

The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. CATES.

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AS TO PROHIBITION.

There are but few thoughtful Americans, perhaps, who have not taken note of the tendency of the times in all sections of this country toward the suppression, entire or in part, of the liquor traffic. For years this movement has been gathering force until at the present its influence has to be recognized and reckoned with. People who have small faith in any legalized effort to stop the sale of intoxicating beverages and who ridicule the actual good ever to be accomplished by prohibition, must still admit the advance made in this cause. Whether those people who admit so uncompromisingly this measure really believe in its efficacy is not the point. It has been often charged that they do not, and that they as well as their opponents realize the thorough inadequacy of the step to further the cause of temperance. The liquor question in all of its phases is such a large one, and fraught with such vital importance, that even those who so constantly carp upon the failure of prohibition and temperance efforts generally are backward in suggesting a wiser or better method of minimizing, if not absolutely stamping out, the liquor drinking evil. And yet because no better plan is put forward it does not necessarily argue that prohibition is the thing. Most people admit the great evils to be justly charged to the liquor traffic. Men who are in this business, and whose worldly wealth consists therein, do not deny there are evils. What they do deny, and what thousands of others also deny, is that prohibition actually accomplishes what is claimed for it.

All people, at least those who get around much and who have lived in prohibition cities, understand and know that intoxicating drinks are to be had in such places. The regular saloons may have been put out of business, but the sale of liquor has not been necessarily stopped. This, of course, is a matter of almost common knowledge and a stock argument of those who oppose prohibition. To this argument it is replied by the anti-saloon forces that a revolution cannot be effected in a day and that, while liquor is sold secretly in prohibition communities, the saloon as an educator of youth is eliminated and in the long run the number of new drinkers developed is decreased.

In many places the revenue from the liquor traffic is an important factor in the support of the municipalities. With this revenue withdrawn cities are deprived of this money, as was the case in Cottage Grove. In this city, if The Sentinel's information is correct, some members of the community fought against local option for this reason. They were not champions of the liquor traffic, but on the contrary regretted the evils resulting therefrom. They understood, however, that prohibition does not always prohibit, and this being so, they saw no advantage in depriving the city of the revenue mentioned unless local option entirely crushed out the evils complained of. They lost their fight, and lost the revenue, and Cottage Grove is "dry." But has the cause of temperance been materially advanced? This is a question on which The Sentinel is not informed from personal knowledge, but from hearsay we take it that the morality of the town has been improved, if nothing more.

The question of prohibition is being mooted in Oregon at this time. Just what the outcome will

be it is difficult to foresee. That a solution of this matter is among the most vexatious questions we have to determine is generally admitted. Whether it would be wise or not to give every community in Oregon "absolute control" of the liquor situation, as advocated by the bill of the Greater Home Rule Association, is a question that the best thought and ability within the state should consider carefully. Self government is certainly the ideal form of government, and if a majority of the people of any community want to license, regulate, control, suppress or prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors within the municipality it appears as though they should be given that right. It would be up to the people to determine. While The Sentinel might favor prohibition its next door neighbor might have a different opinion. Majority rule is a fundamental principle of our government.

KANSAS AND KANSANS.

On Wednesday next, D. V., former residents of Kansas will congregate at the public playgrounds in this city, and eat, drink and be merry. Kansas seems to be doomed to get the worst of all national calamities and visitations, whether political, pathological or meteorological, and those former residents of that state who are now hooked up with Oregon—and Cottage Grove in particular—have things to be thankful for.

In winter the Kansans are tortured by a pestilence of chills; in summer their unhappy state is swept by burning siroccos. The grasshoppers of the eighties, disdaining the barley and hops of Missouri, settled upon the alfalfa of Kansas, and when at last they passed on, the state was as bare of flora as the scalp of Duns Scotus. Populism had its headquarters in Kansas; socialism and new thought have flourishing branch offices there; it is the center of the liver pill and near-beer traffics. All the demagogues and firebrands of American history, from John Brown to "Uncle Joe" Cannon, have dug their heels into Kansas soil and poured their rhetorical henbanes into Kansan ears. Magazine muckrakers retire to Kansas to die. The state is one vast chamber of horrors, and it is not surprising that a large proportion of the immigration from the Middle West is from the grasshopper state.

IMPURE MILK.

The fight that is being made by health officers in many cities in Oregon for proper inspection and regulation on a hygienic basis of the milk supply of their respective cities, should extend to Cottage Grove. It is based upon scientific grounds so simple that one of the most ordinary education can understand them, so simple that it seems almost like wilful ignorance not to understand and like criminal carelessness on the part of the authorities not to take action in the matter. It affects the whole city both hygienically and economically, because of the likelihood of disease, and furthermore because milk improperly handled will not keep sweet any reasonable length of time. The cause of milk souring too quickly is the presence in it of bacteria in large numbers and under conditions that promote their rapid increase.

