Coquille City Herald.

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J. A. DEAN, Editor and Proprietor.

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TUESDAY, OCT. 4, 1887.

OUR PROHIBITION COLUMNS.

The Brewers of Oregon.

Portland, Or., Sept. 10th, 1887.

Dear Sir:—The brewers of Oregon take the liberty to forward to you with even mail for a favorable perusal some pamphlets upon the question of temperance and intemperance. The main issue in connection with the approaching special election is prohibition. The brewers of not alone Oregon, but of the whole United States and elsewhere, claim that the only true solution of an eventual and effective temperance reform lies in the substitution of mild and yet wholesome beverages in place of strong and heavier ones. The brewers do not intend to open an argument, but simply send you those pamphlets for what they are worth, and only hope that you may favor us with a upright and conscious opinion.

Respectfully,

The Brewers of Oregon.

Attest: P. Wagner, Sec.

Mr. Brewers:—We shall proceed to comply with your request, but before we proceed, we must tell you how surprised we were when we learned that "the brewers of not alone Oregon, but of the whole United States and elsewhere," *believed* in "an eventual and effective temperance reform;" and this surprise is so suden like, and so different from what we had judged to be the facts, that we are almost ready to doubt your smeerity. Why, it just took us all aback. We had not expected that we should be the first to herald the news to the world that you are another band of temperance workers. Now, it is really too bad that the friends of "temperance," or at least the other factor, (beg pardon) is represented you so long. Now, we understand you; sobriety is a good thing, and the only difference between you and prohibitionists is that they want it at once while you want it "eventually." Now, as you are all agreed that you want it, can't you agree as to the time? It would seem that the sooner the better; at least you ought not to be the one that would object to this. On the other hand, those wanting it now would have the best right by odds to have it their way. Intemperance injures everybody; sobriety, none. You could not consistantly say it is a good thing and that it might come too soon. No; you don't reason that way, if you try to be fair. If it it would be good for future generations, it would be good for the present. The truth of the business is, that you know the traffic in intoxicants is a very great wrong, but for very shame you do not openly say so, but try to whip the devil around the stump by making believe that you favor "temperance reform," by the way of the drinking habit. It is logical: drink to keep sober. Is it not? Hold! may be we have been too fast; you say "wholesome beverages." Do you mean water and milk? No, you don't; brewers don't sell such, for the reason that they have not the quality to cause a man to lose control of himself, after which he spends all he earns above a living, and often even more than that.

As to going back on your brother distillers, you really are to blame. Stand up to the rack! Their right is as good as your own, and the best argument for either is that "to prohibit people from drinking your 'wears' is robbing them of a right inherent." Your "lighter and wholsome" beverages will intoxicate, and it is only a question of a little more time and money squandered on the part of your customers. It is not for ony one's wholesome that he drinks; but for the alcohol there is in the liquor. Very few men really like the taste of liquor, and it is simply for the effect that it has that they drink it at all. It matters not how mild the drink is, enough will be drank to produce inebriety, if the drinker has to take a bushel to do it. Then he is no better off than had he drank a small amount of the heavier liquor. It were better if drinkers would only take one tea spoonful of whisky or a wine glass full of beer, but ask your drinking man how he would regard such drinks. He would, nine times out of ten, tell you that one glass of the ordinary size alone would be worse than nothing. Why? Because he has gained an abnormal appetite for strong drink, and nothing short of intoxication would be at all satisfactory. When we say intoxication, we do not necessarily mean loss of all powers, for one is more or less intoxicated at the first drink, notwithstanding some will abuse the poor gutter inebriate, when they themselves keep as full as geese half the time. Now, Mr. Brewers, we have given "a upright and conscious opinion" of your mild and wholesome beverages, and in conclusion will say that whether you give it to your customers in small, strong doses, or in large quantities enough to make them resemble your biggest casks, it all amounts to the same, except in a fiscal point of view. We shall notice the pamphlets later.

High License vs. Prohibition.

