



Arkansas Methodist

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LITTLE ROCK AND NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCES, METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

Our Slogan: The Arkansas Methodist in every Methodist Home in Arkansas

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IMPORTANT FOR GOOD CITIZENS

WITH the question of Prohibition forced into party politics, it is exceedingly important that conscientious citizens support the right kind of candidates for public office. Much will depend on having dry men in Congress; hence we urge our readers to ascertain, if possible, the attitude of candidates for Senate and Congress and then to disseminate the information and follow with votes for the best candidates in the coming Democratic primary. In view of the possibly weakening of the Volstead Law, it is tremendously vital that the right kind of men be elected to our Legislature and as sheriffs and prosecuting attorneys; hence we urge readers to ascertain the attitude of all candidates for these positions and then to work actively for those who stand for both state and national Prohibition. As the next Legislature will be importuned to pass a race-track gambling law, readers are urged also to find out how candidates for the Legislature stand on this question. Do not fail to act. Much depends on getting the right kind of men in all of these positions. Wake up and act.

REPORT ON PROHIBITION

Adopted by the Board of Temperance and Social Service of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at the Annual Meeting of the Board, on July 8, 1932.

Historic Position of Methodism.

The warfare between Methodism and traffic in intoxicating liquors is inevitable and irrepressible. Our founder, John Wesley, branded the dram sellers of his day as "Poisoners-General," and his true followers today recognize the traffic as being the greatest public enemy of the individual, the school, the home and the church. It is not a question of Puritanism or forcible individual repression, but of the "general welfare," of the right of society to protect itself from the alcoholic indulgence of individual citizens. Whatever form the warfare may assume, whatever be the particular battle in the war, the issue is always fundamentally between the selfish appetite of the drinker and the greed for gold of the seller, on the one hand, and the protection of the individual, the home and society on the other.

Liquor Traffic Criminal.

United Methodism the world round declares today, that the brand of the criminal should be placed upon a traffic, which changes normal men and women into silly, reckless fools and crazy, dangerous brutes, and thus not only destroys them individually, but makes them a burden and menace to the entire social order. The killing of 35,000 and the maiming of nearly one million persons in automobile accidents, furnishes the basis for simply one unanswerable social protest against any relaxation of the prohibition law. During the past half-century of warfare to remove the strangle-hold of the liquor traffic upon the industrial, political, social and domestic life of the nation, Methodism has ever been in the forefront of every battle, and Methodist pulpits, Methodist District, Annual and General Conferences have recorded relentless opposition to the traffic and invincible determination to outlaw it as the common enemy of the race. Whatever other church, social or political groups may say or do, Methodism will not lower her standards or agree to give a legal status to the traffic in intoxicants anywhere under the flag.

Position of Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Before and since the adoption of the Eighteenth Amendment, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, has declared its approval of that amendment, and since 1920 its opposition to any modification or repeal. In 1930 the General Conference at Dallas, Texas,

 * NOW THEREFORE THUS SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS: CONSIDER YOUR WAYS. YE HAVE SOWN MUCH AND BRING IN LITTLE; YE EAT, AND YE HAVE NOT ENOUGH; YE DRINK, BUT YE ARE NOT FILLED WITH DRINK; YE CLOTHE YOU, BUT THERE IS NONE WARM; AND HE THAT EARNETH WAGES, EARNETH WAGES TO PUT INTO A BAG WITH HOLES.—Haggai 1:5-6.

adopted unanimously the report of the Committee on Temperance presented by Josephus Daniels, of North Carolina, chairman, and A. D. Betts, of South Carolina, secretary, in which report it was declared:

"We firmly set our faces against any recession from the constitutional outlawry of the liquor traffic. We highly resolve to enlist our every power to retain in full force the Eighteenth Amendment and all laws of State and Nation for its observance and enforcement. We will never surrender the advance made for national sobriety. We would add our clear and definite affirmation of the clear and inalienable right of every member of our Church whether minister or layman, to oppose and to vote against any candidate from Constable to President who fails to stand for the principles herein advanced and approved. We urge our people to select public officers who believe in the enforcement of the law, not only because prohibition is the law but because it ought to be the law."

