

OREGON CITY COURIER. Published Every Friday by Oregon City Courier Publishing Co.

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A STRIKING ANTI-SALOON DECISION.

Jubilant editorials are appearing all over the country, rejoicing over the decision of Judge Samuel R. Artman, of the Circuit Court of Boone county, Ind., on February 13, to the effect that the saloon is so evil an institution that the state law licensing it is unconstitutional.

Quoting a sheaf of decisions from the United States Supreme Court and various State Supreme Courts in which the evils and miseries due to strong drink are dwelt upon, and quoting a decision of the Indiana Supreme Court declaring a law permitting prize-fighting unconstitutional because it was "opposed to the spirit of the Constitution," Judge Artman maintained that the evil influences of prize-fighting "are insignificant when compared with the destructive results of the liquor traffic," and he therefore declared:

"In view of these holdings, based, as they certainly are, upon good reason and sound common sense, it must be held that the State can not under the guise of a license delegate to the saloon business a legal existence, because to hold that it can is to hold that the State may sell and delegate the right to make widows and orphans, the right to break up homes, the right to create misery and crime, the right to make murderers, the right to produce idiots and lunatics, the right to fill orphanages, poorhouses, insane asylums, jails, and penitentiaries, and the right to furnish subjects for the hangman's gallows.

"With due appreciation of the responsibilities of the occasion, conscious of my obligations under my oath to Almighty God and to my fellow man, I can not by a judgment of this court authorize the granting of a saloon license, and the demurrer to the amended remonstrance is therefore overruled, the amended remonstrance is sustained, and the application is dismissed at the cost of the applicant."

The Home Herald, of Chicago (combining The New Voice and the Ram's Horn), publishes a ringing editorial on the decision, probably written by John G. Woolley, the famous temperance speaker and writer. It says:

"When the American Judiciary outlaws the liquor traffic the liquor interests may well tremble. The prohibition crusade is no longer to depend for its support altogether upon the church and temperance organizations. The conscience of the whole nation has been awakened to the fact that the issues are not merely of moral but of economic consequence, and that the health, the well-being, and prosperity of this great people are so intimately involved in this problem that the solution can not be left to chance or the doubtful contest of vested interests and corporation greed with out-and-out reform principles. It is now apparent that the saloon is a violation of fundamental law, a menace to public safety, and the prolific mother not merely of drunkenness but a multitude of other crimes, all a source of constant irritation and utterly subversive of good citizenship. The saloon may well look anxiously for arguments when the courts of America and the corporations undertake its annihilation. The citadel of the rum traffic will have been stormed as soon as the supreme judiciary of the United States shall outlaw the manufacture and sale of intoxicating drink, and indict brewer and licensed dispenser of a crime against the health and safety of the State."—Literary Digest.

OREGON CITY-MOLALLA RAILROAD.

It may not be built—that is very true, but the prospect of its being

built is lessened with every knock you give it. Encouraging words and a friendly attitude of all persons in the district affected by such a railway are valuable assets and an important part of its capital stock. The projectors of this enterprise are not asking for any donations. If they ask a right of way over a \$10,000 farm their proposition is, in effect, to the farmer: Give us \$100 worth of land and in consideration therefor we will make you \$10,000 farm worth \$20,000. There will be a few men possibly, let us hope very few, who will reason that their refusal to give a right of way will not prevent the construction of the road and that they can get a few dollars for a right of way as well as getting their property doubled in value. It seems that, in order to have every kind and character of a man that it is possible for the human mind to conceive of, it was necessary to create a few such as we have mentioned. Can any one suggest a better reason or rather excuse for having them to mar the face of the earth?

A railway over the proposed route would add value to practically the whole of Clackamas county south and east of Oregon City. Even if the products of a farm were never shipped over the road to develop and increase in value the lands of a certain section will increase the value of all lands in the vicinity of that section. Transportation facilities bring population and a large agricultural population means prosperity for the whole county.

