

New York Prohibitionist



Think NY Vote Dry

July 2019

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The Movement is Growing

The Prohibition Party continues to grow in New York and nationally. New members are joining the party, we are gradually expanding our activist efforts, and we are laying the groundwork for a strong 2020 campaign.

"It is one of the most gratifying signs of the times that the people are awakening to realize the necessity of instituting some genuine movements of reform." Lawrence Winfield Baxter

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Prohibition Party Growth

The Prohibition Party is growing in New York and nationwide. The National Secretary reports that there has been an influx of new members joining the party through the new online registration system. More new members are beginning work in Prohibition Party activism and campaigning.

In New York, the number of new members joining this year have already surpassed those in 2018. The number of subscribers to the New York Prohibitionist have increased nearly 10-fold over the past year and a half.

The Prohibition Party of New York is building up its activist efforts, and we are gradually seeing our efforts pay off in terms of state policy changes. In this year's state legislative session, there was

an effort to pass a bill to expand state support addiction prevention and rehabilitation efforts for alcohol and other drugs. While the Addiction Prevention and Recovery Act of 2019 didn't gather enough support to pass the state assembly before the end of this year's regular legislative session, it did manage to gather a significant amount of support in the state assembly, and support for the bill grows, it will likely stand a better change of passing in the 2020 legislative session. The state and various local governments have increased restrictions on tobacco sales. The state passed the Child Victims Act, which is an important step in combating the sexual abuse of children. The Prohibition Party of New York is growing, and as we grow, we will be able to have an even greater positive impact on the state.

Tobacco 21 Passed in New York

The State of New York has moved to increase restrictions on tobacco sales. Earlier this month, the governor signed a bill that raises the minimal age for tobacco sales from 18 to 21. The bill will take effect near the end of the year. The bill is designed to work to reduce tobacco use among youth, as part of a broader effort towards working towards reducing tobacco use in the state.

Source: https://13wham.com/news/state/new-york-raises-statewide-smoking-age-to-21?fbclid=IwAR2SMcdqI_zKdM_NpdLMnCCQ04rt4cukQ8oPYiYRcm00I9DXKGLUjh26EO
<https://time.com/5627764/new-york-raises-smoking-age-21/>

"We all should rise, above the clouds of ignorance, narrowness, and selfishness." Booker T. Washington

Study on the Second-Hand Harms of Alcohol

The Journal of the Study of Alcohol and Drugs recently published a study on the second hand harms of drinking. That is, the harmful effects that someone's drinking has on other people. The study estimates that about 1 in 5 American



adults have been harmed as a result of someone else's drinking just in the past year. This was based on a survey of 8,750 U.S. adults, which reported whether they had experienced any of 10 categories of harm as a result of someone else's drinking. These categories included, harassment, feeling threatened or afraid, having belongings ruined, having property vandalized, being pushed, hit or assaulted, being physically harmed, being in a traffic accident, being a passenger in a vehicle with a drunk driver, having family or marital problems, and having financial trouble. 21% of women and 23% of men reported having been harmed in at least one of those ways in the past year. This study has some limitations, due to its method, and the relative recency of new scientific efforts to study second harms of alcohol (scientist have studied the second hand-harms of alcohol in the past, but much of that occurred in the 19th and early 20th century). Dr. Timothy Naimi of the Boston Medical Center contends that the underreporting of harm among some portions of the population, who are less likely to take surveys, means that this study likely underestimates the number of people who have experienced second hand harms. In addition, this study measured second harms from alcohol use over the past year. It is likely the case that far more people have experienced second hand harm from other people's drinking in their lifetime. And there is also the broader consideration of how the second-hand harms of alcohol impact children.

Source: <https://www.wkbw.com/news/national/the-secondhand-harms-of-drinking-impact-1-in-5-adults-study-says?fbclid=IwAR22qyWPGDDICFLU4otlmAQ4twpvz3GU9YEXZL62bKfkwuYIGbUS5moCY>



The 4th of July

This month saw the passage of yet another 4th July, celebrating the birth of our nation and the great values which our nation aims to embody. The values of a constitutional democratic republic, of protecting the inalienable rights of people, of promoting the general welfare, of equality, of justice, and the cultivation of human potential. Over 200 years ago our nation was established. It has had great achievement and progress, but also great challenges and has dealt with various social problems. Though it has had and continues to have many people to have worked to uphold our fix our problems, to improve our country, and to uphold our great values. The Prohibition Party was born out of the reform activism of the 19th century. To this day we continue in the mission of social and political reform, to help create a better condition for our country; to help our country better embody the values which make it great.

