

Cities Ask Slice of Liquor Tolls

There are now two bills before the legislature providing for an increased distribution to cities of revenue from liquor taxes. House Bill No. 193 introduced by Representative Miller, would place into immediate effect the original provision of the Knox law that license revenue should be distributed to cities and counties, and would end diversion of these revenues for relief purposes. House Bill No. 404 (substitute for House Bill No. 217) introduced by the committee on judiciary, would distribute the proceeds of a ten per cent sales tax on hard liquor and an additional fifty dollar license fee on the dispensers of retail beer, among the cities and counties of the state.

The claim of the cities to a share of the liquor revenues is based upon the following:

1. Prior to prohibition the regulation of liquor was a municipal function in Oregon, and cities obtained large revenues from the licensing of liquor dealers. In the city of Portland this revenue amounted to nearly one million dollars per year, while other cities realized proportionate

amounts based upon their population.

2. The Knox Commission, which prepared the Oregon Liquor Control Act, recognized the rights of cities to revenue from the liquor traffic, and provided for a sharing of revenues with cities and counties.

3. Despite the recommendations of this commission and the provisions of the Oregon Liquor Control Act, all revenues from liquor were diverted to the state for relief purposes during the financial emergency of 1933. With rapidly increasing revenues from various indirect taxes, the state's financial emergency no longer exists, and a liberal distribution should be made at once.

4. The Oregon Liquor Control Act makes cities responsible for the enforcement of liquor laws, and it is but natural that various problems arising from the liquor traffic are local police problems.

5. There has been a rapid increase in police costs arising out of liquor traffic. With their own revenues from the property tax still shrinking, cities have found it difficult to meet these increasing expenses.

6. From the standpoint of good public finance practice it is unsound for the state to usurp various municipal revenues such as has been the practice in Oregon during the past twenty-five years. Unless local government is to be strangled, and state government is to administer all

activities regardless of their nature, the state legislature must recognize the financial needs of cities, counties, and school districts. Cities need a diversified tax base just as much as the state does, and this can most logically be accomplished by having the state share with its municipalities some of the revenues which the state has usurped.

7. Oregon is at present one of the few states of the Union that deprives cities of both the right to license and tax liquors themselves, and the right to share in the license and tax levied by the state.

C.E. Meet Planned At Corvallis

The forty-seventh annual state Christian Endeavor convention will be held in Corvallis, April 15-18, 1937, beginning with a Thursday evening session at which the speaker will be the Rev. C. P. Gates, pastor of the Ladd's Addition Evangelical Church of Portland. The Friday evening address will be delivered by Dr. J. Hudson Ballard, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Portland. On Friday morning the convention will join with the students of Oregon State college in the college convocation, speaker yet to be announced. The other convention addresses will

be given by Dr. Jesse H. Baird, newly elected president of the San Francisco Theological Seminary, located at San Anselmo, Calif. Dr. Baird will speak Saturday morning, Saturday evening, Sunday afternoon and Sunday evening.

The Rev. Claude Neely of Portland will be the convention song leader. The pianists will be Mrs. Zelma Merchant Rutan of Portland and Mrs. Jewel Cunningham Lusby of Springfield. A half hour organ recital by Phil Barrett of Salem will precede the first evening session.

Fertilizer Tanks

Underground fertilizer tanks are becoming popular among dairy farmers in several sections of the United States. They save all the fertilizer value from the barns; there is no loss of plant food; the liquid can be spread on the fields during the cropping season when it will produce immediate results. One California dairyman who milks 40 cows has a tank 60 feet long, 16 feet wide, and six feet deep. He empties his tank twice a year getting 90 loads of liquid manure at an emptying, which covers about eight acres of land. Since his tank was installed, many of his neighbors have done likewise.

Chronicle want-ads for results.

The Desert's Advance

It is estimated that a single dust storm has swept as much as 200,000,000 tons of fertile top soil from the great wheat plains; the Mississippi river carries 400,000,000 tons of good soil into the Gulf each year; 100,000,000 acres have already been destroyed for agricultural use; another 125,000,000 are seriously impaired; another 100,000,000 seriously threatened. The annual damage done by erosion is estimated at \$400,000,000.

Soy Beans Become Staple Crop

Soy beans have become one of America's staple crops. This crop has made a definite place for itself in the list of farm products. The 1935 crop of beans amounted to 40,000,000 bushels, and factory consumption of soy bean oil amounted to 91,166,000 pounds. In spite of the fact that the crop was twice as great as any previous crop, we imported 14,248,574 pounds of soy bean oil. The vegetable shortening industry used 63,613,000 pounds of oil, and the paint and varnish trade used 13,000,000 pounds. Other industries used similarly large quantities.

Incidentally, if Lot were alive today, and his wife was foolish enough to turn into salt, he would in all probability get himself a fresh one.



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