

**THE PROPOSED LOCAL OPTION**

**THE VIEWS OF ONE WHO IS IN FAVOR OF SUCH A LAW.**

Sermon by Rev. A. J. Irwin, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Burns on Sunday, May 29th.

God holds men responsible for their acts as citizens of a country just as certainly as he holds them responsible for their moral acts in the kingdom of God. A man's citizenship is a sacred trust. Every citizen is held responsible, so far as his influence goes, for the social, moral and spiritual life of his government. This responsibility is increased many fold in our country with its free ballot system. And when so vital a question, as that now before the people of the state of Oregon, is presented, every citizen's responsibility is increased infinitely. I refer to the Local Option Liquor Law. What is this proposed law? "Local option means that the people of each locality shall have the privilege of choosing for themselves by precincts, wards or counties, decided by a majority vote at the polls, whether they will have the licensed saloon in their precinct, ward or county."

First let us notice the social feature of the law. We are social beings bound together by social ties. Each locality desires to rule itself in so far as that rule does not conflict with laws of the state or the United States. Local option is home rule and local option is the basic principle of American government.

Under existing laws in the larger cities, resident portions cannot say whether or not they must have saloons. This law will give them the right and power to determine the matter. People living near towns must go there to trade, to attend church. They must send their children to school there and pay court taxes, made necessary by the liquor traffic, and yet have no voice concerning the saloon. This law is certainly a fair one. There is no class discrimination. It is not a prohibition law. It simply says to each county, ward or precinct your's is the right of choice, liquor or no liquor. It is a just law. It gives the majority a right to rule. The opponents of the law ought to be willing for that. Perhaps the enactment of the law would not change the present condition of things in Harney County. Perhaps a large majority does not want them changed, but let every man be broad in his sympathies, world wide in his sense of what is right and fair and manly in his determination to give to every county, ward and precinct the privilege of determining whether or not it will have saloons.

The law also has a moral feature. It seeks to bring about a condition which will enable a person to live a moral life more easily. Goldstone said: The object of law is to make it as easy as possible for men to do right and as difficult as possible for them to do wrong. This law seeks that end. You hear the cry: You can't make a man moral by law. True, but you can protect a very large class against immorality. If drunkenness today was to pass from the land with the death of the "drunks," there would be no proposed local option law. But it won't. The sixteen thousand saloons in Oregon need eight thousand boys in Oregon every year to replenish the ranks of the drunkards. I have two boys but neither of them to give to the saloon. With this awful moral danger at my door will I ever have to give either of them? God forbid.

The law also has a political aspect. It is a political question in the purest sense for it concerns every voter. It has to do with the body politic. It is concerned with law. It will have an influence on the polity of the state, the people are concerned about it. Some would have you believe it to be a prohibition party measure. Not so. Every temperance organization in the state is in favor of the law and a large class who are not temperance people. The adoption of this law June 6th will not close a single saloon in the state. It will put that matter in the hands of counties, wards and precincts.

This proposed law also has a migratory feature. Local option will drive people out of the community or state. Not necessarily. I suppose the liquor manufacturer, the wholesale and retail dealer and

a class of drunkards would go. These could all engage in other businesses that would necessarily double the population of Oregon in a few years due to the necessity of employing a large number of men in our manufactories. Men will buy more of the necessities and luxuries when their money does not go for liquor. Thus there would be an increased demand for manufactured articles and this demand will be met in our own state. Let us see whether local option or even prohibition will drive people from such states. Here are two states, natural resources and conditions almost identical, Kansas and Nebraska. Kansas prohibition, Nebraska high license. From 1890 to 1900 Kansas increased in population ten times as fast as Nebraska. Take two other states almost alike in natural conditions, North and South Dakota. During the same ten years North Dakota prohibition, increased in population more than four times as fast as South Dakota, under license. In California, according to the official statistic of the Census Bureau, given out Oct. 25th 1900, nine counties lost in population during the preceding ten years—every one of them saloon counties; seven cities, and every one of them saloon cities, suffered a decline. The average gain of the prohibition cities of the state, during that time, was over 90 per cent, or nearly four times the average gain of the state. Such statistics could be multiplied indefinitely. Lack of space will not permit more.

The law also has a financial bearing. It is this that concerns most people. Will the fruitage of this law make or lose me money? Answer that question and I will vote accordingly. Let us see. In Illinois (high license) the deposits in the savings bank are about \$6 per capita. In Kansas prohibition, deposits are about \$64, and in Maine about \$103 per capita. Samuel F. Peateersons, the prohibition Sheriff of Cumberland county Maine, said: During the first year of my administration I turned back into the city treasury of the city of Portland 40 per cent of the entire pauper fund, because I had no use for it. Before the close of Sheriff Peateersons' brief term of office, Cumberland county for the first time in its history, owed no man a dollar and had \$64,000 in its treasury.