State Bans Revenge Porn

The State of New York has now banned revenge porn. Under the new law, it is a criminal offense to distribute intimate images of people without their consent, with the intent to cause harm to the individual, when the image was taken with a reasonable expectation that the image would remain private. Convicted offenders can face up to a year in prison, and can also be sued by their victims in civil court. This act is another step towards helping to protect New Yorkers and combating predatory and abusive practices.

Source: <https://www.wivb.com/news/cuomo-signs-revenge-porn-bill-into-law/?fbclid=IwAR2pdwqGEm8HDdNSLVYVwjbUzYB1LzdA1b8BxxT5etWYX8Wpg2C16veygc>



National Chairman Passes

On July 7th, Prohibition Party National Chairman Rick Knox passed away. We express our condolences to the family and other loved ones of Mr. Knox.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy of Blairsville, GA, two daughters, Rachel Knox Roberts, husband Brad of Pearl, Mississippi, Pamela Knox Wallace and husband Kevin of Clinton, Mississippi. Three grandchildren, Kimberly, Riley and Casey. One stepdaughter, Kistell Niclole Carter, husband Jaime of Loris, SC. Two step grandchildren, Bella and Luke. One sister, Tanya Knox of Nashville, TN and his niece, Britney.

Rick Knox was born on July 30, 1949, in Nashville Tennessee. He was a was a teacher and long-time political consultant. He lived in Blairsville, Georgia. In 2015, Rick Knox became national chairman of the Prohibition Party. Under his chairmanship, the Prohibition Party had gained ballot access in Mississippi, for the first time since 1896.

It is understood that Vice-Chairman C.L. Gammon will assume the role of acting chairman until the Prohibition Party's 2021 conference.

The Environmental Impact of Alcohol and Tobacco

It is well known by any reasonably informed person that Alcohol and Tobacco are harmful to people. alcohol and tobacco kill millions of people a year worldwide, cause a wide variety of illnesses, and cause a wide array of social, medical, economic damages as a result of their production, sale, and use. But

alcohol and tobacco are also damaging to the environment.

Let's start with alcohol. The mass production of alcohol consumes a vast amount of natural resources. Unlike many forms of production, which use natural resources to create something that would benefit people or add to the wealth of society, the production of alcohol creates something which harms people and causes damages which make society poorer. The natural resources used in alcohol production are ultimately wasted. When these resources could have otherwise been used for something that actually benefited our society (such as using all the grains, potatoes, grapes, and other crops wasted on alcohol production to help feed people), or left unextracted to better sustain the natural environment.

As Avery Phillips wrote in *The Environment Science Magazine*, "There are a number of ways in which alcohol production negatively impacts the planet, starting with the process of growing the ingredients necessary to produce alcohol. Grains, potatoes, rice, botanicals, sugar cane, and agave are all significant ingredients in the alcohol industry, each of which require a significant amount of water, fertilizer, land, and use of machinery.

In essence, these resources are being used to produce beverages that aren't necessary for human survival, which could be diverted to providing food aid for those in need."

In addition, the alcohol industry produces a lot of garbage from all the bottles, cans, boxes, and other containers. The production of alcohol can also produce dangerous waste products. For instance, in the Mexican state of Jalisco, tequila production creates acidic waste, which ends up infecting the area's soil and water.

Then there is tobacco. The production of tobacco products likewise uses up large amounts of natural resources, such as land, water, and timber. The World Health Organization reports that the tobacco curing consumes over 11 million metric tons of wood annually, contributing to worldwide deforestation. Tobacco smoke releases a variety of dangerous chemicals

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into the air, and chemical residue can form in areas where tobacco is smoked. Tobacco products not only produce a large amount of garbage from their packaging, but also produce toxic waste from their remains. Tobacco waste, such as cigarette butts, contain a variety of chemicals including nicotine, arsenic, heavy metals, and multiple carcinogenic (cancer causing) substances. The World Health Organization has reported that there is ongoing research into how tobacco waste is contaminating water supplies and harming aquatic life. Researchers at the University of Cambridge have found that cigarette butts left on the ground, contaminate soil and stunt plant growth. BBC reports that cigarette butts are the most common form of litter in the world, with 4.5 trillion butts littering the world each year, and making up 30-40% of all litter found in coastal and urban cleanup projects.

