

Clarence Darrow on Prohibition in Oregon

(By Clarence Darrow.)

Poverty, not rum, is responsible for crime—not rum but monopoly and the unequal struggle of the poor in competition with the rich is responsible for poverty.

Prohibitionists are bent on helping whether the world wants to be helped or not. They are bound to improve us if they have to kill us. They are awfully good—too good—if they were not so good they would be better.

When a bad man gets to doing things we can catch him and lock him up and be rid of him, but a narrow-minded, fanatical good person breaks loose, look out. A lot of people are not wise enough to rule themselves, but all of them are perfectly capable of ruling others. It's a fine theory.

It is strange how some people think government is so wonderful. It took ages of experience to change men's skulls and men's brains. What if we had only known that it could have been done by an election.

Laws to restrict our liberty and our habits are not needed. All philosophers agree that the race has never suffered from too much liberty; it has ever been too little. Men drink too much, eat too much and work too much, but many more are ruined and killed from over-eating and over-working than from over-drinking.

Is whiskey responsible for the crime of the world? Intoxicating liquor has practically nothing to do with crime. When I speak of crime, I mean crime—murder, robbery, arson, larceny, real crime. Getting drunk is not a crime; it is only an error.

Laws, the edicts of state, do not educate and develop men. The only graduates the state ever produces are graduates in crime. Crime, very largely, begins with boys; poor boys in the cities hedged about and restricted; their nature demands freedom and fresh air; they struggle against and finally repudiate their bonds. Then the state locks them up and after a few terms in jail they are graduates in crime. It is not because the boys are bad, but because the state is too brutal, cruel, ignorant and indifferent to understand boys. Do they burglarize because they drink? No; they get caught because they drink.

You are going to be called upon to vote the state "dry." You can probably vote the state "dry," but can you vote the people "dry?" Somehow the Lord, when he fashioned the universe and created man, didn't understand the job as well as the prohibitionists understand it, and he left mankind to stumble along and do the best he may. If the Lord had been given the advice of the prohibitionists it would have been much easier and saved us a lot of trouble. There wouldn't have been any wickedness in the world excepting prohibition. If anything went wrong, all that would be needed would be to make another law and then you would make people right. If men drank too much, make a law and then men won't drink too much. If they ate too much, make a law and then they won't eat too much. If they didn't go to church, make a law and they will fill the churches. If they don't go to the right church, make a law and head them in the direction of the right church. If a boy wants to have any fun on Sunday, or a man who works hard all the week wants to go to a picnic on Sunday, make a law, then he won't go to the picnic but will go to church.

I concede the honesty of these people. They are honest, they are high-minded, they have been willing to preach their doctrine in and out of season and are working for the good of the world. They ought to be heard and they ought to be listened to. Every man that has a theory, no matter how fanatical, ought to be allowed to air it and present it. All I object to is being put in jail if I don't agree with the other fellow's theory. I don't believe in prohibition, but I am not a fanatic. If I had a chance to make the law, I wouldn't compel prohibitionists to drink.

It is possible men would get along better if they decide for themselves what is good for them. They may sometimes decide wrong; they may eat or drink something that does not agree with their stomachs. But, after all, human tastes are not all the same. And, as a general rule, it is a pretty good rule to mind your own business. That is, if you have any.

I don't propose tonight to give statistics. I could give you statistics by the bushel, and so could the other fellow. You can get statistics on both sides of any question, no matter what the question is, and generally they don't prove what they pretend, except some broad generalizations.

I don't believe for a moment that the human system needs alcohol in any form. But what of it? We have a great many things that we don't need. The fact is that none of us are interested in the thing we need. Anybody can get the things he needs, you can get them at the poorhouse and not work at all. It is the theaters and the good food and the good drink and the automobiles and the vacations, the things we don't need, that we are all looking for, which make life worth living.

