

Prohibition in the Light of Experience

It will be observed from a careful reading of the Corvallis testimonials published in this issue, by authority of the Prohibitionists, that none of them speak in regard to the effectiveness of the prohibition law, but speak only of the business condition of the community in no case do they make any reference to the result of the prohibition law. The only testimonial so far published in these columns that touches this phase of the question being Mr. M. P. Morgan's letter published in our last issue and in which the utter impotence of the law was clearly shown. No doubt Corvallis is prosperous if it is not it is behind almost every other Willamette Valley town, business in that section has received a wonderful impetus during the last year; population is rapidly increasing all over that section of the state. The postal receipts of Portland increasing about twenty per cent in the same period, while a vast amount of eastern cash is going into all kinds of industry. Corvallis is feeling the effects of this awaking in business lines; it would be strange if she did not.

A fair estimate of the results of Prohibition measures may be gathered from the experience of Vermont and New Hampshire each of which were for about fifty years prohibition states. In 1903 Vermont went back to the license system and about the same time New Hampshire by overwhelming majority, city members at that time voting 121 to 8 in favor of the repeal and county members voting 97 to 76 in favor of the repeal.

Bearing upon the value of the law as a measure of real reform we quote from address by Rev. George Elliot Cooley, before the Methodist Conference at Lyndonville, April 20, 1901.

"Good men and sincere men can and do differ nonestly in respect to the result of this law. I stand unqualifiedly on the ground that temperance is a principal of life to which all individuals are amenable. We are coming to see that it is impossible to bring in the kingdom of God by legislation; yet, as earnest men we are anxious to determine upon the best method of dealing with the intemperance evil. May it not be possible that, in the effort to prevent this evil of intemperance by a State prohibitory law, we are fostering greater and more insidious evils? Respect for the courts has been undermined by the wholesale disregard for law, confidence in judicial processes has been destroyed by so many miscarriages of justice, the faith has been invalidated and perjury promoted by the effort to enforce a law which many feel under no obligation to observe.

The condition of things thus brought about ought to be appalling to the teacher of morals, and the advocates of law and order. Who is not aware of the great injury done to organized society by these persistent and insidious efforts to subvert the law? It tends to make officials two-faced, legislators timid and insincere, candidates for office dissimulating, and when elected, unfaithful and hypocritical. The effect of this law has been to rear a class of men who shamelessly pay fines and bribes and hush money in order to evade its operation, and another class which will just as shamelessly accept this corrupted money.

I take issue emphatically and sincerely with those who would maintain and enforce a State prohibitory law. Without the people behind a law, in each community where it is to be enforced, that law is impotent.

Also from a letter of Bishop Hall to the Burlington (Vt.) Free Press.

"You are good enough to ask my opinion on the present prohibitory law. Briefly it is this:

1. Experience has shown me that the law does not prohibit. I, myself, have had to deal with repeated cases of drunkenness, some of them habitual, unimpaired, and, to a certain extent, I believe provoked or aggravated by the existing law. (Election day in Burlington when, if ever, the uninitiated might expect the law to be enforced, presents ocular demonstration of the futility of the law.)

2. Prohibition drives underground the mischief which it seeks to cure, making it more difficult to deal with the evil, and impossible to regulate the trade, as, for instance, in the quality of the liquor sold.

3. The present law leads, I believe, in many cases, to heavier drinking in clubs and at home, liquor being purchased in larger quantities than would be the case if it were possible to purchase at a restaurant a glass of wine or beer.

4. Especially, perhaps, among the

young, prohibition provokes resistance. Tolerated drinks, not only waters, seem to possess an added sweetness.

5. Few persons, I suppose, with any knowledge of its actual working, will deny that the law as it exists, is connected with a vast amount of hypocrisy on the part of buyers, sellers and officials. May this not hypocrisy, being a deeper and a more wide-spread evil, be a greater mischief than the intemperance which it is sought to check?

