

AMERICA COENE DRY.

(Frank L. Polk, Acting Secretary of State of the United States of America.)

The following is the text of the Proclamation making America dry:

To all to whom these Presents shall come. Greeting:

Know Ye, That the Congress of the United States at the second session, Sixty-fifth Congress, began at Washington on the third day of December, in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, passed a Resolution in the words and figures following:

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following amendment to the constitution be, and hereby is proposed to the States, to become valid as a part of the constitution when ratified by the legislatures of the several States as provided by the constitution:

ARTICLE—

Section 1. After one year from the ratification of this article the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for beverage purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 2. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Section 3. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission thereof to the States by Congress.

And, further, that it appears from official documents on file in this department that the amendment to the constitution of the United States proposed as aforesaid has been ratified by the legislatures of the States of Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota,

Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

And, further, that the States whose legislatures have so ratified the said proposed Amendment constitute three-fourths of the whole number of States in the United States.

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Frank L. Polk, Acting Secretary of State of the United States, by virtue and in pursuance of Section 205 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, do hereby certify that the Amendment aforesaid has become valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the constitution of the United States.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington this 29th day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

FRANK L. POLK,

Acting Secretary of State

The Ratification Tidal Wave swept over the United States. In thirteen months lacking one day the requisite number of States ratified the Federal Amendment, and thus completed the legislative process of voting the nation dry. The promptness and speed with which the States ratified astonished even the most hopeful of the friends of the movement. The liquor interests were overwhelmed, and had little to say. When Levy Mayer, legal representative of practically all the distillers of the nation was asked to comment on the situation, he replied: "Nothing to say. The prairies are on fire, that's all. It is sweeping just like a prairie fire and there's no stopping it."

"The ratification of the Federal amendment with such celerity and unanimity leaves it a plumbless mystery. There was nothing in contemporary politics or life to explain any such action. It is as if a sailing ship on a windless ocean were sweeping ahead, propelled by some invisible force," exclaims the "South Bend News-Times."

"Economic considerations seem to have had little effect. Great industrial communities, hitherto regarded as naturally and permanently in favour of the liquor traffic, have turned against

it. States with big cities have yielded about as completely as States with small urban populations. Self-interest failed to interfere. Whisky States like Kentucky, beer-manufacturing States like Ohio and Wisconsin and Missouri, wine-growing States like California have voted dry along with the rest.

"Racial tradition and preference seem to have exerted just as little restraining power. German cities like Milwaukee and Cincinnati and St. Louis, and cities like Boston and Chicago, with large mixed foreign populations accustomed to moderate drinking, have gone the way of more typically American communities."

Idaho, South Dakota, Kansas, Washington, and Wyoming both Houses ratified the amendment by a unanimous vote.

Nebraska gave a unanimous vote in the Lower House, and one vote against it in the Senate. Oklahoma, Maine, West Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Oregon, Utah, and Michigan gave unanimous vote in the Senate. In Colorado one vote was cast against it in the Senate, and two in the Lower House.

Forty-four States have ratified the amendment; Connecticut and Rhode Island have failed to ratify, and two States have yet to vote, in one of which the Lower House has ratified.

According to the Press of the States the Prohibition Amendment will wipe out with a stroke 236 distilleries 992 breweries, and more than 300,000 saloons and liquor stores. The United States Treasury will lose a source of taxation worth many million dollars, and State Treasuries will also lose their millions. On the other hand, the liquor question will be removed from politics, and the expense of government will be cut down by the decrease in violations of law.—"Union Signal."

No man can have a reasonable argument for an open saloon county. I can enforce the law much easier now than I could even six months ago. The bone-dry law has helped me 40 per cent. in enforcing the Prohibition law. The drier we get it, the better for all concerned. I am for Prohibition first, last and always as long as I am an officer at least, for it makes crime less and keeps meat and bread in many poor families' homes, which would otherwise be dependent on the county.—H. D. Crout, Sheriff, Oklahoma City.