way at a fair price.

On Monday night the Mayor and Common Council considered the effect of the decision of the Court of Appeals, in the Consolidated Public Utilities Case, holding our Charter proivsions in reference to requiring the consent of the town to any increase in the price of gas, electricity or water, void, and directed me to prepare a bill, to correct this situation as far as possible. Pursuant to these instructions the following bill was prepared and introduced in the House of Delegates by Mr. Ely Wednesday:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, that no person, firm, or corporation supplying or furnishing gas, electricity or water to the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster, or the inhabitants of said municipality, shall receive, collect, exact or demand, or attempt to receive, collect, exact or demand, a higher or greater charge, price or compensation, for furnishing or supplying gas, electricity or water to the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster, or the inhabitants of said municipality, than a uniform increase not exceeding ten per cent on the charge or rates which was made and enforced July 1, 1917 for gas, electricity or water; or enforce any rule or regulation in reference thereto prescribing any different terms or conditions for supplying gas, electricity or water than was in force on July 1, 1917, until such higher or greater charge, price or compensation is hereafter fixed, or rules or regulations prescribed by the Public Service Commission of Maryland, after a full and thorough investigation or hearing, of which due notice shall be given to all parties interested. And all and every rate, charge or compensation allowed or fixed by the Public Service Commission of Maryland, to be charged the City of Westminster and its inhabitants by any person, firm, or corporation for a public utility shall be based upon the fair value of the property (including the initial cost and excluding any and all enhancement of its reproduction cost due to abnormal conditions arising out of the present war) necessarily used to supply or furnish the utility for which the rate is allowed, and only such regulations shall be prescribed by it as are just and fair, and impose reciprocal obligations upon the person, firm or corporation supplying the utility, and its patrons or consumers.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, that the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster, are hereby authorized and directed to pass all ordinances it deems proper to secure the enforcement of this Act, by which it may make any person, firm or corporation violating its provisions, subject to a fine of not less than Twenty-Five Dollars nor more then One Hundred Dollars for each separate offense; and in addition to the fine or penalty imposed upon a corporation it may make its servants, agents or employees, who directed or participated in the violation of the ordinance, also subject to a similar penalty.

Unimportant sections of law omitted on account of space.

The Courts might hold this to be a special Act, and void, and to provide against this contingency, a companion bill was introduced at the same time, which is practically and substantially the same, but of slightly different language, which applies to the whole of Carroll County, instead of simply to the City of Westminster. The idea is that if the bill as to Westminster, should be void, then the Act as to Carroll County would take its place, and the town still be protected.

Objections have been made to the first bill by the Consolidated Public Utilities Company, and a hearing will be had before the local delagation shortly upon the day it fixes, and it has been suggested, that at the same time any objections it has to these recent bills could be presented.

The purpose of the Legislation last introduced, is to prevent higher rates for gas, electricity or water being collected than a ten per cent, increase on the old rates, until the Public Service Commission says what **are fair rates to be charged,** and the enforcement of any new rules regulating the conditions of their supply until the Commission says they are reasonable.

As the law now is, as interpreted by our Court of Appeals, the Utility Company can change its rates as often as it desires, on thirty days notice. This is what it did last fall, and can do to-morrow, even if these rates had been fixed by the Commission. The Town wants a law prohibiting the collection of higher rates than an uniform increase of ten per cent, on the old rates, until the Commission says a greater increase is **right.** Under the law now, rates can be increased until the Commission says they are **wrong,** and some times a considerable period elapses before the Commission can pass on the case.

In this connection, I desire to call attention to the fact, that the Public Service Commission has never passed on the fairness of any rate, or rule of the Consolidated Company. This it could do only after an investigation of the Company's plant and none has ever been made.

Respectfully yours,
GUY W. STEELE,
Attorney for the Mayor and Common Council of Westminster.

INSURANCE AGENTS PROTEST

New Tristate Association Condemns New Rule Book.

Hagerstown, Md., March 5.—Representatives of 30 insurance agencies met at the Hotel Hamilton this afternoon and organized the Tristate Fire Insurance Agents' Association, with Edward C. Cook, Charlestown, West Virginia, president; Ernest Helfenstein, Frederick, secretary, and N. Bruce Armstrong, Hagerstown, treasurer.