Everybody knows what bacteria are, though no one has ever seen one except through a microscope. They are little animals of the simplest kind of structure and so small that a single drop of sour milk may contain 40,000,000 of them. Yet, small as they are, they are actual living animals. We are too wise now-a-days to believe things do not exist that are too small for our eyes to see. So none of us doubt at all the existence of these bacteria. Under proper conditions of temperature they multiply in the milk with tremendous rapidity, each one doing his work in taking the sweetness out and converting it into acid, until the milk is all sour. With the temperature of the milk very high they do not increase very fast, and boiling kills them entirely. Also with a temperature as low as fifty degrees their increase is very

slow and milk "keeps" well, and at forty degrees, the temperature of a good refrigerator, they practically cease to increase entirely. To show the absolute necessity for this low temperature it is only necessary to state that a single one becomes only four in twenty-four hours at a temperature of fifty, while at 68 degrees it becomes 6,128 in the same period. It is not, then, the warm weather in summer or the heat of the house in winter that spoils the milk, but the fact that the bacteria multiply so much more rapidly when the milk is at the more favorable temperature. Is not this reason enough for the ice box in every family, winter and summer?

But sour milk, with its well known evils and losses, is only the economic side of the matter, though needless doctor's and undertaker's bills also have their economic phases. There are other bacteria which come in the milk which do not sour it but perform an entirely different kind of work. When the milk is consumed they get into the blood and cause disease. These are the germs of such contagious diseases as tuberculosis, diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, etc. It is not important in thus communicating disease that these germs be present in large quantities, for when they get into the blood they find conditions favorable to their rapid increase. Therefore, even the household refrigerator which keeps the sour milk bacteria in check, does not render the milk safe to drink if it also contains the germs of these serious diseases.

It is too long a story to tell how all these souring and disease breeding germs get into the milk, but it can all be comprehended in one word "dirt." This does not mean dirt in such quantities as can be seen, for that is usually removed by straining, but straining does not remove the millions of bacteria that were introduced into the milk with the dirt. Only original cleanliness in a multitude of ways, usually neglected or but carelessly attempted, can prevent this original contamination of milk, and only immediate cooling to fifty degrees or less can prevent the rapid growth in numbers of those few who are certain to get in under the most cleanly of conditions. There should be no disease breeding conditions in or near the dairies from which milk may be contaminated by disease germs. The dairies and milking conditions should be such that germs cannot get into the milk in large numbers, and the milk should be at once cooled to prevent their rapid increase. Neither water or any other foreign matter should be added to the milk for any purpose whatever. Milk properly produced and handled needs no preservative to keep it in good condition forty-eight to sixty hours. This is a short and simple statement of a very important matter, of vital interest to every citizen.

NEEDLESS EXPENSE.

The railways of the country are protesting against the increased expenses occasioned by the requirements of the interstate commerce law. The claim is made that conditions imposed are of no public benefit and only add to the cost of management. For instance, the one item of printing is noted. It cost the Wabash in 1908 \$58,000 to print the schedules and the like that were required, but in 1910 the printing bill of this company will reach over \$100,000.

The growth in this item of expense on the Wabash is not exceptional. The expenditures of the traffic department of the Burlington for printing and stationery have increased, as shown by the following figures: 1907, \$92,937; 1908, \$114,731; 1909, \$141,861; first nine months of fiscal year 1910, \$179,131. Thus the bills of the traffic department of the Burlington for printing and stationery were 93 per cent greater in nine months of the fiscal year 1907.

The expense of the six New York Central lines west of Pittsburg and Buffalo in 1905 for the printing of freight tariffs exclusive of their proportion of the cost of joint agency issues, was \$33,603.58; including their proportion of the cost of joint

agency issues, it was \$47,334.38. In 1908 the expenditures of these roads for the printing of freight tariffs, exclusive of their portion of the cost of joint agency issues, was \$141,234.65; including their portion of the cost of joint agency issues, it was \$187,949.38, a total increase over 1905 of \$140,615, or almost 300 per cent. In 1905 these roads employed 47 clerks in the preparation of tariffs at a total cost of \$35,687.90. In 1908 they employed 72 clerks for this same purpose at a total cost of \$67,308.30, an increase over 1905 of \$31,620.40, or 186 per cent. The grand total expenses of these roads for the printing and distribution of freight tariffs in 1905 was \$35,359.34. In 1909 it was \$259,456.93, an increase of \$170,097.59 or about 200 per cent.—Exchange.

From the above it will be seen that the exactions of the commerce commission cause an outlay of millions of dollars every year for services that are practically worthless.

