

\$10 REWARD

We shall give \$10.00 in gold as a first prize, and \$5.00 as a second prize, to the boy or girl under eighteen years of age writing the best poem of two or more verses, using the MONARCH RANGE as subject of the poem. All poems to be handed in before 6 P. M. on February 16, 1905.

CHARLES HEILBORN & SON

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Today's Weather.

Portland, Jan. 19.—Oregon and Washington—Friday, rain.

MORAL WAVE.

Municipal Judge Hogue of Portland has discovered an old ordinance which prohibits the employment of women in saloons, or allows them in any such place. The ordinance also provides that no license shall be issued to a saloon in which they are employed. Councilman Albee introduced an ordinance revoking the licenses of 23 of these combination houses, most of all of which are situated in the "red light" district. The ordinance was passed and the saloons will have to close up. A number of others are to be closed as soon as they can be reached. There seems to be a determined effort on the part of the moral element of Portland to purify that city so that it will make a presentable appearance for the Lewis and Clark fair. For years Portland has been reeking in immoral filth. No attention has been paid to any of the laws of the state or ordinances of the city. Gamblers and proprietors of disreputable houses have run the politics of the city. Thousands of crimes have been committed and nine-tenths of all the criminals have escaped punishment. It has been impossible for the circuit courts to try all the appeal cases and they have been dismissed for want of prosecution.

Hundreds of men have gone to Portland, fallen in with the army of cappers and taken to the red light district, introduced into society, been robbed and never reported it to the police. These vile dens of iniquity do not make their money by legitimate means, or in the saloon business, but by laying for young men and greenies from the country, and rob them. In this way hundreds of prostitutes, gamblers, boosters and steers are supported, and the police have come in for a part of the swag. These places have been the rendezvous of criminals and are responsible for the many hold-ups in that city. In fact, Portland is the headquarters for all the thieves on the North Pacific coast and they are harbored by the proprietors of these vile dens in the north end. They are to be driven out of Portland and many will come to Astoria, as it is the only wide-open town in the state outside of Portland.

Astoria has several of these disreputable joints and they are allowed to exist on the plea that the city needs the money. But Astoria differs from Portland. Instead of this class of hobos, thieves and hold-up artists receiving the protection of the police, they are under close surveillance all the time, consequently few crimes are committed in Astoria, but this is no excuse for tolerating dives. A large number of people coming to Astoria have been allured into these dens; they are importuned by "girls" to buy drinks, become intoxicated and when they wake up in the morning they find they have been robbed of every cent. This is the way these girls make a living and support a worthless man. These men seldom make any complaint to the police for fear of exposure.

Public sentiment is changing in regard to tolerating vice and disreputable places, and the time is not far distant when the lower class of saloons will be refused a license. At the present time a large majority of the people of Astoria are inclined to favor this class of people because many of them derive some revenue from them. If they are allowed to exist and ply their

vocation, they should be confined to the one locality and the class that live off the earnings of fallen women driven out of the city. This class are protected by the saloon men, who give them employment in order to keep the girls in the house.

LOCAL OPTION.

In another column is published the proposed amendments to the local option law adopted in Oregon at the last June election. The amendments proposed are just and equitable and will make the law a local option law in the true meaning of the term, and not a prohibition law, as the advocates seem determined to foist upon the people. The section amended providing that elections shall be held only once in two years is in the line of economy. As the law now stands, the prohibitionists can call an election every year. It cost \$70,000 for every election held in the state, but the prohibition contingent does not care for expense as long as they do not have to pay it, and very few of them pay any taxes in the state. They are non-producers and are free with other peoples money.

The amendment providing that it shall not apply to wholesale liquor houses and breweries, is not so much a license for them to continue business, but if the present law were enforced, it would be impossible for them to dispose of their stock within the time limit and would work a hardship on them. The provisions the law shall not become effective until the amount of the unexpired license has been refunded is to compel cities or towns to refund the money to the saloonkeepers which they are entitled to, but which in several precincts that went dry, the governing boards have refused to do, thereby showing their dishonesty and utter disregard for the law. Laws have to be enacted sometimes to compel people to be honest, and it is especially required in the case of prohibitionists.

Taking the amendments as a whole they should be adopted. No one will object to a local option law, but there is a large majority of the people of Oregon who are opposed to prohibition. The temperance advocates can not expect to have the support of the press for measures that are intended as persecutions instead of remedying evils. No paper, unless the tool of the prohibition party, will ever lend its influence to any such cause. A large majority of the newspapers are in favor of temperance legislation, but they are opposed to prohibition, more particularly because it has proven a failure in every state in which it has been tried, and for the further reason that a large majority of prohibitionists are barnacles who are supported in some avocation or another by the public and contribute nothing toward the running expenses of the city or state. A good local option law is needed and that is all that is required at present.

THE BEEF TRUST.

Attorney General Moody's strong presentation of the government's case against the beef trust shows that President Roosevelt is just as earnest in his warfare against the combines in 1905, after his election, as he was in 1903 and 1904, previous to his nomination. The only effect which his election will have on him on this issue will be to make him more ardent in his determination to bring all the combines under proper governmental surveillance or to abolish the maltogether. This purpose is made plain by the vigorous attack which the attorney general is making before the supreme court on the beef trust.

Swift & Co., which is the party directly assailed by the government's war on the beef combine, is a powerful corporation. It represents hundreds of millions of dollars in this suit, because all the packers in the pool are standing behind Swift. But that combine is no stronger financially or socially than the Northern Securities Company was, and northern securities went down before the government's assault. The same thing will take place in the case of the beef trust. In the warfare thus far against that combine the government has shown its determination and the potency of its cause, and victory for it may be predicted in the supreme court with the greatest confidence.

Most of the trusts were against Roosevelt and the republican party during the recent canvass. In the overthrow of the Northern Securities Company they read the fate of their own combines just as soon as the government could prepare its case. J. J. Hill predicted many sorts of dire things and made many kinds of threats because of

the smashing of his Northern Securities pool. He spent much money in the effort to defeat the president in the convention and at the polls. His ill fortune in both projects soured him for the time, but he has been compelled to accept the situation. Swift & Co. will have a like fate. The best legal skill which money can buy is on the side of the beef combine, but the law and public opinion are on the side of the government. The coming victory for the government in its attack on the big pool managed by Swift & Co. will be another tribute to the courage and intelligence of President Roosevelt, and furnish one more reason for the country to felicitate itself on the magnificent triumph of the Republican party at the polls in 1904.

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