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Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set. -:- Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward.—Bible

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN—"Savior of His Country"

Kingdom Emphases for Heart, Home, and Church

Illinois Drys Adopt Aggressive Program

F. D. L. Squires, Research Secretary

NEARLY 500 representatives and friends of Illinois dry organizations, claiming in their membership more than a million men and women voting citizens, concluded a remarkable two-days militant council of war Wednesday, January 25, with the unanimous adoption of a plan for immediate and intensive precinct organization of the entire state for educational work and the defeat of every candidate opposing prohibition.

This statewide rally marked the beginning of a new united movement of Illinois drys. It was the first state rally ever held in which, under the auspices of the Illinois Conference of Organizations Supporting the 18th Amendment, representatives of forty-two (42) different groups comprising all recognized temperance societies, church, business and women's civic and welfare movements participated. The attendance was distinctively statewide, delegates from scores of counties, outside of Springfield and Sangamon County, outnumbering at every session those representing local groups.

The two-day statewide rally issued a call for an uprising of the temperance forces of the state and set Lincoln's Birthday, February 12, as the date on which to inaugurate plans to mobilize the dry forces of every precinct, city and township in every county in the state against repeal and for a continuous educational program. The outline of the program adopted calls for the immediate initiation in every county of a committee to co-ordinate the forces of all dry organizations in their respective areas.

The three-fold duty of the county committee so formed was thus described: Choose a precinct chairman and form a precinct committee in every precinct which will at the first possible moment, begin a personal house-to-house canvass in which uniform information cards are to be used to enroll all dry or hopeful voters, to carry on systematic literature distribution and promote friendly acquaintance of the voters with temperance facts and plans.

Two features of this statewide educational program are the emphasis upon free distribution of the literature and elimination of broadcast appeals for funds for the carrying on of the canvass.

"We do not want to handicap our approach to or contact with either drys or wets with any public appeal for funds. Our aim in this program is, not to raise money, but to carry the truth direct about prohibition to all the people," declared one of the leaders of the movement to a representative of the American Business Men's Prohibition Foundation.

The program of the two-days event was packed with optimism and enthusiasm, but not apparently of the effervescent kind, but of solid confidence that the sober, second thought of the American people will not follow much farther the lead of beer and repeal advocates.

Arthur Barnhart of Chicago, head of the Illinois Conference of Dry Organizations, struck a new keynote of fearless challenge of the whole liquor program.

"We have got to face the facts as they are," he declared. "Mere meetings and "get-togethers" will not save the Amendment. Even money is a minor necessity. The trouble with American politics today is that decent, patriotic citizens refuse to work at the job of keeping our country true to its ideals. For years the difficulty has been that, as prohibitionists we do not realize the necessity of individual endeavor to promote support for the Eighteenth Amendment. The simple question that faces us is, 'Do we want to bother to take the time necessary to champion the truth and express practical devotion to our principles?' If we are willing to 'bother' we can be confident of victory.

"We need to inaugurate a personal house-to-house canvass of every home in Illinois,—not one momentary canvass, but a systematic continuous plan of contact and relationship with our neighbors in every precinct. The wets have that organization now. The drys have the truth and law on their side, but we cannot muster one-tenth of our strength until there is a general uprising of dry activity, which must be done by volunteers who will work, not for money, but for the sake of the cause. We must remember that giving money is not enough. We must give ourselves and personally co-operate.

"We must study and become acquainted with our neighbors; we must know what, if any, are their objections to prohibition and must meet these objections carefully and specifically with the facts which are available. We can afford to be careful but we cannot afford to delay.

"The moment the politicians and office-holders learn that we are developing and building such a precinct-by-precinct alignment on behalf of prohibition, they will change their tone, their attitude and their votes. We must carry this through to the polls straight to election day, get the dry votes out, watch the count,—in many instances we have found that the vote for decency is in direct proportion to the number of watchers at the polls.

"The destiny of self government is in the balance. Today all that we have to do is to get busy personally, to make democracy operative. It is our birthright and these institutions are yours and mine to fight for and preserve."

Mrs. Ferguson made a special plea on behalf of women particularly in the plans for united Illinois defense and pledged the hearty support and co-operation of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

Dr. George B. Safford, Illinois superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League, expressed the full participation of that organization in the plans adopted, while Mr. Charles R. Jones, of the American Business Men's Prohibition Foundation, Mr. Barnhart, speaking for the moment for the Saracens group, Mr. MacNaul for the Allied Forces, Mrs. Eulette and others for different women's groups, warmly commended the program.

The headquarters of the statewide campaign under the auspices of the Illinois Conference of Dry Organizations, will be located at the office of Mr. Arthur Barnhart, 105 West Monroe Street, Chicago, where information will be available.

