

A Letter to The Voters

SALEM, Oregon, May 22, 1908.

Dear Sir:—Two years have nearly passed since the Local Option Law has gone into effect in your county. It was held by those responsible for the act becoming a law that the sale of liquor would be absolutely prohibited and that the county would be greatly benefited thereby. However, what have been the actual results?

First, the licensed saloon has been put out of business, and this one thing is all that prohibition has done. The extremists no doubt will say that is doing a great deal. But is it? In the place of the licensed saloon of yesterday you have easily double the number of "blind pigs," "boot-leggers," etc., in its place.

Second, That drunkenness has vastly increased in the conditions. Minors who never would have secured liquor from a well-conducted saloon are now frequently seen drunk; the whisky bottle or flask, formerly seen only on the back bar of the saloon, is now seldom missing from the pockets of hundreds of citizens; from the secret cupboards of most of the stores and offices, and from the sideboards of many homes. Many persons who seldom imbibed liquor before the county went dry are now constant drinkers. It is the old story of the apple in the Garden of Eden over again.

Third, In their attempts to enforce Prohibition—a thing never yet accomplished in any place in this country—neighborhood strife and quarrels have disturbed communities and engendered feuds and bad blood in general. The community has been put to great expense on account of useless litigation. Taxation has been greatly increased on account of this litigation, and the loss of revenue formerly paid by the licensed saloon. Tens of thousands of dollars are sent out of the county, which sums formerly were paid to local concerns.

Fourth, The moral atmosphere of every community has been lowered. Prohibition breeds a disrespect for all laws and fosters hypocrisy and insincerity. All sumptuary laws are tyrannical, and, being repulsive to all men of well balanced minds, causes them to rebel and consequently to violate them. Every sane liberty-loving person believes, and truly so, that he has a perfect right to eat and drink that which his judgment dictates as long as he does not infringe upon the rights of others.

Fifth, Inasmuch as the doing away of the saloon does not stop drinking, because the people will get liquor in secret, a vastly increasing quantity of impure spirits and drugs is consumed. A class of liquor which no licensed well-regulated saloon could afford to sell and hold its patrons is now consumed through the agency of blind pigs, drug stores, boot-leggers, and through the mail order channels of trade. The sale of milder beverages is practically wiped out, on account of the bulky make-up of the original package, which draws too much attention and is easily detected; whisky takes the place of beer, and because of this, drunkenness and alcoholism naturally increases.

Sixth, The brewing business and hop and barley industries of Oregon pay annually many millions of dollars for labor and supplies. Prohibition means the absolute destruction of these vast industries. It destroys millions of dollars invested in the same and robs thousands of industrious men, women and children of a means of earning a livelihood. And while all this is done in the name of temperance the actual result is that wherever formerly beer was the popular beverage, whisky and the more ardent spirits take its place.

Much more could be said showing that your county has not improved conditions by adopting Prohibition. In all fairness we put this question up to you: Would it not be much better for a city or town to adopt a reasonably strict license law? A law providing that only respectable and responsible men could engage in the business; for forfeiture of license upon violation of the statute, and also limitation as to the number of saloons. The disreputable saloon and its only continued to exist because the proper authorities failed to do their duty in not enforcing the law. Eliminate politics from the saloon business and protect the business from the unscrupulous politician. A law-abiding saloon-keeper requires no more political protection than a law abiding person in any other business.

The brewers of Oregon will do all in their power to bring about a more wholesome condition relative to saloons. They have agreed to not sell any beer to any saloonman who persists in violating the laws or in any wise running a disreputable place. They have also agreed not to sell beer to any "gallon-house" or a like place doing business in precincts that are "wet" yet where the proper officers have refused to issue a regular saloon license. In this way they hope to aid every community in bringing about the elevation of the legitimate saloon and raising it to a standard where it will become a benefit to such a community instead of a menace, which latter we admit has been the case in many instances in the past.

Believing that you will agree with us that a well regulated saloon, paying a reasonable revenue towards the support of a community, is far more preferable than the present condition of affairs, and in pledging you our hearty support in behalf of the re-establishing of the saloons on a more wholesome and elevating basis, we ask your aid towards bringing this about by voting against Prohibition on June 1st.

Yours truly,
SALEM BREWERY ASSOCIATION,
F. G. DECKEBACH, Vice President.

PROHIBITION A FAILURE.

