

**Is Anti-Prohibition Sentiment Confined Chiefly to the East?**

One straw may indicate the direction of the wind. Several in the east have indicated that the anti-prohibition sentiment is rather rampant in that section of the state.

Yet this, in view of the confusion, the constant agitation, the lack of effective enforcement, the federal license of blockaders, and other conditions, is not so strange—at least, an increase in that sentiment isn't.

On the other hand, the dry victory in Rockingham county, the first county in the western half of the state to vote up the matter of establishing liquor stores, is only one straw, but is a very significant one. The great majority of voters in North Carolina lie to the westward of the median line between east and west. Over there, too, live a large Republican population. It is to be borne in mind, too, that all, or the majority, of the influences tending to effect a change of sentiment on the prohibition question have been at work in Rockingham as well as in the eastern counties. It is even a border county and therefore subject to whatever influence adjacency to the Virginia liquor stores could have, as only three of the wet-voting eastern counties are.

Yet the dry majority was given despite those influences and the further one that arises from the effect of a dozen wet victories in the east, for many people are disposed to swing along into the supposedly most popular channel. Furthermore, the wets won in Carteret and Greene by much smaller majorities than in the other eastern counties, indicating that the anti-prohibition sentiment has not entirely swept the east.

The Rockingham victory and the fact that most of the counties which voted for liquor stores gave majorities in 1933 for repeal of the eighteenth amendment, and the probable expectation of a different kind of result if elections were held in almost any other of the eastern counties, should give pause to the politicians who have been so quick to launch their crafts upon the "liquor control" current.

The result in Rockingham should be of value to Clyde Hoey, in particular, in laying the planks of his platform. If the Rockingham straw is a definite index of the prevailing sentiment in the great population area of the piedmont and of the industrial towns (for Rockingham is one of the leading textile counties), and if such a vote resulted when the crazy laws of the closing days of the legislature seem to have destroyed the Turlington Act with respect to transportation from other states and to give promise, if those laws stand the test of constitutionality, of the demoralization of all efforts at enforcement of the prohibition laws, it is evident that a campaign for real enforcement of the prohibition laws, together with the repeal of the county laws, would assure a considerable majority in the state as a whole.

It will mean nothing at all for Clyde Hoey to favor a referendum on the liquor question and let it go at that. Prohibitionists foresee that a referendum must be held and a new dry mandate be issued if the Turlington Act is not to be destroyed root and branch, and few oppose a referendum. But if such a victory is to be won by the dries, it is necessary that a program that means something be laid out and vigorously championed from one end of the state to the other.

Hoey can make a campaign, aided by hundreds of other prohibitionists, which will arouse the people from one end of the state to the other. That campaign would

have to include a preachment of the ills of liquor from any or every source, and champion the passage of laws that would make a fairly effective enforcement possible. Such a measure as the Page bill or the Newell bill, defeated in the recent legislature, strengthened by laws that require all dealers to make reports of large sales of sugar and other ingredients of liquor mash, and of materials suggestive of still construction to designated officials under penalty of law, would do the work.

If Hoey should lay such a course, he may be sure of an enthusiastic following. On the other hand, if he falters in the support of an outright prohibition campaign, he has little chance, since prohibitionists and "liquor control" supporters would both be lukewarm toward his candidacy. Clyde Hoey has his work laid out for him, and the Rockingham straw indicates that he may go to it with fine promise of success. His decision will denote the quality of the man. If he is willing to pay any price to be governor, even to that of hedging on the prohibition question, no price will get the honor for him. But if he is willing to pay any price to maintain the principles which he has so long

professed under favorable omens, then there will be no price for the governorship—it will likely be handed to him upon a silver platter.

**Do Illicit Liquor Dealers Want Prohibition Retained?**

It has been argued by many opposed to prohibition that the blockaders and bootleggers vote for prohibition and oppose the return of legal liquor. Read the following paragraph from the Williamston Enterprise, published in Martin county, which recently voted overwhelmingly in favor of county stores, and judge whether the facts uphold the contention that illicit liquor people are almost entirely in favor of prohibition and vote with the prohibitionists.

In citing the vote on the liquor question at the various precincts in Martin county, the Enterprise says:

"Goose Nest," where officers say they have the most trouble with liquor and allied disturbances, as a rule, voted wet 9 to 1." "Goose Nest" seems to be the "Harricane" of Martin. Yet it voted overwhelmingly for legal liquor.

If liquor is legalized in a statewide way in North Carolina it will

be done by the voters of makers, sellers, and drinkers of the stuff.

Candidates for governor would do well I opine, to wait till the supreme court has derided the question of the constitutionality of the county liquor laws before making pronouncements as to their attitude toward the liquor business. If those laws stand, prohibition is dead, and all would well agree upon arrangements for the funeral. On the other hand, if those county stores should be closed, there would be an opportunity for a glorious fight between a real enforcement program and a state system of liquor stores. Voters, might do well to wait and see what is what before aligning themselves with this or that candidate.

**State's Credit Fine And Budget Balanced.**

Governor Ehringhaus has good reason to feel gratified at the financial condition of the state. The year's bills have been paid and the government's credit is the best ever. The governor states that North Carolina bonds are selling at a lower interest rate than United States bonds.

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Condensed Statement

At the Close of Business June 29, 1935

**RESOURCES**

Cash on hand and Due from Banks.....	\$1,617,747.76
United States Government Bonds .....	1,024,676.91
State Bonds .....	3,420,999.67
Municipal Bonds .....	1,898,596.76
Federal Land Bank Bonds and other marketable Securities .....	1,017,675.66
Accrued Interest Due on Bonds .....	81,622.51
Loans Secured by Marketable Collateral .....	375,624.49
Loans and Discounts .....	1,772,775.42
Banking Houses, Furniture and Fixtures .....	159,864.39
Other Real Estate .....	33,274.13
Other Assets .....	20,249.19
	<b>\$11,423,106.89</b>

**LIABILITIES**

Capital Stock, Preferred .....	\$500,000.00
Common .....	267,650.00
Surplus .....	767,650.00
Undivided Profits .....	100,000.00
Reserves .....	112,671.12
Reserves — Unearned, Accrued Interest, etc.....	367,539.85
DEPOSITS .....	63,784.66
	10,011,461.26
	<b>\$11,423,106.89</b>