Load your stomach up with pie and cake and liver and tea and coffee and what is going to happen to you? You are shortening your life and you only eat because it tastes good going down. You don't need butter on your bread; your ancestors didn't have it, and your children won't have it either if you follow the prohibitionists in their theories. You waste money on your clothes; you don't need collars and neckties; they are purely ornamental. Women don't need fur and feathers and silks. They are ornamental. You can live in a cheaper house; you can save three-fourths of your money. Suppose you cut out meat and save half of your food bill.

There is one rule of life. If you give men opportunity, give them food and clothing and drink and sunlight and homes, they can look after their own morals and they can't do it any other way. The whole theory of prohibition is wrong. If they get one thing they will want another. To-day it is rum. Tomorrow it will be tobacco; next day it will be coffee. The theory is wrong; man can only progress by liberty. It has been a long and painful battle that the human race has fought. Every step has been inspired by the spirit of liberty. Take the dream and ideal of freedom from the human race and slowly and painfully it will go back to the brute creation from whence it came. (Paid Advertisement, Oregon Home Rule Association.)

In The Fruit Growing World

To Members and Friends:

The past week we have been busy shipping Newtowns and Spitz. Shipments have been delayed somewhat on account of the scarcity of cars, and while we are well supplied this morning, there have been days when we had no cars at all.

We have made sales of fifteen cars of Newtowns, which are being delivered to the buyer as fast as loaded.

As far as Ben Davis are concerned we are not in position to take in any of them, and it is not advisable to pack them at this time. You should do nothing with your Ben Davis until you take it up with this office, as we have no place to ship at this time.

Shook.

There is still some delay in filling orders promptly for shook, but the majority of the growers have been accommodated without much delay. At the same time, orders have not been filled as promptly as they should have been. We have two cars of shook today and will have more to deliver by Wednesday or Thursday.

Markets.

On account of unseasonable warm weather on all large eastern markets, the apple market has declined very materially, and this tends to weaken the buyers, who at best have been very timid this season.

We herewith reproduce a summary of the general conditions October 15.

The source of this information is as reliable as any obtainable in the United States and compiled after a very thorough investigation. We will have to take it for what it is worth.

"It is interesting to note the extent to which the crop seems to be making up, and the deal shaping itself in accordance with the estimates already sent out.

"The situation in New York state appears somewhat modified since our last advices of a month or six weeks ago. As a whole, it does not seem that the quality will be up to the anticipated standard. This is not uniformly true, as the crop seems to be, at different points, both good and indifferent, the trouble principally being that both the good and bad brought practically the same long prices. Latest advices from our correspondents in that section are that the quantity of the fruit will not be of the volume anticipated, and that the 80 or 90 per cent of last year's crop, which estimate we originally advocated, appears to more nearly apply. This, however, is the only section from which advices, showing any substantial difference, have been received.

"Virginia and West Virginia fruit, which is an important factor in this year's deal, is holding out very well as to the quantity reported, but weather conditions for a good finish of the fruit, especially as to color, have not been the best, except in the

very best cared for orchards.

"New England states and the middle west are developing no marked changes, although the latter is harvesting fruit of only very mediocre quality. No change to report in the box apple districts.

"There are several points to be noted, however, which, taken as a whole, improve the general outlook of the apple deal. Fall fruit, in many sections, was marketed almost a month before its usual time. Following this precedent a very great deal of winter fruit was prematurely picked and marketed, so that a good percentage of the entire output has already gone into consumption considerably earlier than usual.

"The purchases which have been made throughout the country indicate a very general and equal distribution. Middle western buyers have bought heavily throughout the east, taking the fruit westward for storage. Exporters have also bought heavily and shipped early from the Virginia district and an unusual heavy export movement from New York state and New England is also anticipated.

"These facts, as a whole, further considering that there is a large per cent of only mediocre fruit to be marketed, would indicate that the deal for good fruit should be a good one. There also seems to be many indications that even mediocre fruit should find a ready market."

