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IS PROHIBITION GOOD

FOR THE STATE?

Experience of Many States and Communities to the Contrary.

Editor Des Morgen Journal:

You have proposed to us the question, "Is prohibition good for the state?"

In the light of common sense and human experience there can be but one answer: No.

Someone has defined history as philosophy teaching by example. Surely there has been no lack of such teaching as to the effects and consequences of prohibition wherever tried in this country.

Among the states which have made a more or less disastrous trial of prohibition and have abandoned it for license, I may name Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and South Dakota.

These members of our commonwealth have, at different times but with almost equal emphasis, answered the question propounded above: They have replied that prohibition was not good for them.

But why was prohibition not good for them? I turn the question this way in order, within the narrow limits afforded me, to throw some light on the problem.

Prohibition did not benefit the states named, and cannot benefit any state, for certain moral and material reasons. On the contrary, it did them great and positive harm.

Let us first barely glance at the moral evils wrought by prohibition—evils which it must always produce, as the tree beareth fruit according to its kind.

Prohibition refuses to recognize natural laws, and it has therefore failed even where every condition and circumstance seemed to favor it.

Prohibition is the parent of illicit traffic, which enormously aggravates the drink evil. It is a violation of the American spirit and a contradiction of our theory of government.

It is an axiom that laws which are not founded in right and reason can never be enforced. The habitual disregard for prohibitory statutes wherever they are presumed to be in force, tends to create and foster disrespect for all law.

On this very point the committee of fifty (headed by such men as President Eliot of Harvard, Bishop Potter, Seth Low, Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Hon. Chas. J. Bonaparte, Dr. Felix Adler, Prof. W. O. Atwater and Richard Watson Gilder) has made a searching report in which they say:

"There has been concurrent evil of prohibitory legislation. The efforts to enforce it during forty years have had some unlooked for effects on public respect for courts, judicial proceedings, oaths and laws in general, and for officers of the law, legislators and public servants."

The committee goes on to point out that "the public has seen law defied, a whole generation of habitual law-breakers schooled in evasion and shamelessness, courts ineffective through fluctuations of policy, delays, perjuries, negligences and other miscarriages of justice, officers of the law double faced and mercenary, legislators timid and insincere, candidates for office hypocritical and truckling, and officeholders unfaithful to pledges and reasonable public expectation. Through an agitation which has all ways had a moral end, these immoralities have been developed and made conspicuous."

Finally this eminent and unimpeachable committee reaches these

conclusions which would seem to settle decisively the moral side of the question:

"Almost every sort of liquor legislation creates some specific evil in politics."

"Legislation to secure the ends of prohibition intensifies political dissensions, incites to social strife and abridges the public sense of self-respecting liberty."

"It cannot be positively affirmed that any one kind of liquor legislation has been more successful than any other in promoting real temperance."

So much for the greater moral evils that attend prohibition and testify significantly that it is by no means "good for the state." I have said nothing of the secret drinking, the addiction to baneful drugs, the crime-breeding peackies and similar nameless dives, the special crop of evils for the individual and the home, which are equally chargeable to prohibition. These are indeed known of all men and ask no commentary.

Now as to the material side of the question, "Is prohibition good for the state?" This in truth is even easier to answer and claims a more emphatic negative. A very few facts and figures will suffice to establish our position.

It is of course, to be taken for granted that the state is not indifferent to its material prosperity or to any conditions injuriously affecting the same. Such a condition is brought about speedily and infallibly under prohibition. The "North American Review," a conservative authority, says on this point:

"The states of the union, without exception, which have adopted prohibitory laws, either in whole or in part, have either experienced a material decrease in their population, or have fallen very far behind the other states in their growth."

"In nine hundred and six towns located in 33 different states, six hundred and forty-four of them under prohibition or local option laws and, of course, legally permitted no liquor to be sold in them, the average tax rate on each \$100 of valuation in 1902 was \$2.43 in the prohibition towns, and \$1.59 in the towns where liquor is permitted. The average, therefore, was 59 per cent higher in the prohibition than in the licensed towns. A similar investigation gives like results as to rents and real estate values in such localities."

North, south, east and west, wherever prohibition gets a foothold, the immediate and certain results are increased taxes, stagnation of business and decline of local prosperity. Increase of population is conceded to be "good for the state." Well, Maine is the oldest, the banner prohibition state. Her population in 1860 was 212 to the square mile; 30 years later it was 21.7. How is that for prohibition?

Is pauperism good for the state? Sparsely populated Maine, "all dry," at least in theory, has 163 out of every 100,000 of its people living in almshouses, while thickly populated license New Jersey has only 94 in the same proportion.

So we begin to see that the tangible, material fruits of prohibition are loss of population, economic ruin and misery, pauperism, discontent and crime. None of these things is, however, "good for the state," and in all of them the prohibition states have achieved the head of the column.

Finally, prohibition deprives the state of enormous revenue by which many public institutions of social, charitable and educational utility are maintained. This revenue cannot otherwise be supplied without working

great hardship to the people and inviting a train of economic disorders.