Representatives were present from Fulton and Franklin Counties, Pa., Frederick and Washington and Carrell counties, Md., and Berkley, Jefferson and Morgan counties, W. Va.

Resolutions were unanimously adopted condemning the new rule book published by the Middle Department Underwriters' Association effective April 1. Agents claim that under the proposed new rules insurance cannot be written intelligently and increased rates of 25 per rent. on all city dwellings and farm property will be imposed.

The resolutions recite that the proposed regulations are most radical and in numerous instances impossible in their application, that their enforcement will greatly injure the insurance business, cause endless litigation and losses, eventually get the business into bad repute, cause adverse legislation and that the general upset conditions of the people owing to the war, make radical changes now inexpedient. The agencies petition that they be allowed to operate under the old regulations. The resolutions are signed by H. A. McComas & Co., F. C. Thomas & Son, Helfenstein & Urner, N. Bruce Armstrong, Washington, Alexander & Cooke, C. Harry Keller, H. S. Thompson, J. M. Small, Robert M. Mahon, Harrison Schley, Charles E. Goodwin, Thomas M. Anderson, Burns & Jordan, Landis & Lefevre, A Frank Miller, Harry H. Harman, B. J. Boswell, William T. Hamilton, Jr., Potter & Crag, W. Harry Haller, C. V. Pawnoll, Detrow & Co., Mount Airy Real Estate Insurance Co., T. H. Dawson & Son, V. E. Johnson, H. L. Alexander, Moore Insurance and Bealty Co.

The market quotations as given by N. I. Gorsuch Son Co., are as follows: Wheat $2.10 per bushel; Corn $8.50 per barrel.

Mr. and Mrs. James Wilson. of New Oxford, Pa., are visiting Mrs. Wilson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Hunter. E. Main street, this city.

Mrs. Jesse Smith has moved from the Dr. Fitzhugh property to the rooms adjoining Mr. Joshua Smith's residence, E. Main street, this city.

Mr. Jos. D. Brooks Sr., of this city, who is at the Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Baltimore, undergoing treatment for his eyes, is improving and expects to return to his home Monday.

The Rev. W. L. Seabrook, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and State's Attorney of Carroll county, is dangerously ill at his apartment in the Westminster Hotel.

Bishop John Gardiner Murray visited Ascension Church, this city, on Sunday and confirmed eight persons. The service was largely attended.

Congressman Linthicum of Maryland, introduced an mendment in the Urgent Deficiency Bill in the House of Representatives, providing $4,000,000 to be used as a revolving machinery and sell the same to the farmers at cost and on terms.

Chairman Van Lear Black, of the Publicity Committee, entertained the county newspaper men of Maryland, at the Hotel Rennert, Baltimore, on Tuesday. Promment speakers made addresses on the next liberty loan drive which will begin in the near future. Ex-Gov. Phillips Lee Goldsborough, a former newspaper man, was present, and made a stirring appeal to the newspaper men for their co-operation and support in the next Liberty Loan campaign. There were about 60 guests, from different parts of the state, present. An elegant luncheon was served.

Mrs. George Lawson, mother of Mrs. George Folk, on North Main street, Manchester, Thursday morning and fell from the top of stair way to the bottom and broke her arm between the wrist and elbow, crushed the bones of the shoulder and bruised her face so bad that she is not recognizable. Drs. Sherman and Weaver were called and gave her surgical treatment. She is very stout and her mind has been bad for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Dickson and Miss Emma House, who had a lunch room and ice cream parlor in this city, moved to Baltimore, Thursday, where they will run the same kind of business at the corner of Frederick and Holmes St. They will reside at 39 S. Fulton Ave., Mrs. Dickson and Miss House will be much missed in church work, as they both took a very prominant part in Sunday school and all other work connected with Centenary M. E. Church, this city.

SALE RECALLED

My Public Sale as advertised to take place Wednesday, April 3, has been recalled because of having disposed of the Retail Milk business to Mr. Howard Koontz. We have contracted to furnish milk to Mr. Koontz and will therefore retain the herd of cattle, but the equipment and milk routes will be taken over by Mr Koontz, April 1st. I thank the public generally for the liberal patronage given me and ask that the same hearty support be given Mr. Koontz, who will handle high grade Milk, Cream, Skimmed and Butter Milk, Butter and Eggs.

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