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Hon. George C. Brownell, Republican Candidate for Governor, Issues Statement to the People of Oregon, and Says He Will Veto Any Bill Compensating Saloons and Breweries, Which Might Be Passed by the Legislature.

Oregon City, Ore.,

February 14, 1914.

To the People of Oregon:

I have waited with the hope that some of the numerous gentlemen who are candidates for governor in the republican primaries and otherwise, in announcing their candidacy, would make some declaration as to how they stood upon the national problem of the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquor in the United States. I had also hoped that there would have been some expression as to how these gentlemen stood, or will stand, on the question of an amendment to the constitution of the state of Oregon abolishing the sale and manufacture of all intoxicating liquor within the state. None of these gentlemen have seen fit to make any declaration or commit themselves in any way upon this great issue, which I think and believe to be the most important for the welfare of the people generally and to the maintenance of our Christian civilization that now exists.

Reluctantly, after due consideration, I have concluded to become a candidate for governor upon this issue as the principal one of my candidacy. I take this position, that the intelligent opinion of all fair-minded men and women is unquestionably that the liquor traffic, as now in use and force, is a menace to civilization, and is the result largely of crime, poverty, degeneracy and moral decay, to such an extent as to become a startling danger to the human race. I have no personal fight against the man who is running a saloon. I really feel more like condemning and censuring society for permitting this great evil and power to exist and to obtain the firm hold that it has in this state and in this country. If I had my own way, I should feel as if society itself ought to be punished to the extent of compensating men who have engaged in this business, sanctioned by the law, in a reasonable way to recover their investment that they have made, on the same theory that Abraham Lincoln favored buying the slaves and colonizing them, in order to settle the slave problem. Of course, I think and know that the people of this state would not favor compensating men who have invested their money in the saloon business, neither am I advocating it as a part of my platform nor program in this fight; I am simply suggesting it to the conscience and fair minds of the people of this state, for them to give such consideration as they see fit, recognizing as I do that whenever society feels that it is in danger, it has a right to abolish and destroy anything

that endangers itself. My object and purpose is to try to arouse the public opinion and the conscience of the people of this state, where they will be willing to stand shoulder to shoulder, irrespective of political party or affiliations, and unite for the purpose of putting the saloon business out of existence and destroy its influence in our economic, social and political life. I therefore am in favor of destroying the saloons with compensation, if the people should upon a direct vote so declare; but I would veto any bill which the legislature might pass compensating saloons for their investment unless the people by popular vote instructed me to do otherwise. I stand openly and above board, unconditionally, in favor of the adoption of a national and state amendment to the constitutions of the United States and the state of Oregon to prohibit the sale and manufacture of all intoxicating liquor within the United States and within the state of Oregon.

I also favor national suffrage to the women of the United States.

I am opposed to any and all Asiatics, such as Hindus, being permitted to come into this country and into this state and competing in the logging camps and other avenues of work and labor with the laboring men now here.

It is unnecessary for me to add that I stand with all good citizens of this state in favor of upholding and maintaining our school system in a fair and liberal way, and in the construction of roads and highways to meet the demand and requirements of our farming, producing, commercial and business classes of the people of this state, with this qualification: that whatever plans are adopted in the construction of roads in this state, and whatever methods are used in the spending of the people's money for such construction, that the interest of the farming class of the people of this state should be very carefully safeguarded and their wishes as indicated through the society of equity and the Development League and the Farmers' Grange, should be consulted and followed.

I desire also to say that I stand irrevocably in favor of free press and free speech, and that if I should be successful in being nominated and elected governor of this state, I will see, so far as my power will permit, that no man or woman, rich or poor, black or white, shall be deprived of the opportunity of fairly and decently expressing themselves anywhere, in public halls or upon the streets of cities in this state, as long as they conduct them-

selves in a lawful way.

The liquor question has got to be fought out. Men will be compelled to take a stand, for it or against it. The saloon is either right or it is wrong. If it is right, it should be maintained and perpetuated; if it is wrong, it should be destroyed. I feel that it is wrong; I feel that it is foolish for the moral societies of the state of Oregon to talk about fighting vice, preach sermons against vice, pass resolutions against vice and hold banquets and make speeches and congratulate each other how they are going to fight vice, and permit the saloon to exist in this state, because it is in the saloon, to a great extent, that the seed is sown and eventually ripens into crime and vice of every character, leading in the end to the jail and penitentiary, to the insane asylum and degeneracy, to say nothing about want and poverty to the thousands and millions of women and children in this land.