EUGENE, Or., May 12, 1908.
Editor Albany Herald: Your paper is read in Lane county by quite a number of people. We are always glad to get it. It has the right ring to it. This is a fine county but it is having a set-back that may prove serious. We have been on the boom up here and could speak of the morals of the county while telling of its fertility, but for the past two years we cannot boast quite so much. Blind pigs, it is said, are all over the county and it has proven useless to try to stop them. Close one out and two comes in its place. Mr. McFadden, of Corvallis, is said to be a terror on blind pigs, but he does not seem able to stop them in Lane county. You know his district includes Lane as well as Benton. To hear him talk you would suppose he has killed every blind pig in forty miles of Corvallis, but when I was in his town a few weeks ago I saw men staggering on the streets and was told drunkenness was more frequent now than when Corvallis was wet.

There are eleven federal licenses given to druggists in Lane county and the government reports fifty-three licenses given in the county. That makes forty-two blind pig licenses in the county. What do you think of that? Some prosecuting officers are given to blowing about what they can and are doing toward shutting up blind pigs but they are talking through their hats. It is worse than it was before it went dry because when it was wet men alone got drunk. Now boys keep company with the men. I do wish there was some way to stop the traffic but there is no way presented. I was told by a neighbor who came from Kansas "that there is more drinking in that state now than when it was wet." I was radical for a dry county until I told me about Kansas and then I resolved to pass the local option number on the ballot by and not vote either way, for I was so violently opposed to intemperance and saloons I would not chance voting for them to continue. I did not vote on the subject two years ago. I made a mistake for whisky seems as free as water since Lane county went dry. I did not blame myself for any of it for I did what I believed to be right at the time. Since seeing what I intend to do about effects of local option I intend to vote for the local option bill and for a re-visit for the saloon to Eugene.

I never drank a glass of whisky in my life and never tried to drink beer but one time and the filthy stuff upset my stomach for an hour. You might

ask, with this record on the liquor question how I can vote for an open saloon. I will tell you how. I have a family of boys who were raised up to respect religion and follow in the path of temperance and honesty. To vote for a saloon is a thing I never did do and it wounds me to do so now, but of the two great evils I must choose the lesser. I find secret drinking is worse than open drinking and I will vote for the open saloon. If the Lord will forgive me for not taking the advice of my Kansas friend who had experience in a state where prohibition and blind pigs were the written and unwritten laws I will do what I now believe is my Christian duty on the first day of next June and vote against local option and bring pig deadfalls. Yours,
—R. J. S.

THE MASK TORN OFF.

Salaried "Officials" of the Anti-Saloon League Let the Cat Out of the Bag.

Editor The Herald: The Rev. J. R. Knodell, of Portland, one of the many salaried "superintendents" of the Anti-Saloon League, stated the other day that the local option elections this year were only preliminary skirmishes. He said that the real idea was to obtain prohibition for the entire state of Oregon in 1910, two years from now. That lets the cat out of the bag.

The people were assured four years ago that the local option law was merely intended to protect residence districts against the encroachment of the saloon.

"We are not prohibitionists," cried the supporters of the bill. "We are only local optionists." To those who claimed that the local option law was merely prohibition in disguise, its supporters presented an unbroken front. When taxed with the fact that their law was unfair they replied by asking the public to read it. As the law was 28 pages in length the public would not bother itself by making a more careful investigation.

When they were confronted with the fact that states and communities which adopted prohibition grew poor and lean, they said it was not so. When they were shown that the United States census proved that only three states in the Union had ever decreased in population, and that two of them were prohibition states, they said "Do not worry. This is only a local option law. We are not in favor of prohibition."

When this same crowd of salaried agitators was asked if taxes were not generally higher in prohibition com-

munities than in communities which handled the liquor business under the license system, they were quick to answer, "It is not so, but even if it were, it does not matter, for this is local option, not prohibition."

And now the cat is out of the bag. They are not local optionists. They are prohibitionists after all. The opponents of the local option law were right. It really was prohibition in disguise. And the scheme of the smart attorneys, lecturers and orators, who make a fat living out of this prohibition agitation is quite plain. The scheme is to start in quietly; to hold elections in precincts in which there are no saloons, never were any saloons, and probably never would be any saloons. Such precincts being frightened with the absurd question, "Do you want a saloon next your home?" were easily put in the dry column. Then by adding each year to the dry territory acquired in this way, they have finally reached that state of arroyage in which they have thrown aside the mask and boldly declared for state prohibition two years from now. Voters have been fooled with this kind of fraudulent election long enough.

Prohibition accomplishes nothing for real temperance or for morality. Bankruptcy does follow prohibition and the United States census reports prove this beyond a doubt. Here and there a prohibition orator may find a prohibition town or small community which has been fairly prosperous even in spite of prohibition. There are exceptions to all rules, but government figures, which do not lie, prove that prohibition is not only a mark of a stagnant community, but is a blight to a prosperous one.

Prohibition in Oregon would cause 2500 buildings to become vacant and would throw out of employment 9000 men and deprive 4000 families of their livelihood. Where is the prosperity in that?