C. W. WILMERTH.

CAPTAIN EVANS ONCE AGAIN IN THE LIMELIGHT

Promoter of Interurban Line Through Valley Figures in Deal Up North—Only Financial Panic Prevented Formation Stung Club.

Captain T. R. Evans, who came to Medford three years ago and interested a number of leading citizens of Medford and Jacksonville in the promotion of an interurban trolley line, organized a corporation for constructing the line, and then, unable apparently to finance it, left Southern Oregon, is in the limelight in connection with the Astoria, Seaside & Tillamook railroad which he promoted, to which \$1,145,480 is said to have been subscribed in stocks and bonds, and only \$5000 legitimately spent.

Captain Evans came here in the fall of 1907 and made his home at Jacksonville, where the newly organized Commercial club indorsed his project. It was looked upon with favor by business men of the valley and a sum for promotion subscribed. On account of the financial stringency following the panic of 1907, it was found impossible to finance the project, and it was dropped. Captain Evans has since visited the valley and reported success in promoting the Seaside road. He is now en-

gaged in promoting a trolley line from Salem to Stayton.

The Oregonian prints the following account of the Seaside railroad muddle:

"What has become of J. Rufus Wallingsford? Or, to be more exact, the railroad promoters who operated along lines a la Wallingsford in the scheme of the Astoria, Seaside & Tillamook Railroad company?"

"Residents of Astoria, Portland and other cities in Oregon would really like to know, yet they are not nearly as much interested in the peculations of the promoters as some 900 or 1000 bondholders and stockholders who have contributed in the aggregate the modest sum of \$1,145,480 to the coffers of the National Public Utilities Corporation, the parent corporation, of which the Astoria, Seaside & Tillamook Railroad company is one of several promotions and of which John K. Tener, republican candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, is president.

"Of the amount that has been generously subscribed to the stock of the corporation, only about \$5000 is said to have been legitimately expended in surveys and preliminary work. What has become of the remainder of the sum so secured has not been explained to those who invested in the securities.

"The company was organized the latter part of last year by 'Captain' T. R. Evans, who came to Oregon in the possession of credentials purporting to be genuine and calculated to inspire confidence in the people. That the 'captain' had unlimited financial backing from Philadelphia capitalists there was no question.

"Just now publicity by the column is being given the methods followed by the National Public Utilities corporation in the Philadelphia press. Six other promotions of a similar mag-

nitude were being exploited at the same time as the Astoria, Seaside & Tillamook Railroad company was being advanced and each is alleged to be a part of the gigantic swindle.

"The complete list of stockholders in the company has just been published in the North American. In the list are included the names of Astoria and Portland subscribers as follows: J. M. Anderson, Astoria, 1000 shares; A. W. Rudolph, Portland, 25 shares; Harvey Beckwith, Portland, 5958 shares; F. L. Evans, Astoria, —; H. A. Fraser, Portland, 7 shares; W. I. Hood, Portland, 9 shares; C. H. McGirr, Portland, 5 shares; C. N. Matthews, Portland, 10 shares; A. W. Rudolph, Portland, 25 shares; John H. Velis, Portland, 958 shares.

ORATORIO SOCIETY IS NOW AT WORK

The Oratorio society, which was formed a few weeks ago, began actual work last Tuesday night, when rehearsing Rossini's "Stabat Mater" was begun under the direction of Gerard Taillandier. The society now numbers about 60, and at the last meeting it was voted to keep the charter list open for a short time longer. Initiation fee to charter members will be \$1 only, and all who intend to join are requested to be present next Tuesday at 7:30 p. m. Those who have not yet paid their dues can pay them then, or send the amount to the secretary, Mr. Whetsel.

Rehearsals take place regularly on Tuesday at 7:30 in the small hall at the Natatorium.

