

The Herald

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THE SALOON OR "BLIND PIG"—WHICH?

"The illicit sale of intoxicants—commonly called "blind pigging"—has reached so malignant a stage in the city of Albany as to be a topic of common conversation on the streets and in the homes of Albany people, and a subject for comment by the county press. In view of the fact that Albany and Linn county have been in the "dry column" and without licensed saloons for a number of years this is indeed a sad state of affairs.

"Though Albany is a city of six thousand people it is said that the number of arrests for inebriety outnumber those for all other causes combined, and that arrests for drunkenness under prohibition regime are far in excess of those for the same cause when the licensed saloon was in vogue. And the police records seem to bear out this declaration."

The above is part of an editorial which appeared last week in the Albany Evening Herald and reminds us of a riddle we heard about a young swain hunting a wife. "When he began it was done, and when he had half completed the task, it was done and when he had finished it was not done at all."

The solution was this: The lady's name was Done, and after the marriage ceremony it was changed.

But to get down to the subject. What if the "blind pig" has come? Who is responsible for its appearance? And whose child is it?

The headline, as used, would suggest that the writer's conclusion is: That if the saloon is reinstated the illicit sale will stop, hence, the illogical conclusion, that it is better to sanction the open saloon than have men get drunk through the illicit traffic, or in other words, it is better to condone with something that is destroying multitudes of the human race and continually augmenting its ranks with new recruits, than it is to have the "blind pig" which, latter is only an evidence of the bonds wherewith alcoholism has already fastened itself upon its victims.

If we legalize the saloon, then we sanction all the crime and misery engendered through strong drink and the saloon influence, and in addition give the saloon element license to take our boys and girls and make debauched and degraded beings out of them, and we become partakers of the sins that go with the saloon business.

But is it true that if the saloon is reinstated the "blind pig" business will disappear? The history of Portland and other

cities does not prove such to be true, for it is not long since the police of Portland raided some ninety-odd such places in that city, if our memory serves us correctly, and yet the open saloon there is not limited to a few dozen, neither to a few hundred, but the "blind pig" flourishes within its precincts.

Nations are like individuals in the matter of reforms. When the individual turns over a new leaf and gets rid of one of his weaknesses, and the search-light of truth shines into his being it discloses something else that is in need of correction and as one after the other is discarded new foes to equity arise for elimination until the individual has perfected his character.

When our own beloved country discarded chattel slavery it did a good deed and the sin was washed out in the shedding of much of the best blood of the nation, but slavery had to go. What then? Why, men of means saw opportunity to rapidly increase their power and influence and soon the masses of the people found themselves in the grip of moneyed men and combinations, who, while they apply a different kind of lash to the backs of their victims, were, nevertheless, as heartless as the slave driver who used the whip—one used physical force the other used the lash of want and privation.

Now, should we return to chattel slavery to get free from the influence of the money power? It would avail us nothing so far as the latter form of slavery is concerned; it is here and must be fought out on its merits; so also is the "blind pig;" it is here, too, and must be overthrown if gotten rid of; the return of the saloon will not eradicate it and about the only change such condition will make is this: You will not know whether the man found in a drunken condition is the fruit of the saloon or the illicit business.

Liberty is the result of eternal vigilance and there is no safe resting place where you can lay down at ease and consider your work accomplished.

Go after the saloon it is a blight on business, health and morality; vote it down, and then hunt out the illicit business with a persistency that will not admit of defeat; the traffic wrongs you; it wrecks the lives of your neighbors and then intrudes its blighting influence into your own household perhaps.

But you say: I hate to make myself so conspicuous, I dislike to come out and oppose others. Yes, perhaps you do, but are those who are futherling the baleful influence of alcoholism afraid to oppose you? Not at all and they take every advantage possible to accomplish their purposes.

Now comes the news that Postmaster General Hitchcock is contemplating an ocean-to-ocean airship mail line. This may look good to the administration and have a hisalutin sounding title to the distinguished P. M. G., but it is not likely to appeal very strongly to the country press as that dignitary will have the more cause to ask congress to raise the rate on second class mail matter to help liquidate the extra expense.

STEAMING AN UMBRELLA

Process Takes Off the Fabric Fit Tight and Smooth.

One of the odd occupations in which men may find employment is that of the steamer and roller in an umbrella factory.

When in the process of its manufacture the umbrella has been so far advanced as to have its cover on, but this before it has been otherwise finished and fitted with its handle, it may need to be steamed. It is of course essential that the cover should fit everywhere with drumhead-like smoothness, but as it comes now from the covers it may be that the curtain, that part of the cover that is down in the widest part of the panels, between the ends of the ribs, is loose and full. It is the work of the steamer to take out that fullness.

The steamer sits on a table with a pile of umbrellas near on one side. In front of him at a little distance is what looks as much as anything like a big galvanized iron watering pot with a long spout and with the regulation sunflower sprinkler top at the end except that this tip is larger. At the end of its long spout this tip is brought up to a point convenient for the operator, and through its many perforations there is constantly emerging a gentle little haze of steam.

The steamer picks up an umbrella, opens it, turns its handle to the front and then, holding it so, steaming it on the under side of the cloth, he rotates the umbrella slowly but steadily with the curtain part of the cloth panels held over the steam. By this process the fullness is taken up and the cloth in every panel all around shrunk to perfect smoothness.

Before the umbrella goes through the next process in its manufacture and finishing it is rolled for greater convenience in handling. The steamers do this rolling. A steamer will steam umbrellas for an hour or two and then for an hour or two will roll the umbrellas he has steamed, while another steamer and roller who has been rolling will take his place at the steaming can and steam for awhile, and so the steamers and rollers keep going all day long.—New York Sun.

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