One of the outstanding features of the Springfield council was the address given by Hon. W. D. Bayley of Winnipeg, whose graphic and pictorial presentation of the latest scientific truths regarding alcohol, to children of public and high schools produced a sensation and was received with greatest interest and enthusiasm. Plans were immediately put under way to arrange a series of personal presentations of his message in a large number of schools throughout the state similar to the plans under which Mr. Bayley spoke to some 30,000 pupils in Chicago area schools last year. Further information regarding Mr. Bayley's availability may be secured by addressing Mrs. Herman Fabry, 2408 Lincoln Street, Evanston, Ill.

President Lincoln's Beaver Robe

C. A. Stephens, in Youth's Companion

In August, 1859, shortly before he was nominated for the Presidency, Abraham Lincoln made a trip by steamboat from Leavenworth to Council Bluffs. The captain of the steamboat, Joseph La Barge, has given the following interesting narrative of the trip:

"I didn't know Mr. Lincoln then, but had heard about his debates with Senator Douglas and his anti-slavery speeches. I was a proslavery man at that time, and owned a few negroes myself. So I thought Lincoln was wrong and disliked him, but I went to meet him and his party when they came aboard.

"He introduced himself. 'My name is Abe Lincoln,' he said, and he mentioned the names of his fellow travelers. They wanted to go up to Council Bluffs, and I had the clerk look to their staterooms.

"At first sight I thought Lincoln was the homeliest man I ever saw, and the tallest. A man six feet, three looks tall, anyhow, and the very high old silk hat that Lincoln wore made him look taller still. He had to stoop at every door he went through. I wondered why he wore that hat. On the Missouri few men wore silk hats in those days. Pretty soon I understood the reason for that eccentricity. That hat was his valise. He had all his papers in it and many of his other things. When he wanted anything, like his bandana handkerchief, or his notes, he took off his hat in such a way as not to spill the contents, picked out what he needed, then swung it back on his head again. He was lean and rather slender. His rusty black coat looked much too large round for him, but the arms were too short and made his cuffs very conspicuous. I thought at first he must be in poor health, he was so sallow and wrinkled; but he was remarkably quick in his movements and a fast walker. You forgot his looks, however, after you had talked with him a few minutes.

"The boat had hardly more than cast off and started on its way up the river when he came up to the pilot house and asked if he might come in and sit awhile. He appeared to see everything on the boat and along the shores. I soon found that, if I told him all he wanted to know about the Missouri River, I wouldn't do anything else that trip. It wasn't idle talk that he wanted. He was in earnest to learn all I knew of the Missouri. He asked about the water in summer, the shiftings of the channel,

the snags, the ice and the ice gorges, how far above Fort Benton I had ever been, and about the Yellowstone River.

"But most of all and particularly he inquired about the Indians along the upper river, the Blackfeet, the Arikarees, the Mandans and the Crows. He was very desirous to know all I could tell him about their personal characteristics, their chiefs, what power the chiefs had, also their food in summer and winter, and especially how I thought they would be able to live after the whites had destroyed the great herds of buffalo. He seemed to foresee just what would happen when the buffalo were gone. 'We shall have to feed them,' he said. 'And we ought to do so,' he added judicially. 'We are taking their food from them as well as their country.'

"The buffalo herds interested him greatly. He asked particularly how much smaller the herds seemed to be than when I first went up the Missouri, in 1833, and whether I thought they would hold out fifty years longer.

"I told him not twenty-five.

"He regarded me thoughtfully for some moments. 'What do you think of the American Fur Company?' he asked me at last.

"I replied that for downright selfishness and hard dealings with Indians and whites alike there had probably never been its equal on this continent.

"Mr. Lincoln smiled.

"'And the Indian agents whom the government sends out here, to take charge of the annuities paid to these different tribes, what of them? Do you know many of them?'

"'I know nearly all of them,' I said.

"'What kind of men are they?'

"'Mostly rascals. Whenever there's a politician who has to be rewarded, but is too great a rascal to be given an office in any civilized place, they get rid of him, at Washington, by sending him out here as an Indian agent,' I replied. I added that nearly all the trouble we had ever had with the Indians was due to unfair and dishonest treatment on the part of the fur company or our Indian agents.

"'This ought all to be righted,' Mr. Lincoln said. 'It must be righted. If it is ever in my power, it shall be righted.'

"Before he left the boat at Council Bluffs he came and thanked me for the information I had given him. 'About those buffalo,' he said. 'Twenty-five years, you think, will see the last of them?'

"'Yes sir,' I replied. 'At the rate they are going now.'

"He put his hand on my shoulder. 'La Barge,' he said, 'if it comes handy I wish you would get me a fine buffalo robe—for a keepsake.'

"'I will try to get you a good one and send it to you,' said I.

"We shook hands at parting. I had quite changed my mind about the man; and I went to hear him speak at the town hall that evening; for the Council Bluffs people had persuaded him to make a speech there before taking the train for home.

"His subject was the negro and the nation. He could hardly have chosen a more unpopular one. When he first began to talk I was disgusted and started to go out, but concluded to sit down again and hear what he had to say.

