

Correspondents Lean to Discussion of Prohibition, For and Against—Tax Exemption Also Has Turn With Writers and Proportional Representation Is Considered

States' Repeal of Prohibition Cited as Lesson.

Editorial Note:—(To the Editor.)—An answer to the people of Oregon for decision this Fall, if discussed in the public press, should be handled without bitterness or heat.

PORTLAND, Oct. 2.—(To the Editor.)—In discussing prohibition it would seem that we might eliminate from consideration altogether two classes of men: first, the manufacturer or dealer in liquor; and second, the fanatic that is not man or woman who really believes it a sin to taste liquor of any kind.

The prohibitionists believe that force or pursuing the method that some of us use would be entirely out of the question, that is, either not having any man or locking it up, is the proper method. The anti-prohibitionist believes that men would be responsible for the building of character and the teachings of Christianity are the best methods for combating the sin of intemperance.

Prohibition has always been advocated and adopted on the ground that it is a moral uplift law and it is being urged today in Oregon on those same grounds. Why are we going to have a prohibition law after 53 years' trial if it has been a good law, or that New Hampshire would have done the same thing?

All six of the New England states adopted it as a moral law, five of the six have repealed it and in the sixth, after over 60 years, it is a football in politics and joke on the statute books. It is reasonable to suppose that a state law that has been repealed in six states and a prohibition law after 53 years' trial if it has been a good law, or that New Hampshire would have done the same thing?

It is all very well to say that this law can be enforced as well as laws against murder, theft, burglary or arson. To the man or woman who feels inclined to advance this argument let me ask him or her how many votes he or she would get for a law against murder, theft, burglary or arson would get in Oregon, yet everyone knows that state-wide prohibition, if enacted, would be repealed in six months in many sections of the state.

This has been true in every state that has tried prohibition and we cannot expect a different result in Oregon. It would seem that the failures of prohibition and its repeal by so many states where it has been tried were sufficient cause to advise the people of Oregon to make a law effective that runs counter to established custom.

I would like to see some explanation of why this law has been repealed so often. This would seem the first duty of the Oregon prohibition advocate. Will some of them please explain. ELLINOR SEARS.

Colorado's Martial Law Is Made "Dry" Argument.

Editorial Note:—(To the Editor.)—Under date of September 17, the following statement appeared in the Iron Trade Review, a leading trade journal published in Cleveland, O., as the result of a trade conference in the State of Colorado.

President Wilson of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, in the closing of the saloons in the Colorado, with the advent of the Federal troops all saloons in the State of Colorado were closed, and as a result the efficiency of the workmen has greatly improved, the average output of coal per man increasing about 10 per cent.

The production at this company's mines in the southern Colorado district, during the first 18 days of April averaged 5.85 tons per day for each miner at work. That was before the Federal troops closed the saloons. For the first 18 days of June (with all saloons closed) the average output was 6.75 tons, which means an average increase in output of 15 per cent per man.

The fact that saloons and drinking had been eliminated from the coal districts, not only has increased the efficiency of the workmen, but has also saved the company a great deal of money. The Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, but I think, in a general way, is true of the coal-mining industry in the State of Colorado.

The foregoing, which is from absolutely unimpeachable source, ought to appeal not only to every employer of labor but to every citizen, for the increase of tonnage means increase of wages for the wage-earner. I. H. AMOS.

Measure Restricting Voting Privilege Advocated.

F. M. Gill writes that present law does not prohibit Chinese and Japanese from declaring intention to become citizens and in Oregon six months after they register and vote.

UPUR, Or., Oct. 1.—(To the Editor.)—In response to your invitation or public discussion of the measure to be voted on November 3, I desire to say a few words in favor of the first of these. It would restrict voting to all-fledged citizens of the United States. At present any person who has resided in the United States one year after declaring his intention to become a citizen, and in Oregon six months after they register and vote.

The County Clerk of Clatsop County did me the other day that there is no law forbidding Chinese and Japanese from declaring their intention to become citizens of our country. One year from the time they so declare their intention they may register and vote.

"Painless Parker's" Own Word Used Against Him.

Argument Advanced That More Denials of Higher Standard Are Needed in Oregon.

PORTLAND, Oct. 2.—(To the Editor.)—The opening of your paper for a frank discussion of the measures to be voted upon at the next election certainly will do much good. The particular measure which I wish to refer to at this time is known as the "dentistry bill," which was apparently originated by a man who calls himself "Painless Parker."

For hundreds of years the prohibitionists of all nations have been fighting alcohol and vainly. Vainly because of misdirected effort. Today alcohol must go. Must go in spite of pulpit propagandists and religious intolerance. Must go because education has shown that alcohol is a degenerate and a disease does not pay.

