

## INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

CHARLES EDWARD HICKS

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## A ZEALOUS WHISKEY MAN

In his zeal for the cause of rotten whiskey the editor of the Observer goes out of his way to talk about something of which he knows less than nothing. He insists on statements that are totally void of facts and is weak enough to allow himself to believe that his harangue will have anything approaching influence on voters for the corrupt issues of home rule and other kindred policies. He has criticized the statements of the Enterprise that men are coming from whiskey soaked cities to find employment in Dallas where prohibition prevails. He referred the matter to Mr. Gerlinger, secretary and general manager of the Willamette Valley Lumber Co., who said: "I do not know of any man coming into this community to work on account of its being prohibition territory."

Investigation has shown that there are men working in the mills at Dallas who have come from wet territory to Dallas because it is dry, notwithstanding Mr. Gerlinger's assertion.

It might also be stated, for reasons that we do not wish to give at present, that Mr. Gerlinger is not a competent judge on the question of the value of prohibition. He says "The town of Black Rock has become demoralized and tough during the last year under the present law. Prohibition has made sneaks and law-breakers of many young men and boys." He forgets that the very man

who was one of his foremen in a logging camp, who was selling liquor illegally under the saloon regime is now simply continuing his same work under local option. Prior to the county's going dry, this same man seemed to have the protection of the sheriff and that same protection no doubt continues today. Again, he says "Local option and licensed saloons would mean a dry town of Black Rock and probably well regulated saloons in Falls City." Think of a town with

saloons called a dry town. Notice, also, how guardedly he words his statement. "Probably." It seems like he rather doubts it. "Well regulated saloons in Falls City." Is it not a matter of fact that the poorly regulated saloons in Falls City caused the loggers to help to vote the county dry? When the saloon has the protection of the sheriff it is well regulated—for the liquor interests.

Mr. Gerlinger says that the present regime is worse than licensing saloons in these cities because "Prohibition without enforcement of law, (and enforcement seems impossible) is much worse." First the law has not been enforced is to be condemned. But why has it not been enforced? Simply because of the fact that the liquor interests have specialized in working against the local option law in that community and in Independence. The citizens repeatedly requested Sheriff Grant to enforce the law and it seems that often all that he has done was to tell the violators to let up and not be so open.

Any law unenforced is worthless. Because prohibition has not been enforced this law seems to be condemned. But why condemn the law when it has not had a fair chance? Instead, condemn the officer who fails to do his duty in complying with the law. The sheriff and not prohibition should be the mark for Mr. Gerlinger. The law has been enforced in more obstinate communities than Black Rock, Falls City or Independence.

It might be interesting to note that the editor of the Observer must be blind to the fact that there is a gentleman working on his force who came from an eastern state to Dallas, Oregon, on the ground of the literature sent out by the editor of the Itemizer stating that Dallas was dry.

## THE BREWERS' PREACHER

Printed in this issue of the Enterprise is a statement of a lawyer of Riverhead, New York, George F.

Stackpole, who personally knows Wm. A. Wasson, the brewers' preacher. Mr. Wasson has been writing many articles which the brewers have circulated extensively, ostensibly favoring reform but practically seeking to check the prohibition movement of our country. It is not worth while for the present to try to answer him. His views are not sane enough to be of much value, even to the liquor traffic.

We quote from a report from a recent county option hearing from a committee of the New York state legislature, in which Wasson represented the liquor interests. "Rev. W. P. Harmon, pastor of the First Congregational church of Riverhead, where Mr. Wasson is rector of the little Episcopal church, told the committee the standing of Wasson in his own town, of a scandal that exists from the man's championship of the basest of influences. He also told the committee how a mother, a member of Wasson's church, had come to him tearfully begging that he would try to save her boy from the pernicious influence of this same Wasson."

The real issue is, after all, the boys and girls on the one hand, and the saloon on the other. If Wasson's influence upon a boy of his own congregation is so degrading that the boy's mother is forced to go to a pastor of another church in behalf of her boy what must be his influence for evil when he goes about from city to city spreading his infamous doctrine. And yet the Home Rule Association presumes to send him out as a trustworthy advocate of the truth.

All this is intended only to show to what extremity the home rule advocates are reduced in order to lend a semblance of respectability and dignity to their nefarious work.

