

The Herald

D. E. STITT, Editor.

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27, 1912.

IS IT JUST OR UNJUST?

The position taken in a HERALD editorial, last week, regarding the justice of a city inside the boundaries of a county which has cast a majority for the exclusion of the saloon and the sale of intoxicants, as a beverage, wherein a city so situated, may, by a majority vote within its own precincts, take the matter in its own hands and sell alcoholic drinks in spite of the mandate of the majority which has been cast against it, has been called in question and that the ground we stand upon is untenable, as the citizens in a city that votes itself wet, in a dry county stand on the same footing as those who vote their city dry, in a wet one, and that to be fair we should stand for the same principle in either case, that is, that if the city in a dry county has no right to vote itself wet, neither has a city in a wet county the right to vote itself dry.

Well, if that sentence don't kill you we will try and shorten up the rest in this argument.

But the conditions are not similar neither in fact nor in principle, as we shall try to show. In the first place the local option law is a state law, and more than that, it is an act of the people. The law was first drafted, with all its provisions, and was submitted to the voters, of the state, who, by a majority vote, adopted its provisions so that each dry city, precinct or county stands by authority of the law, with a state majority vote behind it. Next there are the rights of representation. Taxation without representation nor protection is unjust and when a city inside a tax paying district institutes conditions wherein a majority will be forced to bear extra expense against its expressed will that city has exceeded its privileges and there can be no just act or decision which will grant it such authority, especially where the voice of the people is law.

Now, while there is a majority vote of the state standing behind the dry city in a wet county, as well as the expressed will of the city itself, there is no extra expense thrown upon the county because of crimes committed because of drunkenness attributable to the non-sale of liquor, and thereverse is true of a rum-licensing city in a dry county, for where theft, murder, assault with intent to kill is caused because of drunkenness, the case is taken before the grand jury and into the circuit court and the county has to stand the expense and has no redress from the wet city, but must tax it out of the whole people, the majority of whom has voted to curtail just such conditions.

Does your sense of justice say that such condition is right?

But, says the opposition, I be-

lieve in liberty; I desire my personal liberty. So does the writer, but, license and self indulgence is not liberty, and our rights cease where another person's rights begin so that we may not trample upon a brother's privileges.

Cain had the impudence to ask: "Am I my brother's keeper?" after he had exercised authority to dispose of his brother's life, and we often hear very like argument from persons desirous to justify themselves in their weaknesses, such as a man has the right to get drunk if he wants to, or if he wishes to take his own life he has a right to do so.

It is true a man may take his own life, but unless he is his own creator and can arbitrarily fix his future destiny he had better investigate conditions which may obtain before he rushes into a future which may prove very disagreeable and vastly different from what he presumed that it might be.

But we are not our own creator, neither were we consulted as to time, place and conditions, when we should appear upon the stage of life, hence, we should make the best of it and rise to the highest possible type of manhood and intelligence and not transgress on the rights of our friends and neighbors, nor upon those of our enemies either.

To be perfectly fair, a city which licenses saloons should pay all the expense which arises through the sale of intoxicating beverages. If the licensed saloon helps a city, that city ought to make good the losses it entails upon others outside its corporate limits.

Argument for the Initiative Millage Bill.

GASTON, ORE., Sept. 23.—The initiative millage tax bill, providing for a six tenths of a mill tax, four sevenths for the use of the Agricultural College, and three sevenths for the use of the University, and providing also for a single Board of Regents, was prepared by a joint committee from the Governor's special commission appointed to solve Oregon's higher educational problem, and from the Boards of Regents of the two institutions working in conjunction with the Governor and with the Presidents of the two institutions, and is offered as a substitute for all the present legislative bills for support and government of the two institutions.

This bill does not increase the average rate of taxation for the support of the two institutions as shown during the last ten years. The average during this period is a trifle over six tenths of a mill.

The State of Washington is at present paying for the same purposes seventeen hundredths of a mill more than the Oregon bill calls for; namely, forty five hundredths of a mill for the University and thirty two hundredths of a mill for the Agricultural College.

The growth of the two institutions will certainly keep pace with the growth of wealth in the state, as has been shown by the experience of all other states using the millage basis of support.

This bill expressly repeals the \$500,000 appropriations of the legislative session of two years ago, now submitted to the voters under the referendum (official numbers on the ballot, 372, 373,

374, 375,) for their approval or rejection.

The present standing appropriations to be continued for one year are most urgently needed to give the institutions a start in buildings and to carry them through the period while the mill tax is being collected.

The passage of this bill will take the University and Agricultural College out of politics. The efficiency and dignity of the institutions demand permanency of support and freedom from political entanglements.

Through the unified control of the single board, hearty co-operation of the two institutions will be insured. The advantages of a combined institution will be secured, and the advantages which come from segregation will not be sacrificed.

Since the millage bill involves the question of taxation, it should be taken directly to the people. It is therefore not an abuse but a proper use of the initiative law, and the bill should be voted upon its merits.

Save the Roads, Urges University Professor.

U. OF O., EUGENE, Sept. 25.—Professor Joseph Shafer, of the University, is one of Oregon's busiest good roads enthusiasts. Professor Shafer's idea is that the farming districts could accomplish the best results at the least expense by starting a regular road patrol.

"A chuck-hole can be drained in a minute the morning after a rain," he says, "while if neglected it can become a nuisance all winter and require the attention of men and a team in the spring. "I guarantee that if the pupils of some country school would undertake a few minutes' intelligent road work on their trips back and forth every day, that particular school house would soon become famous as the centre of a district of good roads.

"It would be good for the roads, still better for the children who need to have developed their sense of civic responsibility, and best of all for the community, which would soon feel pride in local conditions, and would supplement and broaden the work started by the pupils.

"Let some country teacher seize this opportunity."

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W. C. T. U.

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