MAKE AN OFFER FOR THIS 6-Room Bungalow

Corner Dakota avenue and Park street. One of the nicest finished houses in town. Decorated under direction of Sherwin William Paint Co.'s professional decorator, in flat-tone oil colors, with stenciled borders. Maple floor. Colored leaded glass windows. Two bay windows, with window seats. Large porches. Beamed ceiling. Fireplace. Built-in buffet. Plumbing and electric fixtures complete. Septic tank. Large woodshed. Nothing was left undone to make this the most complete and artistic house in town. \$1500 can remain for nearly a year.

No Reasonable Offer Will Be Refused

Box 104c, Route 2 San Diego, California

NEW CLOAK AND SUIT HOUSE IS OPEN; WEST SIDE

Great Throng of People Flock Through Ahrens' Establishment—Decorations Splendid—Splendid Line of Goods Shown.

The west side has a new cloak and suit house. Friday night was the formal opening of Ahrens', and from 8 to 10 p. m. a throng of people passed through the store. At first the crowd was so dense that it was almost impossible to get in or out of the store.

The decorations, which showed a touch of the autumn effect, with palms and wild ivy, were very effective. The fixtures and appointments of the new store certainly bespeak good taste. The ready-to-wear garments showed most conclusively that this new store will find favor in the minds of most Medford folk.

Mr. Ahrens said that, although they were a little late in getting open, that they would show a very fine line of the most up-to-date popular priced as well as the finer grades of goods.

The goods shown Friday night surely demonstrated the fact that the new store will be a factor in the trade of this city.

Millinery will be a strong department, and the styles shown by Ahrens are certainly all that can be expected even of the largest stores of the largest cities.

Mrs. F. M. Starr, recently of Philadelphia, is the trimmer and will have full charge of the millinery department. Mrs. Starr certainly made many friends Friday night, and we feel sure that she will merit the patronage of the ladies of this city.

Mr. Ahrens was seemingly in his element and showed most conclusively that he has had large experience in the cloak and suit business. Coming as he does, from one of the largest cities on the coast, he will be able to show Medford people some new wrinkles in the business in which he has engaged.



Beauty

For the sake of Beauty alone—how much wiser to get a slender attractive shoe fitted to measure.

The dull Mat Kid Boot is as soft as any Glove can be, conspicuous by its genteel tailored appearance; the perfectly plain toe of this Boot gives it Tone—the heel is rather high, but in perfect keeping with the smart effect.

And the Edmeades price **\$3.50**

The Slender Foot is the Attractive Foot

We cannot emphasize this too strongly. Glance at the feet of your friends, and you will see how true this is.

You will find the LESS attractive feet fitted short and wide, the most attractive fitted a little longer and narrower.

To those who know, the reason is obvious. There is only ONE Walk-Over Boot Shop in Medford—in the Moore Building.



We save you money on your footwear. Give us a trial.

Edmeades Bros

What the Home Rule Bill [328] Really Is

It gives cities and towns the right to have saloons or no saloons. It gives the people who live in cities the right to vote on and decide this question themselves. It puts the control of the liquor traffic into the hands of the voters of each precinct, so that every residential district in a city or town is protected. It means real local option. All state criminal laws are maintained. Under it the farmer has the same protection he now enjoys. It is a law fitted to local conditions as they exist in every section of the state. It gives absolute control of the liquor traffic, particularly in towns and cities, where it is most needed. It will prevent the county from wiping out the city vote on city measures. It is a law which makes prohibition possible where wanted, and impossible where not wanted. It means regulation which regulates.

Harry Laflin of Medford was out in North Talent last Wednesday with figure W. D. Peckham, the architect, and finishing of the stone coping on in Medford.

One of the finest pieces of cement work that I have ever seen in this part of the valley is the cement caps and finishing of the stone coping on Joe Rader's Bungalow. It was done by Wilson. Also a cement walk for A. S. Furry. Mr. Wilson is a cement worker from Wichita, Kansas. Haskins for health.