Those who do not feel like laying out a dollar knowing that two will return in its place at least ought not to begrudge this enterprise a kind encouraging word. A little harmony, rare as that article may be, is what we need in this matter. The next time a knocker comes on you just analyze him—tell him what he is, how much he may be expected to benefit the community, how little his presence is worth to anybody but himself. This sort of a shoulder to shoulder talk helps a fellow sometimes—a fellow that a heart to heart talk doesn't reach at all. If these projectors of the Molalla Railroad want to present us something worth millions to the county, in the name of common sense let them proceed—encourage them to proceed.

District Attorney Heney has created the first situation on record where a board of city yardmen wanted to resign and couldn't.

This is a time when any prophesy as to the presidential outcome is sure to attract attention, and it is far enough from 1908 to be completely forgotten before the event comes around.

The Kingston earthquake shook Gov. Sweetenham loose, but the San Francisco one seems likely to make Mr. Raef a fixture.

Stuyvesant Fish says "President Roosevelt absolutely cannot see his own faults." Now isn't that a nice return for the things the President has been doing to Mr. Harriman.

Scientists announce that a milk-giving tree has been discovered in South America, but it takes an immense amount of water to make it grow. Just the way with the milk-givers in our part of the country.

Every time you mention presidential times, a lot of people begin to think about the big stick.

Another sign of spring. The Pony Artie club is preparing another expedition to the Pole.

It looks as though the net results of the Thaw lunacy commission would be \$50,000 and two more weeks wasted.

It looks as though the railroads of the country were greasing the toboggan slide for themselves.

A newspaper has the headline "Silent Smith Joins the Majority." If he wasn't in the majority already with that surname, there is small hope for him in any other world.

An evasive Boston paper wants to know "What has Bryan done?" Strikes us he has kept the Republican party in planks for their platform, among other things.

Contract for Home Phones. Farmers Tie Up with New Company on Five Year Contracts.

Acting in accordance with the recommendations of their committees, the mutual telephone associations of Molalla, Beaver Creek, Canby and New Era have signed contracts with the Home Telephone company for connection with the central office at Oregon City.

Several days ago by the New Era and Canby lines, and Monday the directors of the Beaver Creek Mutual association confirmed the recommendation of Charles E. Spencer, who represented the association at the conference held in this city weeks ago. The Molalla Mutual association was not represented at this meeting, but the directors Monday night accepted the offer of the Home company for a five years' contract with an charge for switching except for long distance. W. D. DeVarney and Mr. Craig, representing the Home company, closed a contract with the directors of the Clear Creek Mutual company Tuesday.

The action of the several companies leaves the telephone situation in Clackamas county practically unchanged, as the companies that have contracted with the Home people have been connected up with that line.

ANOTHER "POME"

Written by a member of St. Paul's.

In paying church dues and buying of pills. To cure her of Grippe, and a few other ills.

The vote of the Guild was that each member must earn.

Or save a dollar in the Guild fund to turn.

At the annual meeting—April the first, Which would help some debts of the Parish to burst.

Poor Mary thought sadly, "Now what can I do.

To earn my dollar.—I've nothing to save, that's true, And my sister has the same task, too, poor thing.

So I cannot expect her any help to bring.

No—I must find some way to do this myself.

And think how I can earn that amount of pelf.

I do hope that the "Fool-Killer" with club may come by.

Before the first day of April draws nigh, And I be the first victim—That would be fine.

Then a dollar to send to the Guild Fund of mine.

But I can't count on that, so be ready I must.

At the proper time to "produce" the dust.

Have sold heaps of bottles to "Huntley's Drug Store."

So can't try that little game any more. Must think up something more modern than that.

Wonder if I can mortgage my Persian cat?

Am afraid that plan is impossible, too.

And I should hate to part with poor old True.

Now if this Mary only "had a little lamb," She might sell the wool, or chops, or a ham—

And thus earn enough in a right easy way.

That great big dollar to the Guild to pay.

Alack and alas—This hard to be poor With scarcely enough to keep the wolf from the door.

But stay—Can this be a rush of brains to the head?

Or a streak of sense, by much thinking long?

Which shows me so clearly what I can do.