Ed. HERALD:—The enemies and assailants of prohibition have somehow all of a sudden become enamored of the principle of high license. I contend that, as a matter of principle, there is practically no difference between "high license" and prohibition outright. As a matter of fact, "high license" is now brought to the fore as a sort of foil to distract and divide the prohibition following. As a question standing alone, high license has always been confronted with the solid, active opposition of the liquor and beer interests and will be again and again as often as the same shall be up for consideration as a separate issue. Less than two months since the United States Brewers' Association had a meeting in St. Louis. To this meeting the secretary of the organization made a report disclosing the financial operations of the same for the year last past. Over $150,000 had been expended in the effort to prevent legislation inimical "to our business," many thousands according to their report having been used to prevent high license legislation. Fifteen thousand dollars had been sent into Texas while ten thousand dollars had been spent in aid of the anti-prohibitionists in Michigan. A proposition was made at this meeting to appropriate seven thousand dollars to be used against prohibition in Oregon. This was withdrawn upon the assurance of a member that the San Francisco Liquor Dealers' Union would take care of Oregon! And until the people of this state shall have forgotten the lively interest taken in their officers at our last general election by the said San Francisco Liquor Dealers' Union, they will be prepared to expect interference from that quarter on any and all occasious when whisky is in issue. How, kind reader, do you suppose these alien liquor and beer dealers propose to "take care of Oregon?" Why, simply, by staking the anti-prohibition managers in Portland, and Salem, and Albany, with money with which to import roughs and employ cutthroats to intimidate decent people, to stuff ballot boxes, and to repeat at their own sweet wills; and such is the feast the law-abiding, *bona fied* voters of Oregon are to be invited to, by outside interference, to partake of on the 8th day of November ensuing. Will they resent so insolent an invasion of their rights, so pusillanimous an onslought upon the integrity of the ballot? I think they will.

One of the staple assertions against prohibition is, that "it can't be enforced!" while the Oregonian, the liquor dealers' organ, never tires of repeating the assurance that "there will be more whisky drank after prohibition has been inaugurated than before!" But the manufacturers of and dealers in the commodity do not believe this, or if they do, they are the most unspeakably stupid lot anywhere to be found outside a lunatic asylum; for, surely, if it were likely that more rum will be consumed after prohibition is an accomplished fact than before, these manufacturers and dealers would, instead of devoting multiplied thousands of dollars to the anti-prohibition cause, seek to promote the success of the measure in all possible ways. This would be "business." But of course he is either a knave or a monumental ass who asserts that the sale of intoxicants will not be curtailed in Oregon after prohibition has been adopted.

Can't be enforced! Then why can't the whisky crowd afford to treat the subject with indifference? Why did the Liquor Dealers' League of the United States quite recently in convention at Louisville appropriate fifteen thousand dollars to aid in a stupenduous war now inaugurated against the pending prohibition amendment in Tennessee? But I am straying.

Let any who are wavering between the "high license" theory and straight prohibition, having been influenced thereto by the assumption so industriously put forward that prohibition cannot be enforced, get down to the reason of the thing and ask themselves how, if prohibition cannot be enforced, will high license be enforced? If the rum dealers will defy one law, why not the other? As I said at the beginning of this article, there is practically no difference as a matter of principle, involved, between the two propositions. Prohibition is simply prohibition, while high license carried to its logical sequence may be prohibition also. High license either means high license or the term means nothing, and can be fixed so high as to as effectually prohibit the retailing of spirits as the most pronounced and stringent prohibitory enactments. And this being the fact, by what manner of reasoning may one persuade himself that the one cannot be enforced and that the other can? The fact is, the assumption is pure subterfuge—a dodge intended to mislead and confuse voters.

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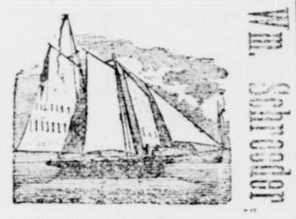

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