

FLASHBACK 1921 100 years ago

State Again Refuses to Ratify Prohibition

Somerset Democrat Feb 4, 1921, p1

Action of the State Senate this week in failing to pass the Robert's Prohibition Ratification Resolution, continues New Jersey in the small group of States which have refused to endorse the "dry" amendment to the Federal Constitution. There were ten votes mustered for the measure, which had previously passed the House, and eight cast against. It requires 11 votes to pass any measure in the Senate.



Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New

Jersey are the only States which have hung out as dissenters against ratification of the "dry" amendment to the Constitution. Immediately following the rejection of the Roberts' measure, the Senate reversed its position far enough to pass the bill by Assemblywoman Laird, of Essex, repealing the 3.50 beer law which Governor Edwards put through a year ago.

(photo source: Somerville Fire Museum)

Recognized an Old Friend

Countryman Visiting in City Had No Fear of Being Harmed by "Thrashing Machine"

Somerset Democrat Feb 11, 1921, page 2

An elderly countryman stood on a Broadway curb with more fear in his heart than he had ever experienced in his home county and more than his son had experienced in Argonne forest. To him the crossing of that crowded street was truly the "great adventure."

In the middle of it were two lines of tracks, up and down which hurtled great "tanks" of street cars – juggernauts, seemingly intended for the sole purpose of crushing his aged limbs should he venture into their path.

On the other side of them were endless lines of chugging trucks, with an occasional horse-drawn vehicle, and dodging in and about were touring cars and autos of all kinds.

Now and then the sharp whistle of a traffic policeman would spell safety to the acrobatic and initiated, who dashed across the street, skillfully dodging traffic, which turned the corner in a way no one but an old New Yorker can understand, and even he cannot explain.

Finally, there rumbled down the street a steam roller used in asphalt pavement work, belching clouds of smoke but attracting no attention. The old countryman was electrified. Resolutely he deserted his shore of safety and plunged across the street in its very path.

"Huh," he grunted as he reached the other side. "That's one thing I ain't afraid of. They used to scare horses when I was a kid; used to make a man out of the thrashing crew walk ahead of them. I know they won't hurt you, but I don't know what these other things will do. Never expected to see a thrashing engine here, but you never can tell. New York's a great city, all right." --*New York Evening Sun*