



PROHIBITION IN SHERMAN COUNTY

Taxes Have Increased Under its Workings in Two Years.

Sheriff Shutt's Friend Gates Shoots Wide of the Mark.

In its issue of April 30 the Times published an article from the pen of Hon. E. M. Shutt, present sheriff of Morrow county and candidate for re-election, against the liquor traffic, in which Mr. Shutt gives in full a letter from Mr. L. J. Gates, "representative of the Kent Mercantile Co., with Balfour, Guthrie & Co.," etc.

Mr. Gates, representative of a "great" mercantile establishment in a city of less than half a hundred inhabitants, located in the extreme southern part of Sherman county, in his letter, undertakes to give some "facts" about the conditions that exist now in Sherman and what existed in that county prior to the election of two years ago, when the liquor traffic was voted out of the county, and in doing so he twists facts so unmercifully that one cannot but wonder what kind of conscience the gentleman possesses.

In order to ascertain whether the statements made by Mr. Gates were true, the writer took occasion to visit Sherman county recently, search the records of the county and of its three principal towns.

One of Mr. Gates' erroneous statements is that "two years ago they told us if we put the saloons out of business, our taxes would be something dreadful; well our taxes have been lowered each year since the saloons went out of commission."

WHAT THE RECORDS SHOW.

The records in the court house at Moro show Mr. Gates to be wide of the truth in this statement. Here is the record: County and state tax Sherman county 1905 (the year before the saloons were "put out of commission"), 8 mills on the dollar; 1906, 10 mills; 1907, 12 mills. City tax 1905 (the year before the saloons were put out of commission), Moro, 10 mills; Grass Valley, 3 mills; Wasco, nothing. 1906, Moro, 10 mills; Grass Valley, 12 mills; Wasco, 15 mills. 1907, Moro, 10 mills; Grass Valley, 12 mills; Wasco, 15 mills. Thus it will be seen that in two years without saloons the county taxes have increased 4 mills; the city taxes of Moro have remained the same, those of Grass Valley have increased from 3 mills to twelve and those of Wasco from nothing to 15 mills. And still Mr. Gates says he "cannot understand how it is possible that any good, live, sensible business man can for a moment stand for the saloon."

IT HITS HIS POCKET.

Perhaps if Mr. Gates would brighten up his imagination a little he would be able to see when a sensible business man's pocket is hurt he inquires the cause. When a business man finds his taxes increased from nothing to 15 mills on the dollar, as those of the town of Wasco, or from three mills to 12, as have those of Grass Valley, to say nothing of the 4 mills increase in county taxes, he could

understand why business men who are not fanatics can favor licensed saloons.

BUILDINGS ARE VACANT.

And the loss from increased taxation is not the only loss that the business men of Sherman county towns have sustained in the past two years. In 1905 every business house in Grass Valley was occupied and there was not a dwelling to rent. Today there are some splendid business houses with signs "for rent" in the windows, while 30 per cent of the dwellings are vacant. In Moro are also many desirable business houses unoccupied, and not less than 10 per cent of the dwellings are vacant.

It is not the purpose of this article to say that the suppression of the saloons in Sherman county is responsible for this, but the thoughtful business man can draw his own conclusion. However, something has caused this falling off in the population of these two previously thriving places, notwithstanding that last year Sherman county harvested a bumper crop that was sold at top prices, which under normal conditions should have made general good times and universal prosperity.

BUSINESS DRIVEN AWAY.

In conversation with Sherman county business men it was stated that in the past two years many of the farmers had gone either to Portland or The Dalles to do their trading; they had ceased to come to their local towns for some reason, (presumably because they could not find diversity there) but on the other hand had gone to The Dalles or Portland, and while there had bought the bulk of their supplies. Another striking incident they mentioned was that the laborers who work on the farms, who in the past came to the local towns when paid off, and there bought their clothing, etc., whereas now as soon as they are paid for their labor they board the train for outside places, never even giving the local towns a pleasant look. Thus thousands of dollars are taken out of the county each year, never to return to the channels from which it was drawn.

TOWNS LOSE REVENUE.