Sources: https://emagazine.com/environmental-impact-of-alcohol/?fbclid=IwAR1_xOLjIKeOfxGC6cYUUmPAmc8A_UHUEzX-XGAp8MJ77016463bk6c
https://www.wivb.com/news/top-stories/experts-say-cigarette-butts-not-plastic-straws-are-largest-human-caused-pollutant/?fbclid=IwAR0uupLKyEdlwn_PDLW/Mum1aQzCJweBpPjXnnfcp5bq4Vr89GQx2lIDDE
<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/255574/9789241512497-eng.pdf;jsessionid=175E3889B38B592C8CA18384189AA336?sequence=1>

“The liquor traffic continues to be the most expensive, the most useless and the most damaging of all evils under which society suffers through the civilized world” John Mears

Renewable Energy is Growing

The production of renewable energy in the U.S. is growing and gaining in prominence. The Federal Energy Regulation Commission has reported that in the month of April, 2019, more energy was produced from renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydro-electric than from coal. Renewable sources had 257.53 gigawatts of capacity compared to 257.48 gigawatts of capacity for coal.

This is the first time that renewable energy sources have out produced coal in the U.S. This change reflects the growth of the solar and wind industries, as well as the shift of some energy producers from coal to natural gas. The FERC reports that the country has added 102 new solar units and 18 new wind units so far this year. Renewable energy production will likely continue to grow in the coming years, creating new jobs and producing more of the nation's energy.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/11/business/renewable-energy-coal-capacity/index.html>

An Important Point

Last month, the Democratic Party held its first presidential primary debates. One of the participants in the debates was Marianne Williamson. During the debate, she made important point in response to a question about lowering the cost of healthcare. Williams stated,

“We don’t have healthcare system in the United States, we have a sickness care system in the United States. We just wait till somebody gets sick and we talk about who is going to pay for the treatment and how they’re going to be treated. What we need to talk about is why so many Americans have unnecessary chronic illnesses, so many more compared to other countries, and that gets back into not just the big pharma, not just health insurance companies, it has to do with chemical policies, it has to do with environmental policies, it has to do with food policies, it has to do with drug policies.”

She further states on her campaign website that,

“Until America comes to terms with how much we have acquiesced to the many unhealthy practices that should be considered unlawful -- but which are currently allowed in order to increase corporate profits -- we will continue to have a less-than-meaningful discussion of how as a society we provide health care.”

Williams has a point that in order to better address issues of healthcare, we need to address the dynamics of public health. That general point is agreeable. Though, we would add that an important aspect of dealing with public issues of public health in the U.S. is dealing with the harm of alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful drugs, which produce a vast amount of illness, death, and damage to society. For instance, alcohol kills over 88,000 Americans a year, causes a wide variety of illnesses (including brain damage, organ failure, and several forms of cancer), and costs our country over 250 billion dollars a year in social, medical, and economic damages. As the Prohibition Party's presidential candidate had stated, alcohol is a public health problem, which needs to be addressed as such. The problems of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs need to be addressed as social and public health problem, and we must ban

companies from selling toxic products to consumers.

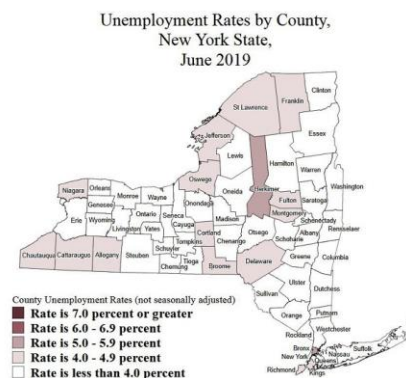
Sources: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ell386yAko>
<https://www.marianne2020.com/issues/healthcare>

Indian State Moving Towards Prohibition

Officials in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India, are taking steps towards the establishment of statewide prohibition. In recent elections, YSR Congress Party had won, with a promise to move the state towards establishing prohibition. They recently took a step towards increasing restrictions on alcohol with the introduction of the Regulation of trade in Indian Made Foreign Liquor Act of 2019. The law would make several changes to the state's liquor laws. It outlaws the sale of liquor in privately owned shops. All privately owned shops will be taken over by a state-controlled organization to handle liquor sales or will be shut down. The sale of liquor in bars and hotels will face increased restrictions, and the allowed times for liquor sales will be restricted. The YSR lead state government is also increasing efforts to crack down on unlicensed liquor sellers and illegal extensions on licensed liquor shops. The YSR plans on implementing a phased plan of increased restrictions over time, leading towards the eventual establishment of statewide prohibition.

