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**COMMENTARY.**

Now that the city council has enacted an ordinance governing the saloons that are to be established after January 1 there will be an end to the uncertainty that has existed regarding the number and character of the saloons Pendleton is to have.

As to the ordinance itself there are some who heartily approve of it; some who condemn it. Many think it allows too many saloons; others contend the ordinance throws too many restrictions around saloonmen. All of this was to be expected. It would have been utterly impossible for the council to have enacted an ordinance acceptable to all classes.

For saloonmen who think the law too drastic here is a word or two. It is not nearly as restrictive as is the present prohibitory law. Yet many men have engaged in the liquor business under prohibition. They have sold liquor with the shadow of the county jail before them. They should be glad of a chance to engage once more in a legitimate business. But if they do not want to engage in the liquor business under the restrictions set down there is nothing to compel them to do so. They may go into other callings if they wish.

Some are saying saloonmen cannot make much money under the restrictions adopted by the council. Very well. It is not a good thing for saloonmen to make too much money. It is better for society at large when men spend their money for groceries, clothing and other supplies for themselves and their families rather than for booze.

The present idea with reference to saloon laws is that they should not be devised with the idea of promoting the liquor business but with the idea of restricting it. Society is constantly purging itself of its vices and its follies. At least this is true of any nation that is going forward and the American people have not yet gone into decline.

It was up to the council to pass a strict regulatory law. Such a law was promised the people and it would have been had faith and poor policy for the city administration to have failed to enact such a law.

It is now up to the administration to strictly enforce the ordinance and by doing so maintain such a healthful state of affairs as to obviate the necessity for another dose of prohibition.

**A FRIEND IN NEED.**

By the unveiling of the statue to Baron Von Steuben we are reminded that a comparatively few years ago life in the United States was very different from what it is at present. In 1778 there were no garages or airplanes. There were no skyscrapers and no transcontinental railroads. Peace and prosperity did not abound as now.

When Baron Von Steuben came to America the people of this land were

fighting for national existence. They were living with the sword and the bayonet. Von Steuben spent his first winter at Valley Forge where Washington's poorly clad and undisciplined soldiers left tracks of blood as they paced the snow.

Baron Von Steuben had been trained under Frederick the Great and knew the value of discipline and organization. He was a friend in time of need because the continental army lacked both these qualities. The work of Von Steuben and his influence upon other officers did much towards bringing the American army into fighting shape. He was counted by Washington as one of his most valuable generals. He was such a general. Battles are not won by dashing generals who ride to the front and who are depicted doing so in the school histories. Battles are won through discipline and organization plus commanders who are courageous yet also have the brains to know what's what in the military game and have the ability to drive their plans through. Washington himself was such a commander. So was General Meade, the hero of Gettysburg. The same was true of Grant, Lee and nearly all the great generals of the past. The thing is now more true than ever, for war is now almost entirely a scientific proposition.

The people of the United States have done well to erect a statue to Baron Von Steuben. He came to us when trans-Atlantic travel was not as safe as at present and when this country needed friends who could fight and who knew how to make other men fight.

**PROGRESSIVES WANTED.**

The judges whom President Taft must name for the supreme court will have work of the utmost importance to do. Many laws with reference to the regulation of corporations are to be passed upon and such measures as the initiative and referendum will have to be judged. Whether or not these measures are constitutional depends entirely upon the construction of the constitution. Law is not an exact science. Courts have always, to an extent, at least, made decisions in accordance with public sentiment when the sentiment was clearly shown. Surely this is sound policy for in a republic the people are the source of power and no part of any stream can be higher than its source.

Therefore it is important that the president should name men who will be free from bias and are able to construe the law and the constitution for the public good and not for the benefit of special interests. Certainly the insurgents are justified in asking that the president appoint men of progressive views.

**HE HAS A JOB.**

Governor-elect Oswald West is talked of for a post on the interstate commerce commission in the event Commissioner Lane should be promoted to the court of commerce. This is complimentary to Mr. West and he deserves the compliment for he made a capable member of the Oregon railroad commission. However Mr. West already has a position in view. He has contracted to serve as governor of Oregon for four years and it is quite a distinguished post, although the salary is not large.

There are over 22,000,000 people in the United States, according to the census estimate. They are fine people too—the most of them.

Toronto people engaged in a riot because they are forced to use pay-as-you-enter cars. That's strange.

The racing men in New York will rejoice when Governor Hughes puts on the ermine.

The council will legalize drinking but will try to bar saturation.

That English election is a protracted affair.