Perhaps the fathers of our country knew what was "good for the state." It is certain, at any rate, that Jefferson, Madison and Hamilton, with the majority of our early lawmakers, favored and sought by legislation to foster the native wine and brewing industries. And it may be pointed out that in more than one crisis of our history the public revenue derived from these has proved exceedingly "good for the state."—Central Committee.

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Your grocer returns your money if you don't like Schilling's Best. We pay him.

MOSCOW, IDAHO IS A DRY TOWN

VOTE AGAINST SALOONS
MORE THAN TWO TO ONE.

Ministers Were Active in Campaign—Business Men Took No Part—Fact That Pullman Is Dry Was Big Impetus to Anti Agitation—Advantages of College Towns Discussed.

Moscow, Idaho, May 21.—By a vote of 814 to 392 Moscow decided yesterday to become a dry town. The total vote of 1206 was larger than that ever polled at an election held here dealing with city affairs in the past and this illustrates the great interest that was displayed in the question. The fight of the "dry" advocates today was largely directed by the ministers of the churches in the city, while the saloon men handled their own campaign. The business men took no interest in the contest, other than to vote.

The election was called as the result of a resolution passed recently by the city council which stated that if it was shown by a vote of the people called for the purpose of determining whether saloons should be permitted to run here, a majority favored such a step, the council would at the next meeting following such election take steps to close the saloons. At the time the council passed the resolution, petitions had been presented to that body asking that Moscow be made a closed town. The question was raised that petitions did not necessarily express the sentiment of the citizens and so the election plan was decided upon.

Just how the council will proceed to close the saloons is problematical at this time. There are now five saloons in the city and they have county licenses extending to next April, while each holds a city license extending into the early fall or about August 1. Attorneys generally appear to hold the view that pending the expiration of the licenses the city cannot put the saloons out of business unless the license be revoked for some infraction of the law. However, upon the expiration of the licenses, the city council can refuse to grant a new license, which power, according to a recent decision of the supreme court in a case from Pocatello, the council possesses.

Pending the expiration of the licenses, there will be no new saloons opened, and the opinion is now general here that today's election clearly shows that Moscow is destined to become a dry town in a comparatively brief time.

The agitation for the closing of the saloons received a strong impetus from the fact that Pullman, the seat of the Washington state college, is a dry town, and it was argued by the "dry" advocates that unless the Moscow saloons were closed Pullman would have an advantage over Moscow as a college town in the matter of not affording temptations to students.

COTTONWOODS HARBOR PESTS.

Yakima Inspector Orders All Cottonwood Trees Destroyed.

Because they are guilty of harboring orchard pests, all cottonwood trees in the city and in the orchard sections of the valley have been ordered to be uprooted and destroyed by the Horticultural Inspector J. M. Brown, says the Yakima Republic. The flat has gone forth and the various canal companies operating in the valley have taken steps to enforce the order along their right of ways, from three weeks to one month's notice being given for the destruction of the cottonwood trees along the ditches.

The cottonwood trees are popular for shade and ornamental purposes and quite a number of them have been planted in the city, but they will have to be replaced with some less harmful variety. It is said that cottonwood trees naturally are "dirty."

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We don't simply say Hyomel will cure catarrh, but we say that Tallman & Co., the druggists, guarantees it to cure catarrh, or money back. He does more—he guarantees it to cure asthma, bronchitis, hay fever, coughs and colds. A complete Hyomel outfit, including inhaler, costs only \$1.00, and extra bottles, if you afterwards need one, will cost but 50 cents. Hyomel is a pleasant dry air treatment. You just breathe it in, and as it passes over the inflamed membrane, it kills the germs of catarrh, and allays all inflammation.

and some authorities declare that the locust trees, also popular locally, are almost as bad.

Berry Season Is On.

The strawberry season is now on in full blast, and berry raisers are having some trouble in getting pickers, says the Walla Walla Union. With a few warm days and plenty of people to handle the berries as they ripen the local produce houses will begin to make heavy shipments. The gooseberry crop is unusually heavy this year and the quality was never better. The codlin moth is attracting the attention of the farmer just at the present and every effort is being made to save the fruit crop from utter ruin. In some parts of the country the cottonwood trees are condemned as harbors for orchard pests and ordered dug out.

Strange Disease Kills Sheep.

The Cheyenne Tribune says of a strange sheep disease in Wyoming:

State Veterinarian Pfleisinger and Miso Hines have just completed the destruction in Natrona county of several hundred head of sheep, including ewes, bucks and lambs, belonging to W. A. Blackmore, and affected with a loathsome and incurable disease. The carcasses were buried. This is the first case of the kind reported in this state for a great many years.

Report Is Denied.

Sheriff Degge of Chehalis, Wash., denies the highly sensational report sent out two or three days ago from Centralla that a plot had just been discovered to blow up the bunkhouse at the mill of the Chehalis Lumber company at Littell.

The General Demand

of the Well-Informed of the World has always been for a simple, pleasant and efficient liquid laxative remedy of known value; a laxative which physicians could sanction for family use because its component parts are known to them to be wholesome and truly beneficial in effect, acceptable to the system and gentle, yet prompt, in action.

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Simmerers for cooking soups, etc., cost 11-5 cents per hour; giant burner, 5c; small burner, 3c; one oven burner, 4c; water heater, 9c per hour. A bath would cost 4c for fuel.

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