6. Prohibition, by many of its earnest advocates, is connected with the notion that all use (save for medical purposes) of drink, that in excess may be intoxicating is wrong. The use of such drink is in itself no more wrong than the use of tobacco. In either case it is the misuse which we have to guard against. Doubtless, with many persons total abstinence (from wine or from tobacco) may be safest and best. To attempt to enforce this on all persons is to manufacture an artificial sin with the risk of leading many persons to think lightly of what is absolutely wrong.

7. This suggests what seems to me one of the most serious objections to the prohibition law. It tends to break down the sense of obligation in the case of all law, human or divine.

8. Once more; our existing prohibitory law I consider foolish and mischievous, because it is largely an attempt on the part of one set of people to legislate for another set of people. I recognize to the full the evils of intemperance, but I cannot think that the practical experience of Vermont, New Hampshire or Maine, is in favor of a State prohibitory law.

Faithfully yours,
Arthur C. A. Hall,
Bishop of Vermont.

MORO LOCAL ITEMS

The field meet Friday was attended by people from all part of the county. Wasco and Grass Valley especially being well represented. Wasco was so near depopulated that Hon. S. B. Huston who was to have made a speech there at two o'clock in the afternoon was compelled to give it up or make his speech to Elwood Thompson who had gone there to meet him.

L. L. Peetz was a Grass Valley visitor the first of the week.

It is to be regretted that a ball game cannot pass off without hard feeling. Ball games have been the cause of more hard feeling between Moro, Wasco and Grass Valley than anything else put in their place.

Wm. Turner was brought before Justice Rudolf Tuesday by Deputy Sheriff Peetz on a charge of petty larceny and plead guilty and was fined \$25.00 and costs.

G. L. Rhor was up from Rhorville the first of the week.

Elwood Thompson is one of the best men in the county. The political pot must be kept boiling.

A mass meeting of Moro citizens was held in the Opera House Tuesday to consider plans for an elaborate celebration July 4th and 5th.

H. D. Stone of Gordon Ride was in Moro the first of the week in search of a bunch of horses that were driven out of his pasture some time ago. He has succeeded in locating them near Rutledge. It is to be regretted that it cannot be proven on the parties who drove them out of the pasture, and given a good long term in the Pen.

Mr. Worthington a representative of the O. R. & N. was in Moro the first of the week in the interest of his company.

Mrs. O. Cushman entertained the Ladies Aid society at her home Wednesday.

Sheriff McCoy has been kept busy this week delivering the ballot boxes to the Judges of the different precincts.

Richard Stockwell and Reed Hulse are doing splendid work in fixing up the Lone Rock grade under the supervision of Charley Hulse.

The Moro base ball nine played Goldendale Wednesday and suffered defeat. We understand the boys will play again Thursday and we hope to see the tables turned.

"Sheriff McCoy is good enough for me." Can be heard on all sides these days. Everyone seems to be satisfied with his administration of the office for the past two yearing and are willing that he shall continue for the next two years. Ben is death on crooks especially.

Notice of Application For Liquor License

To whom it may concern:

Take notice that the undersigned Truman Poland, will apply to the County Court of Sherman, state of Oregon on Wednesday the 4th day of July 1906 or as soon thereafter for a license to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors, in less quantities than one gallon, in the town of Biggs, District No. one in said county of Sherman, for the period for which his receipt from the Treasurer of said county may call for.

The petition of the undersigned which he will present to the court on said date being hereafter set forth.

Dated at Biggs, Oregon this 28th day of May A. D. 1906.

Truman Poland, Application.

Petition for Liquor License.

To the Hon. County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman county. We the undersigned residents and legal voters residing in District No. one (1) County and State aforesaid do hereby respectfully petition and pray that said County Court shall grant a license to Truman Poland to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors in the town of Biggs, District No. one (1) in the said County of Sherman in less quantities than one gallon for the period for which his receipt from the County Treasurer of said County may call for.

