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NO. 64

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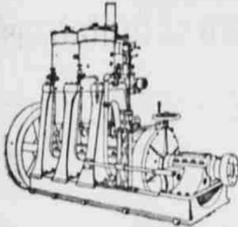
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THE MORAL SIDE OF THE QUESTION

Letters From Prominent Citizens On Gambling, Saloons and Other Evils.

EVILS CANNOT BE LEGALIZED

The Experience of Others Cited--What the Saloons Do For a Community--Resolutions Passed by the Ministers.

Astoria, March 22--(Editor Astorian)--As our city council, representing a party which I was taught by my father to believe was a party of great moral ideas, has passed to the third reading an ordinance licensing gambling--an acknowledged vice--and as you have given considerable space on your first page to opinions favorable to this ordinance, will you give equal prominence to testimony on the other side--remembering that many of the patrons of the Astorian do not favor the legalization of vice?

Two gentlemen in your paper have referred to St. Louis, France, and Germany for support of the licensing of prostitution and gambling. I note they place prostitution in the same category as gambling, and wisely, too, for if it be right to license gambling on the plea that it "can't be stopped, hence should be licensed," the very same plea will apply also to prostitution or any other vice. But can it ever be right to legalize a vice? If so, why not also apply the same reasoning to theft and robbery?

But on the low plane of merely expediency, does the experience of St. Louis and other cities which have tried licensing vice encourage us in trying the same experiment? Before the last legislature met in Salem, when it was feared a license law for prostitution would be introduced, I received from the president of the National Purity Society, Hon. Aaron M. Powell, and from the president of the Society to Prevent State Legalization of Vice many documents showing the futility of such license laws wherever enacted, and I see that much fewer places have ever attempted to license prostitution, because, with prostitution they can to some little extent cloak the horror of such a law under the disguise of a "contagious disease act." Great Britain, after a few years' experiment of licensed prostitution, under the plea of a "hygiene act," repealed the act by parliament, both for Great Britain and India.

M. Lecour, late head of Police des Moeurs of Paris, where licensed prostitution has been in existence, says in his official report: "The evil is a social and moral one, and cannot be regulated or controlled by the police." On the continent all pretense of good moral results from regulation of vice has been openly disavowed.

M. Lenoir, the chief commissioner of police in Brussels, reported to the burgomaster in 1897 that after thirty years' trial of a license system, the most complete in existence, "prostitution has so greatly developed in Brussels that new measures are necessary."

St. Louis has been referred to in the Astorian as a good example of the benefits of licensing vice. I have never heard that St. Louis licensed gambling, but it did once license prostitution, so I presume it is to that experiment reference is made, and it is practically the only American city that has had the effrontery to openly license this evil. And in regard to its law and the result, I quote from the testimony of Dr. Elliot, chancellor of Washington University in St. Louis: "The authority to license vice in St. Louis was obtained by a legislative trick, the interpolation of the two words, 'or regulate,' after prohibition in an amendment to the city's charter." But after four years' trial of licensed vice the law was repealed and the power taken from the city to again license vice prohibited by the state. The agitation for repeal was participated in by the archbishop, bishop and priests of the Catholic church, by almost all of the clergy of the Protestant church, irrespective of nationality, and by the majority of the St. Louis bar. A petition for repeal was sent to the Missouri legislature, signed by one hundred and fifty lawyers and physicians. Another petition was signed by four thousand women, beside the petition signed by thousands of men.

enforced, but that simply shows that enforced, but that simply shows the venality of the enforcing authorities, not the fault of the law. If the gambling prohibiting law could be enforced since March 19, it could have been enforced ever since its passage, had our police commissioners respected their oaths of office. It is true our revenues might be increased by such license money, but who would be willing to sell his son for gold in our city treasury. Better a thousand times levy a sufficient tax to cover legitimate city expenses and then dismiss every commissioner or policeman who refuses to respect and enforce our city laws.

NARCISSE W. KINNEY, Pres. State W. C. T. U.

THE WARRENTON SALOON.

