

The Herald

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In its last issue the Itemizer refers in a lengthy dissertation, to a case thrown out of court at that place for want of evidence. It asserts that such cases cost the county a great deal and make taxes higher, etc., etc. Had this case been one brought against some fellow for alleged theft or minor misdemeanor, the Itemizer would never have said a word about the burden of taxation it was creating, nor how great care should be exercised in bringing charges of that character, but as this was a case growing out of talk caused by drunken orgies in a saloon in Independence, it naturally follows that it is worse than a crime to prosecute under the circumstances. Admitting that the prosecuting witness was over zealous and that he mistook a moral crime for one against the peace and dignity of the state, it does not follow that the case was dismissed for want of evidence that the act complained of was actually committed, but from the fact that the acts alleged did not commit a crime within the meaning of the statutes. Evidence in plenty could have been produced to prove the act was committed, but having been committed when and where it was, there is every reason to believe it was not offensive to those present, hence could not reasonably be considered a crime against the peace and dignity of the state, or at least that part of the state that was present at the time. Law does not mean morality in every case, therefore a violation of good morals does not in every instance mean a violation of statutory law. The animus of the Itemizer's article can be easily surmised when it is seen that it leans towards the liquor element in this case. It is to be hoped that the better element of our citizens will appreciate the situation enough to take the matter up and discuss it thoroughly and keep hammering away until convictions are secured in every case of violation of law in connection with the illicit sale of intoxicants in this county, whether it be for the sale directly or for some act of debauchery committed by those who have partaken of it. Hereafter when a case of this kind comes up the names of the participants and the witnesses will be published so that an apology for increased taxes will not be necessary by any of the saloon subsidized press of the county.

As a sample of the great learning of the editorial staff of the Oregonian we would like to have people who know, read the editorial in Fridays paper regarding the route up the Deschutes river for the long talked of railroad. The Cub Editor must have been turned loose on that

particular occasion. Comparing the route up the Deschutes with that up the Santiam he says that the Deschutes route is so much easier because for a great part of the distance through the canyon the river is a sluggish stream while the Santiam is a series of rapids. Further on he says that Prineville, in the fertile Owyhee valley will not long be without railroad communication, etc, etc. There is about as much truth in his statements as his geography is correct, and that is about 300 miles off. However this statement is about on a par with many made regarding the Normal schools. A slight regard for the truth inculcated in the editorial department of that paper would be of considerable value, both as to matters pertaining to the state at large and politically. It would be a good thing for the state if a railroad were built up the Santiam and the route is much more feasible than one up the Deschutes with far less abrupt inclines to overcome. This, of course, is unknown to the Oregonian and it would be impossible to convince the ruling powers of that paper by other than brute force that such is the case. Gross natures can be appealed to only through gross channels therefore we despair of effecting any reform in the Hyena of the Tower.

The mutilation of the petitions of F. I. McKenna in Portland last week, by the Brewers Association emissaries, is only another instance of the lengths to which the liquor element will go in order to defeat the will of the people. It is to be hoped that all connected with this nefarious piece of business will be sent to the penitentiary for a goodly number of years. Money and whiskey will debauch the best of men when applied in the right way, if they will only listen to the honied words of the siren that lures them to destruction. Especially is this the case with young men who want to get either riches or position too quickly. Notice the action of the deputy clerk at the City Hall in Portland who opened the vault to the Brewer's representatives in the above case. Cut out the booze and try and live honestly, even though poor.

Organize a Grange.

There is talk of organizing a Grange at this place. This is one of the best movements that could be made. There are any number of farmers near here that ought to belong to the Order if they do not already and there are several members of the Order here that belong to different Granges that would transfer here. Altogether we ought to organize a strong Grange here. This organization is the only one that is trying to better the condition of the farming class—the producing class—and it should be fostered and built up by all who desire the present form of government to endure in this nation. The rural population of our nation is the safeguard of personal liberty and if it does not organize to protect its interests the other interests will root it out and practically enslave it. Get busy and talk it over with your neighbor and we will have an organizer come and then Monmouth will be able to boast of one of the best Granges in the state. We ought to organize with over fifty members and there is no reason why we should not have 100.

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