"He used very plain, candid language without any attempt at oratory. He apologized first for presenting his views. 'But this is something you will soon have to face,' he said. 'A national crisis is coming.'

"I do not remember his exact language. I did not much care to listen at first. I did not agree with him at all. But he went on to show from history and from moral law that no nation could become great or long endure which oppressed a large class of its population, like the negroes, or refused to give them legal rights.

"He made his point. There wasn't much applause. But I could see that the audience felt the effectiveness of his argument. He did not convince me at the time. But he shook my belief in slavery as I had never been shaken before. I remember going back to my boat, thinking that possibly he might be right, after all.

"I was disappointed when they elected him President. I expected to lose my negroes—and I did. All through the Civil War I felt very sore over the turn affairs had taken. I tried to do business and make my trips up and down the river, as a public carrier; but I had a great deal of trouble. First the Federals took possession of my steamboat, then the Confederates. Time and again I was under arrest and my life was in danger. I lost money. Transportation services, rendered the government on both sides, went unpaid. The Federal authorities owed me twenty thousand dollars, but when I sent in my claim Secretary Chase, to whom it was referred, replied that I was a Secessionist and must expect to suffer with the rest. Those were hard years for me.

"But I didn't forget that buffalo robe. It wasn't easy then to get one as good as I wished for the President. Twice I succeeded but the first one was spoiled in tanning; and guerillas who ransacked my boat at Sibley stole the other.

"At last Crooked Elbow, a Crow chief whom I had befriended gave me ten beaver pelts, the handsomest skins I ever saw. I determined to redeem my promise by making those skins into a robe for the President. I was short of money. Doctor Burleigh of Kankton and Mr. Charles Galpin, who were about to visit Washington, shared with me the expense of having the skins prepared and the robe richly lined and embroidered.

"In January, 1863, Doctor Burleigh, Galpin and I went to Washington and called at the White House on the second evening after our arrival. Several Congressmen and two Union major generals were there in advance of us; but, when we sent in our names the President's private secretary came and showed us to a smaller room, apart from the others.

"After a long while the President came in. He looked older and careworn. I did not suppose he would remember me. But he grasped my hand at once, exclaiming, 'How are you, La Barge?' and went on to say how well he recalled our talks in the pilot house of the Emilie.

"'How are the Indians, these days?' he asked. 'How are the buffalo? And, La Barge, where's the buffalo robe you were going to get me?'

"I told him of the fate of the first two and then of the ten beaver skins, from the Crow chief, and what we had done with them.

"Doctor Burleigh, who had the robe, folded across his arm, all ready, asked Mr. Lincoln to stand up and when he rose threw it about his shoulders. It came nearly down to his feet and made him look taller than ever. To this day I recollect the broad, genial smile that overspread his homely features as he felt the soft fur. Then—having Crooked Elbow in mind, I suppose—he folded the robe about him, Indian fashion, danced twice round the room and let out a warwhoop—which caused several attendants outside to look in hastily.

"Again he passed his hand over the fur and, folding the robe, laid it carefully across a chair; then he sat down in graver mood and asked me still further about the Indians of the upper Missouri.

"'I must make a trip up there with you,' he said. 'I want to see them. I want to meet them and talk with them. And when I go,' he added, 'I want to go on your boat again.'

"He then asked me about the Indian agents. 'How are those fellows behaving now?'

"'Much the same, or a little worse,' I replied, and went on to tell him of the gross frauds practised at the agencies.

"President Lincoln looked saddened. 'During this war it has been very difficult to get the right kind of men appointed to these duties,' he remarked. 'But wait till I get this rebellion off my hands. I have had to take the Negro first. But the Indian shall come next. This whole question shall be taken up. I mean to go to the bottom of it. The red man as well as the black man shall have his rights.'

"While we talked other callers were announced. We rose to go and took leave, but at the door the President called me back. 'I have heard you have a claim against the government.'

"'Yes, Mr. President,' I replied.

"'Has it been paid?'

"'No sir,' I said. 'I was a proslavery man, you know.'

"President Lincoln smiled, his broad, homely smile.

"'Chase is a great financier,' he said. 'But he is sometimes narrow.' He took a card from his pocket, wrote a few words on it and added his signature. 'You give him that,' said he, and again grasped me warmly by the hand.

"I remember thinking, as we went away, and I believe I also said so to Burleigh, that, if the Union statesmen were all like Abe Lincoln, Northerners and Southerners would soon be brothers again.

"The next day I took that card in to Secretary Chase. He glanced at it, then looked hard at me, but merely said:

"'Of course, of course, if the President approves it—'

"And a part of my claim was paid."

It is much to be deplored that we so often need to be severely chastened before we will obey. Those cutting bits of affliction show how hard-mouthed we are, those bridles of infirmity manifest our headstrong and wilful manners. We should not be treated like mules if there was not so much of the ass about us.—Spurgeon.