

PROHIBITION'S GHOST LAID BY HOTEL MEN

Hostelries of America Will Never Go Dry, Asserts Presi- dent McGlynn.

TRIBULATIONS IN ARKANSAS

Mine Host Miller Tells How His Barkeepers Are Agents of an Express Company.

The hotel men now in conference at the Grand Central Palace did their best yesterday to discourage the fear of national prohibition that some of their number had expressed in informal conversation during the previous days. Yesterday ended the session of the New York State Association, and today begins the meeting of the National Congress of Hotel Associations; and before the State meeting closed, John McGlynn of Troy, President of the State Association, took occasion to express his complete confidence that prohibition for New York, at least, was not in sight.

At the meeting at the Grand Central Palace yesterday afternoon he said: "We want to tell those of you who have been disturbed by the things they have been reading that we are not thinking about prohibition in New York. We have the best excise laws in the country, we think, and nobody here is afraid that New York State is going dry." And he took up the subject again while speaking at the State Association dinner at the Waldorf last night. "Bryan," he said, "jumped from free and unlimited silver to prohibition—two things equally impossible in the United States.

"And we say to him, as Sir Toby Belch said to the clown: 'Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?' We serve this notice on Bryan and the United States: The great American hotel will never go dry because the great majority don't want that kind of a hotel, and won't have it. Our obligation is to place it beyond criticism. We have done more to make travelers respectable than all the Bryans in the western hemisphere.

"Unlike Bryan, we have our faults—and this we hold, that no man ever gets a worldwide horizon of life by drinking ice cream soda."

Other similar sentiments were expressed at the afternoon meeting. Thomas D. Green, President of the New York City Association, said: "We hope that there will be no prohibition in New York, and that the whole United States will soon return to the old order of things. We want to give everybody what they want, and to put such safeguards around the process that there will be no danger in giving it."

The convention displayed deep sympathy when Jacob Miller of the Springs Hotel, Hot Springs, Ark., former Secretary of the International Stewards' Association, gave a personal experience with prohibition.

"Fifty-one per cent. of the white people in Arkansas," he said, "had voted the State wet. By invitation of the Chamber of Commerce the entire State Legislature came to Hot Springs on a Sunday, and the Mayor of the city compelled me to open my bar. They drank up 121 quarts of whisky and smoked 1,200 cigars, and the next day they went back to Little Rock and voted the State dry.

"Now I have three barkeepers, and each of them is a duly authorized agent of the American Express Company. To get a bottle of anything to drink in my State you have to have it shipped in with your own name on the bottle; but a man who registers at the hotel gives his name to one of the barkeepers, he wires to the importation company in St. Louis, and the next morning the guest receives his shipment with his name on the label of every bottle. If that's prohibition, I want something else."

The business meeting of the State association elected Mr. McGlynn President for his sixth consecutive term, and Edward M. Tierney of Binghamton Treasurer for his fifteenth term. Other officers chosen were George A. Farnham of Saratoga Springs, Vice President; Mark A. Cadwell of New York, Secretary; Alfred H. Rennie of Albany, Assistant Secretary, and Francis Bain of Newburg, Edward M. Tierney of Binghamton, Fred A. Reed of New York, Jacob Messner of Rochester, F. W. Rockwell of Albany, Thomas D. Green of New York, Claude R. Nott of New York, George R. Stevens of Lake Placid, and A. Gardiner of Newark members of the Executive Committee.

In a paper on "How Poor is a Good Hotel?" read at the afternoon session, Edward M. Statler of Buffalo said that when a hotel gives poor service it is just as likely to be the guests' fault as the hotel's. The failure to make reservations in advance was given as the principal failing of hotel guests.

"A good hotel should have a minimum rate," he said, "which should not be fictitious—that is, it should have enough rooms at that rate to accommodate the demand. In my chain of hotels 4 per cent. of all the rooms are at the minimum rate.

