

ANOTHER ARGUMENT EXPLODED

(Continued from page 1.)

for a considerable time before the county went dry have paid up their old accounts since the saloons were voted out.

Fourth—That the loss from drinking men's accounts under wet rule was no greater than the loss from the accounts of people who did not drink.

Fifth—That the monthly purchases of goods by men who drink are apparently no heavier now than they were when the county was wet.

As names and figures can not be printed from these merchants' ledgers without divulging private affairs, the Observer's readers will readily understand why detailed statements are not printed here. This newspaper is trying to bring out actual conditions as they exist in Polk county today, to the end that when men vote on the prohibition question in November, they may be able to vote intelligently, and for this reason it would like to print what it knows about some of these merchant's outstanding accounts. But any reader will thoroughly understand why the results of its investigations along this line are not given to the public in detail. However, the Observer does not mind printing a few figures from its own office records, knowing that such figures will prove of interest to all. A newspaper does business with about all classes of people, and the accounts found on its books are fairly representative in a showing of this kind.

Two years ago, the publisher of this newspaper leased his plant and voluntarily retired from business for a year. After collecting the accounts due him from his regular customers among the business concerns of the county, he found remaining of his advertising and job work ledger accounts amounting in the aggregate to \$416.15. It must be sorrowfully admitted that by far the greater part of this amount was owed by persons who did not drink. Do not look doubtful when you read this, and do not challenge the truth of the statement unless you are willing for us to prove what we say. The Observer is sticking to facts in this campaign, and it is insisting that everyone else do the same. Besides, none of these accounts have ever been paid, and if you doubt our word, come into the office and let us know that you mean business, and we will gladly sell you these accounts at 10 cents on the dollar.

But, as we started out to say, aside from the accounts of reliable business firms, we had on our books \$416.15 in scattering accounts when we retired from business in the summer of 1908. A goodly portion of our spare time during a year's vacation was spent in an effort to clear our books of these accounts. By sending out numerous statements, by suing some, threatening to sue others, and coaxing still others, we have collected \$91.05 of this "old boss" in the last two years, leaving a balance of \$325.10 still outstanding.

All these accounts have been standing out the entire 27 months Polk county has been dry, and all show the same totals today as they showed 27 months ago; not one dollar having been paid on any of them. It is rather a sorrowful showing, especially for the abstainers on the list; but it is true. To any person who doubts it, we repeat our offer to dispose of a lot of these accounts at bargain-counter prices—although common honesty prompts us to warn possible customers that they are not bargains.

Let us pursue the subject farther. A few days ago, a merchant of more or less prominence in Dallas, showed us his books to prove his assertion that collections have been no better in Polk county during 27 months of "dry" rule than they were prior to that time. "Here," he said "is a book containing accounts more than two years old. Let us look at the first fifty accounts and see how many persons have paid up since the county went dry." Sifting the action to the word, he turned through the first 50 pages, and how many paid accounts would you guess he found? He found just two. Forty-eight accounts on which not one dollar had been paid in 27 months! And judging from its thickness, this ledger must have contained not less than 250 or 300 accounts. The Observer will venture the opinion that one would have to argue with that

merchant about a day and a half to convince him that dry rule makes men more prompt in paying their debts.

Asking to classify these accounts as nearly as he could from his personal knowledge of the habits of the men contracting them, the merchant handed us these totals: Due from abstainers from liquor, \$219.15; from moderate drinkers, \$72.69; from men who sometimes drink to excess, \$20.50.

It must not be thought by any person that the Observer is trying to prove that abstainers from liquor are less prompt in paying their debts than others, for we do not believe that they are. Neither will this paper admit for an instant that men who drink in moderation are less prompt in paying than are the men who refrain from all forms of alcoholic beverages. Let it be understood that we refer here to classes, not to individual cases—for we must all sorrowfully admit that there are horrible examples on both sides. The writer has found, in a business career covering a period of more than twenty years, that the man who is honest and really wants to pay his debts will find some way to pay them, whether he is a drinking man or a tee-totaler. He may not be able to pay the whole amount at one time, but if he really desires to pay, he will not let 27 months go by without making some effort to reduce the total amount of his obligation. Where there is a will, there is a way.

