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The Tillamook Headlight
Fred C. Baker, Publisher.

Local Option for Saloons.

One thing the initiative and referendum is responsible for, and that is to submit to a vote a local option law. The Oregonian on Saturday had an editorial on the subject which throws considerable light on the proposed law, and which we think is worth reproducing:

Voters of Oregon will decide at the general election in June whether this state shall have a local option liquor law. Upon the petition of over 8000 qualified electors, a local option law has been proposed by initiative, and the measure will be enacted or rejected by the people without any action whatever upon the part of the Legislature. A majority of all votes cast upon that subject will determine the result, and in this respect the election will differ from those in which constitutional amendments have been submitted to the people by the Legislature. In order to adopt a constitutional amendment a majority of all the votes cast at the election was required, so that a ballot not marked up on the subject submitted counted as a negative vote. In elections under the initiative and referendum, whether upon laws or constitutional amendments only a majority of the ballots marked upon the subject submitted is necessary.

The proposed local option law provides that upon petition of 10 per cent of the legal voters of any county, subdivision of a county or precinct, the County Clerk shall submit to a vote of the people the question whether the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be prohibited in such county or subdivision. Two or more precincts may make up a subdivision of a county. Elections under the local option law are to be held on the first Monday in June of any year, but in 1904 may be held in connection with the Presidential election in November. When the prohibition question has been once settled in the affirmative it cannot be submitted again for two years. Violation of the law is made punishable by fine of from \$50 to \$500, or imprisonment from ten to 30 days, and by both fine and imprisonment for second or subsequent offenses. Circuit Judges and District Attorneys are required to see that the law is enforced, and peace officers are authorized to proceed under search warrants to search for evidence of violation of the law. Persons who purchase intoxicating liquors are declared to be competent witnesses.

The measure thus briefly outlined is an important one, for, if enacted, elections will be held in every county in the state under its provisions. This is not in itself a prohibitory law, but is a measure intended to give to the people of each precinct or county the power to say whether the liquor traffic shall be conducted in such political subdivision. It is a step in the direction of prohibition, and, in a measure, opens up the whole saloon question. There remain over three months in which the proposed law may be discussed, and in that time every voter can and should prepare to vote intelligently upon the matter when submitted him next June. Copies of the law will be placed in the hands of County Clerks for free distribution early next month, and it is understood that a vigorous campaign will be conducted in favor of the enactment of the law. The fact that in two weeks over 8000 voters signed petitions asking that the law be submitted is alone sufficient to entitle the proposed law to a careful and fair consideration.

That the law will meet strong opposition is certain, for it opposes some heavy personal interests and is also regarded by some temperance people as not being an expedient measure. Local option laws have been enacted in several other states with results beneficial or detrimental according to the opinion of the man who makes an argument. In the campaign which will soon begin there should be an effort to get at the facts rather than prejudiced opinions. The friends of the local option law owe it to the voters to submit facts showing results in other states. Opponents of the law will have but a weak argument if they make the sweeping assertion that prohibition has been a failure in Maine or Kansas without taking into account the difference between prohibition and local option. The question at issue is one upon which honest, reasonable men may differ in opinions, and the discussion should be conducted with that fact in mind.

The Canal Commission.

In anticipation of the early ratification of the Panama canal treaty, some interest is being shown respecting the appointment of a commission, as provided for in the Spooner act. That provides that the commission, shall consist of seven persons learned and skilled in the practice of engineering, one of the four to be selected from the army and one from the navy. In the appointment of the other three the act imposes no limitation upon the president's choice and it is expected that he will select one or two men experienced in practical affairs and perhaps a member of the legal profession. According to a Washington report the

president is being urged to give an elastic interpretation to the term "engineers" and to regard the canal enterprise as essentially a business undertaking, which can best be looked after by men of business training. It is very unlikely that Mr. Roosevelt can be induced to take this view in selecting members of the canal commission. It is safe to say that he will comply strictly with the letter of the law and appoint four engineers of approved ability and that the other three commissioners will be of unquestionable fitness for the very important duties that will devolve on them. The commission will be well paid and the only difficulty the president is likely to find is that of choosing from among the many capable men who will be recommended for the position. It is understood that he already has a large list from which to select and doubtless it will be much increased after the treaty shall have been ratified.

A Household Question.

There is no question that appeals more strongly to the American people than that of the price of the chief article of their diet—beef. That has been a matter of concern to them for years and at the present time there is probably none other which is engaging the attention of the average citizen more fully than this one. It need not be pointed out why this is so. Everybody fully understands it, because the argument is impressed upon all households every day. The price of the chief staple in every home is inordinately high. A beefsteak or an ordinary beef roast is today a luxury which only the well-to-do can enjoy and this condition is becoming more and more aggravated. Is there any remedy for it?

That is a difficult question. It involves the principle of supply and demand, which is absolutely beyond the power of legislation. Yet it is proposed to deal with it by act of congress. Representative Martin, of South Dakota, has introduced a resolution in the house which provides for an investigation of the conditions relating to the price of beef cattle and the selling price of fresh beef, with a view to ascertaining whether existing conditions have resulted from any contract or combination in restraint of commerce.

There can be no doubt as to the wisdom and desirability of such an investigation. In an interview a few days ago the secretary of agriculture asserted that the consumers of beef were paying too much for that commodity. He said that the margin between the price paid by the packer and that of the retailer was such as to warrant a lower price to the consumer and he laid the chief blame for the high price of beef upon the retailer.

It is impossible to say where the strict rule of justice would apply, but it seems to be pretty thoroughly settled that the farmers or cattle growers are not getting their fair share of the high prices that prevail for beef cattle and the reasonable assumption is that the bulk of the profit goes to the packers and the retailers.