At every national political convention since the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment in 1920, representatives of our Board have appeared and stated to the Committee on Resolutions of the conventions the position of our General Conference, that prohibition is a non-partisan question, and they have opposed the adoption of any prohibition plank, wet or dry, asking simply for a Law Enforcement plank, and from 1920 to 1928 inclusive, the conventions of both parties took the action requested. The leadership and work of the Board, which include these representations was specifically approved by the General Conference of 1930.

For the first time, in 1932, both the major political parties have made platform declarations on prohibition, against vigorous protests of the combined dry organizations of the country, our Board included, which instructed that prohibition be not made the subject of national political party action. We are now faced, therefore, with an entirely new phase of prohibition warfare and must adjust our program to the changed conditions. What are the facts?

Republican Platform:

The Republican platform pledges the party to efficient law enforcement, opposes any form of attempted nullification, sets forth the futility of so-called referendums, emphasizes that prohibition is not a party political issue, that no public official (which includes, president, vice president, senators, congressmen, state legislators), nor any members of the Republican party are bound by the convention's action on this question, declares, that the progress and the gains which have already been made in dealing with the evils inherent with the liquor traffic must be preserved and the evils eliminated and declares that the convention does not favor submission of the question of retention or repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment without a substitute therefor, the substance of which substitute is set forth in the resolutions adopted, and finally declares that Congress should submit the proposed substitute in order that the

people be given the opportunity to decide whether they will retain the Eighteenth Amendment unchanged or will ratify an amendment which will permit the several states to legalize the sale of intoxicants, such legislation, however, to be subject to the power of the Federal government to protect those states where prohibition exists, and to safeguard the citizens everywhere from the return of the saloon and its attendant evils. The platform indicates no preference between the Eighteenth Amendment and the proposed substitute, but leaves the decision of that question to be determined by the people without any recommendation by the convention.

Should the amendment proposed by the Republican convention be ratified by the people, while it is true that the states will have power to legalize the liquor traffic, this power would be subject to the declared duty of Congress to protest those states where prohibition exists, and furthermore the Constitution itself would positively forbid the return of the saloon.

Briefly, therefore, the Republican platform takes no position for or against the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, but does oppose repeal without constitutional safeguards against the saloon and the violation of the rights of the states.

The Democratic Platform:

The Democratic platform declares that it favors the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, the immediate submission by Congress of a resolution to effect such repeal, the immediate modification of the Volstead Act, to legalize beer and other beverages permissible under the Constitution, to provide proper and needed revenue, urging the states to enact measures to prevent the return of the saloon, and to bring the liquor traffic under the complete supervision and control of the states, and also demanding that the federal government effectively exercise its power to enable the states to protect themselves against the importation of intoxicating liquors in violation of their laws.

The Democratic platform makes no reference to enforcement of the prohibition law nor any statement that prohibition is not a partisan political issue, absolving members of the party from any obligation to be bound by the prohibition plank, which plank is therefore as binding as any other part of the platform.

Briefly, should the prohibition amendment proposed by the Democratic convention be ratified by the people, the legal status of the liquor traffic would be exactly the same as obtained before the ratification of the amendment, with no federal constitutional guarantee against the return of the saloon.

Rights of Conscience:

Any attempt by any party platform declaration to bind the members of that party on a moral issue is a distinct invasion of the moral realm, and is, therefore, not only an indefensible infringement of the rights of conscience, but a gross insult to independent citizenship. Such action will be repudiated by conscientious men and women throughout the country, and this entirely apart from prohibition. It is amazing that such action should have been permitted without vigorous persistent protest. Even though doomed to sure defeat by intolerant wet fanaticism, as voiced from the floor and the galleries, this attempt by a political convention, to bind the attitude and action of members of a party on a great moral question, should have been denounced and resisted to the limit and a recorded aye and nay vote demanded, before such unprecedented action was finally taken.