I know what kind of battle this will be. I fully realize the power of the liquor element and the Retail Liquor Association of this state, who are always on guard and ready to do battle for their position. I know how hard it is to make merchants, bankers and business men take an active interest in the movement, because they frequently fear that it will injure the market, the store, the bank, and, in other words, all trade. The facts are that if every saloon was driven out of business in the city of Portland inside of six months or a year the merchants and business men would be the ones who would be congratulating each other upon the advance in every line of business, and better payments of the bills of their patrons.

To illustrate this, I herewith quote from a letter written to me November 17, 1913, by Hon. Silas Porter, who is one of the judges of the supreme court of Kansas, and a man who has lived in Kansas during the life of the amendment to its constitution and a man of great ability and high character. Mr. Porter writes:

"Our town, Kansas City, Kas., has over 100,000 population. It is a city of manufacturers. Six or eight years ago, when they started to enforce the law rigidly, there were something like 250 'joints' running practically wide open. Many of the bars were fixed up in a luxurious manner and enormous sums were paid over the bars every day. Many conservative business men, bankers and members of the Commercial Club, were at first opposed to a rigid enforcement of the law, because it would leave vacant hundreds of buildings, and apparently would demoralize the business interests of the city. However, the law was rigidly enforced, not by the trial of cases before juries, but by injunction suits against the property owners and by affidavits before a judge, who granted the injunction, showing a violation. After the court had adopted the plan of enforcing its orders by putting padlocks on the doors of the buildings and prohibiting the opening of the building until the owner should give a bond that it should never again be used for the illegal purpose, and sending the proprietors of the joints to jail for large sentences, not on convictions for the sale of liquor, understand, but for violating the order of the court, there could be no jury trials and convictions were easily obtained. After these things had been done, the owners of the buildings gradually found other tenants, and in the course of a few months, or perhaps a year, the same business men who had protested against the rigid enforcement of the law came to the assistant attorney general and apologized. No disinterested business men in the city would now be willing to have the city return to the old plan. I remember instances where grocers and other merchants said that

since the enforcement of the law, and this was said within a year thereafter, children came to their stores with five and ten dollar bills to purchase provisions who had, prior to the enforcement of the law, never seen that much money in their lives; that the children that formerly came barefooted, had shoes for the first time in their lives; that the poorer classes of people were able to pay and paid their bills at the stores, where formerly it was difficult to obtain payment. Of course, our city adjoins Kansas City, Mo., and the first block over the line is known as the 'wet block,' and it is said to contain something like a dozen or two saloons ready to greet the Kansas man when he comes over. But only those who were so addicted to the use of liquors that it was almost impossible for them to do without it, would in the evening take the trouble to go to Missouri for liquor. The large majority of them; and the average man, turned and went to his home without spending his money for liquor. Prior to the enforcement of the law the 'joints' always procured from the banks large sums of money on every pay day, because a very large percentage of the pay checks were cashed over the bar, and of course you know, and I know, that the laborer would naturally feel called upon to spend some part of it under those circumstances, and it frequently happened that his wife and children saw but a very small part of the proceeds. All this was done away with when the 'joints' were closed. Kansas City, Kas., increased in population the first three or four years after the laws were enforced at a wonderful rate. There was a marked improvement in the prosperity of the merchants, and the business of the city increased, instead of a decline there was a great increase in business and population. Most of the buildings that were formerly occupied by 'joints' are occupied by 'legitimate business.'"

In closing, I desire to say that I favor the \$1500 exemption from taxation, now before the people of this state. In addition thereto I wish to say that I feel that the people of the state of Oregon and, in fact, society generally, rarely appreciate the debt and obligation that they owe to the school teachers and instructors, from colleges down to our district schools, for the efficiency and the work that they do, and if I should be honored with the nomination and election, it would be a source of great pleasure to me, in every legitimate way, to aid and advance the different school interests and institutions of this state and the material welfare of the instructors and teachers thereof.

I also strongly favor giving aid and all assistance that is possible towards helping the people of Eastern Oregon and other parts of the state needing irrigation, to get water upon their lands.

I also favor giving the governor power to veto separate items in appropriation bills passed by the legislature, and this I advocated for years when a member of the state senate. It is now being taken up as a new matter by some of the candidates, although I used it as an argument on the floor of the state senate for many years, endeavoring to induce the legislature to pass a bill calling for a constitutional convention, so that the constitution could be amended, giving the governor this power, as well as many other changes which were then vital to the interests of the people of the state.

I am opposed to useless and expensive kid-gloved commissions that are sapping the taxes and resources out of the people of the state.

I am also radically opposed to the attitude of the national administration in its wool schedule and wool tariff, which is a direct slap to the great sheep industry

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