Kent News

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1930

TEN YEARS OF PROHIBITION

Next Sunday the children of the United States in the Sunday schools will observe Temperance Day. It is therefore a most appropriate time to take stock of the situation in this country as regards the value of Prohibition. In estimating this value as an economic asset one must not ignore the fact that this natural policy had its earlier years in a period when economic disaster would have been the normal expectation. Probably there is no better index to prosperity than the savings accounts of the nation. While these are only a part of the total savings, which include life insurance, permanent investments, home buying, etc., they probably mirror more accurately than any other single factor the better condition of the wage earnings of the country.

In 1918, according to the figures in the report of the Comptraller of the Currency, the amounts of these savings were: Private-banks savings, $23,459,823; postal-savings banks, $148,471,499; and trust companies, $1,286,650,369; State-banks savings, $1,071,636,806; mutual-savings banks $4,442,096,393; stock-savings banks, $1,001,573,414; national banks saving departments, $1,398,358,000; total $9,372,246,304.

In an analysis of the report of the United States Comptroller of the Currency, W. Espy Albig, deputy manager of the American Bankers' Association savings bank division, says:

"The year ended June 30th, 1928, registered over the previous year the largest gain in savings in banks and trust companies of continental United States ever recorded in the history of this country.

The life insurance data of the country is another index of the econmic gains made under prohibition. Since the adoption of the eighteenth amendment our annual purchase of new life insurance has been multiplied three and one-half times. Over 65,000,000 people now carry life insurance amounting to $100,000,000,000.

Prohibition gave a new emphasis to the home-building impulse. Many who during the saloon epoch were forced to live in slums or in unspeakable tenements because the major portion of their income went across the bar are to-day knowing a new comfort and a new ambition. The best authorities in realty and building circles recognize the part played by prohibition in developing the new market for homes. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, in its recent review of building operations in the half of 1928, calls attention to the fact in 85 cities in the United States having a population of 100,000 or over, building permits issued in the first half of 1929 call for an expenditure of $1,425,106.688 of which 64.1 per cent was for residential building.

There is a double significance in this stimulation of home building. Not only does it register the improvement in home conditions and the higher standards of living which have developed since prohibition but this increased volume of construction means labor and employment for a host of men engaged in the building trade.

The automobile industry has a very intimate relation to prohibition. Even before Henry Ford made his famous statement, "If booze ever comes back to the United States, I am through with manufacturing," and "gasoline and booze don't mix; thinking people realize that intoxicating beverages could not be safely permitted if we were to continue to use high-speed automobiles on our public highways. The auto death list is already too high. If the saloon should return or if under any system drink should be legalized once more, few of us would care to run the risk incident to traveling on a road infested with drinking drivers.

The effect of prohibition upon the public health has been as marked as its effect upon the economic life of the country. This can likewise be measured by statistics whose authenticity is beyond question. According to the figures issued by the department of vital statistics in the United States Census Bureau, this decrease in the death rate has been equivalent to the saving of 100,000 to 200,000 lives per year. In other words, nearly 200,000 persons would have died annually during the past 10 years had the conditions prevailing during the license period been continued.

Prohibition has proven its worth. That it is no longer an experiment does not need citation of authorities or the presentation of elaborate statistics. Even the most casual observer can see for himself the change which has been wrought in America by this national policy. It has so transformed conditions in our social life that it is difficult today for us to think ourselves back into the setting of the preprohibition era. We have in this brief space of less than a decade become accustomed to streets and public places free from drunkards. We take for granted now prosperity which is merely one of the by-products of prohibition. We assume as a normal condition the better health and the improved living conditions which have become general. We may not always recognize that behind these things and underlying them as well there is the Eighteenth Amendment. It is there none the less.

The Political Strength of Prohibition

Get the significance of this: We have had prohibition for ten years. The policy had a majority in Congress for a number of years before that.

In every succeeding Congress the strength of the wets has been less than in the Congress immediately preceding. Despite the most strenuous and unscrupulous propaganda, the political strength of the wets has steadily diminished.

Congress is elected by the people: If the propaganda against the prohibition law had any merit it would be registered in popular approval at the time of Congressional elections.

The wets have the noise. The drys have the votes.

You were not born to be depressed and unhappy with them. And is anyone unhappy, remember that he is so for hifself; for God made all men enjoy felicity and peace.

LOAN ASSOCIATION EXAMINED

Queen Anne's and Talbot counties who have invested in stock of the Midland Home Building and Loan Association, with offices on Railroad Avenue, Centreville, will be interested in proceedings which developed, calling a halt to further stock-selling activities of the corporation. This is a branch of a Baltimore Loan Association.

Thomas H. Robinson, Attorney-General for Maryland, on Tuesday issued a temporary order restraining the officers of the Midland Home Building and Loan Association,LInc., from selling further shares of stock pending a final investigation into the affairs of the association. The order was issued under provision of the blue sky law.

Mr. Robinson's order was the result of a hearing conducted Monday by Willis R. Jones, Assistant Attorney General. At this hearing it was disclosed by the treasurer of the association that there had been paid to agents of the association by shareholders and depositors sums aggregating approximately $103,000.