Hutchinson Kansas had, under high license, increased its city debt by \$75,000. There was a deficit in the street fund of \$8,000. The yearly cost of criminal cases was \$6,000. There was a deficit in the general fund of \$15,000. Two years of prohibition has wrought this change: The street fund now has a surplus of \$4,000. The deficit in the general fund decreased to \$8000. The cost of criminal cases for the two years was about \$500. The criminal docket has practically disappeared and the police force has been reduced.

If a laboring man buys \$100 worth of boots and shoes, he buys \$20.71 worth of labor, \$100 worth of furniture, \$23.77 worth of labor, \$100 worth of hardware, \$24.17 worth of labor, \$100 worth of clothing \$17.42 worth of labor. At the same time he brings valuable supplies to his family, he stimulates his business and adds to the demand for labor. While the man who buys \$100 worth of liquor, buys \$1.23 worth of labor his family is made wretched, he is made worse physically, financially and morally; his job is imperiled and he has wasted his money. No liquor, pay. The object of the proposed law is to give the people of any locality the right to put this evil from them. This is not a question of passing moment. Eternal destinies depend upon the answer. Men and women already enthralled, children, standing for the first time facing this great evil, infants, born of drunken parents, with the death rattle in their little throats and generations yet unborn and a just and loving God over all, calls, with ringing voices, every man and woman to the discharge of his divine duty against this great evil.

Stories Exaggerated  
"Uncle" Geo. Duncan arrived here Wednesday evening from his home at Silver Lake and will spend some time in this section visiting relatives. This makes his 25th trip across the desert in his life time and he says it was the "worst ever." The roads are badly washed out and rough. He reports prospects good in his

locality and that some cattle had been sold at fair prices. There is an abundance of water—in fact too much—as some of the swamps that have here-to-fore been cut for hay and pastured are under water.

In speaking of the recent range troubles in Lake county Mr. Duncan says there is not such a reign of terror in that section as would appear from newspaper comment and that the stories are exaggerated.

He says it is the general impression of the people of his neighborhood that J. C. Conn was not murdered or that he knew anything about the range troubles or had anything to do with them whatever. Mr. Conn's oldest friends and neighbors in that section are satisfied he killed himself and that ill health was the cause of the rash deed.

"Uncle" George is hale and hearty and passed the winter exceptionally well for a man of his age.

**For a Hundred Years.**

For a hundred years or more Witch Hazel has been recognized as a superior remedy, but it remained for E. C. DeWitt & Co. of Chicago, to discover how to combine the virtues of Witch Hazel with other antiseptics, in the form of a salve. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is the best salve in the world for sores, cuts, burns, bruises and piles. The high standing of this salve has given rise to counterfeits, and the public is advised to look for the name "DeWitt" on the package, and accept no other. Sold by Burns druggists.

Studebaker Wagons, Hacks, Carriages, Buggies and Buckboards are arriving now and selling as fast as we can get them in. We have two car loads of these goods here and in trains. The best stock of Wagons and Vehicles ever brought to Burns. Call and look at goods even if you do not desire to buy at the present time. Geer & Cummins.

**CONTEST NOTICE.**

U. L. Land Office, Burns, Oregon, May 7, 1904.

A sufficient contest affidavit having been filed in this office by Grant Keeterson, contestant, against Homestead entry 1855, made February 21, 1903, for S½ SW¼ and W½ SE¼ Section 17, Township 25 S., Range 28 E., by Libby J. Mulloy Contestee, in which it is alleged that Libby J. Mulloy has totally abandoned said entry and has not resided upon or improved said entry for more than six months next hereto, and there are now no improvements thereon, and that said alleged absence was not due to her employment in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the U. S., said parties are hereby notified to appear, respond and offer evidence touching said allegation at 10 o'clock a. m. on June 15th, 1904 before the Register and Receiver at the United States Land Office in Burns, Oregon.

The said contestant having, in a proper affidavit, filed May 7, 1904 set forth facts which show that after due diligence personal service of this notice can not be made, it is hereby ordered and directed that such notice be given by due and proper publication.

WM. FARRE, Register.

**FOR SALE BULLS.**

Yearlings and Two-year-olds in quantities to suit.

The bulls can be seen at the "P" Ranch, and persons desiring to purchase should inquire there of F. H. Howell, Assistant to the General Manager, who will furnish information as to prices and will sell the same.

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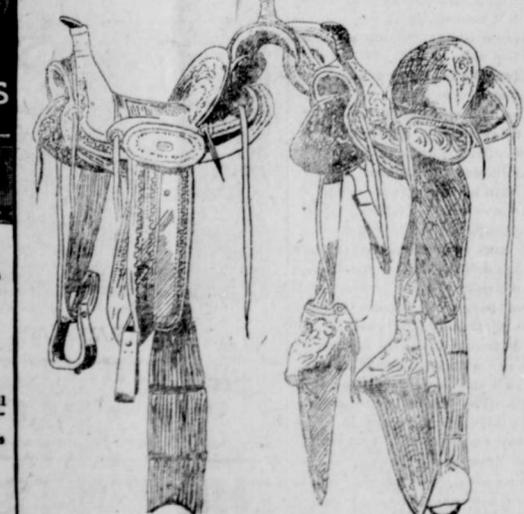
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