

## SALEM SUFFERS BUSINESS LOSSES FROM DRY RULE

Store Property Rentals Drop \$75  
a Month in City

BANK DEPOSITS OFF \$300,000

Fourteen Business Houses Quit in Less  
Than Year. School Attendance Less

Many Oregon papers have been loaded down within the past three weeks with repeated assurances that "Business is Fine in Dry Towns."

The three most important Oregon cities to become "dry" nine months ago were Salem, Oregon City and Springfield.

If business is fine in those cities the taxpayers and most of the business men would like to have the "drys" explain just what they mean by "fine." If they had said "business is thin," then they might have been more easily understood.

Let them answer first about conditions in Salem. Ex-Councilman John D. Turner, of Salem, an attorney, is sponsor for the following facts about that city:

Salem went "dry" December 1 last, closing 15 saloons, three restaurants and two wholesale houses and withdrew liquor permits from eight drug stores and cut off an annual license revenue of \$13,400. Ninety men and a monthly payroll of \$5,700 were put out of commission. Most of the men have left the city. All buildings vacated by these concerns are still empty, except six, which have been occupied by tenants who have vacated other buildings, several of the best buildings being boarded over and used as billboards. More than five hundred modern dwellings are "for rent." Store property rentals on State street have dropped from \$185 to \$110 a month, but "business is fine."

Fourteen other business places have closed since December 1 last, aside from the saloons and restaurants. Included are three shoe stores—two by sheriff and one voluntarily; one of the largest drygoods stores has been sued for the first time in twenty years. Scores of clerks have left the city, causing the loss of more payrolls to the city, but "business is fine."

A leading prohibitionist promised to build 16 new dwellings if the city went "dry." Nine houses were begun, two have the windows and doors in, but have never been finished; no work has been done on the others, besides their bare frames.

Building permits from January to August, the last nine wet months of 1913, were \$888,925; from November, 1913, to September, 1914, the next eleven "dry" months, they were \$120,000 less, or \$268,160.

The grammar school opening day enrollment in 1913 was 1510; on the same day 1914, 1469, but "business is fine."

Bank deposits show a decrease of \$309,942 since the town went "dry," even after allowing for the \$485,000 deposited this year from sale of bonds in Boston. The decrease, therefore, really should be \$794,942, but "business is fine."

The attendance at the "Cherry Fair" this year was about one-half what it was the last "wet" year. The Ministerial Association before the election which made Salem "dry," told the Cherry Fair promoters that they would make up for the donations usually made by the saloons, but utterly failed to do so this year and the promoters refused to hold that carnival. The "Cherrians," consisting of 100 real boosters, but of no prohibitionists, then pledged their personal membership for the necessary funds, requiring the payment on their part of \$500. To rub it in, the Methodists then turned their church into a restaurant, put the kitchen in the pulpit and competed with the legitimate restaurants for the little business that their proprietors had hungrily looked for as a possible annual godsend.

Business must be "fine" in any city when building permits, payrolls, bank deposits, bankruptcies, closed stores, depopulated dwellings, depressed realty values, school enrollments and carnival statistics all tell so dreary a story of literal fact. Maybe the prohibitionists mean that the "agitating business" is fine.

Paid Advertisement. Taxpayers & Wage Earners' League of Portland, Oregon

Miss Nettie Flower has gone to Halfway.

Ranchers are busy hauling their winter's supply of fuel from the reserve.

Eagle Valley Cornet Band held their regular practice at the city hall last night.

Mr. Tubbs has joined the E. V. Band as baritone. Mr. William L. Flower having resigned.

Don't overlook the Basket Social for the benefit of the Eagle Valley Cemetery, at the K. of P. Hall, October 31.

## CLACKAMAS AND OREGON CITY HIT BY EMPTY TILLS

"Dry" Regime Followed by Query  
as to Receiver

CITY WARRANTS UNSALEABLE

City Council Calls Election November 9  
to Raise Levy 8 Mills to Pay Debts

Oregon City and Clackamas County, of which Oregon City is the county seat, present as lamentable a condition in a business sense as a defunct corporation about to go into the hands of a receiver. In fact, a receivership for Oregon City already has been seriously discussed by certain of its creditors, and Judge Campbell of that city has declared his willingness to declare such a receivership, if formal application were made to him, as he would for "any bankrupt corporation."

A special election has been called by the city for November 9 "to relieve the financial condition of the city," the purpose being to vote \$250,000 5 per cent bonds and to increase the tax levy eight mills in order to take care of the new indebtedness.

On the part of Clackamas County the County Treasurer is confronted with an empty treasury for the first time in six years. The Morning Enterprise, a radical prohibitionist daily of Oregon City, in explaining this situation, says "the condition is considered the result of the amount of delinquent taxes on the county's tax rolls. County Treasurer Tufts refused the first warrants on the general fund Monday (October 12, 1914)."

Business must be "fine" in a city and a county when the treasuries of both are empty because of lack of money coming into their strong boxes,