Sources: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/ap-govt-to-open-liquor-outlets/articleshow/70352898.cms>

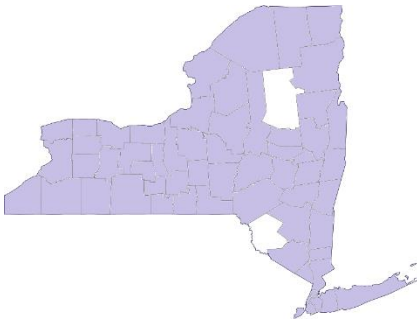
<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/andhra-pradesh-government-set-to-take-over-liquor-business-1564025427269.html>



June Unemployment Numbers

New information has been released about New York State's unemployment numbers for the month of June. The unemployment rate was reported at 3.6%, which is down from 4.2% for June 2018.

Source: https://www.fingerlakesdailynews.com/2019/07/24/june-unemployment-lowest-in-nearly-twenty-years/7sc_ref=facebook



Expanding Outreach

Our public messaging efforts continue to reach an increasing number of people in New York State and beyond. We continue to reach more people over Facebook. Our most recent data shows that content from our Facebook page has been viewed by people in at least 318 communities across the state, in 60 out of 62 counties. We also reached people in every other state, and in over 50 countries. The New York Prohibition Party twitter account has reached over 850,000 cumulative views.

Supreme Court Rulings

The Supreme Court has recently made in a ruling in a case over the issue of partisan gerrymandering. That is, the practice of state governments drawing the boundaries for House of Representatives and State legislative districts in ways which are designed to give an advantage to candidates of a certain political parties. In various instances, politicians in both major parties have used their power in state legislatures to draw districts which favor the elections of candidates of candidates from their party.

A 5-4 majority of the Supreme Court ruled that federal court should avoid addressing disputes in states over partisan gerrymandering. Supreme Court Justice Kagan wrote the lead dissenting opinion to the ruling; arguing that partisan gerrymandering violated the constitution, undermined the nation's democratic processes, and infringed on people's equal voting rights.

It is possible that this ruling might further embolden attempts by major party politicians to try to engage in partisan gerrymandering. Which would be to the disadvantage of minor parties and voters who wish to use their vote to change the political status quo.

In another disturbing ruling, the Supreme Court weakened the ability of the state of Tennessee to restrict alcohol sales. A 7-2 ruling struck a 2-year residency requirement to apply for a liquor license for initial applicants and a 10-year residency requirement for those applying for renewing a liquor license. As the IOGT has stated, this ruling was based on a faulty interpretation of the dormant Commerce Clause and arguably violates the provisions of the 21st Amendment. Justices Gorsuch and Thomas argued against the ruling, contending that states have the constitutional authority to restrict the sale of alcohol in their boundaries and that residency requirements fall within that power. It also goes against the precedent of past supreme court rulings, which state that states the authority to restrict alcohol or to prohibit it altogether, and that such actions do not violate the commerce clause. This ruling will likely serve to weaken Tennessee's restrictions on alcohol and to make the problem of alcohol worse.

Sources: https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/27/politics/partisan-gerrymandering-supreme-court/index.html?utm_content=2019-06-27T14%3A20%3A28&utm_medium=social&utm_term=.link&utm_source=cwCN
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/27/politics/read-supreme-court-partisan-gerrymandering-case/index.html>
<https://iogt.org/news/2019/07/05/usa-supreme-court-ruling-weakens-state-alcohol-control/>

State Lawmakers Prepare for Possible Economic Downturn

Some New York state officials are preparing for the possibility of an upcoming economic downturn. While the nation has generally seen gradual economic growth and lowering unemployment rates in recent years, there is concern over a possible future economic downturn. New York state has not recovered too well from the great recession. Much of upstate New York has seen declining population and relatively little in the way of new economic activity. While most of the state's post-recession economic growth has been confined to New York City. And there many people across the state who likely would not fair well under another economic recession. It is not known when another economic downturn may come, but it's important for the state to be prepared in case it occurs. The state legislature recently allocated 250 million dollars for a rainy-day fund to help offset lost revenues in case of an economic downturn. Though State Comptroller DiNapoli has argued that the state should do more to prepare.

