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"Home Rule" Up to Date—Facts for Voters.

(This paid column is edited by a representative of the Roseburg Good Citizens' League.)

A great deal is said and written about the increase of wealth, the centralization of wealth and the power of the Trust and the Corporation. A fact that is often overlooked, however, is that the beer and whiskey business is now very largely in the hands of such corporations and owing to close organization and the great wealth controlled, these corporations and trusts are as great a menace to the country as any other when they are considered merely as ordinary, selfish, moneyed institutions. Their character takes on a deeper blackness, however, when it is borne in mind that they are in existence for the purpose of increasing the use of their products and thereby breaking down individual men and the community. No good enterprise or institution is helped in any way by the liquor business but it is naturally and inherently the enemy of everything that tends toward progress and the betterment of humanity. The business is so bad that even those engaged in it resort to all sorts of disguises and subterfuges in order to advance their interests. At the present time in the state of Oregon the liquor business is masquerading under the guise of the "Hotel Keeper's Association" and the so-called "Home Rule Association" and alleged "Personal Liberty Leagues" which are advocating measures which will promote the interests of the business and yet no distiller, brewer, wholesale liquor dealer or saloon-keeper will come out openly before the public. It appears, and champion his cause. At any rate, we read nothing whatever in the Oregon press in favor of the liquor business, we do not read a great deal of boasting of all sorts of fraudulent devices and humbugs that are gotten up to mask the business and deceive the voter.

The "Greater Oregon Home Rule Association" gives great prominence to the statement that brewers, distillers and saloon-keepers cannot be members of its organization. They do not anywhere say that such people will not be permitted to confront the sinews of war. One does not need to be a prophet or the son of a prophet to know that the six thousand dollars a year paid by this institution to Bro. McAllister, and the other thousands upon thousands of dollars that are being expended in various forms of advertising, come from the coffers of the liquor traffic and from nowhere else. No one believes seriously that the eminent business men of the city of Portland who are allowing their names to be handed about for the benefit of the liquor traffic in Oregon under the name of the "Greater Oregon Home Rule Association" expect to pay the fiddler. They will do very well for staking horses. But it must be rather hard for these self-sacrificing booze vendors to read in print repeatedly that they are not worthy to become members of this high-minded organization.

The state at large pays the bill for keeping up the circuit and supreme courts, the district attorney's offices, the penitentiary, the insane asylum, but the "Greater Oregon Home Rule Association" proposes that the exclusive right to make business for these courts and district attorneys, and to make inmates for these institutions, shall be vested solely and exclusively in the incorporated towns of the state. The liquor dealer is now meekly skulking in the background without being regarded as worthy to be a member of the "Greater Oregon Home Rule Association" but he hopes that his day is coming. He sits at the second table and pays the bills now. When the constitution of the state shall have been amended so as to give incorporated towns the exclusive right to deal with the liquor question, the liquor dealer knows that it will be the turn of the farmer and the taxpayer in the unincorporated town to sit at the second table and pay the bills.

Those who have lived in Oregon for many years know that the growth of civic pride has been very slow, and progressive movements that have in-

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involved moral issues have been fought every step of the way. There is scarcely a town in Oregon where an issue has been drawn between law and order and morality and decency on one side and lawlessness and disorder, and booze and gambling and prostitution on the other, but what the decent citizen has had to see his ballot time and again offset by the ballot of the "old soak", the "tin horn gambler" or the hobo or the transient voter imported into the town for the purpose. And the expense of the importation has generally been met by the saloon-keepers or those closely identified with their business. It was not until the advent of the local option law that the power of the people of the country, joined with the better elements of the towns, to get and keep the upper hand of the other elements, was realized. Now that it has been demonstrated that the people have this great power, we are in Oregon in the presence of a desperate movement to overcome and destroy the local option law by a proposed amendment to the state constitution which will give to every incorporated town the exclusive right to deal with the liquor business as it sees fit. If this amendment should be adopted the good people of the towns will find themselves at the mercy of a traffic which has violated every law ever put on the statute books for its regulation and which attracts to itself every form of vice and evil known to men. Rosy pictures are painted of what will be done under the license law when saloons are to be "regulated". But there is not a man or woman of mature years in Oregon who does not know that when we had the license law everywhere and the law imposed a severe penalty upon the liquor dealer who would sell to minors or to habitual drunkards, or keep his place of business open on Sunday, or permit gambling, or allow women to frequent his place, he violated every one of these provisions and impudently gave his time and his money to defeat any officer who undertook to enforce the law. The history of our towns in Oregon shows that under the license system the saloon keeper has fought as desperately to prevent the enforcement of the reasonable regulations of the license law as he is now fighting to undermine the law which is putting him out of business.

The wall of the liquor men that "prohibition does not prohibit" is nothing more or less than the threat that they will not obey the law. No one need be surprised at this. They never have obeyed the law and never seriously intend to obey the law. It is up to the people to see that they are compelled to do what they will never do of their own free will. It is true there are many "blind pigs" and that there is much liquor sold contrary to law, but this has always been the case. It has openly been charged and not denied that while there are five hundred saloons in the city of Portland, there are also four hundred "blind pigs", and any man who doubts that liquor is sold contrary to law in the city of Portland has only to read carefully the Portland papers. Just the other day, Mayor Simon called the Chief of Police on the "carpet" and admonished him that he would have to better the enforcement of the law and that the illegal selling of liquor must stop. A conspicuous case of prosecution for selling liquor without a license in the city of Portland was that of the "Quelle", a prominent and fashionable resort holding itself out as a place where food and drink are furnished, but as has been developed by the prosecution in question, a place where a great deal more drink than food has been dispensed.

One saloon row in Grant county cost the taxpayers in that county \$7,500, and the farmers have to pay their share of the expense that never would have occurred had there been no saloons. Yet the "Greater Oregon Home Rule Association" wants to prohibit the farmer from having any vote as to whether there shall be saloons in his home county or not.

Read this column next Saturday.

Asher Ireland, of the local forestry service, left for points on the North Umpqua river this morning where he will spend some time attending to matters connected with his official duties.

FRUIT GROWERS, ATTENTION.

A determined effort will be made at our next meeting, Saturday, October 1, to organize a first-class going association. It is hoped that speakers will be on hand from Salem and other places to show us how it can be done and the benefits that should be apparent to all will be shown. We know everybody is pretty busy at this time of the year, but it is the earnest wish of the officers and executive committee that a full attendance be on hand. Try and arrange your affairs to be on hand, and do not forget the date, Saturday, October 1, at 10 a. m., at the court house. W. J. HARRIS, dsw-s23.

NOTICE.

All parties who can conveniently do so are requested to make their entries for the coming fair with the secretary on Saturday, the 24th inst. This will greatly facilitate matters and prevent delay on the opening day. Blanks on application, E. N. EWART, Secretary, 2nd S. O. D. A. Society, Room 7 Review Building.

TO WATER CONSUMERS.

Owing to extensive changes in the laying of new water mains under streets to be newly paved short interruptions in the service will occur from time to time during the next two months and we would request water consumers to keep a moderate supply of water drawn for domestic use. J. L. & S. A. KENDALL, 3-11



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