Education has shown through science, that alcohol imbued as a stimulant is a deadly poison. Education has shown that alcohol is a false stimulant in all cases and sure ruin in most. Education and criminal records demonstrate that more than 90 per cent of the crimes traced to alcohol. Analysis shows that human passions cease to be held in restraint when alcohol is in power.

Evil is the result of alcohol. While dormant, evil is still within the germ-cell of all humanity. Deep down we are still leavelling. The moral side of the question brings these evil passions into active command, not only should be, but will be, the approval of the human mind. The negative argument is specious, misleading, illogical and makes no attempt to answer the one sole question: Shall Oregon continue to permit the manufacture and use of a deadly poison as a beverage? JOHN RIGBY.

Son's Life Is Worth More Than All Saloons.

Father of 10-Year-Old Boy Advances Argument for Prohibition.

PORTLAND, Or., Oct. 2.—(To the Editor.)—Much has been said for and against prohibition in The Oregonian. The moral side of the question has been well presented. Let a mere father, a common everyday citizen give his view.

Like thousands of others, I myself, can take a drink then leave liquor alone. The habit never gets to me, I never feel. But I have a son, a growing boy of ten years. How can I tell that he too can take a drink, then leave liquor alone? The opposite of his father, an habitual drunkard.

If prohibition prevails in Oregon, the chance for him to become a drunkard is decreased a thousand times. If that boy can live clean, he may become something, millionaire, great statesman, great President. So may every father's son.

If conditions are such that a weakness may crop out, in other words, if the boy is not strong enough to resist for it, he will not become a millionaire, a great statesman, or President.

I am told 4000 men will be put out of work if prohibition is enacted. I am told again finds a job (which is absurd), even that calamity, to me, would not be as bad as my boy becoming a drunkard.

You will say I am selfish. I am not. In speaking for myself, I only express the sentiment of thousands of fathers who remain silent.

If all the breweries close, if all the saloons become idle, non-income earning rooms, all the hopyards turn into non-productive numbers, as very small compared to the loss of my boy if he becomes a drunkard.

Alcohol has had a negative value to the human race since the dawn of history. No historian, no philosopher, no great physician has ever expressed a great writer of any time or nation has ever produced one word in favor of alcohol as a human beverage or beneficial stimulant.

No history of any nation but records disease, crime, poverty, war, rapine, discord, infidelity and misery. From the use of this baneful stimulant, we are entertained by the shallow and insincere argument of the prohibitionists that Oregon boys are sold outside of the State and therefore that the passage of the act will not hurt the hopyard while at the same time the whiskey man contends that it will ruin that industry.

Tideland Amendment Draws Fire of Opponent.

J. W. Bennett Says Measure Covers Wider Field Than Was Intended and Would Injure Logging Companies of State.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Oct. 1.—(To the Editor.)—The proposed Constitutional Amendment of Article 11 of the Constitution of Oregon, which was intended to cover only the lands in water more reaching in its scope than was intended by its framers, and this should seem easy to understand when it proclaims that the beds of navigable waters of the state of Oregon at bank full stage are hereby declared subject to public use for water commerce.

Tide lands lie between ordinary high and ordinary low water mark and the beds of the navigable waters in the bays and rivers of the State apply to the beds of the bays, harbors and rivers below ordinary high water mark, whether covered or uncovered by the tides.

If it was intended only for the bays and rivers, the State it would not have included the "tidal waters," and while it is probable that the courts will not permit it to affect anything above ordinary high water mark, the amendment would include the beds of all "navigable waters" at "bank full stage." It certainly embraces beds of navigable waters which undoubtedly would be above ordinary high water mark. Because if the amendment intended to confine it to the bays and rivers, it would not have included the words "at bank full stage."

Alcohol as Economic Evil Branded by Writer.

John Rigby Says Real Question Is Whether It Is Worthwhile to Permit Manufacture of Poison to Be Used as Beverage.

VALE, Or., Oct. 2.—(To the Editor.)—Let us call things by their real names and endeavor to place the subject matter connected therewith in plain unvarnished terms devoid of specious logic, false premises, and illogical conclusions.

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Single-Tax Negro Lurks in Bill, Letter Says.

W. J. Peddicord Thinks He Sees Clever Work of Propagandist in Exemption Measure and One for Proportional Representation.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Oct. 1.—(To the Editor.)—It has long been known to some of the voters of Oregon that there is a wild locomotive on the legislative track and that every citizen ought to be warned of the usual warning in large "scare-head" letters: "Legislative Railroad Crossing; Look Out for the Single Tax 'Jim Crow' Train!"