Astoria, March 21--(Editor Astorian)--In the matter of the saloon at Warrenton, our temperance people have been beaten. The saloon has commenced operations, and a new era has been established for a longer or shorter period.

The town of Clatsop, of which Warrenton is a part, includes some thirty square miles of the western part of this county. The saloon has been excluded from that extensive area for the past twenty years. The residents of that town can well point with pride to the record of those years of peace, happiness, sobriety and educational advancement. During that time, too, at the town of Clatsop has cost the county and state almost nothing for the care of, or the prosecution of any lawbreakers found within its limits. Since the saloon is mostly the cause of these troubles, Clatsop did not have them; but she not only paid her own taxes cheerfully, but also the taxes made as the result of the saloon in other parts of the county and state, where the saloon existed.

But now the saloon has come there, it did not come with the consent of the people of Clatsop. It was forced on them by law--notwithstanding the board of trustees refused to license it and opposed it; notwithstanding the fact that the voters of the town sent in their written remonstrance to the board of trustees, having three times the names of actual voters thereon as there were on the petitions for the saloon. And so the people did all in their power to exclude the saloon, believing it to be an immoral and wrong thing, and a menace to the well-being of society.

There are those who believe that the saloon does not increase drunkenness, nor increase taxes by causing crime. Such may well watch the result of this innovation in the town of Clatsop and compare results with the past. I do sincerely hope, however, for the sake of all that is good, that in this instance the record may not be the same as it has been everywhere else. AUG. C. KINNEY.

MINISTERS' RESOLUTIONS.

At the meeting of the ministers of the city yesterday, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, First, that it is the sense of this association that our present law on gambling be enforced; second, that we will in every way endeavor to promote public sentiment to assist the city officials in the enforcement of said law.

BEEF SUGAR SOON TO COME.

The Manufacturers' Association of Portland will soon receive its sugarbeet seed for distribution among the farmers of the state who wish to make experiments this year. The instructions in regard to planting and cultivating have been printed in pamphlet form, and will be furnished with the seed, together with a blank form to be filled by the grower. The blank requests information concerning the exact nature of the soil, amount of care, time of sowing and pulling, cost of producing, and various other matters of value in determining whether the industry is practicable in this state. In the experiments made in former years, the lack of these details rendered it difficult to estimate correctly the results. At the close of the present year, after his tests have been made of the saccharin contents at Corvallis, excellent knowledge of what can be accomplished in this line will have been obtained. Professor Shaw believes the adaptability of the soil and climate will be fully demonstrated. Secretary Cooper, of the association, has already received several applications for seed. The persons wishing to make the attempt live in different localities, which will give an opportunity to determine the relative qualities of the various soils.

Prof. Al. Fifth was the first one to write and sing a song on Corbett and Fitzsimmons.

And the lights went out--last night.

Wait for the "Husby," the best bicycle on earth for the least money, \$40 and \$50. F. L. Parker, agent.

THE WATERS STILL ARE ON THE RISE

Lower Mississippi Situation Not Yet Beyond Danger, More Lives Lost.

UPPER RIVERS ARE FALLING

Secretaries of War Has Been Asked to Furnish 2000 Tents to Accommodate Homeless People Below Vicksburg.

Memphis, March 22--The river continues to fall slowly at Memphis, the gauges tonight registering a fraction under 27 feet, a fall of about an inch in 48 hours, but the decline of the great volume of water at this point is due to the breaks in the levee at Carruthersville, Mo., and at San Souci, Ark. The railroad situation shows a decided improvement.

Two negroes are reported to have been drowned today at Horn Lake, a few miles south of this city. The fact that the rise continues at Cairo, and other points not affected by Carruthersville break, is not indicative that the beginning of the end of the flood is at hand.

At Cairo, Arkansas City, Greenville and Vicksburg there has been a steady rise since Saturday morning, and at all these points the river is far above the danger line.