If anybody in Cottage Grove desires to ship freight he never consults the printed schedules, but he goes direct to the agent and if he is not already familiar with the rate he gets instructions from division headquarters. The law requires that a schedule of rates touching every conceivable article of freight be posted at every station. There are numerous small stations from which almost nothing but lumber is ever shipped and at which little but occasional consignments of merchandise is received. There are numerous other stations in the agricultural districts from which nothing but live stock and grain and an occasional consignment of poultry, eggs and butter are shipped, and at which there are only occasional receipts of merchandise. But as there may at some time or other be shipments of other commodities from such stations, it is necessary for the railway to provide a full line of rates to and from them; and since these rates are provided enormous tariffs containing innumerable rates which are never used are required by the commission to be posted. The only tariffs which are of any use to anyone at such stations are those containing the rates on which commodities are regularly shipped to and from them. If a shipment of any other commodity is to be made, the shipper does not consult the tariffs on file at the local station to find out what the rate is, nor does the agent. Neither would trust himself to wade through the complicated schedules and ascertain the rate. In such a case the agent wires or writes for the rate to the nearest division freight office, and he and the shipper invariably accept and act upon the quotation made by the division office. The expenditures for many of the large tariffs filed at small stations and the cases in which they are kept are completely wasted. The money spent on them could just as well be burned.

These increased expenses are but an atom compared with the vast sums required in the management of the railways of the country and in keeping road bed and equipment in repair. Labor receives nearly double the remuneration that it did ten years ago, and material for bridges, ties and the like has more than doubled in the past fifteen years. From the view point of the railways it is easy to see why a slight advance in freight rates is desired.

SAVING LUMBER.

Anyone who has ever used lumber even in a limited way, knows that it always comes in even lengths—that is, twelve feet, fourteen feet, sixteen feet long, and so forth. It has never been possible to go to a lumber yard and buy a thirteen foot board or one 11 feet long. If you wanted one 11 feet long, you had to buy a 12-foot board and saw off the extra foot, which was then of no use to you. The National Lumber Manufacturers' Association finally discovered that there was no good reason for this system, and in 1909 adopted resolutions favoring the manufacture of odd length flooring, ceiling, drop and moulding. Then the manufacturers on the Pacific coast began

to make odd lengths, and finally the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture has taken up the subject and has issued a bulletin showing that this practice saves 2.07 per cent of material which heretofore was wasted. This is a practical sort of conservation which everyone can appreciate.—Exchange.

After having advertised a number of times in both local papers for bids for the improvement of Tennessee avenue and East Main street, and for a drainage system on the east side, without results, it is now doubtful if these betterments can be accomplished this season, though the council is now in position to meet payments when the work shall have been completed. Contractors refused to accept warrants in payment for the municipality's portion of the improvements, and charter amendments and the voting of bonds appeared to be the only way by which the necessary work could be done. These amendments having been carried at Monday's special election the council is now empowered to proceed with this work, provided bids are not submitted when called for.

The drainage system east of the tracks is badly needed. It should and probably will be constructed forthwith. Further delay means damage to considerable property in that locality.

The result of Monday's special election is another evidence that citizens of Cottage Grove as a whole are taking a broader view of things necessary for the development of the municipality, and are becoming more united in their action for public improvements and the betterment of existing conditions. This augurs well for the future of the city; it means more than we may suspect. With its financial affairs satisfactorily adjusted, Cottage Grove is to forge ahead and take a prominent place among the foremost cities of its class in Western Oregon. The aldermanic body has made promises to the people; it must now make good.

Everybody who can should visit the State fair at Salem next month. It is unquestionably the greatest exhibit on the coast. It not only has an intelligent management, but it is located in a city that appreciates the presence of visitors and provides liberally for their entertainment and comfort.

This may be an "unusually dry season," but Oregon can stand all kinds of excesses from the weather man and still come up smiling at harvest time.

Repudiated by his own party, William Jennings Bryan is to be denied admission into the prohibition party, regardless of his temperance principles.

The Library Board is making arrangements to conduct its work on a more elaborate scale. And in its efforts it should have the encouragement of every public-spirited citizen.

The Kansans will congregate at the city park next Wednesday and relate, among other things, reminiscences of the grasshopper days on the prairies.

"Anybody's," issued by the Eugene Commercial club, and edited by Manager Freeman, is a very creditable publication, and should result in much good.

Cottage Grove is enjoying a substantial growth, as is also the country tributary thereto. A large number of residences have been erected this season in city and rural districts, while many new faces are seen among us.

Every citizen should feel proud of the fact that within a reasonably short time Cottage Grove will be the possessor of one of the finest mountain water systems in the Pacific Northwest. Its cost will be \$100,000, but there's nothing too good for Cottage Grove.

If Cottage Grove isn't as lively as you would like to have it, get busy. It's up to you.

Hurrah! Hurrah! Portland's population is greater than that of Seattle by 20,000. Hip, hip, hurrah!

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