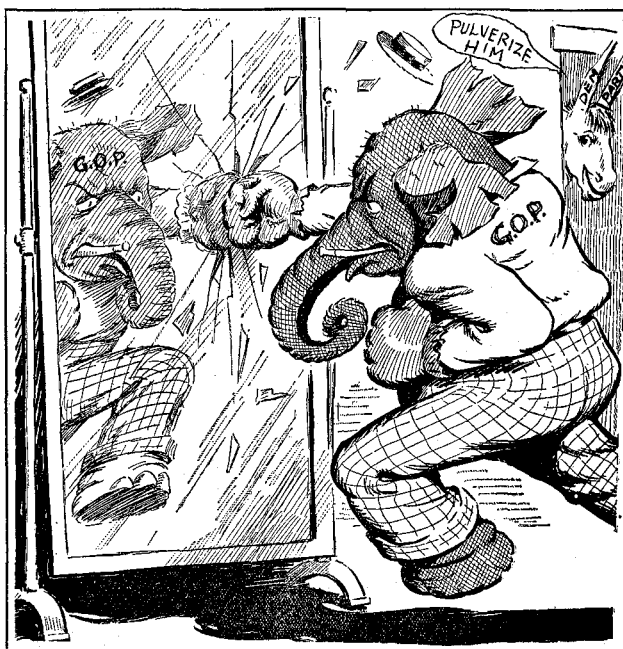


UP AGAINST IT.
—Bowers in *The Jersey Journal*.



THE ELEPHANT FIGHT!
—Harding in the *Brooklyn Eagle*.

GETTING TOGETHER.

sive that the recommendation of Judge Otis will leave intrastate railroad rates without any sort of governmental control. This contention seems to the *Minneapolis Journal* to be "sheerest nonsense"—

"The Otis opinion must first be confirmed by the Circuit Court and then by the Supreme Court, if it is to have validity. . . .

"If the highest court in the land should declare that rates within a State can not be regulated by that State, because such regulation affects interstate commerce, that would be tantamount to saying that the Federal power extends over all rates, whether interstate or intrastate. There can not, in short, be a no-man's land for railroad rates. Either the State or the Union must have regulatory power. When one goes out, the other comes in."

CHEERING DEATH-RATE FIGURES

"A FUNERAL will soon be a curiosity," declares one Western editor, if only the coming years keep up the good work of 1908 and 1909 in setting a new low-water mark for the nation's death-rate. Last year's unprecedentedly low level of only 15 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants is acclaimed by other papers as the most important financial news of the season, for nothing, says the *New York Times*, "so affects the finances of a nation as its death-rate." These figures, recently published in a census bulletin, cover only cities and States having laws requiring the registration of deaths, and represent 55.3 per cent. of the estimated population of the country. The number of deaths recorded last year was 732,538, with the greatest mortality in March and the lowest in June. The death-rate in 1908 was 15.4, so that last year's rate of 15 per 1,000 indicates a material falling off. One piece of information which has been respectfully referred to the suffragettes for their encouragement is the fact that 54 per cent. of those who succumbed were men. The *New York Times* notes that England's death-rate is lower than ours, being 14.5 per 1,000, while it goes yet lower in France, Prussia, Denmark, and Sweden. The decreasing death-rate in the United States impresses upon the Omaha *World-Herald* the fact that the "good-health propaganda is now beginning to tell." Never, we are reminded—

"has medical science been so efficient in preventing disease, and especially those ravaging epidemics of contagious or infec-

tious diseases which we trust for the last time have been the terrors of cities, States, and large sections of the country. And one hesitates to undertake to list the regimens of exercise, of diet, of recreation, of open-air sleeping, and outdoor life that have been much more generally accepted and followed in late years than ever before. Indeed, the people have waked up to the importance of keeping well. Sickness has gone out of fashion. With almost anybody it is felt to be a shame and with a large modern school it is rated a positive sin.

"It is all beginning to count, and everybody ought to help in hastening the time when a funeral will be a curiosity and the undertakers will be talking about emigrating to a sicklier planet."

These figures, complains the *New York Tribune*, are still too high. We read:

"The gradual lowering of the death-rate is one of the great achievements of science and civilization. Conservation of life is the most important of the many current projects for conserving national resources. But human life is still held far too cheap and methods of checking waste are still more or less rudimentary. This fact appears in the proportion of deaths reported for children under five years. Of the 732,538 deaths reported in the registration area in 1909, 140,057, or nearly 20 per cent., were of children under one year, and 196,534, or nearly 27 per cent., were of children under five years. There was a slight decrease in the rate for children under five years, but it is still lamentably large."

