THE COOS BAY TIMES, MARSHFIELD, OREGON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1910-EVENING EDITION.

merchant about a day and a half to second states 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 bis 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 handed us these totals: Due from excess, \$20.50. It must not be thought by any

(Continued from page 1.)

ARGUMENT

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ANOTHER

this reason it would like to print a way. what it knows about some of these merchant's outstanding accounts. But any reader will thoroughly understand why the results of its in- argue for an instant that they would vestigations along this line are not not. What we are trying to prove given to the public in detail. How- here is that there is absolutely nothever, the Observer does not mind ing in the argument that men pay printing a few figures from its own their bills better in a dry county office records, knowing that such fig- than they do in a wet county. We ures will prove of interest to all, believe that if all of the ledgers in A newspaper does business with the business houses of Dallas could about all classes of people, and the be examined today, it would be accounts found on its books are found that collections are no better fairly representative in a showing and no worse than they were two of this kind.

Two years ago, the publisher of farther be found that, taken class and do not challenge the truth of accurately set forth." the statement unless you are willing (Advertisement paid by Oregon for us to prove what we say. The Home Rule Association, H. C. Mc-Observer is sticking to facts in this Allister, general manager.)

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 pur-chases 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' ledperson that the Observer is trying to printed from these merchants' led- than twenty years, that the man who gers without divulging private af- is honest and really wants to pay fairs, the Observer's renders will his debts will find some way to pay readily understand why detailed sta- them, whether he is a drinking man tements are not printed here. This or a tee-totaler. He may not be able newspaper is trying to bring out to pay the whole amount at one actual conditions as they exist in time, but if he really desires to pay, Polk county today, to the end that he will not let 27 months go by when men vote on the prohibition without making some effort to requestion in November, they may be duce the total amount of his obligaable to vote intelligently, and for tion. Where there is a will, there is Most men who drink liquor, even

in moderation, would probably be better off without it. We shall not years ago, and we believe it would

this newspaper leased his plant and for class, the laborers who take their voluntarily retired from business for drink pay their bills quite as prompta year. After collecting the accounts ly as their brothers who abstain due him from his regular customers from the use of liquor in any form. among the business concerns of the The Observer only regrets that it is county, he found remaining of his not able to print more figures in supadvertising and job work ledger ac- port of this opinion. It has told the counts amounting in the aggregate truth concerning the books in its to \$416.15. It must be sorrowful- own office, and here in Dallas toly admitted that by far the greater night is a merchant, well known to part of this amount was owed by you as an honest and worthy man. persons who did not drink. Do not who knows that the figures printed look doubtful when you read this, from his books are truthfully and



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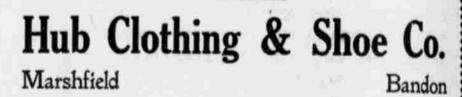
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campaign, and it is insisting that everyone else do hte same, Besides, none of these accounts have ever been paid, and if you doubt our word, come into the office and let us for shipment to friends. Special asknow that you mean business, and sorted APPLES for Christmas gifts. 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, v have collected \$91.05 of this "old 'hoss" in the last two years, leaving a balance of \$325.18 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 pricesalthough 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." Suiting the acthe first 50 pages, and how many found? He found just two. Fortyeight accounts on which not one doljudging from its thickness, this led- trucking business of all kinds. ger must have contained not less than 250 or 300 accounts. The Observer will venture the opinion that one would have to argue with that

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