

# LARGE NUMBER HEAR APPEAL IN BEHALF OF LOCAL OPTION

### Rev. Clarence True Wilson of Portland, Shows How Saloons Are a Menace to the Moral and Financial Welfare of Coos County.

Vote against the Reddy Home Rule bill.

Vote against the saloon.

For nearly two hours last evening, an audience that comfortably filled the I. O. F. hall, sat and listened and applauded the arguments of the Rev. Clarence True Wilson in behalf of these two actions for the voters at the annual election next Monday. The greater part of the address was a calm, cool argument but occasionally the speaker arose to the flowery heights of oratory to drive home the point and each time was responded to by a burst of applause. C. J. Millis presided and introduced the Rev. Mr. Wilson following a short talk by the Rev. Mr. Summerlin of North Bend and a prayer by the Rev. D. W. Thurston of Marshfield.

"Coos county voters next Monday will have an opportunity to show their desire to safeguard the home, the church, the schools and the moral welfare of the country and I am sure that they will do so by voting for local option and voting against the nefarious Reddy so-called home rule bill," said Mr. Wilson in the course of his address. "The country far and wide is doing so, lining up for the better things in life and the manhood of Coos county should and will do likewise. Mothers, wives and sisters will aid in it by seeing that their men folks vote and vote right."

#### Cost of Liquor.

"The adherents of the open saloon claim that it helps business. Any thinking man knows different and if he doesn't, an investigation of the condition of communities that have changed from 'wet' to 'dry' will demonstrate it to him. Carroll Wright, the greatest American statistician and head of the United States Bureau of Commerce and Labor, has after careful investigation found that on an average throughout the United States found that the expenses of crimes caused by liquor is \$11 for \$1 in tax or license that the saloons, breweries or distilleries pay. In Portland, the cost of the crime originating from drink and open saloons is about \$19 for every \$1 in taxes or license received from the saloon. In Coos county, where you have had a number of murders and other crimes recently, directly traceable to the saloon and liquor, the ratio of the cost of the criminals to the taxes and licenses paid by saloons must be as great as in Portland. The expenses of these crimes have to be borne by the farmers and property owners, it being included in their taxes. The majority of those who commit crimes are not even taxpayers, probably because most of them have been around the saloons so long that all of their money has gone for liquor and none for homes or property."

#### Experiences in Oregon.

"In one Oregon town two years ago, the staunchest supporter of the saloon element at the polls when local option was voted on was a banker. He really thought then that saloons helped business. He fought local option because he feared it would hurt his business. His town went dry. A few days ago, I met him and asked his experiences. He said 'I was wrong two years ago and you were right. Today I have twice as many depositors as I had then. Men who never had a bank account when the saloons were open because they spent their earnings for liquor now have snug little sums in the banks in addition to having bought homes and paid their bills.'"

"Another illustration comes from Albany. A butcher there gave one son, who was going to leave home \$50 for a starter. Another son who remained at home thought he should be treated likewise. The father instead of giving him the \$50 in cash gave him some old accounts to collect with the stipulation that what he got out of them he could have. The accounts amounted to \$270. The father told him that he thought that a little over \$50 might be secured from them but the rest were probably worthless. Albany went dry soon afterwards. The butcher's son started on his collections. Men who had been frequenting the saloons and buying liquor couldn't do so any longer because the saloons were closed. The result was that they

saved their earnings and when the butcher's son presented the bills for their old accounts, they paid them. In a comparatively short time, the son collected \$964 of the accounts. Thus you see the accounts that the butcher considered worthless in a wet town were converted into real value by the saloons being driven out.

#### Profits to Liquor Men.

"The saloon is about the only line of business that does not give a man any real value for his money. When you buy clothes, you have something to show for your money. Likewise when you buy food or groceries but when you buy liquor, you have absolutely nothing to show for it. Then too, the liquor dealer makes about nine cents profit on every ten-cent drink that he sells over the bar. No legitimate business is making this per cent of profit."

"The liquor man or supporter of the saloon claims it is a man's own business whether he drinks or not. It isn't. When the laboring man goes into a saloon and spends his money for drink, you know and I know that he is depriving his family of something—either of food, of clothing or his children of education. Every flower on the hat of the liquor dealer's wife is made up of petals of roses plucked from the cheeks of some other men's wives."

"Every public school teacher will tell you, if you do not know it, that not only do many young children have to come to school poorly clad because their father spends his earnings in the saloon but that the children are taken out of school at an early age to work and help support the family."

