

Published every evening except Sunday MEDFORD P U BLISH IN G COMPAN
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Is there any reason why a city should not want, at all times, complete control over its affairs? Is there any pos-
sible excuse for the city of Medford any excuse for the city of Medford giving up at this time actly what is being proposed by those behind the movement to amend Medford's charter, so as to conform it to the
local option law. At the present time Medford has absolute self-gov ernment upon the liquor question. Under its charter it If it were under local option and subject to the state law, then the ontside precincts might close it up, though every voter in Medford wanted it wet. Should the proposed
amendment to the charter pass at the coming ciection, then there is no power within the people to ever again amend
the charter to become independent of the state law. This may sound strong, but if the reader will carefully consider what follow
The local option law was passed while the legislature had the power to amend rity charters. After the passage of the local option law, Medford's city charter was amended by the state legislature, so as to make Medford independent of the state law, and leave the question entirely to Medford voters. In the recent Hall case in our suprem court this provision was upheld, and the cou
Medford independent of the rest of the count:
After Medford's charter had been so amended by the legislature, the people of Oregon amended the constitution so as to provide that no city charter could ever again be
amended by the legislature; that sueh anem amended by the legislature; that such amendacents couk only be made by the people of the city; that the people in heir amendments could not mathe
conflict with the state law. After that constitutional im.
a case went to the supreme court from Coos county, wfiere a town charter was amended after the constitutional
ameudment, so as to make that town independent of the local option law. The smpreme court held this could not be done, because the constitution as amended required city charters to conform to the state laws. It held that in the county, although the town itself soted wet by 151 in its precinct election. Hence, anyone can understand the present situation
Our charter was anended between the time that the
local option law was passed and the time that the constitution was amended. If our charter should be amended now so as to conform to the local option law, then the people could never again put the town where it is at present because the constitutional amendment would prev
darter amendment inconsistent with the state law
It ought, therefore, to be clear that Medford
a unique posifion with its present charter, but if that char the county can closeup Modford, athoned, ther: the rest in it might vote wet.
The lssue on the charter is, therefore, not one
wet or dry. Under the present charter no liquor can sold except
can elect
people ought, howeser, to have the pawer to dor . The please in this regard. Could even the rankest prohibition-
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