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MOMENT OF SOBER THOUGHT

Heppner Business Man Talks Sense on Prohibition.

Heppner, Oregon,
May 16, 1908.

Editor Gazette:

Now that the question of local option is occupying so much space in the newspapers, and the public pulse is beating a little above the normal condition, it is time for a moment of sober thought before jumping at conclusions.

Like all other questions of public importance, there are always a few agitators on both sides who allow prejudice, spite and other personal influences to rule instead of good sober judgment.

The American people usually settle things right, for the reason that the sober thinking citizens hold the balance of power and act as a governor in holding down those who go blindly to the polls.

It is not my desire to tire the reader with dry statistics, but in order to get right into my subject I submit the following excerpts which I hope will furnish some food for thought.

The first excerpt is from the pen of George W. Peck, former governor of Wisconsin, who is traveling in the south studying the prohibition question.

Atlanta, Ga., May 9.—After doing Tennessee and watching its thousands of express packages marked "Glass—handle with care," and seeing the packages placed in the extra cars, I got on the same train and rode to Atlanta, fearing all the time that if the front end of the train should meet another train, those express cars loaded with liquid dynamite would telescope our chair car and I would be cut with broken glass and drowned in Squirrel whiskey and be carried home smelling like a rectifying establishment; but nothing happened, and I got into a state that is all dry, according to law, but quite damp in places, owing to the kindness of neighboring wet states. In the first of January Georgia became dry by act of the legislature, every saloon and bar was closed, and all liquor was shipped away the day before or hidden for private use, and a sort of paralysis seized the whole of one of the greatest states in the union, the "empire state of the south." And what a grand state it is, with its splendid rich soil that will grow anything that is planted, its fruit, its manufacturing, its timber, its navigable rivers, its entrance to the ocean at Savannah, where ocean steamers wait to be loaded for the ports of the world. Panic, prohibition, political preachers, low price of cotton and other ills have made the people of Georgia sit up and take medicine, and no one is very cheerful, and all are hopeful of a change and they are living economically, trying to live until after the presidential election, hoping things will be better, but fearing that they will be worse.

I had more faith in a prohibition state being actually dry a while ago than I do now. I had a friend who had been drinking to excess a few months ago and some of us decided to send him to a Keely cure, but he begged off, saying the humiliation of going to a jag cure would kill him, and a happy thought struck me and I suggested to his friends that we send him to a sure enough prohibition state. That met with his approval and the approval of his friends, and so we sent him to dear old Georgia, where I had been told you couldn't get a drink in the whole state for love or money. I thought he could enjoy the lovely spring climate, and not being able to get a drink he would soon be a credit to his friends and family. So I wrote to some friends at Atlanta and told them he was a friend of mine who wanted a nice 'dry' climate to brace up in. I got a telegram while in Chattanooga from the friends I had sent him to, that I had better hurry down as my jag friend needed aid and counsel. When I got there he was the worst looking specimen I ever saw; his collar gone, his shirt soiled, his eyes red, and he was trying to walk straight, but couldn't. He took me to his room and there were over 40 bottles he had ordered by express from Tennessee, and he said I was mistaken in the prohibition that was supposed to exist in Georgia. He said all a man needed was the price and he could be drunk all the time, and I could readily believe him. He was given a ticket to Dwight, Illinois, and I guess he has had his first shot of the gold cure before this.

Take for instance Kansas City, Kansas. No saloons but just as much liquor consumed. They just step across the line and bring it over. The drug store sale of liquor has increased 1400 per cent. under prohibition.

But then we are getting a long way from home. Go over to Tillamook county in this state. It is a well known fact that just as much liquor is being shipped into Tillamook county today as there was before local option carried the county. Now what is this liquor being shipped in there for? To drink of course.

The above are only a few illustrations. These conditions in a more or less degree prevail in every local option county and state in the union today.

In the first place, I want to discuss this question from strictly a moral standpoint.

The supposed intent of local option is to eliminate the evils of drinking. Let us admit that drinking is an evil. There is no more argument on this. If the law was general and would wipe out not only the saloon but the liquor with it, all over the country, then it would be another question, but I believe that local option with its attendant violations of law caused by blind pigs, the surreptitious handling and buying of liquor will bring about a greater evil than the open saloon.

The saloon men of Morrow county pay for the privilege of selling liquor from $500 to $700 per year. They are also compelled to file a bond with responsible sureties in the sum of $1000, which they forfeit in case of violation of the law.

If your boy gets liquor today, it is through collusion with some vicious person who buys a bottle and gives it to him. He can get the bottle just the same under local option for this law will not eliminate men of this sort.