Indeed, the state government should seek to be prepared for a possible economic downturn, since it's likely that one will occur at some point in the future, and it would be best to try to minimize its effects. Though the state government should also take broader efforts to reorganize its economic efforts. The economic development efforts of the Cuomo administration have often produced mediocre results and have often been riddled with corruption. They have misused taxpayer money to promote the growth of the industry, despite the harm that alcohol has on people and the fact that the damages caused by alcohol end up costing the state more money than the alcohol industry brings (thus resulting in increased taxes and a net loss of money for the economy). They have failed to address a number of systemic issues have limited the ability of many communities to achieve their potential. The state needs to move away from the failed approaches of recent years, and move towards a holistic economic approach, improving our education system, revitalizing our infrastructure, combating corruption, comprehensively addressing alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful drugs as a social and public health problem, and fostering the positive development of communities across the state.

Source: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/rochester/politics/2019/07/22/new-york-state-continues-economic-growth>

Congressional Bill Proposed to Advance Anti-Drunk Driving Technology

Representative Debbie Dingell (Michigan 12th District) has introduced a proposed bill to advance the implementation of anti-drunk driving technology. Technological innovators have produced a device, which can be implemented into vehicles, passively detect the BAC of drivers, and prevent the vehicle from moving. The bill, if passed, would support moving this technology into mass production, and enact steps towards eventually requiring the system to implemented into newly manufactured cars. If the bill passes this year and advances through the process as planned, then this technology could be standard for new cars as soon 2024.

Source: http://www.pressandguide.com/news/dingell-continues-to-work-to-reduce-drunk-driving/article_103fe9e4-ae3e-11e9-b658-033055753c32.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwAR3uR06Zwg1vsaD6SUjwDt1ktgVVCspvYd73wz5HsjiI5WRYUCZ13t_0l

"Human beings have rights, because they are moral beings: the rights of all men grow out of their moral nature; and as all men have the same moral nature, they have essentially the same rights."
Angelina Grimke

Syracuse University Student Sues Juul

Syracuse University Student, Maxwell Barger is suing the E-cigarette company Juul, for injuries which came as a result of using Juul's products. In 2017, Barger had a hemorrhagic stroke, which required 3 brain surgeries to treat, and left him paralyzed on his left side. Barger contends that the stroke he had was directly caused as a result of using Juul's products. The lawsuit also contends that Juul failed to adequately inform consumers about the dangers of their products, and that there advertising had portrayed E-cigarette use as "fun, healthy, and cool". The case is currently ongoing.

Though this case touches on the broader issue of E-cigarettes as a tobacco product. While E-cigarettes, such as Juul may have been initially been created as an alternative to regular tobacco products for those who already smoked, they still contain some of the main harmful chemicals as regular cigarettes (including nicotine), and they have grown to be marketed more broadly. Tobacco companies market E-cigarettes to people generally, they have advertisements which encourage people to begin using E-cigarettes, and like with previous tobacco products, tobacco companies have engaged in tactics to promote their use by youths. While anti-tobacco efforts have resulted in the decline of tobacco use over the decades (especially among younger generations), the rise of E-cigarettes have resulted in a recent rise in nicotine addiction among teens and young adults. Anti-tobacco groups have begun to address the issue of E-cigarettes, though more efforts will need made going forward to help reverse the trend and move toward comprehensively reducing and eliminating tobacco products.

Source: <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/central-nj/news/2019/07/26/former-su-student-sues-juul>

"Leadership is building a bridge that connects the vision with the purpose, in order to empower those who are around us." David Walker

New York Prohibition Party History



John W. Mears: The Social Crusader

John W. Mears was a scholar, writer, college professor, temperance and social reform activist, and prohibition party politician. He was the 1879 Prohibition Party candidate for Governor of New York.

John W. Mears was born on August 10th, 1825 in Reading, Pennsylvania. His parents were Henry Haller Mears and Anna Birkenbine Mears, and was the oldest of 7 Children. His father was a grain merchant and his mother was a Sunday school teacher. He was raised in a Presbyterian household, which took inspiration from the revivalist campaigns of Charles Grandison Finney. In 1836, the family moved to Philadelphia. His father opened a successful grain marketing firm, which financially supported the family, and was later taken over by John's brother George. In his youth, John Mears was mentored by men, including Judge William Darling and Rev. John L. Grant. Darling was a Berks County judge, businessman, and temperance activist who attended the same church as the Mears when they lived in Reading and helped inspire John Mears' support for temperance. Grant was a Philadelphia preacher and Sunday school teacher, who helped inspire Mears to become a minister.

