

MR. HENRY PECK AND HIS FAMILY AFFAIRS

By Gross

HENRY JR. SAYS



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CITY OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

THAT HOWL OVER The Enterprise is considerably amused over the LAW BREAKING constant yell that the "boosters for booze" have been making of late about the appearance of law violations in those towns where the people have awakened to the constant drain of the saloons and have run the liquor traffic out of business.

The booze boosters seem to be exceedingly worried that this city will show up with a larger number of cases of drunkenness without the saloons than with them and declare over and over again for the edification of the taxpayers that there will be a whole swarm of blind pigs and dives and other dreadful things just the minute that the people see the light and vote as their judgment directs.

It is not to be wondered at, even if their contention is correct, that there are cases of law breaking shortly after the prohibition law goes into effect. It is hardly to be expected that some of those who are constant customers of the bars should find that they needed their booze regularly even if the city is on the prohibition list.

Whenever the law officers of the county begin to enforce the law, there will be cases of law violation. As long as they pass up every violation of the law, those cases never appear on the books of the county courts.

The prohibitive force of prohibition depends largely upon the backbone of the officers to enforce the law. It is to be expected that every officer of this county will do what he is sworn to do when he takes office and that he will enforce the statutes as they are given to him rather than as he would like to have them.

Just because the communities where prohibition has been tried happen to have a few officers with backbone and general stamina enough to enforce the law as that law is given to them to enforce is no reason why prohibition is a failure.

Drunks get fined almost every day in Oregon City. Nobody pays much attention to it because the people in general have not seen that tremendous blight upon the city's welfare that the saloon gives. But, just the minute that a drunk gets hauled before a court for violation of a law in a prohibition section, the booze boosters put up a yell that would do credit to a Panama canal celebration about the number of cases that occur in a dry town.

If so much is sold in dry territory, why on earth do the boosters for the traffic fight so hard to the last ditch against the placing of the towns in the dry column? Why are they so eager to keep a town wet that is not buying the amount of booze nor having the flourishing liquor trade that does a dry town?

The same old song has been sung in this city that is sung wherever the people try to fight against the outrages of the saloon and the mist of an increased tax levy is thrown up into their faces to dim their vision as to the course that they should pursue at the polls. It is the same old game that

has been going on since the traffic became highly commercialized and the liquor interests bound together firmly in a common band of mutual sympathy. Speaking of taxes, reminds us that this city contributes every year \$150,000 in the way of taxes to the bank deposits of the Portland liquor dealers to be spent in Portland or outside of the limits of the town that digs up the cash.

Again, doing a little figuring, this means that every man, woman, and child in the city must consume at least SEVENTY-FIVE QUARTS OF LIQUOR EVERY YEAR in order to keep up the percentage. Of course, that amount of liquor isn't much as a matter of consumption for the drinker who pays the largest share of this tribute, but it shows just how far the saloons of the city TAX THE PEOPLE to maintain themselves and TO COLLECT THAT measly little \$10,000.

Is it worth \$150,000 a year to raise \$10,000? Wouldn't it even be better to pay FIVE DOLLARS into the city treasury in the way of an actual tax than TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS through the saloons?

YOUR BUSINESS— is desired, and we are disposed to grant you every consistent favor. The Bank of Oregon City OLDEST BANK IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY

FORUM OF THE PEOPLE HALF TRUTH WORSE THAN WHOLE LIE

OREGON CITY, Ore., Oct. 29.—(Editor of the Enterprise)—The other day I wrote a prominent citizen of Eugene for information regarding their tax rate. He answered as follows: "Eugene has been dry for about seven years and the city has changed so in population and improvements that a comparison of tax rates would not mean anything."

The city has doubled in population. Seven years ago there was not a block of paving in the city while now there is about ten miles of paved streets and many paved alleys. There was no street railways, now we have thirteen miles. About half a million dollars has been spent in a water system and electric light plant. This year about \$160,000 has been spent on sewer system. Bonds have been voted to build a city hall. Under such conditions it would be useless to compare present and past tax rates.

If their tax rate is higher, can we not see a cause for it outside going dry? I want to add that when Eugene went dry it had no high buildings. Now it has 3 four-story buildings and this year building permits for 92 edifices costing \$5,000,000 were issued, and the total cost of construction work of all kinds within the city is estimated at \$14,411,111. Since the high taxes have killed Eugene, isn't it?