In the Census Bureau's volume of mortality statistics for 1908 Prof. Irving Fisher, of Yale University, is quoted as maintaining that of all the diseases of infancy (up to one year) 47 per cent. may be prevented, and that 67 per cent. of all the diseases of childhood (two to eight years) are likewise preventable. The volume referred to admits that "the work of preventing infant and child mortality has only made a beginning," and goes on to say of Professor Fisher's claims:

"This would mean, applied to the 200,000 deaths of infants and children in the registration area, or the possible 400,000 deaths of these classes in the United States, a saving of at least 100,000 or 200,000 lives each year, respectively. It does not seem unreasonable, when we consider the fact that there is apparently no reason why infants, if properly born (and this means simply the prevention of antenatal disease and the improvement of the health and conditions of living of their parents), should die at all in early infancy or childhood except from the comparatively small proportion of accidents that are strictly unavoidable."

PROHIBITION "COMING BACK"

IF PROHIBITION actually means a greater consumption of intoxicants in "dry" territory, as the liquor journals exultantly declared a few weeks ago, after the publication of the Government's figures showing an increasing per capita consumption of liquor in the country at large, one might expect to find these papers encouraging the Prohibition hosts and zealously urging them on to new endeavors. Yet, strangely enough, they are keeping up the fight with their old opponents. Indeed, some of them are becoming apprehensive as to the final outcome of the struggle. Despite the cheering news from the Internal Revenue headquarters, referred to in our columns at the time, Mr. T. M. Gilmore, of *Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Circular* (New York), sees many dark clouds still threatening the brewer, the distiller, and the dealer. In an editorial in the current number headed by the query, "CAN THE LIQUOR BUSINESS BE SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED BEFORE THE BAR OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT?" he says:

"The big majority in the recent Tennessee election given to the Republican and against the regular Democratic nominees was an echo of the State-wide prohibition fight and of the killing of Carmack, and whether we like it or not, it must be accepted as a further protest of the people of Tennessee against the liquor traffic, as the people of Tennessee know, or think they know, that traffic.

"In Texas we find a very large majority polled in favor of submitting a constitutional amendment prohibiting the manufacture and sale of liquors, to a vote of the people.

"In Missouri, in obedience to a demand from the people, a fight is on to amend the constitution and prohibit the liquor business.

"In Florida a similar fight is being waged and in several other States like Nebraska the liquor question is the leading question in politics.

"To the States where the liquor traffic is being attacked by well-organized movements must be added the States like Oklahoma, Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and North

Carolina, where it has been outlawed, if we would realize how tremendous is the movement and how vast the forces sworn to the destruction of every brewery and distillery in America.

"The situation is a grave one, and it demands the attention of the men who have hundreds of millions invested in breweries, distilleries, wineries, and in stocks of liquors. It is a situation that demands the highest statesmanship and generalship. It raises the question as to why we have lost so many States and why we have so many fierce contests in other States.

"It raises the question as to whether our cause as a trade is incompetent or in incompetent hands, or whether it can be possible that the liquor trade is so disreputable that it can not be successfully defended before the bar of public sentiment."

Evidently rejecting the latter alternative, this writer then urges the liquor interests to fight the Antisaloon League and the Prohibitionists by defending the trade "in the open," "to meet the people and the press on a common platform and work for laws that will really regulate the saloon—laws under which the saloon-keeper could not afford to violate law or disregard public sentiment." For, "the liquor trade can be successfully defended, but not along gumshoe lines, nor by methods that will not stand the widest publicity and the greatest possible light."

A very different conclusion, quite naturally, is drawn by the Associated Prohibition Press. "All this disaster for the drink-maker is on the way" because "twenty-five years of scientific teaching, in the public schools of the nation, of direct moral exhortation in the Sabbath-schools, bitter ages of daily experience with every conceivable variety of alcoholic brutality, crime, disease, and destitution, and the ever present shame of liquor-bred political corruption . . . have combined to educate the people to a horror and a hatred of the alcohol trade, surpassing that against any other public evil." This, we are told, "is the reason why the liquor traffic, no matter how high it piles its defense funds or how widely it scatters its campaign agents, can face nothing but complete ultimate defeat, State- and nation-wide alike."

