

OREGON PROSPERS UNDER PROHIBITION

Economic and Social Gain Made in Year With Tax-Rise in City Slight.

EMPLOYERS LIKE DRY ERA

Investigation Brings Assertion That in Some Lines of Business Efficiency of Workers Has Increased Fully 25 Per Cent.

What about prohibition? Oregon has been "dry" for a year now and it will stop and take stock of the situation. The prohibition had any influence on the state? If so, what? And why? The effects of prohibition may be broadly summarized into two classes—social effects and economic effects. The Oregonian has made a survey and analysis of the situation and presents herewith its findings. They are submitted without prejudice. The facts speak for themselves. Readers can draw out of them whatever conclusion they want.

Dire Prophecies Fall. It may be permissible to say right here, though, that these dire prophecies of the prophet who predicted a year ago that the state was going straight to perdition as soon as it rid itself of the saloon. Nothing of the kind has happened and the figures indicate that nothing of the kind is going to happen.

Portland has just closed one of the most successful commercial and industrial years in its history. Bank clearings, postoffice receipts and bank deposits—three most excellent barometers of trade—have broken all records.

The recent holiday business was by far the heaviest ever done by the Portland merchants. Some of them attribute much of this improvement directly to the beneficial effect of prohibition.

Portland now has more telephone stations, more electric connections, more water connections than at any time in its previous history. School enrollment and school attendance are higher and the circulation of books at the public and private libraries is greater.

Buildings Operations Larger. Building operations have increased more than 40 per cent over the previous year and real estate movements are more brisk. The real estate market is not active though. It has been stagnant for the last four years. It was better this year—without the saloon—than it was for the last four years with the saloon.

Taxes are higher. The rate for 1917 in Portland will be 27.4 mills, compared with 25.4 mills for 1916. A part of this increase is due to prohibition. When the people ousted the saloons the City of Portland lost about \$300,000 in annual revenues due from liquor licenses. This year the city authorities did not attempt to meet this loss, but tried to balance the budget by other means. The plan only partly succeeded. Next year the missing money must be raised by direct taxation. The city levy will jump from 25.4 to 27.4 mills—an increase of .7 mill. Some of this increase is due to other causes, however. It is estimated that \$5 million will cover the revenue lost by elimination of the saloons and not otherwise absorbed. This is at the rate of 50 cents on every \$1000 of assessed valuation.

Therefore it will cost every taxpayer 50 cents for every \$1000 of property owned to be free of the saloons.

Moral Effect Pronounced. So much for a preliminary statement of the economic effects. What are the moral effects? It is hard to tell. The only reliable source of information is the reports of the police bureau, the Sheriff's office, the criminal records of the courts and the records of the penal institutions of the state and like public and quasi-public authorities.

Crime has decreased. It has decreased materially, wonderfully. Public drunkenness has almost entirely disappeared. Many petty crimes, such as assault, larceny and the like, have been reduced more than 50 per cent. Vagrancy has been cut to an unheard-of low and almost all vagrants are now in the County Jail. Chief of Police credits prohibition.

Non-support complaints have been reduced from 91 cases in 1915 to 31 cases in 1916. All authorities are agreed that these changes are due almost entirely and directly to prohibition.

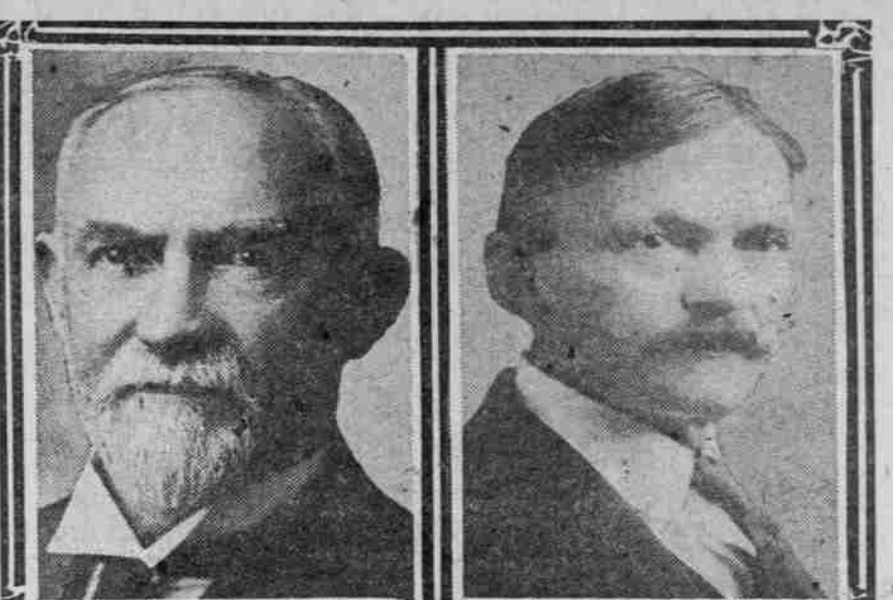
Accidents, especially automobile accidents, have decreased more than 60 per cent, because drivers are more sober now.