From an early age, John Mears showed an interest for scholarly study and intellectual debate. At 15, Mears started college at Newark College in Delaware. After graduating from Newark, he studied at Yale College for 2 years, and then went on to study at Yale Divinity School. He graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1851 and became a minister.

Mears started his first ministry at a new Presbyterian church in Camden, New Jersey. During this time, he became affiliated with the New School faction of the Presbyterian Church and became friends with one of its leaders,

Albert Barnes. The New School faction was a group of ministers in the Presbyterian Church at the time, which emphasized evangelism, conversion of new members, cooperation with other denominations, and was more supportive of social reform. While the Old School faction was relatively more Calvinist, insular, and resistant to cooperation with other denominations and participation in social reform movements.

On September 2nd, 1852, Mears married Phebe Ann H. Tatem. They would go on to have at least one son. Over the following several years, Mears acted as a minister for a series of small churches, in Camden, New Jersey, Elkton, Maryland, and Milford Delaware. Following his resignation from the Milford Church in 1860, Mears decided to leave active ministry and pursue a new career.

In 1860, Mears moved back to Philadelphia, and took a position working for the *American Presbyterian Newspaper*. In July of that year, he became the newspaper's editor. The newspaper provided a larger outlet for Mears' intellectual interests and desire to debate. He used the newspaper to promote the New School interpretation among Presbyterians, promote temperance and other reforms, and comment on various social and political issues. During the Civil War, the newspaper promoted the Union cause. After the Battle of Gettysburg, the newspaper was involved in the effort to identify Amos Humiston: a union soldier from Portville, New York, who died during the battle, whose body was found with an image of his children, and inspired a nationwide effort to identify him and his family.

Outside of his newspaper work, Mears was involved in a variety of social activism. He campaigned in an effort to shut down the operation of Philadelphia streetcars on Sundays. He was involved in a campaign to stop pollution in the city's Schuylkill River (the city's main source of drinking water). After the Civil War, he helped to raise funds for the creation of an orphanage in Gettysburg for children orphaned by the war. Though unfortunately, the orphanage would later fail due to bad management.

In 1867 Mears finished writing a book on the history of the Reformation in the Netherlands. Mears wrote various other books in his life, including books on 14th Century Bohemia and Madagascar. He was also involved with translating works in other languages to English. In his life he had published a translation of the Greek orations of Thucydides and worked to translate the work of German philosopher Immanuel Kant. In 1867, Mears received an honorary doctorate in divinity from Indiana University.

In 1870, the *American Presbyterian Newspaper* was absorbed into the *New York Evangelist Newspaper*, and Mears most his job as editor. In 1871, Hamilton College in Oneida

County, New York, created a new professorship in honor of Albert Barnes. John Mears was hired for the position. He moved to Clinton, New York, and started teaching at Hamilton. Mears was primarily a philosophy professor, but also taught classes on religion, French language, and German language. He gained a reputation as a strict teacher. Mears was a big fan of the works of Immanuel Kant and worked to promote their scholarly study in the U.S.

While living in Oneida County, Mears continued to be involved in various forms of activism. He wrote numerous pamphlets and gave speeches, promoting temperance and prohibition. In 1874, Mears was involved in a meeting of the Utica Presbytery endorsing the temperance cause and calling for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. He was also involved in various committees within the regional and state Presbyterian organizations.

By 1873, Mears became involved in campaigns against the Oneida Community. The Oneida community was a religious commune in the Oneida County, founded in 1848, and lead by John Humphrey Noyes. The Oneida community had many who objected to the groups sexual practices under its system of complex marriage. Where generally any member of the community could have sex with any other, where older men introduced young girls to sex (at age 13 on average and some as young as 9) and older women introduced young boys to sex, in some cases involved incest, and Noyes often decided who which members would form relationships. Much of what they did would be made illegal following the passage of statutory rape laws and anti-obscenity laws in the 1870's. For decades, opponents had made public and legal campaigns against the Oneida community. In 1873, Mears became leader of Presbyterian Committee which worked to bring an end to the Oneida community's practices. A combination of the public campaigns against the Oneida community, the growing threat of legal investigation, and dissenting members within the Oneida community eventually brought down Noyes. In 1879, Noyes fled to Canada to avoid being arrested for statutory rape, and the Oneida community officially abandoned its practice of complex marriage. Mears declared victory after the Oneida Community abandoned complex marriage, but was displeased that Noyes had avoided arrest. The Oneida community would end up dissolving in 1881.