Names

H. A. White, C. C. Deyo, J. W. Blackburn, M. C. Brown, Chas. Polmet, J. T. Morris, George Klint, J. D. McDonald, D. W. Freeman, L. C. Bailey, F. J. Mead, F. O. Carson, J. H. Fredrick, J. L. Hunter, M. S. Girdner, W. M. Hunter, J. J. Hecker, S. T. Hust, T. J. Miller, Chas. Hogard, Chas. Loyal, P. E. Cleaves, J. J. Miller, P. A. Venable, N. R. Crogan, J. A. Pyburn, G. E. Wallis, J. A. Carmical, R. Scammon, A. T. Striker, Spencer Bain, Chas. R. Fields, J. W. Walker, Jno. Hull, R. B. Bailey, J. N. Coats, Geo. W. Ramey, F. Laubscher, J. A. Foister, Chas. H. Tom, J. L. Floyd, J. S. Fowler, J. P. Linderman, G. W. Barnett, C. W. Mee, F. E. Brown, W. T. Brown, T. A. Fowler, G. W. Brown, Harleigh Glass, C. R. Hull, A. MacNab, A. E. Blackburn, H. T. Thompson, John Hogard, Cecil Hull, Wallace Fields, A. M. MacNab, F. A. Hull.

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Notice of Application for Liquor License.

To all whom it may concern:

Take notice that the undersigned John A. Foister will apply to the County Court of Sherman county, state of Oregon on Wednesday the 4th day of July 1906, or as soon thereafter for a license to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors in less quantities than one gallon in the town of Rufus, District No. one (1) in said county of Sherman for the period for which his receipt from the Treasurer of said County may call for; The petition of the undersigned which he will present to the Court on said date being hereinafter set forth.

Dated at Rufus, Oregon this 24th day of May A. D. 1906.

John A. Foister, Application.

Petition for Liquor License.

To the Hon. County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman county.

We the undersigned residents and legal voters in District No. one, county and state of aforesaid do hereby respectfully petition and pray that said said county Court shall grant a license to John A. Foister to sell spirituous malt and vinous liquors in the town of Rufus, District No. one in less quantities than one gallon for the period for which his receipt from the County Treasurer of said Sherman county may call for.

Names

G. W. Barnett, J. J. Hecker, T. L. Schafer, George Klint, R. B. Bailey, Geo. W. Ramey, C. C. Deyo, J. S. Fowler, A. T. Striker, L. C. Bailey, Wallace Fields, Walter Mee, J. A. Brackett, Geo. Brown, W. T. Brown, John Hull, F. E. Brown, J. N. Coats, S. T. Hust, A. MacNab, Sam Schafer, Geo. Kolb, J. A. Carmical, J. B. Schafer, J. L. Hunter, W. K. Jones, P. E. Cleaves, J. P. Linderman, W. J. Underhill, M. C. Brown, J. T. Morris, T. Laubscher, J. A. Pyburn, Chas. R. Fields, C. R. Hull, Wm. Tate, W. W. Williams, J. W. Walker, Spencer Bain, F. A. Hull, John C. Fields, Chas. H. Tom, T. A. Fowler, O. Henderson, F. L. Hulery, J. D. McDonald, Harleigh Glass, Chas. Hogard, S. Stricker, F. O. Carson, W. R. Crogan, T. Poland, J. Fredrick, N. M. Hunter, J. W. Girdner, P. A. Venable, J. A. Larence, John Hogard, J. L. Floyd, A. M. MacNab, W. S. White.

45-49*

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120 acres in summer-fallow, (winter plowed), 800 acres under good two and three wire fence, 5 room house; stable for 24 head of horses, 2 springs, and one well 16 ft deep.

10 miles from R. R. Station, good road; two miles from school.

Plenty of outside range for horses and cattle.

Price \$22000 including crop of beardless barley on 505 acres.

Terms: half down, balance to suit purchaser. (Adjoining place sold in February 1906 for \$30 per acre with out crop or summer-fallow.)

Address owner, N. E. Moffitt, Clackamas, Oregon.

(Horses and Implements if wanted.)

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