

THE ANTI PROHIBITIONIST AND THE RANTY PROHIBITIONIST  
ON NEITHER SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

or

SIDE LIGHTS ON BOTH SIDES.

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THE SCENE: A Town Hall ( A Corridor Cloth)

There is a platform on each side of the stage, the centre is occupied by forms for the public. There is a small table for the Press, which is moved to either side as required.

AGAINST

FOR

(Enter the Public gradually. One of the first to arrive is an Old Lady with a bunch of proganda papers of both issues, also a working man.

OLD LADY (To working man) Which side are you going to listen to?  
WORKING MAN Both sides.  
OLD LADY You can't do that.  
WORKING MAN Oh yes I can. There're not speaking at the same time.  
OLD LADY I am relieved. I've been training my ears for the last three weeks to listen, like the horses do.  
(With Action) One forward and one backward so to speak.  
WORKING MAN Asses ears do that also.  
OLD LADY Young man; I don't like your semihpore - I mean simili.  
(Enter Press man - goes to Desk G. )  
OLD LADY Who's that? (To working man)  
WORKING MAN That's the Herald. *Ball*  
OLD LADY Hark I hear the Herald - *I hear you calling me*  
WORKING MAN No you don't He's no angel and he don't sing.

(Enter another Press man)

OLD LADY Who's that?

WORKING MAN That's the AGE.

OLD LADY He's very young.

WORKING MAN Yes, young for his age.

OLD LADY Don't be ridiculous.

(Enter the Man in the Street)

OLD LADY Who's that.

WORKING MAN Oh nobody - just a voter - a tax payer.

OLD LADY Oh! that's the man in the street.

WORKING MAN Yes; and he'll be the man in the cart if this prohibition business goes through.

(Enter Mr Stiggings. G. goes to right. The public follow him round with their heads and then sit on other side of form.)

MR STIGGINGS I am here to-night - -

(Press men run with small desk from G. to R. and sit and write.)

MR STIGGINGS (Waitstheir arrival and commences again) I am here to-night - -

WORKING MAN And gone to-morrow.

MR STIGGINGS I am here to-night - -

WORKING MAN We can all see that.

MR STIGGINGS I am here to-night -

WORKING MAN That's three nights.

OLD LADY Oh if it's going to be any of that three nights, three weeks, Elenor Glinn business, I think it's immoral.

CROWD Sit down! Sit down!

MR STIGGINGS We are here to-night to discuss -

WORKING MAN Who's got the election eggs?

MR STIGGINGS Ah, the eggs. You who have strained at the yokes all these years have the moment at hand.

OLD LADY Look here, if the subject is eggs, what about the price of eggs - 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. each. If we have prohibition will the price of eggs come down.

OLD LADY            Look here; if the subject is eggs, what about the price of eggs - 24D each. If we have prohibition will the price of eggs come down.

MR STIGGINGS        I can't promise you that but I promise you that they will not be used in cocktails.

OLD LADY            I don't see where I get any benefit out of that.

STIGGINS            I am not here to -

WORKING MAN        To crow about eggs.

MR STIGGINGS        I am here to bring before you the wonderful results of a dry Australia. Look at me. I once drank to such an extent that I destroyed nearly all my vital organs. And now I do not drink. I used to have a headache every morning. I have not had a headache for twenty years. Is there anyone in the audience who knows a man who has not had a headache for twenty years?

WORKING MAN        Yes I do. I know a man who has not had a headache for over fifty years.

MR STIGGINGS        Who's that?

WORKING MAN        Charles the First.

                          (Commotion)    Hear! Hear!

MR STIGGINGS        If I had my way I would prohibit everything that is not good for us.

YOUNG LADY         Are high-heeled boots good for us?

STIGGINGS           Well - no -

YOUNG LADY         Then that's where you lose my vote.

STIGGINGS           All such frivolities as over dressing and underdressing silks and laces are of no gain to the welfare of the generality of the populace.

                          (Enter the Anti Prohibitionist in small attire, flower in coat and *Dependable* manner goes to platform Left.

ANTI PRO.            Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. I am glad to see you all looking so well. (Takes off gloves)

                          (Press men run round with their desks and the public all turn round towards him leaving Stiggings unattended to)

YOUNG LADY         AH! He's more my sort.

OLD LADY            Do not form too hasty an opinion.

ANTI PRO.            Ladies and Gentlemen. First and foremost what is the

questions? Is it the liquidation of the nation's financial difficulties? The housewives have been asked to look at it from the sugar question. Is there no sugar in Ginger beer, which pays no duty? Is there no sugar in Ginger ale, that pays no duty? Ladies! Is there no sugar in your sweet smiles, that pays no duty.