The letter goes on: "We think the best evidence of the advantage of a dry city is that Eugene, Oregon, has November, when the city voted dry by over three to one. Out of 17 voting precincts not one voted wet. I sent you a pamphlet with the testimony of a large number of business men on the subject. Mr. Sargent, whom you will find on the list, is a president and manager of the First National Bank of Eugene. Last year just before election I heard him say at a large meeting that when Eugene went dry he voted against it and thought it was an unwise move, but says that now he will always be in favor of a dry city. Many others felt the same about it, but not so heartily in favor of keeping the city dry."

W. M. Green, one of our grocers who runs a large double store, had his notice in his store windows for weeks before election that "this store will vote against the saloon." "Our tax rate last year for state, county, school and other taxes was 56 mills, and then we had a special school tax of 19 1/2 mills included therein (this leaves 16 1/2 mills for all purposes outside the special tax). You might compare this with the tax rate of some of the wet cities, but comparisons are not satisfactory on account of the many different kinds of improvements that enter into tax levy."

What tax would we have, even with ten saloons, were we to attempt one-third of this improvement in one year? Are those business men all crazy to vote for a continuance of this thing? Must they not think things are better dry? As to Albany, the petition for return to license had names representing \$100,000 taxable property. A counter petition for prohibition was circulated securing in 48 hours the names of taxpayers representing over \$2,000,000 of taxable property, or 20 times as much. No sensible person would accuse these people of working against their own interests.

Mr. F. E. VanTassel, recorder and police judge of Albany, says that of the drunks before him nearly all have come from out of town, many being drunk when arriving. He says: "Of the occasional Albany residents up for drunkenness never is there a married man. Occasionally some callow youth who 'hopes he's bad' or some 'tin horn sport' who's faking that he's 'dead game' gets intoxicated and parades the fact. But the dry city enables the husband and father to keep sober. No license gave married men back to their families."

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It is not for reasonable people at this time to allow this apprehension to invade our best judgment. You vote to prohibit perjury, stealing, murder and crime, but there are those who say "what's the use," "it cannot be done," "no use to try." Perjury is still prevalent, theft, murder and crime are committed daily.

Now who is it that prohibition will not prohibit? It certainly cannot be the law-abiding citizen. The man who says prohibition will not prohibit is either in favor of licensed saloons or else he is unduly pessimistic. We make no argument now with the man who is out and out for the saloon, but the man who says he would be a prohibitionist if it only would prohibit.

There is another class of citizens who are not criminal because of fear of the law. They would be perjurers, thieves, murderers or criminals, but fear of the law and its punishments keeps them straight. This may or may not be a large class. Certainly prohibition would prohibit these people.

A third class of citizens say they will not be prohibited. This hopeless minority class of citizens is strictly, unqualifiedly criminal and is in the same class as other criminals. What makes a thief is the fact that he is a violator of the law. Only recently a heinous criminal had to be declared innocent before the law because no law existed covering his crime.

When Bellingham, a city of over 24,000 inhabitants, voted dry in 1912, there were 43 saloons running, paying a license fee of \$1000 each. The city treasury on July 1 that year showed a cash balance on hand of \$1059 and a net balance available of \$16,295.

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HELP WANTED—FEMALE WANTED—At once, a girl to assist in light housework. Phone M. 1611. WANTED—An elderly woman for housekeeper for widower with three children. Telephone Farmers 128.

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FOR SALE BY HUNTLEY BROS. CO. (Adv.) F. J. MEYER, Cashier.

Make Voting Compulsory By JOSEPHUS DANIELS, Secretary of the Navy WE have too large a class of citizens, generally well educated and well to do, who ABDICATE THE KINGLY RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE. A WAY SHOULD BE FOUND TO MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM TO VOTE AND THEN REQUIRE IT OF THEM. THERE IS HARDLY AN ELECTION ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF PRESIDENTIAL YEARS WHERE THE ISSUE IS NOT CARRIED BY A MINORITY OF THE ELECTORATE. There should be a law by which all officers and enlisted men in the army and navy, all other public officers who are employed away from their place of residence, all college students who are of age and all drummers and railroad men could VOTE BY MAIL.