At points below Vicksburg the rise continues slowly and steadily. The outlook both as to the condition of the country and the refugees remains the same. Life boats bring daily their loads of destitute people to be housed, cared for and fed by Memphis people with whatever assistance may come from those outside the city. Besides the people that must be cared for, there is the stock, too, which has been saved from starvation. It has been found necessary to telegraph to the secretary of war asking for enough tents to accommodate 2000 people. If Secretary Alger accedes to this request the situation will be greatly relieved. The fact that there is so much crowding in those places where lodging is provided is thought to be somewhat menacing to the public health.

THE UPPER RIVER.

Sioux City, March 22--All danger from high water is past for the present. The rivers are clear of ice and going down. There are ice gorges up the Missouri river, but none nearer than Vermillion. All railroads resumed business today out of Sioux City, except the Milwaukee, whose western and northern lines are badly crippled, owing to the loss of several bridges and the washing out of several miles of track.

IRELAND ON PRIZE FIGHTS.

Washington, March 22--The appeal of the president of the W. C. T. U. to President McKinley and the governors of states of the Union today asking for their intervention to prevent kinetoscopic reproductions of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight from being exhibited in the United States was commented on today as follows by Archbishop Ireland, of St. Paul, who is in Washington: "Pugilism is barbarism-animism. It is a disgrace to Christian civilization. No Christian nation should permit it. The exhibition of the kinetoscopic reproduction of the Carson fight would minister to morbid curiosity, low appetites, and tend to render prize fighting popular. I hope that the good sense and moral instincts of the American people will not allow this contemplated exhibition to take place in any part of the country."

SNOW IN KANSAS.

Atwood, Kan., March 22--The prairies of western Kansas are covered with great drifts of snow, which has been falling since Sunday night. The roads in many places are blocked, as the snow was accompanied by a high wind that drifted it badly. Railroad cars are filled with immense drifts and trains are delayed to some extent. The snow will prove of great value to the farmers.

CORBETT'S FUTURE PLANS.

San Francisco, March 22--Corbett was early at Fitzsimmons' hotel today looking for his conqueror, but the latter was in no mood to see Corbett and evaded him by escaping from the hotel by a side door. Corbett says if he cannot fight Fitzsimmons again he will fight no one. He would make nothing by beating Sharkey or Maher. Corbett says he has been offered the management of a big athletic club in New York at a fine salary, and that he will probably accept the offer if his theatrical plans do not mature quickly.

THE DEADLY CYCLONE.

Arlington, Ga., March 22--An awful cyclone swept down upon this little place today and accomplished a work the horror of which is only paralleled in the famous Johnstown disaster.

The bodies of eight children have been taken from the ruins of the Arlington Academy, and a dozen others will die. Thirty-five children and two teachers were buried in the wreck of the building and the work of removing the dead and injured is not yet completed.

The Arlington Academy, which was a fine structure, lay directly in the path of the storm. It was knocked in a great heap even before the danger was realized. The death list so far as known is: Alice Putnam, Clyde Roberts, Ollie Paramore, Willie McMurris, Jennie Butler, Maude Johnson, Mary Wellington, Kenneth Boynton. Two teachers, Professors Covington and Walker, have been removed from the ruins terribly hurt. Walker, it is thought, will die.

Nearly every home in the place has been blighted. Men and women stand about wringing their hands and weeping.

THE FIRST TRAIN.

Judge Burke, of Seattle, who is en route in an interview recently said road, on an interview recently said that trade by the N. P. Co. Y. van Kalsballe of 'teamships' increased wonderfully. He said: "Captain Griffith informs me that the Japanese company is delighted and surprised at the showing. Our next steamer will bring a tremendous cargo of the new tea crop and our first 'tea train' will start across the continent immediately upon its delivery."

GOT IT IN THE BACK.

Oakland, March 22--Mr. and Mrs. Ed Coats became involved in a quarrel at their home near Oakland this afternoon. Mrs. Coats discharged a shotgun loaded with fine shot into her husband's neck and a second one in his legs. Coats walked a mile and a half after being shot and sent a messenger for a physician. Mrs. Coats has not yet been arrested.

THE MARKETS.