STIGGINGS Statistics have proven! Statistics have proven!  
(Press run round and public all turn)

hu Statistics have proven that two hundred million, five hundred thousand, six hundred and seventy pounds were spent upon liquor, which if it had been spent upon house property -

MAN IN THE STREET Would have brought fortunes to one hundred and sixty nine house agents for the keys alone.

STIGGINGS That is beside the issues.

M IN THE ST. Yes, and beside the rent.

ANTO PRO. I have also a few statistics.  
(Press run - all turn)

ANTI PRO. Statistics have proven that Australia spent in five years 1000 millions on hair cutting and shaving which if it had been prohibited would have produced enough ziffs to stuff 72,864 sofa cushions.

STIGGINGS It was not intended that man should put spiritous drink in his stomach.

ANTI PRO. It was not intended that man should have his hair cut

STIGGINGS Man'made drink.  
(All turn)

ANTI PRO? Man made scizzors  
(All turn)

STIGGINGS When man first made drink what did he do? He tasted it. And then what did he do? He took another little drink.  
(All sing)

And another little drink  
And another little drink  
And another little drink  
Would'nt do us any harm.

Is there anyone in the public that can speak from personal experience of the deleterious effect of strong drink.

E. YOUTH Yes, I should like to say a few words.

STIGGINGS We shall all be glad to hear.

E. YOUTH I once took brandy sauce with the christmas pudding.

STIGGINGS And what happened?

E. YOUTH I didn't care what happened. I ran riot. I completely lost control. I pulled the cook's apron strings undone. I put pepper in the cat's milk. I was a perfect devil for a while.

CROWD Sit down!

STIGGINGS What would happen if we had prohibition to-morrow?

M IN THE ST. I'd open a chemist's shop.

STIGGINGS Speaking of publicans. Who has been the cause of the greatest of crimes of modern times?

WORKING MAN The Kaiser.

ANTI PRO. There are twenty seven thousand men who will be without employment if he had his way. (To Stiggings) Are you going to find them employment?

STIGGINGS Yes: They can give away for the Anti Amusement League. Men and Women -

ANTI PRO. Ladies and Gentlemen.

OLD LADY That's better. That's more like it.

ANTI PRO. We all need stimulents as a Ford car needs petrol, so do - -

OLD LADY Your're quite right there, young man, a little of what you fancy does you good.

STIGGINGS How many tons of hops were grown throughout the world last year?

WORKING MAN I have not the remotest idea.

STIGGINGS What is happening to our industrialists, our pastoralists - our - our - our --

WORKING MAN Our threepenny bits.

CROWD Here! Here!

(Press writing; loud and continued applause)

STIGGINGS They are working from dawn to night, when the sun shines, when the - er - moon ~~XIXXX~~ shines.

(Crowd sing)

-- on the cow shed  
I'll be waiting for you at the k - i - kit-  
chen door.

STIGGINGS This meeting is making a notch. Oh the nation's  
genealogical tree

WORKING MAN Go Hon!

STIGGINGS I ask you is this the moment to give way (Leans over  
the table. It overbalances and he falls with it)

(Commotion in crowd)

STIGGINGS *2/* Is there any questions you would like to ask. I am  
prepared to answer.

HECKLER Yes; who killed Cook Robin?

(CROWD SING "All the birds in the air etc.)

Anti pro. Prohibitionists don't care what happens to the  
thousands of brewers and kindred trades that are  
thrown out. They must find work and there will  
be a serious competition. Your husband for instance  
Madam.

OLD LADY Here don't you be personal. I'm not married.

ANTI PRO. I am sorry Madam.

*Compliment*

OLD LADY Are you? Well that's no complaint. You ought to have  
said you was glad and there might have been a chance  
for you. I'm keeping my eyes open.

ANTI PRO. Now is the time to make up your minds. Don't be  
swayed this way (Making a gesture towards himself)

(The crowd all lean forward)

And that way (Makes a gesture away from himself)

(The crowd all lean back)

ANTI PRO. Backwards  
(They lean further back and forwards)

Forward: make up your minds and rush to the polls for  
liberty and freedom of action.  
(They all lean back and fall over)

(Music - Auld Lang Sine)

ANTI PRO. Should prohibition come to pass, your're in for a  
sad, sad tone. "Ye'll tak' na cup of Kindness then  
For the sake of Auld Lang Sine"

Vote continuation my lads  
And add your votes to mine,  
And Ye'll tak' ye're cup of Kindness yet  
For the Sake of Auld Lang Sine"