Insanity cases have been substantially curtailed and commitments to the penitentiary have been cut about 30 per cent. It is harder to credit prohibition with these desirable changes, but we have the authority of Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner, superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane, that prohibition is responsible for at least a part of the reduction in the number of insane patients committed to his care during the present year. Dr. Steiner makes the positive prediction that the future will see even further improvements, as the more lasting effects of the saloon are finally eradicated.

Social Diseases Decrease. All kinds of social diseases have been noticeably suppressed and many professional women of the streets have left the community. Victims of social diseases at both the free dispensary on Burnside street and at the public hospital have been greatly reduced in numbers.

The number of inmates at virtually all the homes for indigent and dependent people is lower now than a year ago.

STATE AND DISTRICT OFFICIALS WHO DISCUSS EFFECTS OF PROHIBITION.



James Withycombe, Governor



Geo. M. Brown, Attorney General



Walter Evans, District Attorney



Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner, Superintendent of State Hospital

But prohibition has by no means stopped drinking in the state. The record of liquor importations in the various County Clerks' offices proves that. In Multnomah County alone a total of 17,000—in round numbers—of separate shipments have been received here under the law within the year. An aggregate of 106,000 separate sales of alcohol also were made here within the year.

Alcohol Sales Are Noted. The ease with which alcohol can be obtained is one of the defects of the present statutory law which the coming session of the Legislature will be called upon to remedy. Drink victims who gained their habit by former patronage of the saloon, driven to desperation by their inability to get liquor, went to a convenient drugstore and bought pure alcohol. Unscrupulous druggists readily sold it to them. Some victims drank the liquid without diluting it. A few doses drove them wild. Several died from the effects. Buying alcohol and diluting it with soft drinks, charged water or cheap beer has become a regular practice with some people. The police, the District Attorney, Municipal Judge and all authorities agree that the pernicious sale of alcohol must be curbed.

The present Oregon law permits the importation by any individual of legal beer to not exceed 24 quarts of malt liquor or two quarts of fermented or distilled liquor every 24 days.

This privilege, together with alcohol drinking and the more or less regular activity of bootleggers, has enabled people to lower now than a year ago.

GOOD SEEN IN LAW

Governor Says Prohibition Is Benefit to Oregon.

Executive Declares Commitments to Penitentiary Since Dry Law Became Effective Have Fallen

Prohibition has effected a material reduction in crime and commitments to the penitentiary consequently have been reduced nearly 30 per cent, declares Governor Withycombe.

"In short, I feel that it is proving a phenomenal economic and moral success," is the way he sums up the situation.

"With a year of experience under the prohibition law it can be said with assurance that Oregon has benefited by the change; at least, such is my sincere conviction.

"The improved moral atmosphere throughout the state is the most notable evidence of the new order. The saloon's elimination has done much to improve the moral tone of our communities."

Home Life Improved. "The passing of the barroom has certainly exerted a happy influence upon home life and especially as regards the upbringing of children. Soon there will be many boys in Oregon who will never have seen the swinging doors of the old-time saloon.

"Without doubt prohibition has brought about a material lessening in crime. Roughly speaking, commitments to the penitentiary have decreased more than 30 per cent during the year as compared with the last few years, and I believe that the percentage will show even larger within the next 12 months. Peace officers throughout the state report to me a lessening in crime and especially, of course, the many minor crimes which hinge directly upon drinking."