Prior to the election of 1906 there were two saloons in Grass Valley, two in Moro and three in Wasco. Each of these paid an annual license of \$800.00, but now these towns are deprived of this revenue. Grass Valley and Moro of \$1600 a year each and Wasco of \$2400.00, notwithstanding people by some means get all the intoxicating beverages they want by some surreptitious means of which the public knows not the source, though it is common repute that liquors are sold and consumed in the several towns in large quantities.

Before 1906 these towns were receiving revenue sufficient to meet their current expenses—Wasco

without the levy of any direct tax and Moro with a tax of only three mills—but now with increased taxation they are running behind, and the city warrants of Grass Valley and Moro are offered at a discount.

With these facts staring them in the face, is it any wonder that business men as a rule are not rank prohibitionists? Were Mr. Gates to view matters from a purely business standpoint, possibly he could understand why others do not see things as he does.

A DROWNING MAN GRASPING AT STRAWS.

Certainly if Mr. Shutt were as confident of success as he pretends, he would confine himself to the truth. In the article above referred to he says: "The above letter speaks for itself. We have in our possession several others of the same kind."

Possibly he has, but of what value are they if they are not true? Anybody can make assertions, but simple statements not backed up by facts are valueless. Anybody can say, as does Mr. Gates and reiterated by Mr. Shutt, that the enforcement of prohibition results in lower taxation, but an examination of the tax rolls of counties that have eliminated the liquor traffic usually reveals the fact that county taxes have increased slightly and city taxes have doubled or trebled, as they have in Sherman county. These figures can be easily obtained. Since Mr. Shutt has held up Sherman county as an example of the "splendid" results of prohibition from a financial standpoint, let him prove his assertions by getting a statement from Clerk McDaniels as to the rate of taxation in that county since prohibition has been in vogue there and not rely upon the simple statement of a merchant in the obscure town of Kent.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP.

Let Property Owners Learn Where the Money is to Come From Before They Cut off Public Revenues.

A proposition is to be submitted to the voters of Morrow county at the coming general election to suppress the liquor traffic throughout the county, which is one that especially concerns the property owners of incorporated towns, since it is a direct thrust at the revenue raising powers of every municipality, and before property owners decide upon this step let them inquire from what source the money for carrying on their several city governments is to come from if the revenue from the saloon licenses is cut off, and let them also consider what their taxes will be in that event.

For the year 1907 the city of Heppner collected on a special city tax \$2133. The revenue the city receives annually from the nine saloon licenses, at \$500 a year, is \$4500. Take away this and the city would have to raise from direct tax three times what is now collected, and the levy would necessarily have to be at least 21 mills. Taxpayers of Heppner, are you ready to vote this burden upon yourselves?

In 1907 the town of Lexington levied a 15 mill special tax and collected therefrom \$446. Its one saloon paid a license of \$600. Allowing that the annual expenses of maintaining the city government are \$1046 (which is the apparent income the city had that year from taxes and saloon license) and that a direct tax of 15 mills created a fund of only \$446, in the event of the city being deprived of the revenue arising from saloon license, a levy of approximately 35 mills would be required. Can the property of that place stand such a burden in addition to the regular state and county tax?

It may be argued that if the saloons

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DOUBLE TRAGEDY

TWO KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED.

Henry Morrison Kills Girl, Wounds her Escort and Turns Gun on Himself.

Henry Morrison, a brakeman on the Heppner branch of the O. R. & N., last Sunday afternoon, crazed with jealousy, shot and instantly killed his former sweetheart Miss Nora White, wounded his rival Barney Abalt, and a few minutes later placed the muzzle of the revolver against his own forehead and shot himself, dying from the effect of the wound without regaining consciousness about five hours later.

Morrison had been paying attention to Miss White for some time and it is said that they were engaged to be married. Not long ago a rival appeared in the person of Barney Abalt.

Morrison took the fact of his long favor to heart seriously and constantly brooded over his trouble. On several different occasions lately he was found crying bitterly by his associates and he said that he was in deep trouble.

Everything goes to show that the murder was carefully planned.

Coming from Heppner Junction Saturday evening on his regular run, he did not take time to get his supper in this city. He went to Express Messenger Smith and borrowed a Colt revolver of 41 calibre, stating to Mr. Smith that a dog down the track had been annoying him and he wanted to be prepared. Taking a railroad speeder he went to Ione and got his supper and had a lunch put up which he took with him to Cecil, the home of Miss Wright.