## H. C. McALLISTER

There is no question in the minds of men who are invested with the best interests of the country as to the sanity of the proposed home rule amendment. It is a pernicious attempt to girdle on to the state of Oregon a law favorable to the liquor interests only and damning to the entire moral fabric of the state, by disguising it in every manner possible. Sound the name: "Greater Oregon Home Rule Association". It has the

ring of intrinsic metal and yet there is no white meat when you cut into it.

In the management of the association there are men who were above the calling to which they have stooped, men who no doubt accept their salaries with shame. Fancy H. C. McAllister, a man whose life up to this time has been useful and earnest and honest as well, taking home to his estimable wife the envelope in which is his pay for the part he is taking to further the efforts of the association to plant the curse of rum in every community of Oregon and its attendant miseries in the homes of our fair land. Mac used to be a prince. He will be sorry when his former friends begin to fall away. The new acquirement will scarcely fill the place of those tried friends of olden days. But then some men will do anything for money and sin often takes startling toll.

## WHAT PROHIBITION WILL DO

What will prohibition do for our state?

1. It will make less crime.
2. It will lessen taxes in the aggregate and those of the farmer in particular.
3. It will give our schools a chance.
4. It will make it easier for our youths to build noble character.
5. It will bring into our state a desirable class of people and drive out many undesirable ones.
6. It will ultimately make law and order the rule by destroying the liquor traffic which is the greatest cause of lawlessness.
7. It will encourage the people of the state to "raise more hogs and less hell."

The Oregonian of April 8, commenting in an editorial on the local option election of the previous day in Illinois, where thirty-seven whole counties went dry, says:

"But does prohibition decrease the total amount of the world's capital? The economic returns from districts where prohibition has been in force for a long time indicate the contrary. The taxable valuation of such districts invariably increases. It is said that the increment has, in every case surpassed the value of the property which prohibition threw out of use.

Moreover, the Maine and Kansas saving banks hold deposits far out of proportion to their relative population and far in excess of what can be shown in similar territory where the sale of liquor is permitted by law. To these facts we must add one more, that offenses against the law are enough fewer in prohibition territory to cause an appreciable saving in the public expenses and therefore diminish taxes.

"The economic argument is therefore against the saloons, and we suppose this is the reason why they must prepare to meet their doom at some time or other."

## BICE FOR SHERIFF

W. L. Bice, the republican candidate for sheriff of Polk county, if elected, will prove to be one of the most popular officers ever chosen to that office. This is because of his fearlessness in the enforcement of the law. He will not have to have a flask of whiskey on his hip before he can brave his duties. Neither will the word go ahead of him when he travels from place to place. When the laws of our county are being violated in a wholesale manner as they have been in Polk county in the past Mr. Bice will not wait for someone else to seek out the offenders. He will preserve order and law. Any sheriff will do that if he is law abiding. The traffic of the blind pig is a crime equally with any other broken statute. In cases of murder, arson, larceny, etcetera, an officer who makes any attempt at the performance of his duty would not wait for someone to submit proof before he would show any interest in the matter. An officer who will not take an interest in the protection of society against wholesale violations such as has been witnessed in this county in the past is unfit and undesirable as a citizen. Such will never be said of W. L. Bice.

## Tea at Mrs. Baldwin's

The Baptist Aid Society will give a tea Wednesday, October 26, at the home of Mrs. Baldwin from 2 until 5, to which the ladies of Independence are cordially invited. Some amusing experiences will be related on "How I earned a dollar". Come and take tea with us.

## COTTAGE HOTEL

CHARLES SAVAGE, LESSEE

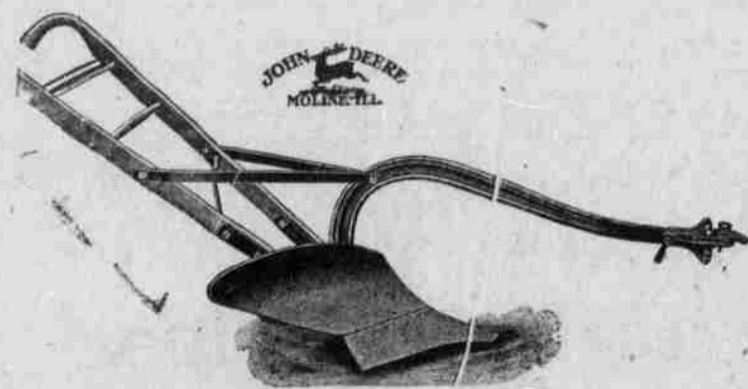
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