**THEY DID NOT BELONG.**

The Odd Fellows were to give an entertainment at the town hall one night. A lady asked little Arthur, aged 4 years, whether they were going to the entertainment.

"My pop says we can not go because we do not belong," he answered.

"Oh," said the lady, "you can go anyway. Anybody can go to this whether they belong to the lodge or not."

"That's what I told my papa," little Arthur replied. "We went to the circus the other day and we didn't belong."—Delineator.

**WOMEN IN POLITICS.**

In New York city there are all sorts of political clubs for women, not only the suffrage clubs, but those that take for their creed the platforms of the recognized parties among men. This year they have entertained the candidates and seem to have some excuse for their being in the social affairs of the campaign at least.

Tommy—Pop, what is a dividend? Tommy's Pop (who has been stung in P. D. & Q.)—A dividend, my son, is what is left for the stockholders after the divvy.

Do you take the East Oregonian?

**A PLEA FOR THE PESSIMIST.**

There is a story of an ex-Christian Scientist who, when asked why he had relapsed, or backslid, or become unchristian-unsentimental, confessed to having tired of being "so darned happy all the time." Evidently that man needed an occasional dash of pessimism to make life interesting after the monotony of persistent, unvarying optimism. The hopelessly incurable optimist reveals, yes, wallows, in cheerfulness; his object in life is the pursuit of happiness; and, like the infant creeping toward a cake of soap, he won't be happy till he gets it.

Epigrammatic comparisons of optimist and pessimist drop often from the lips of would-be wits: "The optimist sees the rose, the pessimist feels its thorns." "Of the two evils, the optimist chooses the lesser, the pessimist both." It is as easy to cover the pessimist with obloquy as if he deserved it.

If there were no pessimists to balance the too buoyant optimists, how long would the human race last? The optimist sits upon the deck of a crowded steamer, serenely smiling, blissfully content. The pessimist, sitting beside him, smells smoke and begins to fidget. The optimist says it is his imagination and advises him not to worry, for all will come right in the end. Nevertheless, the pessimist gets up and "noses round" till he discovers fire, which is then quietly subdued. But when, on his return, he tells the optimist of it, the optimist exclaims triumphantly: "Didn't I say all would come right in the end?" And the exasperating part of it is, the optimist's confidence is justified—thanks to the pessimist.

Is it not an obvious deduction that a world made up wholly of optimists would be as impracticable as one containing only mendicant friars? The pessimist may be overcautious, but the optimist is over credulous. The optimist trusts in providence, the pessimist distrusts everybody and everything. The man who didn't know the gun was loaded was an optimist—he's dead; the one who feared it might go off whether it was loaded or not is a pessimist—he's still alive. The gentleman whose head was severed from his body so neatly that he could not be convinced till he had given him snuff and made him sneeze must have been an optimist; seemingly he had not the brains not to be. The optimist doesn't know enough to go in when it rains—or at least he will start out on a cloudy morning without an umbrella, because he thinks he can borrow one from the pessimist if he need be, and he usually can. The optimist saunters gayly through life, wearing that famous smile that won't come off, secure in the knowledge that drunken men, fools and optimists get looked after somehow. Left to his own devices, the optimist is an irresponsible baby, dependent for his very existence upon the pessimist. The optimist is a butterfly; the pessimist a grub; without the grub there could be no butterfly.

Doubtless the optimist has his place in the world; so, too, have the amiable lunatic and the other irresponsibles. But the pessimist is the safer and more useful member of society, and it is to be regretted that his services to mankind get so little credit.

Here's to the pessimist; may he live long and (cause the optimist to) prosper!—Frank M. Hicknell in December Lippincott's.

**SEWING MACHINES IN CHINA.**

American exports of sewing machines to the Hongkong market and for China generally are again on the increase, after about three years of depression.

The recent history of the American trade outlines the entire situation in a way, although American machines have not been able to control the market entirely. Unfortunately Hongkong has no import returns and the import returns of China show the imports of sewing and knitting machines as one class, and the exact portion of such imports which is made up of sewing machines can not be ascertained. In 1906 the imports of such machines into China amounted to \$127,292; in 1907 the value of such imports was placed at \$165,411; in 1908 it fell to \$79,861; in 1909 it reached \$126,326.

**D. A. R. TROUBLES BEGIN.**

At a recent state meeting of the Daughters of the Revolution at Decatur, two Chicago women declared that Mrs. Matthew Scott, the present regent general, had given her word that if she were elected she would not ask for a re-election and consequently they opposed endorsing her for another term. Mrs. Scott denied that she had ever made any such promise. She was indorsed by a close vote.

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