"Banks, and particularly those in communities where there are extensive saloons, report that the creation of small bank accounts is far more widespread now than ever in the past. It seems that now the temptation for spending money over the bar is removed, it is much more apt to find its way home and into family bank accounts."

Employer Sees Benefit. "A large employer of labor, who conducts a mill in Oregon and another in a non-prohibition state, estimates that prohibition benefits him directly some \$5 per cent in increased labor efficiency. He declares that at his other plant a large number of mill workers and employees in the wood camps especially either fail to report or are unfit to work for several days after payday.

"In short, I feel that prohibition is proving a phenomenal success from an economic and moral standpoint. It seems to me inevitable that National prohibition will come, and it appears extremely probable that before many years have elapsed the civilized nations of the world will have adopted it."

ONE-TIME SALOONS TO BUS STORES

Few of Properties Held for Liquor Business Vacant Under Dry Regime.

MOVIES REPLACE BARS

Some Places Vacant in Wet Days Are Now Housing Businesses That Thrive and Locations Are More in Demand.

Store rooms in the main business district of Portland formerly occupied by saloons are filled with other business enterprises.

A canvass of five of the principal retail business streets reveals only three out of 56 former saloon properties now vacant.

Moreover, several rooms that were vacant before the saloons were forced out of business now are occupied. Two notable examples are the corner room in the Yeon building, at Fifth and Alder streets, and the corner room in the Falling building, across Alder street from the Yeon building. Both these rooms were leased by shrewd retailers in face of prohibition's advent a year ago and it is understood that both the present tenants have done a flourishing business in the last 12 months.

The following report shows how the old saloon locations now are used:

Sixth street, from Burnside street south—No. 1, automobile supply house; No. 2, candy store; No. 3, restaurant; No. 4, grocery; No. 5, coal office; Nos. 6 and 7, bank building under construction; No. 8, fruit stand; No. 9, restaurant; No. 10, jewelry; No. 11, hat store; No. 12, clothing and furnishing; No. 13, cafeteria.

Broadway, Burnside street, south—No. 1, restaurant; No. 2, automobile supply house; No. 3, soft drink parlor; No. 4, restaurant; No. 5, fruit store; No. 6, new building under construction; No. 7, restaurant.

Morrison street, from river, west—No. 1, cigar store; No. 2, restaurant and pool hall; No. 3, shoe store; No. 4, restaurant; No. 5, pool room; No. 6, motion picture theater; No. 7, crawfish emporium; No. 8, vacant; No. 9, restaurant; No. 10, fruit stand.

Alder street, from river, west—No. 1, clothing store; No. 2, candy store; No. 3, restaurant; No. 4, shoe repairing; No. 5, restaurant; No. 6, ice cream parlor; No. 7, millinery.

Washington street, from river, west—No. 1, pool and soft drinks; No. 2, restaurant; No. 3, shoe store; No. 4, flower store; No. 5, vacant; No. 6, soft drinks and lunch; No. 7, jewelry; No. 8, jewelry.

If the records of the Municipal Court can be taken as a criterion, prohibition in Portland has been a success, Municipal Judge Langguth declares.

"The closing of the saloons in 1915 was quite common to see an intoxicated man on the streets," says Judge Langguth. "If the man appeared to be drunk, he was taken to the police station and held until he could be taken home or to a hospital. Now, however, the police are able to reach his destination without doing material damage to himself or other pedestrians, the police generally allow him to proceed. Even in the case of a drunk man who is brought into the Central Station every day."

Since the closing of the saloon drinking to excess has quite gone out of style. While formerly a man easily could be seen in a public place brought in under the present state of things he is arrested. Notwithstanding the police vigilance, the number of arrests for intoxication during 1916 is not to exceed one-half of the number in previous years. The docket of the Municipal Court during 1916 reflects that there has been without even a single charge of drunkenness.

"Another encouraging feature made apparent in the Municipal Court is the very few young men are brought in for drunkenness."