What for the Future?

Endeavoring to meet the obligation laid upon
 (Continued on page 2.)

Personal and Other Items

REV. S. C. DEAN, one of our good superannuates, who lives at Hamburg, called last week while he was visiting a relative in our city.

DR. PAUL W. QUILLIAN, pastor of our Winfield Church, has been selected to direct the Little Rock Community Chest campaign this fall, a difficult but highly important task.

PASTORS should direct the attention of Methodist farmers who contemplate being in Fayetteville during Farmers' Week to the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the Methodist Assembly on Mt. Sequoyah.

MRS. RIGGS, wife of Rev. A. L. Riggs, our pastor at Gravette, on July 12, submitted to a serious operation at St. John's Hospital, Joplin, Mo. The operation was successful and she is rapidly recovering.

OUR readers should patronize their home printers; but when they have printing that must be sent away, let them correspond with our printers, the Keith Printing and Publishing Co., who are prepared to do any kind of printing.

REV. A. M. HUTTON, evangelistic singer, has written a song, "Arkansas, the Wonder State," and set it to music. It is a fine song for a patriotic occasion. The price is 25 cents postpaid. Order of Rev. A. M. Hutton, Clarksville, Ark.

SOME of our friends have responded to our appeal for dollar bills, and we appreciate their response; but we have not yet had enough. Let many who are in arrears send dollar bills promptly. Put your money in circulation and break the depression.

AT Bethesda Church, about 12 miles northwest of Batesville, Sunday, August 7, will be "Home-Coming Day." There will be sermons, talks about "old times," and old hymns. Friends are invited to come and bring their dinners and enjoy the day. All former pastors are specially invited.

REV. JAS. F. JERNIGAN writes that in his write-up of Hoxie in the July 7 issue he did not write "top-heavy with dignity," but did write "dig, dig, as we old superannuates did." Our printer did his best with Brother Jernigan's handwriting. When he uses a typewriter, it is easier to get his meaning.

REV. S. M. YANCEY, superintendent of the Western Methodist Assembly, a few weeks ago, held a meeting at Henderson, Texas, and the pastor, Rev. E. G. Cooke, writes in highly complimentary vein of the preaching. When Brother Yancey is not engaged in work at Mt. Sequoyah, he is available for help in protracted meetings, and pastors would do well to secure his services in ample time. Nineteen Boy Scouts went back with Brother Yancey to the camp at Mt. Sequoyah, and reported that they had a glorious time.

FOR some months there has been doubt whether the Pilsom Training School at Smithville, Okla., would open this fall on account of the financial conditions; but information now comes

that it will open; hence friends who wish to patronize it may make their plans. It is a great school of its kind, and President W. B. Hubbell, who has thrown himself into its upbuilding, is to be congratulated on the fact that the school will be maintained. If you know of boys and girls who must work their way through school, put them in touch with President Hubbell.

REV. JEFFERSON SHERMAN, P. E. Batesville District, who has been released from a Memphis hospital, writes: "I desire to express my deepest appreciation of the interest manifested on the part of many friends while in Memphis following an operation in a hospital, for the beautiful flowers, for personal visits of friends even when I was unable to receive them, for encouraging messages, and for the many prayers. Mrs. Sherman and the family join me in appreciation and pray God's richest blessings upon each and all."

REPORT ON PROHIBITION

(Continued from page 1.)

this Board by the General Conference action, we emphasize:

1. That the General Conference declared in 1930 with the full knowledge of the facts that the Eighteenth Amendment is the expression of the determination of the social conscience of the nation embodied in the organic law by the constitutional process, by the votes of congressmen, senators, and state legislators, all elected by the people, when prohibition was declared by both parties to be a non-partisan question.

