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THE DRY CAMPAIGNS IN THE WEST.

By William E. Johnson.
On November 3, the issue of state-
wide Prohibition will be decided in
six states, in each case, the proposi-
tion has been initiated by the people.
These states are Oregon, Washing-
ton, California, Colorado, Ohio and
Arizona.
In each of these states, save Wash-
ington, the issue is a constitutional
amendment. In that state, the peo-
ple initiated a complete statute.
There are now ten states under
statewide Prohibition, Maine, Kan-
sas, North Carolina, North Dakota,
Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, Ok-
lahoma, 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 be-
ing 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 responsi-
ble character of the population has
naturally resulted in the rapid spread
of dry territory in rural districts un-
til 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 crim-
inal courts, jails, asylums, peniten-
tiaries is assessed against the tax-
payers 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 there-
from.

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 class-
er 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 con-
ceded, 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 ac-
count 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 in-
sist that the way to deal with the
problem is to recognize it as a per-
manent factor in raising revenue
from it for public purposes.

The dries believe that no vice or
evil is necessary or inevitable and de-
clare 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 pro-
hibition policy will not wholly eradi-
cate 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 cam-
paign 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 mer-
chant 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 Ariz-
ona. 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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