Arriving at the little station unobserved, he put the speeder out of sight in a field and went to a warehouse where he cut sagebrush and grass and made a bed under the building, secreting himself, but being in a position to get a good view of the Wright residence.

He spent Saturday night and until Sunday afternoon in his place of hiding until the appearance at a little before 2 o'clock of Miss Wright and Mr. Abalt who had left the Wright residence for a buggy ride. The young people left Cecil and started south toward Morgan, when Morrison secured his speeder and started up the track to head them off. Being recognized by the people in the buggy Morrison waved his hand in a friendly manner and kept on up the track. Up the track about two miles from Morgan, Morrison was seen standing on an embankment at the side of the wagon road.

When Miss Wright and Abalt came up to where Morrison was standing, he asked them to stop, and with the words "you had better say your prayers," commenced shooting.

Miss Wright was shot in the top of the head and was instantly killed. Two bullets went through Abalt's clothing, grazing his body and a third caused a slight flesh wound in the shoulder.

Abalt whipped the team into a run and Miss Wright's lifeless body fell over the front of the buggy, lodging on the tongue and axle of the vehicle. After getting out of range of the bullets, Abalt pulled the girl back into the buggy and whipped into Morgan.

Morrison followed the flying team to Morgan and when in speaking distance of A. A. Morgan's residence asked if he could come in. When told that he could not, he asked if the girl was dead. He was told that she was and he pulled a revolver from his pocket and shot himself in the forehead. He was carried to a warehouse where he lived about five and one half hours.

(Concluded on page 4.)

LOCAL OPTION AND BUSINESS

A Ringing Testimonial from the Leading Merchant and Business Man of Sherman County.

Wasco, Oregon,
April 27th, 1908.
Mr. E. M. Shutt,
Heppner, Oregon.
Dear Sir and Friend:

We understand that your town and county are going to vote on Local Option next June, and we hope that from a moral and business standpoint your good people will do everything that is possible to carry the day for better things. Before and after Local Option in our town and county we were engaged in the general merchandise, banking and flour mill business. We are glad to say that there is a marked improvement in cash receipts and monthly collections in all kinds of business, especially the general merchandise business, since Local Option carried. About one year ago we sold our general store, and the present owner, with a stock from \$15,000 to \$20,000, sold during last December goods to the amount of \$10,000, over \$7000 being cash. This was the largest sale

ever made during the month of December in the history of our town, not excepting any store with three times the stock.

There is a marked increase in attendance in our public school, and many more families have moved in town for school purposes.

The law is not strictly enforced here, but there is not the dissipation by the young men and boys that there was before the law was effective. While occasionally we meet upon the street an intoxicated man, before Local Option it was impossible for a lady to walk along the street without meeting many men under the influence of liquor and hearing very bad language.

For twelve months prior to the new law there was paid in fines to this city \$211, and for the same length of time following the new law there was not a dollar paid in fines to the city.

Sincerely your friend,
W. M. Barnett.

LOCAL OPTION MEETING

Union services of Churches and Big Mass Meeting on May 17.

On Sunday, May 17, three monstrous mass meetings of the citizens of Heppner and Morrow county will be held in the Commercial building, at which prominent speakers from abroad, as well as local talent, will discuss the is-

ssues of local option. Business men and all others are invited to come out to these meetings and learn all about the financial phases of this important question. All advocates of local option in Morrow county are urged to advertise these meetings and see that monstrous crowds are in attendance. Remember the date, Sunday, May 17th.

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for children; safe, sure. No opiates

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Capital \$50,000
Fully Paid

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	W. S. WHARTON

Loans Made at Eight Per Cent.

FOUR PER CENT INTEREST PAID ON TIME DEPOSITS

WE ARE GROWING

Gain in Deposits, month of January	\$19,158.03
" " " " February	8,542.01
" " " " March	10,306.42
Total gain for first three months, 1908	\$38,126.47

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Ideal Gentleman's Resort

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We take special pride in keeping our Tobacco and Cigars in excellent condition. Forty different brands of high grade cigars constantly in stock. Try one of our Havanas. Cigars wholesale and Retail.

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