A great many people are using ethyl alcohol and Jamaica ginger as a beverage and the results have been serious. Some have died within three months after beginning to use them. Almost all victims admit that their eyesight is becoming impaired, the heart affected and in many cases they suffer hallucinations, like one who is insane.

"In one drugstore 54 bottles of alcohol were sold in January, 1916. In February these were increased to 254; the next month to 327, and during the month of September to 1102 bottles, an increase of 2200 per cent during 1916. It is my opinion that such a drugstore knows the stuff is being purloined for illegal purposes. In violation of the law. Some druggists are trying to curb the sales of alcohol; others are not."

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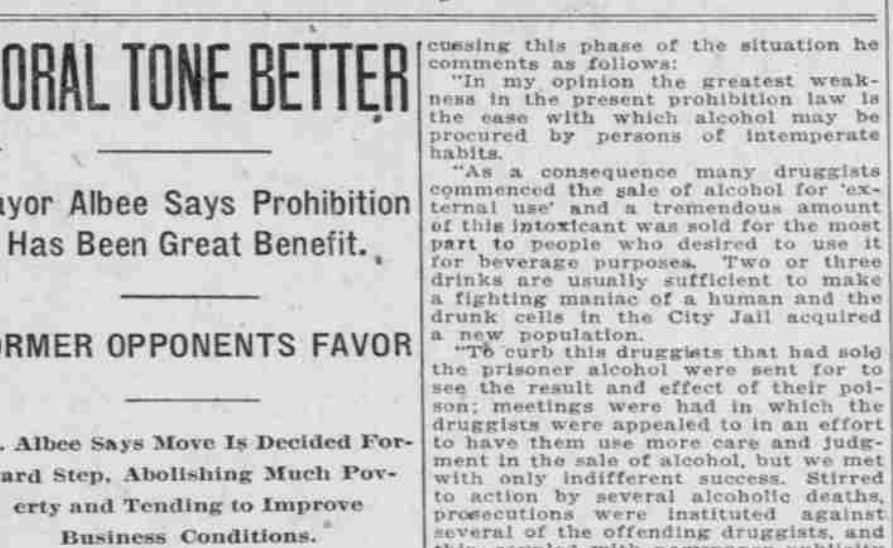
CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS WHO COMMENT ON FIRST YEAR OF PROHIBITION.



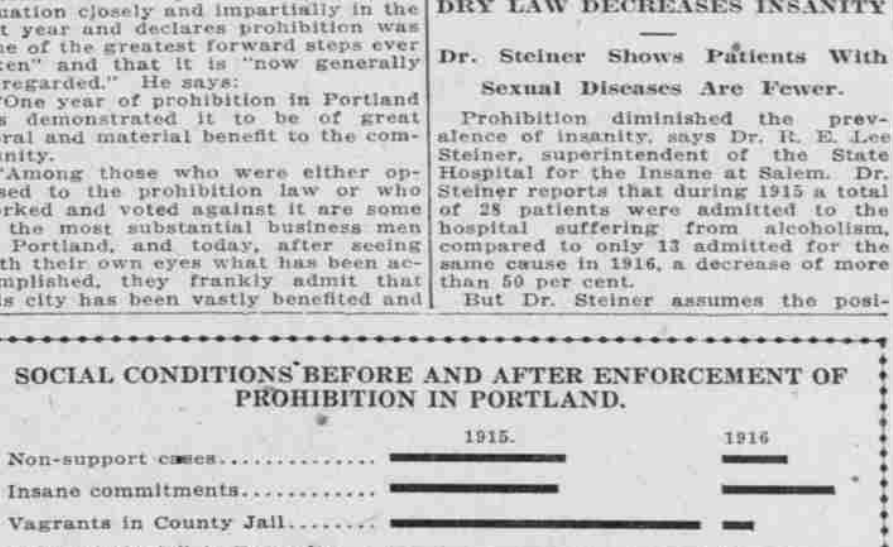
H. R. Albee, Mayor



Thos. M. Hurlburt, Sheriff of Multnomah County



David Robinson, Public Defender



Arthur Langguth, Municipal Judge

commenting this phase of the situation he comments as follows:

"In my opinion the greatest weakness in the present prohibition law is the ease with which alcohol may be procured by persons of intemperate habits."