If one evil is to be removed at the cost of greater evil in return, then do we want to make a change?

Now from a business proposition. To read the papers one would think that Morrow county was going over to Sherman to vote. Sherman county taxes is about all that we have heard in relation to local option in this county.

The main argument that has been introduced is from letters from a Sherman county merchant. This merchant lays great stress on the fact that his business was somewhat bigger for one month last fall than it was the year before local option went into effect.

Such talk as this is worse than childish, yes, even silly. Everybody knows that two years ago Sherman county had almost a crop failure. Why Sherman county did not have enough wheat to sell to flag a bread wagon. Now this merchant is in a very small town and his trade is mainly with the farmers. Sherman county depends almost solely on agriculture—the growing of wheat. Now, with a crop failure and a low price for what little wheat the farmers did have, it is strange indeed that they bought sparingly of this merchant.

Now take it last year. The whole Inland Empire had a bumper wheat crop—the biggest crop ever known in the country. The price was also higher than it has been for years. The farmers of Sherman county like all of the other farmers in Eastern Oregon made money. The whole country was prosperous. Is there anything strange about the fact that this merchant sold more goods last year than the year before. We presume that he thinks that local option brought the big crop. Such talk is all rot.

The records do not lie and they do show that taxes are higher in Sherman county than before local option went into effect.

Now in the town of Heppner the saloons pay $4500 per year in licenses. If local option carries, the town will need just as many lights, just as much water, just as many sidewalks; in fact the city government will cost just as much. How will we get this money. There is only one way and that is to impose a tax. To raise this money will increase taxation and there is no argument to it.

Not only that, property will decrease in value, and when property decreases in the towns do not think that it will stop there. It will reach out into the country and farm lands will slump in values along with the town property.

* A Business Man.

ARGUMENT OF THE WEAKLING

When Cornered with Facts "You are a Liar" is all he Can Offer.

When a demagogue or a weakling is overwhelmed in an argument and confronted with facts he cannot answer, his convenient resort is "You are a liar." A jack ass can make a great noise or a parrot may chatter, but that is not argument. It is therefore little wonder that E. M. Shutt, in his comment in an article which appeared in the columns of the Gazette of the 7th, with reference to prohibition in Sherman county, being a demagogue of the first water and a weakling of the weakest type, should proclaim as he does that what was said of Sherman county is "a pack of lies." Nevertheless the records of Sherman county show every statement made in the article referred to is true, that the county tax for 1905 was eight mills, for 1906, 10 mills and for 1907, 12 mills; that the city tax of Grass Valley was 3 mills in 1905, and for the past two years has been 12 mills, and that of Wasco nothing in 1905, and has been 15 mills for the past two years; also the evidence is there to show for itself that there are more vacant buildings in Grass Valley and Moro today than ever before in the history of those two towns. So where does Mr. Shutt get his authority for saying any single statement made in the article he objects to is a "lie?"

The trouble with Shutt is that he is endeavoring to ride into office on the prohibition hobby; that he has been saying things that have been accepted as true without investigation; that he has been confronted with a few facts that contradict his statements, and like all other demagogues when so cornered, all he can do is to say "You are a liar." In so doing he acknowledges the weakness of his alleged argument and brands himself as an Annanias who would put the champion falsifier of Bible times to shame. *

Special Feature of the Rose Festival in Portland.

As a night entertainment for the many thousands of visitors who will be in Portland during her great special celebration, the Festival of Roses, Pain's entire production of Vesuvius, pictured in lines of fire, will be brought from Manhattan Beach, New York, for this great event.

This is one of the most colossal, thrilling and enchanting exhibitions that has ever been produced. The spectators see before them within the great amphitheatre a vast mimic city, covering several acres of ground, with real buildings palaces, arches and other specimens of neapolitan architecture in the foreground and grim old Mt. Vesuvius in the background, towering high above the ill-fated city.

Glen Boyer has leased his interest in the Liberty Meat Market to Roy Gray.

Sam Meadows has returned from Moberly, Mo., where he went to visit a sister who was very sick.

Human Filters.

The function of the kidneys is to strain out the impurities of the blood which is constantly passing through them. Foley's Kidney Remedy makes the kidneys healthy so they will strain out all waste matter from the blood. Take Foley's Kidney Remedy at once and it will make you well, Slocum Drug Co.

DOES THE SALOON PAY?

And Does Prohibition Prohibit.