San Francisco, March 22--Hops--9 and 11c. New York, March 22--Hops--15c. London, March 22--Hops--15s. Portland, March 22--Wheat--Valley, 7c; Walla Walla, 7 and 7c. Liverpool, March 22--Wheat--Spot, quiet; demand, poor; No. 2 red spring, 6 3/4d; No. 1 California, 6s 3/4d.

MAHER AND SHARKEY MATCHED.

New York, March 22--A dispatch was received from Brooklyn today from Warren Lewis, president of the Greater New York Athletic Club, announcing that a match between Maher and Sharkey had been arranged. It will probably be brought off in May in Brooklyn. It is said a purse of \$10,000 will be the stake.

LUMBER GOES UP.

San Francisco, March 22--Lumber men of this city are again trying to organize a trust, with the hope of raising the price of lumber from four to six dollars a thousand. Dealers now claim that the actual cost of milling lumber is greater than the present prices.

CHINESE GIRLS DEPORTED.

San Francisco, March 22--Special agents of the treasury department today arrested sixty Chinese girls who were improperly landed at this port. All the women who have no registration papers will be deported.

CREEDON WINS.

New York, March 22--Creedon knocked out Charley Strong in the fourth round.

SOL ABRAHAM'S APPOINTED.

Roseburg, March 22--Hon. Sol Abraham, of Roseburg, was today appointed trustee of the Oregon soldiers' home by Governor Lord.

CARD OF THANKS.

I wish to extend the thanks of myself and children to the neighbors and many friends for the untold kindnesses during the late illness and after the death of my husband. MRS. WM. BROWN.

OREGON GETS A LARGE OFFICE

Binger Hermann Appointed Commissioner of the General Land Office.

TARIFF BILL READ IN FULL

The Debate Opened and Four Speeches Made in the House--American Prisoners in Cuba Are Being Released.

Special to the Astorian. Washington, March 22--The president today sent the following nominations to the senate:

State--Joseph L. Bristow, of Kansas, fourth assistant postmaster general.

Interior--Binger Hermann, of Oregon, commissioner of the general land office.

Treasury--Ernest G. Timme, of Wisconsin, auditor for the state and other departments (fifth auditor).

Navy--Commodore Joseph Miller, to be rear admiral.

TARIFF DEBATE.

Washington, March 22--The first day of the tariff debate in the house was rather tame, from both a spectacular and an oratorical standpoint. The galleries were well filled all day and the members on the floor listened conscientiously, but there was an absence both of the sharp cross-firing which keeps the nerves on edge and that brilliant eloquence which inspires and holds the imagination. The opening of the debate was delayed over two hours by the full reading of the bill of 162 pages, and this, to begin with, had a somewhat depressing influence. The republican leaders insisted on this to avoid a possible re-appearance in the future, should the consideration of the bill not be completed under the five-minute rule, of a claim that the bill had not been read in full to the house, a thing which happened in the case of both the McKinley and the Wilson bills.

Only four speeches were made at today's session. Dingley, chairman of the ways and means committee, opened in an hour's speech for the majority and Wheeler fired a broadside for the opposition. The plans of the democrats had miscarried. Bailey, leader of the opposition, had decided to close the debate, and McMillan had been selected to reply to Dingley, but at the last moment it was learned that McMillan had been unable to prepare himself, owing to the illness of his wife. The task, therefore, devolved upon Wheeler. The latter was unprepared, but nevertheless took the floor for an hour. Bell blazed a path for the populists. The only other speakers at the day session was Hopkins, member of the ways and means committee.

PRISONERS RELEASED.

Washington, March 22--Another American citizen, who has been held under arrest in Cuba, has been released. He is Francis Casseaux, arrested at Sagua, on February 12. The arrest was denounced by Consul General Lee as a great outrage, whereupon the state department began at once to move in behalf of the man, with the result that he was set at liberty yesterday. The number of Americans now under arrest in Cuba is reduced to eight or ten, and these include the Competitor prisoners. Secretary Sherman believes that within a few days all the remaining prisoners will be released.

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