

HE SAYS AMENDMENT WOULD KILL LAW.

Dr. C. T. Wilson Discusses Local Option Measure and Proposed Change.

Dr. Clarence True Wilson took up the proposed amendment to the local-option law, declaring that it would kill the effectiveness of the measure now in force, and urging that a united effort be made to bring about its defeat. Dr. Wilson is the president of the State Anti-Saloon League. His discourse is the first discussion of the local-option amendment that has been made from a Portland pulpit. Following is his address in full:

The State of Oregon is at another crisis in its moral life. Two years ago by an uprising of the people, a local-option bill was introduced, and by the initiative method of procedure, adopted at the general election. Since that time many communities have taken advantage of the new powers conferred upon them and protected their business interests, their homes and their personal welfare by voting the saloons out of business. In every case of the kind this change has resulted in augmenting every legitimate business, making sober and industrious citizens out of common drunks and greatly improving the rental values and desirability of residences.

Says Statement Is False.

But a bill has now been prepared by the Brewers' and Wholesale Liquor-dealers' Association which is to be submitted to the voters next June, if enough signatures to their petition can be secured. In connection with the proposed bill and petition this explanatory statement is sent out: The amended local option law raises the number of voters necessary to call a prohibition election from 10 to 30 per cent. It allows a prohibition election to be called in any precinct in the state. It prevents the grouping of precincts together. It gives both sides the same privileges. That's all. I now propose to show that that statement, intended to deceive the voters, is throughout the quintessence of falsehood; that every section of our present law is especially repealed except one, and that one doctored in the interest of the liquor business beyond any recognition. In the preamble of the new bill it is provided that this act shall not apply to the manufacture or sale of liquors at wholesale by brewers, distillers, vintners or wholesale liquordealers. This takes it out of the hands of the sovereign people to decide whether they will have liquor sold by wholesale in any community.

Then the new bill provides only for elections in single precincts and against voting by counties, cities, towns or any communities where there is more than one voting precinct. No grouping of precincts is allowed, so that if this bill should pass, nine-tenths of a town might want to close the saloons, but one precinct, made up of the lowest riffraff in the town, could continue to run a section of Sodem in spite of all the other voters. With the brewers and wholesalers unrestricted and no possibility of township vote, our present law would be nullified.

Liquor Men's Law.

The liquor men's law, if passed, would require 30 per cent of all voters on petition before local option could be submitted to the people in every precinct; then it must have a majority of all votes cast at that election; then when the election has been held, if it goes against the saloon, any voter can contest the election, throw the matter into the court for months, thus enabling one to withstand the will of all. The County Judge shall have full and final jurisdiction to hear and determine the merits of such proceedings—no rights of appeal. Then, when the Judge decides that the election was lawful and that it carried prohibition, the saloonkeepers shall be given 90 days, or three months, before their business becomes unlawful. Finally, if they continue to sell and are apprehended and convicted, the penalties are cut down by their bill to a minimum. They shall be fined anywhere from nothing to not more than \$250 for the first offense and shall for any subsequent offense be fined not more than \$500. There is no prison penalty attached to the violation of the law, no matter how many times repeated. A small fine periodically exacted would be only about as expensive as a license fee. In short, the bill is framed to add to the difficulties of calling an election; of securing a majority; of having the new ordinance established; of convicting law breakers under it, and finally, the penalties are ridiculously small—all in the interest of the lawbreakers.

Wording is Peculiar.

The wording of the ordinance is peculiar. A double negative adorns the composition. Under prohibition the prescription of a physician is required to sell liquor at the drug store, but our liquordealers' bill adds, which prescription shall not be used but once. That literally means that it must be used more than once. Perhaps this is only a joke.

The serious part of the new bill is this: Nothing contained in any of the sections of this act shall in any manner affect the right of any bona fide wholesale dealer, brewer, distiller or vintner in said precinct to sell or deliver intoxicating liquor at wholesale. This takes away from the people the right to prohibit the liquor business, except one feature of it. Again,

the bill contains a trick to count all blank votes in favor of the saloons. It provides that the question shall only be submitted at the biennial regular election, with a full ticket. A large number of voters vote for only two or three officers and leave the rest of the ballot blank. The liquor bill proposes to count all these blank votes in favor of the saloon. In any precinct where the vote is taken, there will be many who do not vote on this question, not getting down that far on the ticket.

What It Provides.

But the liquor men's bill provides that the precinct shall go dry only in the event that a majority of all the votes cast at such election shall be in favor of prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors. It is not enough that a clear majority of those who vote on the question are in favor of no saloons; but there must be a majority of all those who vote at the election, including those ballots that are left blank on the prohibition issue. This bill was in the interest of a square deal, and to give both sides exactly the same privileges. That's all. With this amendment a town could not have prohibition unless every two years enough citizens voted for it to outnumber all who voted against it, all who are indifferent, all who got confused and so did not vote and all who cannot decide how to vote. It is time for some one to tell our liquor friends that the American principle is majority rule.