As a consequence many druggists commenced the sale of alcohol for 'external use' and a tremendous amount of this intoxicant was sold for the most part to people who desired to use it for beverage purposes. Two or three drinks are usually sufficient to make a fighting maniac of a human and the drunk cells in the City Jail acquired a new population.

"To curb this druggists that had sold the prisoner alcohol were sent for to see the result and effect of their poison; meetings were had in which the druggists were appealed to in an effort to have them use more care and judgment in the sale of alcohol, but we met with only indifferent success. Stirred to action by several alcoholic deaths, prosecutions were instituted against several of the offending druggists, and this, coupled with newspaper publicity containing the names of certain druggists whose sales of alcohol had increased to an alarming degree, caused considerable change."

Prohibition diminished the prevalence of insanity, says Dr. R. E. Lee Steiner, superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane at Salem. Dr. Steiner reports that during 1915 a total of 25 patients were admitted to the hospital suffering from alcoholism, compared to only 13 admitted for the same cause in 1916, a decrease of more than 50 per cent.

But Dr. Steiner assumes the position that the greatest good from the "dry" law will be brought about by the decrease in syphilitic cases, "or the results of the results of prohibition have been admitted, sufferers from syphilis, an advanced form of syphilis, will always be fatal. He estimates that it will cost the state \$50,000 to care for these patients. As this disease develops gradually, it was contracted before the dry law went into effect. He says that those suffering from paresis approximate only about 4 per cent of the total number of sufferers from syphilis."

He declares that, while he has no definite facts to base the assertion on, improved moral conditions arising from abstinence and temperance due to the prohibition law should materially decrease not only the number of paresis cases, but of all cases of this kind of disease.

He bases his theory on the assumption that much disease of this nature is contracted when the subject is intoxicated.

they would not think of such a thing as a return to former conditions.

A large volume might easily be written as to the results of prohibition in Portland, but it will suffice briefly to record some of the actual facts, as follows:

"Police clearances have greatly exceeded the record of 1915, indicating a general substantial improvement over previous conditions."

"To my personal knowledge conditions as to collections in all lines of legitimate business, such as grocers, etc., have been wonderfully improved. Large numbers of working men, who formerly expended very large sums in the aggregate for liquor, are now taking home their earnings and are giving the benefit of their changed habits to their families."

"The moral conditions are so remarkably changed for the better that it is difficult to realize what has come to pass. Large numbers of men and women of the underworld have left Portland since prohibition became effective and are continuing to leave."

"Industrial conditions are better than ever. Building operations are improved and Portland has become the center of a great shipbuilding industry, which bids fair to prove of vast commercial importance of a permanent nature."

"A great reduction in the needy poor is noted by charitable organizations and 5-cent eating houses have had to go out of business."

"Police records show great reductions in crime, the number of arrests for drunks and vagrants from January 1, 1916, to December 1 being 2507 as compared with 3008 for the same period of last year."

SALE OF ALCOHOL DEPLORED

Public Defender Robinson Advocates Remedial Action.

One serious defect in the present prohibition law is the ease with which alcohol can be sold by druggists, says David Robinson, public defender at the Police Court.

Mr. Robinson urges that the Legislature place severe restrictions against druggists. Next to the men arrested by the police for intoxication this year were victims of alcohol sold by druggists, says Mr. Robinson. In dis-

TOTAL FOR YEAR IS 169,994 SHIPMENTS

Liquor Imports Steadily Grow Until November, When Upward Leap Is Made.

ALCOHOL SALES ARE LARGE

With Passage of Bone-Dry Amendment Consumers Seek to Get Stock to Last Throughout Long Impending Drought.

Statistics in the County Clerk's office show that prohibition does not actually prohibit, as an aggregate of 169,994 separate individual shipments were received since the law went into effect, and 106,237 separate sales of alcohol have been made.

And these figures, obviously, do not take into account the liquor satisfaction obtained by patrons of the bootleggers, the volume of which traffic it is impossible to estimate.

Under the present law every head of a family is permitted to import for personal use two quarts of spirits or 24 quarts of malt liquors in each day period. Residents are required to make affidavit when the shipments are delivered by the carriers to the effect that they are complying with the law requirements. These affidavits are filed with the County Clerk, where they are public records. Receipts during the closing months of the year have been greatly stimulated by the passage of the bone-dry amendment, which will shut off such importations after it goes into effect.

