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THE DRY CAMPAIGNS IN THE WEST.
 By William E. Johnson.
 On November 3, the issue of statewide Prohibition will be decided in six states, in each case, the proposition has been initiated by the people. These states are Oregon, Washington, California, Colorado, Ohio and Arizona.

In each of these states, save Washington, the issue is a constitutional amendment. In that state, the people initiated a complete statute. There are now ten states under statewide Prohibition Maine, Kansas, North Carolina, North Dakota, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, West Virginia. The Virginia law, however, was enacted by the people on September 22 and will not go into effect until next year. The Virginia vote was about two to one dry. West Virginia entered the dry column last July by a vote of about three to one.

In the six states that vote on the question next month, all are dry in their rural sections, the saloons being confined to the towns and cities and, for the most part, to the large cities. For various reasons, the dry policy has always been more popular in rural sections. The lack of police protection the larger proportion of home people and the more responsible character of the population has naturally resulted in the rapid spread of dry territory in rural districts until Prohibition has become almost the universal policy in country sections all over the United States.

There has been another reason for the hostility of the farming classes to the license policy. In almost every case, the towns, cities and municipalities get all of the license revenue while the expense of criminal courts, jails, asylums, penitentiaries is assessed against the taxpayers as a whole. In this way, the farming classes are compelled to pay taxes to take care of the product of the saloons in the cities, which cities get all of the license money therefrom.

Another factor is that the farmers sons and daughters go to the cities for their higher education and to enter the trades or business. This is another reason why the rural classes are interested in the conduct and welfare of the cities.

The fact that a very large part of crime, pauperism and insanity is due to drink is almost universally conceded, the exact proportion being only in dispute. It is within the common knowledge of all that a very great proportion of human ills is on account of drink. The only question at issue is, what the people are going to do about it.

Some people regard drunkenness as inevitable, that drinking intoxicants is natural and unpreventable and insist that the way to deal with the problem is to recognize it as a permanent factor in raising revenue from it for public purposes.

The dries believe that no vice or evil is necessary or inevitable and declare that the way to deal with the problem is to fight it, prohibit the traffic in drunkenness and do all in the power of the state to stamp out the business.

It is frankly admitted that the prohibition policy will not wholly eradicate drinking and drunkenness, just as no crime is wholly eradicated by laws prohibiting it. Laws against murder have prevailed for thousands of years and yet a large number of murders are committed in every state each year in direct violation of these prohibition laws. The dries scout at the idea of licensing murder.

The liquor interests raise the campaign cry that more liquor is sold in dry territory than in license territory is not seriously considered when it is patent that if more liquor was sold, the greater would be the profit of the people engaged in the traffic. A merchant ordinarily will not spend money to curtail his own business.

It is a curious fact that no whisky whatever is manufactured in either Oregon, Washington, Colorado or Arizona. All of the whisky and a great part of the beer consumed in these is imported from the eastern states.

The rapid spread of the dry policy all over the United States indicates the general satisfaction of the people with the idea.

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