

INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

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Entered at Independence, Ore., post office as second-class matter.
Subscription, \$1.50 Per Year

MUCH ADD ABOUT NOTHING

The editor of the Itemizer says: "To a great extent capital seems leery of investing in a locality where the trade of the section is discriminated against, as under the present local option law, so-called."

What trade is discriminated against by the local option law? None but that connected with the liquor traffic. And what is there about the saloon that makes men buy more groceries, dry-goods, clothing, meat, bread, etc.? Every legitimate industry suffers because of the saloon. Over twenty business houses in Dallas say their business is increasing and they heartily favor a dry county. Perhaps some saloon men wish to live off the community or perhaps the brewers wish to establish a plant in Dallas. Outside such institutions there is no discrimination by the local option law or by prohibition.

The cry that the neighboring county gets our trade is a stock argument. Perhaps some people do buy goods from Salem. But that is not due to the fact that Salem has saloons. What an insult to the citizens of Dallas that because they do some trading in Salem the Itemizer concludes that they are drinking Salem booze! Perhaps he is judging others by himself. The fact is a certain business man of Dallas who favors a wet county says such argument is false. People go to Salem because of peculiar conditions obtaining in Dallas irrelevant to the liquor question.

If the Itemizer only knew that a very well-to-do citizen of the county is only waiting for the county to go dry again to put up one of the best Dallas buildings in one of the best localities, he might be more careful in his cry, "discrimination."

BE ON THE SAFE SIDE

Vote NO on every measure that you do not understand to be to the best interests of the country. It is not sufficient to pass these measures up without voting on them. The corruptionists are mustering every vote

to carry their measures and it is up to you to help protect the common interests of the country. Vote prohibition for one. Vote against the saloon in every case where it appears on the ballot. There are saloon measures in disguise and you must study your ballot carefully. The Greater Oregon Home Rule bill is a saloon measure in disguise. Once more, be prepared to vote NO on every measure which appears on the ballot which on the face of it causes doubt in your mind as to the good influence of its operation if it should carry or in any case where you are ignorant of the merits of the measure. You are in no way responsible for the welfare of the country, especially when the ballot is placed in your hands for your intelligent use. A vote NO is a safe vote on any measure that your mind is not thoroughly made up on.

A WEAK DEFENSE

Last week's Itemizer brings us good news. It states that the sheriff, having received an anonymous letter from Independence stating that certain parties were selling liquor, at once came to this city to investigate. No arrests, however, were made. Either the informant was mistaken and no liquor is being sold; in that case prohibition truly prohibits; or, the sheriff might have been unable to catch the violator. But he is too capable for that. A man who is able to run down the escaped convicts is too capable to let violators of the liquor law escape. Is it possible that the letter that the Itemizer mentions is the same one as the Dallas business man saw. When the sheriff showed this letter it is said he asked the business man, "Now what would you have done." The business man whispered, "I guess if I were you, I would phone ahead that I was coming." It is delicious to see our sheriff get so greatly concerned about law enforcement just before election.

POLICE RECORDS GIVE PROOF

The Dallas records show that for the year ending June 30, 1908, 78 arrests were made for drunkenness. For the two years ending June 30, 1910, there were 32 arrests made for the same cause. That is, in the two years under local option there were less than one-half as many arrests made as in one year under the saloons.

The records of Independence make a better showing. For the year ending June 30, 1908, there were 47 arrests for drunkenness. For the two years ending June 30, 1910, there were only 18. In other words, during the two years under local option only a little more than one-third as many arrests for drunkenness as in one year under license. This alone shows that prohibition prohibits. Vote 100 X YES for a dry county.

THE REAL MOTIVE

It is commendable for an editor to make a valiant fight for the protection of the boys and girls. That the editor of the Observer has recently taken this role is good news. He is at present greatly troubled over the fact that so many minors are getting liquor—not indeed in Dallas or Polk county, but from Portland and Salem through the mail order system. He is apparently aware of the fact that Dallas, being a dry town, does not sell much, if any, liquor to minors and that, it being so hard to get liquor at home, these boys are compelled to send to Portland and Salem.

The only thing that puzzles us is why the editor did not find out a year ago that these boys are getting liquor? Why should he discover this fact just before election? Has he suddenly become altruistic and seeks now to uplift the boys by doing his best to bring back the saloon into Dallas and Polk county so these boys can get their drinks at home? Or is he simply driven by self defense to pick at a last straw in order to save his own booze and his booze friends? Is it not a fact after all that the boys have always been able to get liquor in Dallas, but that the alarmed editor has not cared enough about the matter to investigate? Why did he not plead in behalf of the boys a year ago?

What is his real motive, boys or booze?

IGNORE SLANDEROUS REPORTS
In this issue Mr. Bice answers emphatically the slanderous reports that the wet people have started against him. Before competent witnesses, one of whom is a democrat, Mr. Bice has fully and openly declared himself favoring a dry state and county.

We are informed by a business man of Dallas that when Mr. Bice was campaigning in the Spring Valley precinct he met a wagon load of men whom he stopped and told his mission. They asked him, "Where do you stand on the liquor question?" Mr. Bice answered, "I favor a dry state and county." The men said, "We don't, but we admire a man who is square cut."

These stories are started and circulated by the wet people who refuse to give any man credit of reforming. No one can afford to pay any attention to them. Mr. Bice is a man of integrity and can be depended upon.

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If elected, which will, no doubt, be sheriff. The very fact that the wet people believe he means the case, he will make an excellent voters are planning to cut him is evident what he says.

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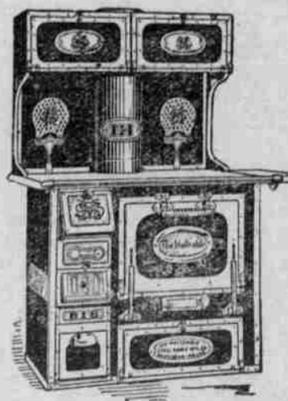
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