We are told by the advocotes of the saloon that if the saloon is voted out of Morrow county it will stagnate business, depreciate property and drive out many people. That if we have prohibition the law cannot nor will not be enforced. Now statements are not facts, nor mere assertion evidence anywhere. What we want to know in this discussion is the truth. And as Patrick Henry said, "We have no light by which we may be guided but the light of experience," and guided by that light we must be governed in our actions in this contest. Waving the moral issue for a few minutes and confining ourselves to the lesser—the financial side of the argument, and letting our brother who dreams of "mills" instead of dollars dream on, we will pass for a moment to more stupendous sums.

It is the boast of the liquor traffic that its existence is necessary to the life and prosperity of nation, state and community—that these could not get along without the revenue arising from the traffic. Taking their own boast we quote from a leading liquor journal, "The Champion of Fair Play," of Chicago. It says: "The United States government has spent from 1863 to 1907 for its magnificent navy, $1,892,417,340. The liquor trade of the United States during the same time paid Uncle Sam $3,540,011,893. What would the country do without that enormous revenue?" At first reading that amount seems large indeed but let us look at the other side of the ledger and we may then get some sort of concept of the situation. We shall then see whether the government has been a gainer or looser in this deal.

Carl D. Wright, the great government statistician, says that for every dollar received from the liquor traffic it costs the government $21 00.

Let us see how near right he is. Prof. Charles J. Bushnell, Ph. D., of Washington, D. C., has lately shown that the annual cost to the United States of "abnormal dependents" is $500,000,000. Prostitution, $700,000,000, professional crime, $650,000,000, and esfimates unprofessional crime at $1,200,000,000. The chief authorities of the country such as Judge Noah Davis and other eminent jurists have fixed the per cent. of crime in the United States due to the liquor traffic at from 80 per cent to 90 per cent, and Dr. Willard Parker, the ablest physician New York has ever had, fixes the per cent, due to drink, of idiocy at 35 per cent, lunacy at 45 per cent, crime 80 per cent, and pauperism at 90 per cent. A most conservative estimate of crime due to drink is 75 per cent. Taking these estimates as a basis and we find that the 35 per cent and 45 per cent above, averaging 40 per cent of amount paid for lunacy and idiocy is $175 000,000. 75 per cent of criminality, professional and unprofessional, would be $1,387.500,000. Supposing prostitution to be 65 per cent due to drink and you have $455,000,000 more, to which add the drink bill last year of $1.650,000,000. Now add to this the loss from the productive power of the 106,000 "abnormal dependents" out of the 265,000, 72,000 paupers out of the 80,000, 63,750 criminals out of 85,000, the 1,200,000 worthless besotted victims of the traffic and the 100,000 tramps turned on the road every year because of drink and you have an army of 1,541,750 persons whom, according to Carl D Wright, are worth on the average as producers $10 50 per capita and you have the enormous sum of waste, not counting loss of character, manhood and soul, of $5,912 113,646, to which add the above items of the cost or drink and you have the amazing sum of $9,579,613,646 that the nation pays annually for the privilege of collecting $3,540,011 893 during an entire period of 44 years or an average of $80,454 815, annually. Shades of our fathers is that business? Reminds me of a man paying some one $1 05 to get a nickel. What stupendous business talents we have anyway. But stop. The drink bill of the nation alone for that same 44 years has been something like $29 250,780,913. Now add to this the other vast sum due to the traffic, making an allowance of the smaller amount of crime and expense, as we go back, and allowing in the average of 44 years that the cost is but one-third of the amount now paid and you have an average of $2,643,204,548, per annum, or a sum total of $116,301,000,112, which added to the amount paid for drink in the same period and you have the stupendous sum of $145,551,781,025. Now bring out that little mite of $3,540,011,893, for which the government had to pay the enormous sum above in order to meet expenses or "bust" and you will see what fools we mortals be. Wise statesmanship and sound business sense that. No wonder there is so much poverty. We need a thunder shower of business men and business sense in this nation.

But what about the effects of the saloon in communities and states you ask. Doesn't it pay there? And isn't it a fact that prohibition does not prohibit?