2. The question of the retention, modification or repeal should likewise be determined by vote of the people in senatorial, congressional and legislative elections as a non-partisan question.

3. The responsibility of individual citizens to their country and their God for their votes in the election of president, senators, congressmen and state legislators can not be evaded and cannot be altered one whit by any party platform. Moral principles are always paramount to any political allegiance, just as conscience and God tower above political party dictum and human leaders.

4. In harmony with the declaration of the General Conference that in all elections from constable to president, our people should vote for men and women who believe that prohibition ought to be the law, we urge our people to meet unwaveringly the serious obligation which has been thrust upon them in the coming election for president, senators, congressmen, and state legislators by voting for those candidates only, who believe that prohibition ought to be the law, and by opposing openly and vigorously the proposals which have been made for modification or repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, and the weakening of the Volstead Act.

5. That our people may have clear, definite information as to the attitude on prohibition of all candidates, for president, senators, congressmen and state legislators, we strongly advise that individual citizens or groups of citizens make public inquiries of all such candidates, as to their attitude on the question of modification or repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment or the weakening of the Volstead Act or of State prohibition enforcement laws, and requesting public reply to the same. We advise that such questions be asked and answers demanded, even though candidates have already been nominated in primaries,

or are without present or proposed opposition, in order that the position of such candidates may be clearly indicated upon which to base action in the present and in future elections.

Present Situation:

The situation today is very different from that in 1928. Then the contest revolved around the personal attitude of two candidates for the presidency on the question of prohibition. Today, while again the personal attitudes of the two presidential candidates will be involved, the platforms of the two parties are to be carefully compared and most important of all, senators, congressmen and state legislators are to be chosen. Despite the furious assaults of wet fanatics, the continued false wet propaganda and the action of political party conventions, we believe that a majority of the people of the nation are opposed to modification or repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment, and that they still believe that the best method of handling the traffic in intoxicating liquors is by branding it as criminal, which it truly is. We desire better observance of the law by the people and better enforcement by the State and National governments, and we urge the provision by States and Nation of whatever men and money may be necessary for more efficient prohibition enforcement.

Proof of the benefit of the Eighteenth Amendment is evidenced by governmental records, social welfare agencies and other authoritative sources. The money formerly spent in saloons has since their abolition been spent not only for necessities but for comforts and pleasure. The same dime cannot be spent for beer and bread. The legalization of the liquor traffic means the practical return of the saloon, for whatever method of distribution is adopted, the family income will be depleted in spending for booze instead of shoes.

We are faced today with the practical question, Shall the wet cities with their large foreign-born population, dominated by a hybrid leadership opposed to prohibition, with a wet metropolitan press, subservient to its wet city circulation and advertisers, with millionaires spending large sums for the return of the liquor traffic, admittedly to relieve themselves of taxation by shifting it to the women and children of the homes of the poorer citizens, with groups of high society women clamoring for cocktails, as over against the positive, unimpeachable opposition of sacrificial workers like Evangeline Booth and Jane Addams, with the sidewalks of New York, Chicago, and similar groups in other cities howling down and overpowering free speech in public representative conventions without any rebuke or protest from high educational and senatorial wet leadership; Shall such groups by persistent, unfair, false propaganda and unscrupulous use of party machinery be permitted to determine the policy of our great nation on this great moral, social question, and in a wave of unreasoning wet hysteria strike from the Constitution the greatest moral, social enactment by any nation in any age? We appeal to the manhood and womanhood of America, to the lovers of children and homes, to stand unshaken and meet their responsibility, as Christian citizens, by voting for men who will refuse to remove the brand of the criminal from the traffic in intoxicating liquors. We are in the midst of a great battle in a great warfare in which warfare Methodism will not betray her consistent history, but here and now declares to all the world that in this war there will be no surrender, no retreat, no compromise.

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