TOPICS IN BRIEF

THE old guard surrenders, but never dies.—*Wall Street Journal*.

WOOL seems to be the real warm ingredient of the tariff mixture.—*Wall Street Journal*.

SAYS T. R.: "Our meeting was enjoyable." Says the wire: "Taft is resting."—*Boston Transcript*.

ACCORDING to the experience of the West Point cadets, "silence" is not always golden.—*Boston Transcript*.

AS we understand it, President Taft went to Winona not to praise Tawney, but to bury him.—*St. Louis Republic*.

PROBABLY the most fortunate member of the Cabinet is Secretary Dickinson. He is over in Pekin.—*Washington Herald*.

THE mistake of Senator Lorimer's political life was in not joining the Rough Riders. Much is forgiven Rough Riders.—*Life*.

MR. BRYAN seems to be pretty thoroughly separated from politics at last. Why not make him president of Princeton?—*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*.

IF the Ballinger committee is never able to get a quorum, the Secretary of the Interior may have to remain permanently in more or less blissful ignorance as to whether he is innocent.—*Chicago News*.

WILLIAM LORIMER, Mrs. Bellamy Storer, William Barnes, Jr., and the editor of the *New York Evening Post* ought to meet in convention, and formally launch the "Hit-Him-Again" party.—*Baltimore Sun*.

THE declaration that the Maine election has but a "local significance" reminds one enthusiastic Democrat of the story of the belated passenger who tried to get accommodations on the ark after the beginning of the storm. "Too late," said Noah, "every room is taken." "Well," said the tardy person, "it is only going to be a local shower, anyway."—*Boston Transcript*.

A VICE-PRESIDENT of the United States is happier who realizes that he is purely ornamental.—*Chicago News*.

ENOUGH antiques were burned at Brussels to keep Grand Rapids factories working overtime for several days.—*Cleveland Leader*.

ST. LOUIS boasts that her increase in population is natural. Well, New York's is naturalized.—*Charleston News and Courier*.

A PITTSBURGER says he has a machine for forecasting earthquakes; he might sell it at Republican headquarters.—*Houston Chronicle*.

BURLINGTON lost \$190,000 on its dining-car service last year. The waiters ought to split fees with the company.—*Wall Street Journal*.

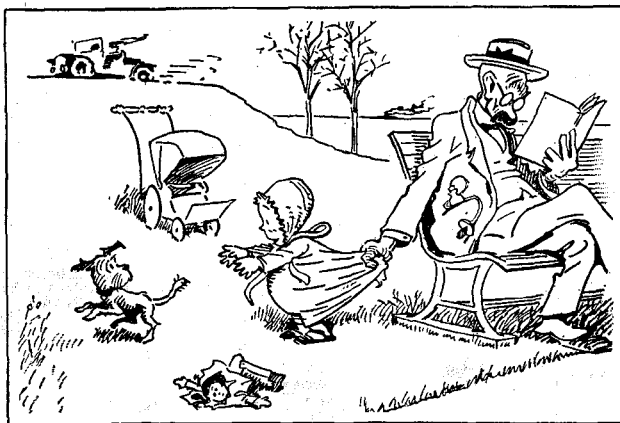
ATTORNEY GENERAL WICKERSHAM is accused of having voted for Alton B. Parker. The names of the others are not mentioned.—*Toledo Blade*.

MR. ROOSEVELT declines to try an aeroplane because it might be thought sensational. These overdelicate scruples have kept the Colonel out of a good deal of fun first and last.—*New York World*.

GENTLEMEN who view with apprehension the progress of woman suffrage will note with alarm that 54 per cent. of the recorded deaths in the United States last year were of persons of the male persuasion.—*Chicago News*.

The *New York Mail* is publishing a series on "What Sacrifices Men Have Made for Women," which leads us to suspect that the editor of the *Mail* has been trying to match a sample of ribbon.—*Baltimore Sun*.

It is rumored in Washington that after reforming the Republican Party and doing other odd jobs, Mr. Roosevelt will start in search of the ten lost tribes of Israel; the expenses of the trip being borne by public-spirited private citizens. The tribes in question have not been seen for some twenty-five centuries and people are growing anxious about them.—*Brooklyn Life*.



THE ORIGINAL HOBBLE.
—Fox in the *Chicago Evening Post*.