

Medford Daily Tribune

A LIVE PAPER IN A LIVE TOWN.

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MEDFORD PUBLISHING COMPANY
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Manager.

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BUSINESS MEN AND TAXPAYERS' TICKET

For Mayor, W. H. CANON.
For Councilman—Second Ward, V. L. EMERICK.
For Councilman—First Ward, E. A. WELCH.
For Councilman—Third Ward, JOHN DEMER.

MR. PERRY'S STRADDLE.

Mr. Perry's position on the liquor question is a straddle, an evident attempt to carry water on both shoulders and secure support from both wets and dries.

Either Mr. Perry is a believer in prohibition or a believer in high license. He cannot believe in both. He refuses to state what he favors, but says he will be bound by the straw vote to the taken next Tuesday, and if the people vote dry he will be dry, but if they vote wet, he will be wet.

Of course he will, that goes without saying. But what is he, wet or dry? The consideration of a few facts may enlighten the situation.

- Who circulated his petition? Prohibitionists.
- Who are making his campaign? Prohibitionists.
- Who are his most ardent supporters? Prohibitionists.
- Who says he is pledged to them? Prohibitionists.

The Medford Mail, prohibition organ, calls him "our ticket"; the Rev. Shields, field commander of prohibition forces, calls him "our ticket"; Shortie Garnett and other prohibition generals call him "our candidate."

If Mr. Perry is not a prohibitionist, his prohibition friends are being deceived.

The columns of the Tribune are open to Mr. Perry to state his position on the liquor question, to tell his real sentiments.

WHAT IT REALLY MEANS.

What is the use of all this literature telling about the prosperity of prohibition cities and all these imported agitators to tell us how to run Medford, when all any one has to do to find out the truth is to visit Grants Pass and Ashland and then compare them with Medford.

Medford is the most prosperous of all small Oregon cities. Leave conditions as they are, and the steady growth of the past three years will be maintained. Change them and a setback will follow—it may be only temporary, but it will be a setback, and before conditions have readjusted themselves to the new regime, some other town will have taken the lead.

The \$800 license now in force means \$8000 a year revenue that will have to be raised by taxation if lost by prohibition. This, added to the already high rate of taxation caused by heavy bonded indebtedness, practically means confiscation, depreciation and bankruptcy.

WHY AMEND THE CHARTER?

What benefit will accrue to any one if Medford's charter is amended? None.

If the people want a dry town, they can have it, under the present charter. If they want it wet, they can have it.

Medford's charter gives the people of the city home rule. Neither state nor county can interfere. It is an advantage few other cities have, and makes Medford an object of envy in and out of Oregon.

It would be the height of folly to amend the charter and lose home rule at the dictation of a few itinerant agitators and some resident appealers to sentiment.

There is no reason any prohibitionist should vote to surrender home government. He can vote the town dry as it is.

There is no reason any wet advocate should vote to give the farmers of Jackson county and the citizens of rival cities the right to dictate to Medford.

If Medford people vote to surrender their rights by amending the charter it will make Medford the laughing stock of the state.

DESERVING OF AN UGLIER WORD.

It seems hardly worth while to deny falsehoods published by the prohibition organ, any more than it is to notice the flood of billingsgate nightly poured upon this paper and its editor by those who, dreaming of political dictation, have forgotten that they were consecrated to teach brotherly love, but the printed statement that the Tribune opposes prohibition and advocates high license because it is paid to by the saloon interests, is a lie. It is evidently as foreign to the nature of the writer of the above calumny to advocate anything without pay, that he

cannot conceive of others doing it.

The Tribune advocates high license because it knows that prohibition is a sorry farce. The editor has lived in prohibition states and realizes fully the injustice, hypocrisy, fraud and folly, as well as high taxation and frequently stagnation and ruin, that prohibition begets. As long as the manufacture of liquor is permitted, so long will it be drunk, if not openly, then clandestinely. And if it wasn't liquor, some other vice would supplant it, such is the frailty of human nature. So the practical way to handle the saloon evil is by regulation rather than attempted suppression.

There is money in it for the prohibition agitator and money in it for the prohibition newspaper. There is boycott from merchants and abuse from pulpits for the paper that dares to oppose prohibition—hence so many editors have been coerced into stultifying their principles. And it takes courage to fight prohibition as it does any popular heresy.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MEDFORD?

Medford is prosperous. No city of its size in Oregon can compare with it. It is making needed improvements on its streets. It is spending over \$350,000 for a water system. This has made taxes a little high. Money is needed, but people don't begrudge paying taxes if the money is wisely expended.

Medford has a good charter. It gives her home rule. Medford can, by an ordinance, at any time prohibit the sale of liquor absolutely. But, not satisfied with that, some gentlemen want to amend the charter so that people outside of town can vote prohibition in the town. They keep up a ceaseless agitation. With them it is rule if we can, but if we cannot rule we will ruin by ceaseless agitation.

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