To save that dollar so bright and new, I'll don a jumper and overalls.

And mend the fences in spite of squalls.

I can save trees as well as most men—I know I can do it—I am sure I can.

At the end of the week I can truly say I have saved the wages I'd have had to pay.

THE GRANGE

Conducted by J. W. DARRROW, Clatsop, N. Y. Press Correspondent New York State Grange

A LECTURER'S VIEWS.

State Lecturer Thompson of Maine Outlines Lecturer's Duties.

From the excellent report of State Secretary Thompson to the Maine state Grange we make the following extract: The lecturer's duty in the Grange is to direct the literary and educational work. Since the social and educational benefit is the chief end and aim of the work of our Order the lecturer's work is of permanent importance.

The two common methods employed by the lecturers in directing their work are: First—To prepare and read the programme at one meeting of the succeeding meeting. This has its advantages, and many lecturers get excellent results from this method and prefer it to any other.

Second—To furnish printed programmes for the year, prepared either by the lecturer or, better, by a programme committee. This is by far the better method, especially when supplemented by work of the lecturer from meeting to meeting by seeing that parts that cannot be taken are filled by others and that members are notified of their parts.

While individual lecturers may fail to prepare highly beneficial programmes and while individual granges may for the time being run to weeds by directing too large a proportion of their energy in money making schemes, granges for amusement or light entertainment, yet this kind of work is the rare exception and not the rule in Maine.

MASTERS' CONFERENCE.

Some Questions Considered That Are Worth While.

A masters' conference was called for Feb. 1 under the auspices of the American (Mass.) Grange, of which Professor F. A. Waugh of the college is master. Among the questions discussed were the following:

QUESTIONS OF GRANGE ADMINISTRATION. How can we secure better attendance at grange meetings?

How can we improve the ritualistic work in our subordinate granges? Can we do something more than we have yet done to familiarize our members with good parliamentary practice?

Should the Grange seek to add to its membership persons who are not interested in agriculture? What special services should past masters render in subordinate granges?

QUESTIONS OF PUBLIC SERVICE. What specific things can our subordinate granges do to improve the agriculture in our towns?

Can our granges undertake to promote any practical reforms in the various towns—such, for instance, as village improvement, enforcement of the liquor law, etc.

Is it practicable for the local granges in any way to cooperate with the churches toward the solution of any specific problems in civic betterment?

Can the subordinate granges co-operate with our mother in any way to secure the benefits of district nursing for their own members or for others?

Can the Grange co-operate with the school authorities toward the improvement of our schools? Shall we do anything toward the establishment of school gardens? Shall we favor other forms of agricultural teaching in our country schools? If so, what?

Can the Grange help in the improvement of town libraries? Should we and can we secure more agricultural and rural books for our local libraries?

Can the subordinate granges organize reading courses for their members? If so, how can they be conducted?

These are all intensely practical questions for discussion in any conference, Paines or subordinate grange meeting, and we commend their consideration to all lecturers who may read them here.

Growth in Massachusetts. The Springfield (Mass.) Union speaks editorially as follows concerning the growth of the Order in that state, which, it says, has broken all records: "It now has 201 subordinate lodges and over 23,000 members in the state. Perhaps the most notable feature of all is the wide range of activities in which the members engage. Started primarily to advance the interests of the farmer, there is scarcely a worthy cause that this organization does not engage in. In this way its membership has come to embrace not only farmers and their women folk, but many city residents. The state lecturer says that the best citizenship of the state is enlisted in its ranks, and who can dispute him? The records show that 1,058 discussions were had during the year, participated in by 5,745 members, besides essays, readings, music and other features of the Grange programmes.

Grange Insurance. At the recent meeting of the Grange Fire Insurance Company of New Hampshire it was reported that the company had 1,324 risks, amounting to \$1,702,200; policies in force, 4,172, amounting to \$5,887,623.24. The losses for the year were \$11,777.08, and the receipts for the year were \$17,870.33.

How many farmers have you ever heard give a reasonable excuse for not joining the farmers' organization—the Grange?

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