"The reason for most of the difficulty in this minimum rate matter is

that there is a large class of travelers who want to stay at a first-class hotel but do not want to pay first-class prices. The present rates in first-class houses are if anything too low, and I believe that conventions, on the whole, are neither profitable nor desirable to a hotel doing a good regular business, except as an advertisement. One thing that patrons of a hotel forget is the rapid depreciation. If a good hotel does not show a profit during its first ten or fifteen years it never will."

Rome Miller of Omaha said: "The time has arrived when nobody can afford to operate a hotel that is not 100 per cent. safe."

There were 1,300 guests at the dinner at the Waldorf, and nobody seemed to be expecting prohibition. Edward M. Tierney, the toastmaster, nearly wore out a gavel getting the house to come to order. Mr. McGlynn was the first speaker he introduced, and after getting his thoughts on prohibition off his mind the President of the association turned to other topics. "It was never intended that man should live alone," he said, "and the only error of our great ancestor was that he didn't start in New York instead of in Eden. Adam was satisfied with the clothes God gave him, but Eve thought they were too simple. The pattern of Eve's ball dress was lost among the arts till 1916, when it was found again; and models are now being made from it as closely in conformity with its physical nonchalance as the weather of the temperate zone will permit."

Secretary of State Francis M. Hugo denied that the hotel business was or soon would be suffering from overproduction. "Fifty years ago there were more hotels in proportion to the population than there are now," he said. "People now demand everything in the way of luxury, comfort, and amusement, and it is not at all improbable that within the next few years a colossal hippodrome may be set up within a building."

Congressman Allen T. Treadway of Stockbridge, Mass., President of the New England Hotel Association, reminded the hotel men that a period of difficult economic conditions would follow the war and that they would have a large share of the work of preparing the United States to meet them.

The hotel exposition at the Grand Central Palace will continue until Saturday night, and the hotel men, after devoting the greater part of today ruminating over last night's social event and over what one of them described as "Jack Bowman's speechless dinner" at the Biltmore the night before, will be prepared for more discussion of business problems at the meetings of the national congress.

BRYAN PREDICTS PROHIBITION.

Reforms That Do Not Originate in New York Finally Reach Here.

William Jennings Bryan was a guest of the Rotary Club yesterday at its regular luncheon at the Hotel McAlpin, and he urged that organization, which he described as one of the most representative in the country, to be ready to put its influence on the right side of any moral question. Most of the 250 members present understood Mr. Bryan to mean he would have them support the prohibition movement should it come to a final issue in New York.

"I have been in politics quite a while," said Mr. Bryan. "Thirty-six years ago I started out with a great deal of zeal to explain a low tariff. I supposed every Republican I talked to would see my argument, and that would be the end of it. But after thirty-six years I cannot see that a great number of Republicans have been converted. You can put the tariff up or you can put it down, but it will not stay put."

Mr. Bryan said that when the prohibition fight got to this State there would be plenty of space in the newspapers available for anti-prohibition arguments seeking to show that prohibition had failed. It had been said that prohibition had failed in Kansas, he went on to say, yet when it was proposed to re-submit the question to a vote of the people the anti-prohibitionists were beaten 10 to 1. Reforms might not originate in New York, according to Mr. Bryan, but they finally would reach here.

James B. Vandever presided at the luncheon, and Mr. Bryan was introduced by J. F. Schindler of the Speakers' Committee.

Mme. Yorska to Give Allies' Benefic

Mme. Yorska, the French actress, who helped found the French Theatre in New York, has announced a series of sixteen performances for the benefit of various war relief charities for the Allies. Among those who will be associated with her will be Mme. d'Archambaud of the Theatre Royal, Brussels; Margaret Green, Fanny Marianoff, Ann Meredith, Beverly Sitgreaves, Paul Gordon, Ralph Roeder, Jose Ruben, and Robert Whitworth. The first play will be "Jenny," by Algernon Boyesen, and after that "The Greater Claim," by Juta Belle Ranke; "La Gioconda," by d'Annunzio, and Ibsen's "The Lady from the Sea" will be acted.