Is there a remedy for this? That is a question of more than commonplace importance. There is not a family in this county that is not interested in the question and it is safe to say that the resolution introduced by Mr. Martin will meet with very general approval. It proposes an inquiry in which every American family is concerned and which ought to be made.

Ranchers Can Get the Water.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Feb. 11.—A new sensation was sprung today in two weeks over 8000 voters signed petitions asking that the law be submitted is alone sufficient to entitle the proposed law to a careful and fair consideration.

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Subscription papers have been circulated among the farmers to raise funds to defray attorney's fees. A couple of thousand dollars has already been pledged.

Opposition was entered against the pending eight-hour legislation before the House committee on labor by Daniel Davenport, an attorney, of Bridgeport, Conn. Mr. Davenport said he was the general agent of the American Anti-Boycott Association, composed of a large number of members, combined for enforcing the laws against the boycotting of any man, his business or product. Mr. Davenport's ground of opposition was that eight-hour legislation was not wanted, either by employees or employers. It was, he said, socialistic legislation of the worst character. President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, was heard by the committee in favor of the eight-hour bill.

Wanted Five Young Cows.

I will buy five young cows coming in fresh in the early spring. See W. H. Goynne, South Prairie, Tillamook County, Oregon.

The Post Check Currency Bill.

A bill providing for post check currency and following the lines of similar preceding bills has been introduced into the house by Representative Gardner, of Michigan, and referred to the committee on post-offices and post roads. The post check idea has often been described in this and other papers and is, briefly, as follows: The paper currency of \$1, \$2 and \$5 denominations shall contain blank spaces on which may be written the name of the holder and payee, also a space where the payee may sign his name in receipt of payment, and a space where a postage stamp may be affixed. This may, when properly filled out and a stamp affixed and canceled by the initials of the sender in ink, be sent through the mails and cashed by the payee at a postoffice. The stamped bill is then withdrawn from circulation. The fine for not affixing and cancelling the stamp properly is \$10. Provision is made for the redemption of a spoiled bill affixing and cancelling a stamp. The bill may be presented to the Treasury department for redemption either by the Postoffice department or by a national bank. The post check currency forwarded by bankers is allowed free postage and free registry. In the Treasury department the bills are to be assorted and held for three months before being destroyed. All the laws relating to forgery and counterfeiting are made applicable to fraudulent receipts and endorsements on the bills.

Quaint Features of Life.

A curious incident occurred in an English police court recently, when a man named Travis was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for obtaining a postal order by false pretenses. He pleaded that he was "officially dead," and his story was that when with the British army in South Africa he deserted, obtained some clothes from the Kaffirs, made his way to the coast and worked his passage home. He then discovered that he was reported dead, and though he subsequently gave himself up as a deserter the war office gave an official assurance that he had "died at the front" and would not arrest him.

Workman engaged in digging gravel in the arid plain near Winnemucca, Nev., uncovered, at a depth of twelve feet, bones that were once part of the skeleton of a gigantic peeing. Joseph Rougen, who was in charge of the work, sent the bones to D. Samuels, who said they were those of a man who must have been about eleven feet high. The metacarpal bones measure four and a half inches in length, and are large in proportion. A part of the ulna was found, which in complete form would have been between seventeen and eighteen inches in length. The remainder of the skeleton is being searched for.

Floyd B. Greenhough, an engineer on the Great Northern road, did a brave thing the other day. During a severe storm the wires at the station where his engine was were injured. Soon after this was discovered it was found that a nearby bridge was on fire and an express train was almost due to cross it. There seemed to be no way to warn the coming train, but Greenhough proved equal to the emergency. He got a light engine, crowded on a full head of steam, sent the engine thundering across the burning bridge and reached a station where the wires were intact in time to avert a bad wreck.

"Recently," relates the Wichita Eagle, "a Wichita miss of 10 entertained eight friends at an evening party, and there were nine cream puffs on a dessert platter. Each girl took one except the hostess, which passed without attracting notice. They were delicious, and the hostess urged the ninth one upon each of her guests in turn, but not one would take it. This was before the gas company had enlarged its main, by the way. Suddenly the gas flickered and went almost out, so that the room was quite dark, and eight dimpled hands met in that cream puff platter."

Fred Walker, a wealthy retired manufacturer of Norwood, a suburb of Cincinnati, fell dead just as he had taken from the oven of his kitchen range a plum pudding he had baked. Three years ago, almost to a day, his wife fell dead as she had finished baking a pudding of the same sort, which she had made for her husband's birthday anniversary celebration, according to a custom. Mr. Walker was 69 years old.

One can buy "cocoa," so-called, in New York cheaper than the Venezuelans can buy this, their national beverage, in the stores of Caracas. The starch-and-sugar compound added to these extremely healthful decoctions is not always harmless. Noxious fats, and even pipe clay, have recently been detected in both cocoa and chocolate.

A few days ago one of the teachers in a crowded school building in New York saw smoke coming up through a crack in the floor. Calling to her a boy who she knew could be trusted, she gave him a whispered message to the teacher in the next class-room, after which he was to run and turn in a "still" alarm. Then the school fire alarm bell was rung three times, as had often been done for drill exercise. At the sound of the bell the pupils fell in line and marched downstairs and out of doors as they had been taught to do, and then discovered for

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the first time that there was a real fire. Had the teachers lost their presence of mind or had an alarm been given there would have been a panic and great loss of life.

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I offer for sale my place known as Necarrie Mountain, located north of Nehalem Bay. This place consists of eight hundred acres of land, over half of which is open prairie, either now under cultivation or ready for the plow. This is good grass land, well watered by mountain streams, and can easily be made one of the best, if not the best stock or dairy farm in Tillamook County. Price reasonable and terms easy. Apply to
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