It was stated that only about $33,000 of this amount reached the treasury of the association and it was contended on behalf of the organization that the balance of the money had been used for equipment and sales expenses.

It was alleged further that there had been withdrawals aggregating $8,000 or $10,000 from the association, and that it had about $25,000 invested in mortgages and about $3,500 deposited in banks. It also had borrowed $3,700 from a bank, it was stated.

Attached to Mr. Robinson's order is a questionnaire which the officers of the company are required to answer in order to enable the Attorney General to complete his investigation.

Complaint against the association was made by the Attorney-General by Mrs. Ethel Holland, of Easton, Md., who invested $4,000 with the organization. Of this amount, it was said, only $3,000 reached the treasury of the association and that the remaining portion had beer consumed for expenses.

The complaint arose when Mrs. Holland sought to withdraw her investment of $4,000 and was told that only $3,000 was subject to withdrawal.

Last year there were 35,000,000 copies of the Bible sold, the next best seller only running into 1,325,000 volumes. And what's more, there's no chance of its place being usurped, for a similar story has been told year after year for many years. What a remarkable best seller record.—The Christian Science Monitor.

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Thomas F. Healey, Attorney.
ORDER OF PUBLICATION
May (Meekins) McClain
versus
Benjamin McClain
In the Circuit Court for Kent County.
In Equity, No. 2601.

The object of the Bill filed in the above entitled case is to procure a Decree for a divorce a vinculo matrimonii for the Plaintiff, a resident of Kent county, Maryland, from the Defendant, a non-resident of the State of Maryland.

The Bill states:

1. That on the 13th day of June, 1923, May (Meekins) McClain was married to her husband, the said Benjamin McClain at Church Hill, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, by Rev. R. M. Wheeler, a duly ordained Minister of the Gospel, a certified copy of said marriage is hereto attached, marked "Exhibit A" and prayed to be made part of this Bill of Complaint.

2. That your Oratrix and the said Defendant, Benjamin McClain, had two children born to them from the said marriage. A. Mary Ellen McClain, aged 5 years, who at the time of the filing of this Bill of Complaint is in the custody of your Oratrix, and is being cared for and supported by your Oratrix, who lives with her father, Joshua Meekins, at Twilley's Lane, Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland.

B. Henry McClain, age 3 years, who at the time of filing this Bill of Complaint is in the custody of your Oratrix, and is being cared for and supported by your Oratrix, who lives with her father, Joshua Meekins, at Twilley's Lane, Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland.

3. Your Oratrix respecifully prays the Court to award her the guardianship and custody of her two minor children, to wit, Mary Ellen McClain and Henry McClain.

4. That your Oratrix and the Defendant, Benjamin McClain, together with the children of said marriage, were living at New Castle, State of Delaware, until sometime in June, 1925, when the said Defendant, Benjamin McClain, refused to support your Oratrix and the two children of said marriage, and as a result of the same was compelled to return to the home of her father, Joshua Meekins, at Twilley's Lane, Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, for food and shelter, and that the said Benjamin McClain, Defendant, has treated her with great cruelty, harshness and brutality, at times striking and beating her, and his conduct became so intolerable that she was obliged to leave his house.

5. That through the conduct of your Oratrix towards her husband, the said Benjamin McClain, has always been kind, affectionate and above reproach, the said Benjamin McClain has without any just cause or reason abandoned her, and has declared his intention to live with her no longer, that such abandonment has continued uninterruptedly for more than three years, and is deliberate and final, and the separation of the parties beyond any reasonable expectation of reconciliation.

6. That ever since their said marriage your Oratrix has behaved herself as a faithful, chaste and affectionate wife towards the said Benjamin McClain, defendant.

7. That your Oratrix is a resident of Chestertown, Kent County, State of Maryland, since June 1925, and has resided at Twilley's Lane, Chestertown, Maryland, since that time.

8. That the Defendant, Benjamin McClain, is a non-resident of the State of Maryland, and at the time of the filing of this Bill of Complaint was residing at 1210 Appe Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

It is thereupon, this 16th day of January 1930, ordered by the Circuit Court for Kent County, in Equity, that the Plaintiff, by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in some newspaper published in said Kent County, once in each of four successive weeks before the 15th day of February next, give notice to the said Benjamin McClain, non-resident defendant, warning him to appear in the Court in person, or by Solicitor, on or before the 3rd day of March next, to show cause, if any he has, why a decree ought not to be passed as prayed.

ROBERT A. SHALLCROSS, Clerk.
True Copy—Test:
ROBERT A. SHALLCROSS, Clerk.
j18-4t

CAUTION

All persons are warned against trespassing upon the shores, pond, marshes, woods and fields of the undersigned on the Stavely farm with dog, gun or otherwise. Clifford M. Newsome. n16-12t*

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RALPH MILLER,
LOUIS MILLER,
ARNOLD WILLIS,
JAMES. H. GROVES,
ROBERT R. HILL,
j4-tf

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