At other times, on the other hand, the most cautious need to be on their guard against the noiseless approach of this cunning and sleepless chameleon of proportional representation is cunningly made to appear as the hand of the young man Jacob the single-taxer, who came to Oregon a few years ago from the far country of one Fels.

Now let us see whether we cannot discover a "colored gentleman of African descent" in this proportional representation. In this proportional representation, let me state that "The People's Power League of Oregon," whose secretary is one of the great heroes of the day, is a man of color and happiness by single tax. In our state, subscribes to the following statement in its argument against a certain measure to be voted on November 3:

This amendment repeals the American principle of law-making and government by the people. It is the power for all those who vote, the power for all those who are taxed, and it is a change in the present tax and assessment laws of Oregon.

It is not possible under this amendment for the people to elect more or less than their fair proportion of the representatives according to the principle of the majority rule. It is the state who vote for the candidates of the party or organization.

But the truth is the very intent of this amendment is to smash all party majorities and even so break up pluralities. The result of this amendment is some menacing propaganda may stealthily worm their way right into legislative halls with 59-60ths of the vote of Oregon, and they will be there. This is admitted above, monstrous as it is, and a direct blow at majority rule.

There is no substantial misrepresentation of fact in the assertion that some of the European countries (those which are now at peace, by the way) have similar systems in vogue. I have seen them in Switzerland, and what the "People's Power League" of Oregon conforms to a few words, of course, are ideal.

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Exemptions of Any Kind Thought Odious in State.

W. E. Jackson Says All Property Should Be Taxed Equally and That No Favoritism in Nature Should Be Countenanced.

EUGENE, Or., Oct. 1.—(To the Editor.)—The letter recently appearing on the exemption question amendment (or proposed law) was found as born equity, without exception. That is, all property should pay in proportion. Exemptions or discriminations are odious and hateful and breed only jealousy, ill will and a spirit of injury, favoritism, and the resulting revenue, which can only in the end damage and weaken the general spirit of content and the happiness or settled course of wealth of any country.

It is the first basis of desideratum of peace and prosperity in any land that the sense of justice and fair play to all classes prevail and be firmly established. The irregularity of effects in the taxation system in Oregon are more, it seems to the undersigned, on the assessment system or laws. These are badly lacking, as they are in many states. Property should be so assessed, while reaching or ascertaining the true or real value, or to encourage the owner to make use of or develop it. Either that or permit someone else to do so.

By the way, the various developments in the line of land, water and possible development, new inventions and increase of settlement, and the resulting revenue, it can be fairly said or estimated, the value of all properties in land, powers, mineral, etc., and all including personal property, and general principles ought to be readily obtainable or established without much difficulty.

It would have all vacant land valued on what it would be worth in actual cultivation or use, in reasonably sized tracts, suitable to the community or population where located; thus doing away with the old practice of trading him to let loose of his useless or vacant acres and make them available for the community; for which it was intended by nature, general principles. However, there should be no discrimination in rates of tax, since which they are intended. At Oregon have an equal show and fair play as far as possible, and the best man or people win in any calling or situation. W. E. JACKSON.

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Success of Plan in Europe Advanced as Argument.

Writer Contends Proportional Representation Would Succeed Here.

PORTLAND, Oct. 2.—(To the Editor.)—As one much concerned in keeping the government up to the requirements of the day, I would like to give my opinion of the proposed "proportional representation" measure. I see the argument in our state pamphlet against the measure is "outrages" (those we reflect back about 10 or 12 years to see where U'Renism started and count on the "People's Power League" of Oregon into democracy from Statesmen into the now realized direct election of Senators, the direct primary and the rest you know, every step of which the same elements of the "People's Power League" have and all the rest which U'Ren favors. I have no apology to offer for his name being connected with this and some other measures. The opponents claim this "scheme" would make it possible for Multnomah County and her political bosses to become predominant in the Legislature and that the fact that they are misrepresentation in the affirmative arguments, all of which is the same old argument against a true democracy and the illustration of bad results are mere assumptions, not possibilities, let alone probabilities.

There is no substantial misrepresentation of fact in the assertion that some of the European countries (those which are now at peace, by the way) have similar systems in vogue. I have seen them in Switzerland, and what the "People's Power League" of Oregon conforms to a few words, of course, are ideal.

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Boy Raises 200 Chickens.

Lad Studies Poultry Business After Swapping for Hen.

COLDWATER, Mich., Sept. 29.—Lynn Roby, the 12-year-old poultry breeder, has been in the business two years, beginning with a Brown Leghorn he swapped for. He now has 200 chickens in his pen, and he is at work building a poultry house, 18x24, doing the work himself and building it according to plans and specifications sent him by the Government. Lynn, although not yet in his teens, has written and issued a pamphlet on chicken raising and can give pointers to grown-up chicken farmers.

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