Remember, a vote for local option now is a vote for prohibition in 1910.
—E. Ward.

NONSENSICAL PREACHING.

The following dispatch is taken from the daily press:

"Oregon City, April 28.—Rev. John M. Linden, pastor of the First Baptist church, has instituted a vigorous crusade against the members of his church picking hops, stating that it is encouraging the liquor interests. In a sermon Sunday night, before a crowded church, he said: 'It requires a quickened conscience to crystallize action against hop picking, which is part of the process of beer-making. No follower of Christ, whose body is the temple of the living God, ought to be engaged in helping along the brewery business, especially when he is urged by Scripture to avoid even the appearance of evil.'"

The above represents what appears to us an extreme of fanatic zeal that is unworthy of countenance. Any argument that can be brought against the raising or the harvesting of the hop crop from a temperance standpoint is doubly applicable to corn, wheat, rye, potatoes, and fruit of all kinds, from which is drawn in large quantities the active principle of all intoxicating beverages—alcohol.

The hop contains no alcohol, nor is it capable of producing any. It is only an ingredient in the fermentation process by which the malt formed from grain is set to work and transformed into beer. The wood that heats the vats in the brewery or distillery is as much to blame for the intoxicating character of the product as the hop is and the mechanic who makes the kettles is as much subject to criticism as the man or woman who picks the hops from the vines.

It is such preaching as the above that brings temperance work into disrespect, just as it is the selfish, unreasoning action of the saloon men that goes far to manufacture prohibition sentiment. The preacher who would if he could allow a great agricultural product to remain unharvested and who would deny the men, women and children of a hop raising district the right to earn a few dollars for their winter necessities is unworthy to be classed as a safe, reasonable citizen.—Harney County News.

A WORD WITH THE DEMOCRAT MAN.

The Albany Democrat man shows a very intolerant spirit in referring to this paper as a whisky paper.

He is a Prohibitionist, and the editor of this paper believes in real local option and license regulation of the liquor traffic.

We believe with Cardinal Gibbons, that local option and prohibition may be a success for the smaller towns and country neighborhoods, but that the problem in the cities is one of regulation.

For believing that we are classed by the Albany Democrat man as a whisky booster; because we will not masquerade as a Prohibitionist by supporting a mischievous local option law, we are all bad.

Only a man of intellectual calibre so small that he would pass through the eye of a needle without touching the sides of the hole can take such an attitude.

Has the Democrat man any proof that Albany is any better morally as a dry town than it was when it had saloons?

Will he join us in saying that alcohol has no merit whatever for medicinal purposes? No, because the local option law is a brute force monopoly for professional hypocrites to get what they want by lying.

He pretends to be a religious man, but has he enough faith in God to cut out stimulants when he gets sick?

Does he have enough faith in the Bible to rely on its promises or does he rely on drugs and patent medicines?

We have far more respect for the man who drinks or smokes and is not a hypocrite about it than we have for the pharisaical holier-than-thou individual, who is always calling his neighbor down.

This world is big enough for people to live in if they do not all agree as to ways and means of reforming men.—Salem Capital Journal.

For the year 1907 the poultry products of the country exceeded in value the whole of the hay crop.

It is the March hatched chicks that make the November layers, which are the most profitable members of the whole flock.

A South Dakota farmer recently traded for a herd of Shetland ponies what is supposed to be one of the largest horses in the world. The animal in question stands eighty-one inches high and weighs nearly 3,000 pounds.

For the young wife who does not know how to cook, but is willing to learn, there is good ground for hope that she will do better, but for the one who neither knows nor cares and, added to this, is possibly sly and indifferent the husband has just ground for complaint.

According to recently published figures, lard is the most valuable single packing house product exported from the United States. It is even more valuable than the cattle exports and goes to a greater number of markets in larger quantities than do other meat products.

Flax undoubtedly has a place as a subduer of newly broken soils, but is a curse when used anywhere else. In European countries, where this plant is raised year after year and primarily for its fiber, an intensive system of agriculture is followed, together with a heavy fertilizing of the soil.

It is a fair proposition that if Jehu expects Mary to be just as neat, tidy and winsome after marriage as before he himself should likewise be an attentive, courteous and generous husband as he was a lover. There are many husbands and wives who fall down in these particulars. Where these directions are followed by both partners there is quite likely to be a happy home.

A simple system of crop rotation that is generally recommended and that not only tends to conserve the fertility of the soil, but results in a maximum destruction of weeds, consists of corn two years, oats one and clover one. Coupled with the points mentioned, the clover, in addition to being a soil renovator, imparts a physical texture that makes it possible to put it in the best possible condition for succeeding crops of whatever kind.

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