In the 1870's Mears rose in academic and political prominence. In 1877, Mears became president of the New York State Teachers Association. In 1878, the Prohibition Party nominated Mears as its candidate for congress in New York's 23rd district. Mears was part of a rising wave of Prohibition Party congressional candidates. In that year, the party was able to run candidates in about 1/3rd of the state's congressional districts.

Following the nomination, a group of students at Hamilton College held a rally in celebration of Mears nomination. At the rally, student Lawrence Winfield Baxter stated,

"It is one of the most gratifying signs of the times that the people are awakening to realize the necessity of instituting some genuine movements of reform".

Mears made his own statements at the rally:

"I suppose, gentlemen you have come here and want to know how your professor got into politics. Your professor of metaphysics into politics. A little sound metaphysics would not do politics any harm. Politics ought to be gotten out of dram shops, our politicians of all parties would be safer and sounder men if they were separated from the fumes of a bottle".

Mears ended up receiving 451 (1.98%) votes and came in 4th place.

On September 3rd, 1879, the New York Prohibition Party held its annual state convention. The convention, under the leadership of state chairman James Bronson, selected a slate of candidates for statewide offices. They selected John Mears as its candidate for Governor. The rest of the state ticket included James Bronson of Montgomery County for Lieutenant Governor, Professor Alphonso Hopkins of Monroe County was for Secretary of State, Caleb W. Allis of Onondaga County for State Controller, Stevan Merrit of Rockland County for State Treasurer, John J. Hooper of Tioga County for State Engineer, Walter Farrington of Dutchess County for State Attorney General. The State Party platform opposition to the state's liquor licensing system, support for passing a state constitutional amendment banning the manufacture, importation, and sale of liquor, and support for women's suffrage.

After the convention, Hamilton college students once again held a rally in celebration Mears nomination. The main speech of the rally was given by Charles A Gardiner: a Hamilton college student, who would go on to be class valedictorian, study at Columbia Law School, and became a corporate lawyer. During the speech Gardiner stated, "We sympathize with you in your work" "We would see this evil of intemperance driven from our land".

Mears gave his own speech as well. During his speech he stated that, "The liquor traffic continues to be the most expensive, the most useless and the most damaging of all evils under which society suffers through the civilized world" and "I enjoy few things more than a downright, earnest combat with something that deserves to be combated".

Mears undertook an organized statewide campaign. The Prohibition Party funded posters and handbills. His campaign got enough attention to worry the Republican Party, who

feared that he could compete with them for the support of a significant amount of voters, and he was attacked in the press.

A week before the election, Mears held an event Clinton's Schollard Opera House alongside Charles Gardiner. Mears ended up receiving 4,437 (0.47%) votes and came in 5th place. His results were greater than the 3,412 (0.34%) votes received by William Groo in the 1876 Gubernatorial election.

After the election, Mears continued to engage in temperance and social activism. His son, Henry Haller Mears studied at Hamilton college, but left college before graduating to pursue business. Henry married, moved to Philadelphia, and became a broker in oils and paints. In 1881, John Mears organized a celebration for the 100th anniversary of the publishing of Immanuel Kant's *The Critique of Pure Reason*. He then returned to teach for Hamilton's 1881-1882 school year. He celebrated the inauguration of Rev. Dr. Henry Darling (his friend and son of his childhood mentor Judge William Darling) as the new university president.

In September, Mears gave an emotional speech at a memorial at Hamilton College mourning the assassination of President Garfield. This would be Mears' last public speech. Mears' health was had declined throughout the year of 1881. On October 24th, Mears collapsed while teaching a class and had a series of seizures, due to Sepsis (blood poisoning). Attempts at medical treatment were unsuccessful, and Mears died on November 10th, 1881. His funeral was held on November 12th, and was attended by a group of family members, academic colleagues, and fellow ministers.

In speaking of Mears, his long-time friend, Rev. Thomas J. Brown stated that "Inactivity had no charms on him". And his student Charles Gardiner stated that he taught "a lesson in self-respect, and what a pure and pious zeal combined with pluck and persistence can accomplish".

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