Most men who drink liquor, even in moderation, would probably be better off without it. We shall not argue for an instant that they would not. What we are trying to prove here is that there is absolutely nothing in the argument that men pay their bills better in a dry county than they do in a wet county. We believe that if all of the ledgers in the business houses of Dallas could be examined today, it would be found that collections are no better and no worse than they were two years ago, and we believe it would farther be found that, taken class for class, the laborers who take their drink pay their bills quite as promptly as their brothers who abstain from the use of liquor in any form. The Observer only regrets that it is not able to print more figures in support of this opinion. It has told the truth concerning the books in its own office, and here in Dallas tonight is a merchant, well known to you as an honest and worthy man, who knows that the figures printed from his books are truthfully and accurately set forth.

(Advertisement paid by Oregon Home Rule Association, H. C. McAllister, general manager.)

The Bazar will FURNISH you with any fancy apples of any size or variety either for home use or for shipment to friends. Special assorted APPLES for Christmas gifts. NONE BETTER can be had.

SPARK Coils—The GUNNERY. 1910 Football RULES. The Gunnery DUXBAK Sportsman Clothing absolutely waterproof—The Gunnery.

Have your LETTER HEADS and BILL HEADS printed at THE TIMES

SALMON EGGS at the Gunnery.

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Fresh Butter
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We have secured the livery business of L. H. Heisner and are prepared to render excellent service to the people of Coos Bay. Careful drivers, good rigs and everything that will mean satisfactory service to the public. Phone us for a driving horse, a rig or anything needed in the livery line. We also do a trucking business of all kinds.

Blanchard, Rezin & Blanchard
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141 First and Alder Streets.
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Your FALL SUIT or RAINCOAT

NOW IS THE TIME TO SELECT SAME, WHILE STOCK IS COMPLETE AND ASSORTMENTS GOOD. ALL WE ASK OF YOU IS TO COME IN AND TRY ON BENJAMIN CLOTHES.

YOU CAN THEN SEE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BENJAMIN CLOTHES, AND OTHERS, BETTER THAN WE CAN TELL YOU.

SEE HOW THE COLLAR LAYS, HOW THE SHOULDERS HANG, AND NOTE HOW NEW YORK CLOTHING, DESIGNED BY THE BEST TAILORS IN THE LAND, DIFFER FROM ORDINARY READY-MADE.

BENJAMIN RAIN-COATS HAVE THE NEW PRESTO COLLAR WHICH IS CONVERTIBLE, EITHER LAYING DOWN AS IN ORDINARY COLLAR OR STANDING AS A STORM COLLAR.

REGARDING PRICES, YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CASH AND CREDIT STORES.

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Not Touched by Human Hands



From the time the hard kernels of wheat are washed. Snow Drift Flour comes to you in as clean and pure a condition as one can imagine. Every batch of Snow Drift that goes through the mill is tested before it goes out. Bread is made of it in the mill's bake shop. Every batch of flour has to make perfect bread—else it doesn't go into the Snow Drift sacks. That is why the housewife who uses Snow Drift, all the time always has highly successful results in her baking of bread, biscuit and pastry.

H. W. PAINTER

Marshfield Oregon

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Sails for San Francisco every eight days.

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WHEN YOU WILL NEED MORE LIGHT. OUR FIXTURES ARE GOING FAST AT FROM TEN TO TWENTY PER CENT LOWER THAN MANUFACTURING PRICES. THIS IS A SNAP FOR SOMEONE THAT HAS THE MONEY.

Coos Bay Wiring Co.

EXPERT ELECTRICIANS.
Respectfully ask your patronage.
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Good Evening!

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If so, do not forget that this is THE laundry where you get the best work, and prices are in every one's reach. Call up and one of the drivers will call and explain all details to you. All telephone calls are quickly attended to, because we are running two wagons.

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For constitutional amendment giving to cities and towns exclusive power to license, regulate, control, suppress, or prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors within the municipality.

328 X Yes

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OREGON HOME RULE ASSOCIATION,
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