

# "MA" Ferguson On Rich Drinkers

## Reward of \$500 Offered for Every Wealthy Conviction.—Rich Boast of Breaking Dry Laws, She Asserts

AUSTIN, Tex. Nov. 28—Offering a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction for violating the prohibition laws of any person worth more than \$5,000, Governor Miriam A. Ferguson today issued a formal statement scolding the "high brows" of Texas.

She characterized the prohibition act as "one for the rich and against the poor." She declared in her statement that rich people in Texas were daily violating the prohibition laws, "and boasting about it," while the penitentiary was being filled with "poor devils who carried a mere pint on their hips."

The woman governor made scathing remarks about judges who drank liquor themselves and sentenced home brew makers to the penitentiary.

In her statement she declared a north Texas newspaper publisher dispensed pints "by the dozen and went scot free while poor and underfed men yearly were being sent to the penitentiary for violating the prohibition law in that city for possessing only one thin pint."

She said, in effect, if the rich were to be allowed to go free for liquor violations and the poor sent to the penitentiary, "then justice becomes a mockery and law becomes a stench in the nostrils of all law-abiding citizens.

The governor challenged the Methodists of the state to "get out and help clean up the liquor joints," saying there would then not be any call to issue so many pardons.

At their state convention recently, the Methodist state conference passed resolutions condemning the Ferguson pardon record.

The woman governor asserted her funds were limited, but that she would use every cent available to continue the reward. The statement follows:

"I Miriam A. Ferguson, governor of this state, charged with enforcement of the laws of the state, do hereby offer a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of any citizen of this state for violating the liquor laws, who is worth in property or money as much as \$5,000. The funds at my command are limited, but I will use every cent available to continue this reward,

"The enforcement of the liquor laws in Texas has become the enforcement of the law against the poor and for the rich. If a big newspaper publisher in a north Texas city can dispense pints of liquor by the dozen and under the influence of liquor, display himself in a public place just because he claims he has a million dollars and goes scot free, while the poor and unfortunate in the state are daily sent to the penitentiary for having in their possession only a thin pint; if a prominent ex-official and another millionaire in a big South Texas city, can buy all the liquor he wants and transport it to his residence in violation of the law, just because he has a big newspaper and never be questioned by any officers, much less indicted in the courts of our state, while scores of people are being sent to the penitentiary from the same city for making a little home brew; if a prominent district

judge in a central Texas city can try bootleggers and send them to the penitentiary and at the same time drink bootleg liquor; if wealthy business men can fill their lockers full of liquor and boast in company about how much they have and the brand they have and not be molested, while the penitentiary is being filled with poor devils who have neither friends or money, who have been found guilty of making a little liquor for home consumption, then indeed, when all these things happen, justice becomes a mockery and the law becomes a stench in the nostrils of all law-abiding people.

"I am not undertaking to justify the poor people in the violation of the law, but I here, now, call upon the officers in this state from the bench down to put the same law in force against the rich that is now being put in force against the poor. Let our Methodist friends who seem to be so much exercised about the pardon power to get busy and help us detect and convict a few of the highbrows; we will have then done a great thing for law enforcement, and we will have then shown to the world that in this land of democracy all men, regardless of their wealth or station, are equal before the law.

"If the rich of this country were not patronizing so many bootleggers and aiding and abetting them to violate the law, the bootleggers would have to go out of business. If those who are so prone to criticize my administration for lack of enforcement of the liquor laws, are sincere in their charges, I now tender them an opportunity to join me in the arrest and detection of those who are most to blame for violation of the liquor laws.

"Done at Austin, in the executive office, this 28th day of November, 1925.

(Signed.)

"MIRIAM A. FERGUSON,  
Governor of Texas."

## Vast Crowd At Funeral of Heroic Mother

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Nov. 29.—The funeral of Mrs. Savannah Lee Kent, heroic mother who lost her life while she was trying to rescue her two unconscious children from the flames that destroyed the Kent home on the Walling plantation, was conducted Saturday afternoon in Huntsville from the home of a married daughter of the family, Mrs. Bertha Latton. The Rev. G. M. Davenport, pastor of the First Methodist church, conducted the services which was attended by a large throng, most of whom had never heard of the family until they learned of the mother's heroism. They paid a final tribute to the brave woman who gave her life in an effort to save two more after she had helped save four of her children from the fire. Mother and two children were buried in the same casket, which was covered with flowers.

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