#### Pathetic Experience.

"I had the lesson of intemperance impressed upon my mind when but a child and I will never forget it. It was back in Maryland. My father was chairman of the local option campaign committee and the leader of the opposition was a prominent and wealthy business man who was very influential. The latter succeeded in defeating local option. We moved away from the community and a few years later I attended a state temperance convention with my father. Imagine our surprise when we found there the former leader of the liquor movement in our old home. He explained it very briefly. He said that while he had been helping the liquor element to carry the elections, the saloons had been making a drunkard of his son and this resulted in the son committing a crime while drunk. He was then serving an eight-year sentence in the state penitentiary for it. That father had the evils of liquor brought home to him too late for his own benefit but he immediately joined the temperance movement to help to protect others."

#### The Lineup.

"Voters, look, and see, and consider where you are going to lineup. You know that the saloon stands for and is identified with almost every social evil. There are the gamblers, the houses of shame and the criminals. Opposite them and working for local option are the churches, the schools, the homes, the professional and better class business men. Look them over and see with which you will have to identify yourself."

"Paul Wessinger of Portland, head of the brewers and liquor element of the Northwest, has attempted to halt the temperance movement in this section by offering to remedy some of the evils. We won't bargain with him. We have succeeded in reducing the number of saloons, have driven the houses of shame, which are closely identified with the saloons, into one corner of the city, have driven out open gambling and are going to do more. We have done this despite the opposition of the the city council of Portland. We will not concede anything. While the liquor men may promise to do things, you know that they won't."

#### Reddy Bill Bad.

Dr. Wilson condemned the Reddy bill after outlining it and showing that its author, Dr. J. F. Reddy of Medford, was a liquor dealer, he said that in brief it placed the entire supervision of the saloons, gambling, houses of shame, etc., in the hands of the city council. He said that this was dangerous as few councils could be relied upon to keep up any reform. He said that he did not believe that the people of Marshfield would be willing to leave their reforms to the city council and the remark was warmly applauded. Dr. Wilson said: "This proposed amendment to the constitution is deceptively worded; it pretends to advocate home rule for cities, and

says 'the majority shall rule'; but in reality its purpose is to nullify all the criminal laws of the state as far as cities and towns are concerned, and give any little rumhole town exclusive say as to 'theatres, race tracks, pool rooms, bowling alleys, billiard halls, and the sale of liquors.' Such towns might go on furnishing a large proportion of the crime pauperism, and insanity of an entire county, and doubling the taxes thereof but neither sheriff, district attorney, nor grand jury would have any power to suppress their gambling dens and objectionable saloons or other vicious resorts. There is no proposition, however, that the municipality shall pay the bills. It may defy the public sentiment and moral laws of the state without bearing the expense of the crime, pauperism and insanity that is caused. The amendment would leave the state with the dead expense of the whole of it, and without power to prevent it. The constitution now provides that the city charters must be subject to the constitution and criminal laws of the state.' The proposed amendment leaves out this important clause.

"This proposed amendment emanated from that class that proposes to exploit the vices of city life for their own profit and cares little for the integrity and moral welfare of the state. The principle is un-American. Statutory law emanates from the supreme power of the state, that is the people of the entire commonwealth; and to permit the counsel of a mere municipality to override the laws enacted by the people of the whole state, and to set at naught the moral sentiment of all Oregon, would undermine the supremacy of the state, create an authority within municipal bounds in conflict with the authority of our state laws and would be the worst form of minority rule vicious and anarchistic in all its tendencies."

"This amendment proposes: First, to exclude the state from the control of these matters. Second, to trench the saloon and nullify the local option law. Third, to make the towns and cities of Oregon wide open in defiance of the prevailing sentiment for better things throughout the state. Fourth, to deceive the voter in the act of stamping his ballot by putting the false and misleading wording of the official ballot: 'Subject to the provisions of the local option law of the State of Oregon,' when the main purpose of the amendment is to nullify said local option law in all corporate towns. Our present law makes the county the unit of government. The proposed amendment gives exclusive power to cities and towns regardless of state laws."

"The people of Oregon defeated the proposed amendment to our local option law two years ago, by a majority of more than ten thousand. Dr. Reddy's amendment to the constitution is even a bolder attempt to tamper with our constitution in reversion of the entire structure of our government, and merits a still more overwhelming defeat. All good citizens who are loyal to the State of Oregon and believe in the enforcement of its criminal laws should vote '321 X No' on the official ballot."

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We are now prepared to store your goods. Bay Side Paint Co., North Bend.

Have you ever been there? If not, you are not satisfied.

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A considerable number of the citizens of Coos county having expressed a desire that I should place my name before you as a candidate for the position of joint senator and as I have consented so to do, therefore make the following declaration, I elected it will be my earnest endeavor to advance and protect your interests without regard to private cliques or party affiliations.

R. D. HUME.