

The Daily Astorian

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Local weather for the twenty-four hours ending at 5 p. m. yesterday, furnished by the U. S. department of agriculture, weather bureau.

To night the members of the city council have a duty to perform that entails deep and earnest thought and consideration on the part of every member.

Let us strip this question of its bitterness and recrimination, and see what arguments have been put forth by the strongest and most worthy of the opponents of a license.

In the first place it has been generally acknowledged that the communication of Rev. Mr. Staver of the Congressional church, published in The Astorian last week, was the essence of all the arguments that have been heaped up against our position.

There are no means which men adopt for money making more dishonest than gambling.

Leaving out the palpable absurdity that a man is "dishonest" because he chooses to risk his money on a chance, the statement is incorrect.

It takes without giving an equivalent, and hence is robbery.

Then anybody that takes a thing without giving an equivalent is a robber? This remarkable reasoning would make a thief of a blind man on whom a person bestows alms.

License is not a step that can be taken and easily retraced.

Why not? The city could go back to the old system, in a week, or a month or a year, if it wanted to.

License will extend a protection to the gambling business.

License will do nothing of the sort. It will extend a close surveillance over the business, it will abolish all contrivances for cheating, it will make the evil one of pure chance on both sides, and it will bring this thing into the light of day instead of allowing it to corrupt and rot the city in secret and under cover.

This we deny absolutely. If the statement is true, then a church fair is a criminal transaction, and the very act of a young lady who asks you to "take a chance" in a raffle is a "crime." Could any proposition be more rash or absurd?

thief-gambler in the city is shrieking against the passage of the ordinance? Why are these men so terribly interested in knocking out the license project? What reason have they got for it? What are these holy and moral dive keepers after? Their occupation is gone if the ordinance passes, and they know it.

"A monopoly in the business of robbing men."

But is it? Mr. Staver has too much knowledge of men not to be aware that unless the sentiment of a community is overwhelmingly in favor of any law, it cannot be enforced.

You have tried total prohibition of the evil. And that has failed. You have tried leaving it alone. And that has failed.

Now try the alternative, AND IT WILL NOT FAIL.

What have they done? Mr. Landen and Mr. Dilworth have both been among us for some time, they have known of the corruption and it in Swilltown all along.

Why not? It has been one of three things. They have been afraid, they have been indifferent, or they have recognized that any attempt at reform would be useless.

Is this true or false? Mrs. Kinney's letter in another column will be read with a good deal of interest.

gained at too great a sacrifice of their

home influence. The purest men and the purest women are not sufficiently numerous in this city to contend successfully against the element that exists in every seaport town, the greed for gain that measures the value of every proposition by the dollars that are in it, and the indifference that cannot be roused to radical moral reform.

Much as we revere and admire the wonderful progress of women, their push, enthusiasm, and earnestness during the past few years, much as we know that we could have no more ardent champions of public morality or honest dealing, we believe that a woman's life should be bounded by her home, her affections, her charities, and her children.

Wouldn't it do much to test the practicability of Mrs. Kinney's proposition to bring forward a woman's ticket at the next city election?

The gambling evil is a degrading curse, but one which has withstood all efforts to uproot it. Let it, therefore, be controlled and confined within the narrowest possible limits.

When a motive is governed by conscientiousness and a desire to lift out of the rut and cast aside prejudices that smother progress and bring on decay, when furthermore that sense of absolute honesty in the support of a cause is the help and standby of its advocates, surely its exponents can be content to wait for public commendation.

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