Druggists are permitted to sell alcohol direct to the consumers on affidavit that it is for medicinal purposes. Hardened drinkers have resorted largely to the use of alcohol and unscrupulous druggists have sold to them quite willingly. Recently, however, the authorities and the decent druggists have co-operated to stop this traffic and the figures for the last few months reflect their activity.

The coming Legislature is expected to pass a law that will curb the unregulated sale of alcohol.

The following table shows the volume of liquor importations in Multnomah County month by month and the monthly sales of alcohol:

Month	Liquor Alcohol Imports	Alcohol Sales
January	3,317	5,856
February	3,354	8,339
March	2,683	8,109
April	3,037	8,429
May	11,867	8,700
June	14,089	11,303
July	12,284	10,812
August	12,245	12,075
September	12,245	12,075
October	32,416	11,334
November	32,416	11,334
December (estimated)	38,000	9,000
Totals	169,994	106,237

No record kept in January.

SHERIFF FOR DRY LAW

FEWER FAIL TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES, MR. HURLBURT SAYS.

Vagrancy Cases Also Decrease, as Do All Other Crimes for Which Liquor May Be Blamed.

Fewer men neglect to support their families since the state is dry, says Sheriff T. M. Hurlburt; fewer people go insane and homicide; all kinds are cut almost in half.

The figures on the jail records bear out the Sheriff's statement. Non-support cases have dropped from 91 in 1915 to 31 in 1916. Vagrancy has dropped from 406 cases in 1915 to 32 cases in 1916. Insane commitments numbered 244 in 1915 and only 256 in 1916; the population of the County Jail during the prohibition regime has been less than one-third the population in the wet days.

"Benefits of prohibition far outweigh any arguments against it, in my opinion," says Sheriff Hurlburt.

"In wet days vagrants composed the greater portion of the prisoners in the County Jail. Not so in the dry regime. In 1915 there were 406 men in the jail at one time or another for vagrancy. In the past year there have been but 32 charges of vagrancy on the jail roster. Nearly six times as many vagrants in 1915 as in 1916."

"Non-support is another crime in which liquor always played a leading role. Money spent for liquor led many men to fail to provide for their families. In 1915 we had 91 men in jail for non-support. We have had 31 in 1916."

"Liquor is an important factor contributing to insanity. We had 244 insane in the padded cells during 1915. We have had 256 during 1916."

"The decrease in other crime is no means owing to the arrest of bootleggers. There have been 112 arrests for violating the prohibition law during 1916. The actual decrease in crime which may be traced directly to the dry law. The actual decrease, including the bootleggers, is 929 prisoners, by County Jail records."

Game Law Conviction Unusual

ROSEBURG, Or., Dec. 30.—(Special.)—In a decision yesterday Judge J. W. Hamilton affirmed the verdict of the lower court in the case of the state vs. R. A. Knipp, of Tillamook, and sentenced the defendant to pay a fine of \$50. Knipp was convicted a few months ago on a charge of having venison in his possession contrary to law.

HOW PORTLAND HAS FARED UNDER ONE YEAR OF PROHIBITION.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.		1915.	1916.
Non-support cases (in County Jail)		91	31
Vagrants in County Jail		406	32
Prisoners in Jail in December		215	69
Arrests by police (11 months)		18,245	10,842
Intoxication cases (11 months)		6,302	1,920
Number in Penitentiary		566	440
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.		1915.	1916.
Bank clearings		\$564,446,750	\$649,775,441
Bank deposits		72,677,031	91,894,378
Time deposits (in state)		14,835,474	17,922,335
Postoffice receipts		1,225,000	1,216,571
Building permits		4,826,245	6,049,145
Real estate transfers		271,570	272,299
Number of water connections		58,925	59,952
Electric connections		40,418	41,440
Telephones in use		56,420	58,570
School enrollment		24,500	25,100
Gas connections		48,480	45,079
Vacant houses have decreased in every residence district.			
Vacant business rooms have decreased.			
Tourist traffic to Portland has increased.			