



JOINT RESOLUTION

AGREEING TO, RATIFYING, AND CONFIRMING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION FOUR
(4) OF ARTICLE THREE (3) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF IOWA,
RELATING TO THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, The seventeenth general assembly of the state of Iowa did, in due form, by a
2 majority of the members elected to each of the two houses, agree to a proposed amendment
3 to the constitution of this state to strike the words "free white" from the third line of sec-
4 tion four (4) of article three (3) of said constitution, and the same was entered on the jour-
5 nals thereof, and was referred to the legislature to be chosen at the next general election,
6 and the same having been published as provided by law; therefore,

7 *Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That the following amendment
8 to the constitution of the state be and the same is hereby agreed to, ratified, and confirmed:
9 Strike out the words "free white" from the third line of section four (4) of article three (3)
10 of said constitution, relating to the legislative department.

11 *Resolved, further,* That the foregoing proposed amendment to the constitution be and the
12 same is hereby submitted to the qualified electors of this state for their approval at the next
13 ensuing general election, in the manner provided by law.

House

Harvey

JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION SO AS TO PROHIBIT THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS WITHIN THIS STATE.

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa, That the following amendment
2 to the constitution of the state of Iowa be and the same is hereby proposed:

3 To add, as section 26, to article 1 of said constitution the following:

4 Section 26. No person shall hereafter manufacture, sell, or keep with intent to sell,
5 within this state, any alcoholic, distilled, brewed, fermented or vinous liquors, except for
6 medical and mechanical purposes.

7 *Resolved further,* That the foregoing proposed amendment be and the same is hereby
8 referred to the legislature to be chosen at the next general election for members of the next
9 general assembly. And that the secretary of state cause the same to be published for three
10 months previous to the day of said election, as provided by law.

MAJORITY REPORT.

Senator Hanna, from the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, submitted the following report:

MR. PRESIDENT:

Your Committee on Constitutional Amendments, to whom was referred joint resolution proposing to amend the constitution so as to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors within this state, beg leave to report that they have had the same under consideration, and a majority of the committee have instructed me to report the same back to the house with the recommendation that it do pass.

HANNA, *Chairman.*

Ordered passed on file.

MINORITY REPORT.

To the Honorable, the Senate of the State of Iowa:

In deference to this honorable body, and in deep appreciation of the importance of the temperance question upon the most vital interests of our commonwealth, I have the honor to present to you a minority report of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, to whom was referred house file No. . joint resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution, prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, in which I briefly allude to the most cogent reasons why the measure indorsed by a majority of the committee should not pass this senate.

First—It may seem needless to allude to the fact that prohibition, having been persistently and continually endeavored to be enforced for more than a quarter of a century, has proven itself inefficient in reaching the looked-for boon of checking intemperance; but the fact is so striking that it can not, and must not, be lost sight of. Prohibition is a failure in every city, town, village and hamlet in the state. There is no place, however small, but liquor is to be had for the money and for the asking, and instead of decreasing the number of saloons, or lessening the vice of inebriety, the statistics show that under a rigid prohibitory law the saloons have augmented in number greater than the increase of population.

Second—While drunkenness stalks abroad in our fair state more boldly than was ever known prior to the prohibition era, and that, too, in the towns and villages in the very heart of

our state where prohibition is regarded as a success, and where the beastly inebriates are striking admonitions that prohibition does not prohibit. Why, then, ask for further legislation upon this subject? Why appeal to the people for their aid? Did they not elect us, and do they not pay us to enact such measures as will relieve them from the burthens of high taxation and oppressive laws? Have we not the power to say what laws shall govern the people? and here it is proposed to dodge the responsibility, and ask the people to legislate for themselves! Had we not best resign and go home, if we have not the right and intelligence to enact such laws as are best calculated to meet the wants of the people? But the general assembly has the right to strike from the statute books a law which has cost the state annually from \$200,000 to \$500,000 in useless liquor prosecutions; which has built up in Iowa thousands of drug stores which retail liquor under the guise of medicine; which has implanted the desire for strong drinks and hypocrisy. Those who know me, know I am a temperate man; that I do not touch, taste or handle anything intoxicating; and I desire to add that I am in favor of total abstinence in others, if they can be persuaded that it is for their welfare not to drink.

But I insist that the present law does not start out from the potent fountain of moral suasion; but attempts to use coercion, and that begets resistance, disturbance, and universal violation of all such coercive laws. And shall we proceed to place the state in a condition still more impracticable by an attempted constitutional prohibition? or is it not best to stay the evil at once by enacting a judicious and well-regulated license law?—one which public sentiment will indorse, and which will drive out of Iowa the professional mountebanks who, under the mantle of virtue and sobriety, delude the people by their continued appeals for money to fight a traffic which can never be suppressed, but can be regulated. In the name of the majority of the people of Keokuk county—in behalf of true temperance and morality, and for the purposes of economy and prosperity, I protest against the adoption of the majority report, and ask that it be not concurred in, but that the senate will see its way clear to the passage of a general and well regulated license law.

S. HARNED.