Let experience again answer. There is poor old "bleedin" Kansas; poor old thing with her grasshoppers and prohibition to make her sad. Guess she has gone to the "b w-wows" long ago. But let us see, Governor Hoch says that the law is as well enforced in the great bulk of counties as any other law and facts prove it, and it is proving that 75 per cent of crime is due to drink and 90 per cent of pauperism. Before prohibition went into effect there, the Internal Revenue report shows that $10,000,000 worth of liquor went into Kansas each year. Now under prohibition and with more than double the population it then had, the same department shows that there is but $1,000,000 or 20 times less consumed under prohibition than before. Of her 105 counties it is said that 64 are without a single pauper; 25 counties have no poor house; 37 counties have not a single occupant in the jails, and last year 37 counties had not a single criminal case on the court docket. And it is said that some of its jails have been let as corn cribs. The state is wonderful in prosperity. Possibly the private indebtedness of her citizens is smaller than any other state. And her savings-bank deposits are three times as great as average of the United States. Maine which has had prohibition since 1855, has $121.76 per capita deposited in her savings-banks, while the wet states of Illinois and Ohio have but $20.75 and $11 58 per capita respectively, Pennsylvania either $9 00 or $14 00, I forget which. And Maine's bank deposits are $22,000,000 greater than wide open Ohio has with her six times greater population. That Maine enforces the laws cannot be doubted. Last year she fined a man $550 for "boot-legging" and as he could not pay it he was committed to jail for 1525 days, or 4 years, 2 months and 4 days. Another was recently fined $1000 and imprisonment. Yet we are told that prohibitory laws are not enforced. In Texas there is but one convict in every $1500 population in her dry counties while there is one to 500 in her wet counties. 23 counties have not one convict in the pen 9 have but one each while 7 have but 2 each. 39 dry counties have all combined but 23 convicts, while 2 wet counties have three times as many as the 39 prohibition counties. The wet counties furnish the bulk of convicts.

Now to communities. Since St. Louis closed her saloons one day in the week, Sunday, crime has decreased 60 per cent and property increased in value 25 per cent. Kansas City, Kansas, closed her 256 saloons in June, 1906. Since then in the 22 months up to April just past her population has increased 11,180, (it now has a population of 100,000), her debt reduced $411.470, property valuation increased $4,778,000, building 200 per cent, business greatly increased, police force cut down one half. Bank deposits of working men have increased 40 per cent. Total increased deposits of all classes in the 22 months, $3,788,000. Crime decreased 85 per cent, and city assessments for taxes are 20 cents less on the $100. Yet prohibition hurts a community. Say let us get hurt. Prohibitionists deal in large things, not in "mills." Charles H. Porter.

Abe Blackman, of Portland, is in the city to attend the graduating exercises of the High School class.

Liberty Meat Market

Boyer & Wherry

Fresh and Salted Meats
Fish on Fridays
Highest market price paid for fat stock

HEPPNER, OREGON

Pacific Lodging House

C. N. SHINN, Prop.

Good clean rooms, none better in town.

Come and Stop With Us

MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, ORE.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. (Public Land Sale.)

[Isolated Tract]
U. S. Land Office, The Dalles, Oregon,
April 16th, 1908.

Notice is hereby given that, as directed by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, under provisions of Act of Congress approved June 27, 1906, Public—No. 303, we will offer at public sale, to the highest bidder, at 11:30 o'clock a. m. on the 26th day of May next, at this office, the following tract of land, to-wit: NW¼ SE¼ of Section 21, T. 5 S., R. 26 E. W. M.

Any persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are advised to file their claims, or objections, on or before the day above designated for sale.

Apr16-May21 C. W. MOORE, Register.
LOUIS H. ARNESON, Receiver.

Notice For Publication.

Department of the Interior,
Land Office at The Dalles, Oregon,
April 1, 1908.

Notice is hereby given that Narcissa C. Sprinkle, formerly Narcissa C. Sprinkle, of Heppner, Oregon, has filed notice of her intention to make final five-year proof in support of her claim, viz: Homestead Entry No. 10483, made March 12, 1902, for the NE¼ SE¼ Sec. 25, T. 4 S., R. 25 E. W. M., additional to H. E. No. 11153, La Grande, Oregon, series, for lots 3 and 4, Sec. 30, and lot 1 Section 31, Township 4 S., Range 27 E. W. M., and that said proof will be made before J. F. Williams, U. S. Commissioner, at Heppner, Or., on May 16, 1908.

She names the following witnesses to prove her continuous residence upon, and cultivation of, the land viz:

Charles Osten and Matt Hughes of Heppner, Oregon,

Apr16-May21 C. W. MOORE, Register.

Entirely Under Local Control and Management

Bank of Heppner

Capital $50,000

Fully Paid

Officers	Directors
W. O. MINOR, President	W. O. MINOR
J. H. McHALEY, Vice-President	C. E. WOODSON
W. S. WHARTON, Cashier	W. G. SCOTT
VAWTER CRAWFORD, Asst. Cashier	J. H. McHALEY
	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	$10153.54
" " " " February	8 593.01
" " " " March	10,396.62
Total gain for first three months, 1908	$28,135.17

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Ideal Gentleman's Resort

BILLIARD AND POOL ROOMS

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THE PASTIME