But prohibitionists might have ten to one votes in a community, yet, if they lack one vote of a majority of all the votes cast, the precinct must remain for two years under the saloon dominance. For example, suppose there are 500 voters, 300 of whom vote on the question of saloons, 250 vote for no saloons, 50 vote for saloons. Which wins? The saloon wins. The prohibition vote is five to one, but it is less than a majority of all votes cast.

But suppose we win; they have three months to finish up and as many months as they need to contest the election. If they win they open up full blast the next day. Why do they make such full provision for contesting the election and why put it in the power of any County Judge to reverse the result of an election or to annul the decision of the voters? The bill abounds in these and numerous expedients for holding up the will of the people. After changing everything essential in the first 11 sections of our present law, the new bill further provides: "Section 12—That sections 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the law aforesaid, and any acts or parts of acts, in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed."

Why are these provisions repealed in such a wholesale way? That the law shall have a two years' trial before another election can be called; that if prohibition carries in a whole county, no single precinct shall vote on it for two years; that the penalty for the second offence in violation of the local-option law shall be both fine and imprisonment; that it shall be the duty of grand juries to inquire into any violations, and the specific duty of the District Attorney to prosecute offenders; that upon information the Judge may issue a warrant to the Sheriff to search such place, and that in all cases persons to whom intoxicating liquors shall be sold in violation of this act shall be competent witnesses, thus simplifying the ordinary rules of evidence; holding the principal responsible for the acts of his agents and holding the internal revenue special stamp granted for the sale of liquors as prima facie evidence that such person is selling, exchanging or giving away intoxicating liquors. All these provisions to increase the possibility of punishing violators of the law are expressly repealed by this bill which the liquor men have put before the people. If adopted, the local option law would have all its teeth extracted and would be as harmless as any liquor men would wish.

Temperance Men Will Oppose It.

It will be opposed by all temperance men, all who are tired of run rule in Oregon, all who think the liquor business has enough special privileges now, considering its character and tendencies, and all who resent the deception of voters, by the statement that the three minor changes in the bill were all that it proposed. The lover of fair play and a square deal, regardless of politics, will be with us in voting down this liquor, dealers ideal bill. But that is but a sample of the crooked methods that will be used during this campaign to mislead honest voters. Immense sums of money are being raised to defeat our present law. And it is already known that certain liquor men have been laying plans to trap any one of five prominent pastors in Portland, in order to start a scandalous report to break the force of these preachers' fight on us! When such schemes are necessary thus early in the fight it need not surprise any that the liquor interests feel the situation desperate, and are willing to adopt desperate means. But neither their cause, their methods nor their liquor bill will commend themselves to the high-minded citizenship of Oregon, and there are more of these than of the others.

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A FARMER'S PLATFORM.

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Dr. James Withycombe, of the Agricultural College at Corvallis, was the first to announce himself as a candidate for governor, which met with general favor amongst the farming communities of the state, and is rightly called the farmer's candidate for governor. We think he is a good man for the place and is deserving support. His platform is brief and to the point, which is as follows:

If I am nominated and elected I will, during my term of office advocate and support:

Taxation of franchises and gross earnings, tax on telegraph, telephone, express and sleeping car corporations.

Uniform assessment and taxation of railroads.

State regulation and examination of state and private banks, trust companies and savings banks.

Protection of the State in its ownership of public lands.

A Board of Control for State institutions.

One board for management of normal schools.

Improvement of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers and Coast seaports.

Local ownership of the Oregon City locks.

Constitutional amendment permitting the governor or people to veto individual items of appropriations.

An honest and fearless performance of public duty.

Honest and fearless performance of public duty. A greater and united Oregon.

Why Knock the Enthusiast?

There are people in Oregon who instinctively turn against and knock any man who has a little more enthusiasm than they have.

They knock Walter L. Tooze, of Woodburn, for no other reason than that he is a man who bubbles over with enthusiasm.

But that is not the way to build up Oregon. Oregon needs more of the Tooze kind of men of enthusiasm to the front.

The enthusiast is needed in business, in communities, in political organizations. We have had too much of cold blooded selfishness.

How is the Republican party or any other party going to get along and sit down and knock out every man who puts red blood and enthusiasm into the organization?

For twenty years Walter L. Tooze has spent his time and his own money in the campaigns of the Republican party in Oregon, fighting the battles of the party before the people.

Yet there are people who act as if enthusiasm for any cause were a crime and if the only honest and decent citizen were the man who never moved or acted unless promoting his own little enterprise.

—Journal (Salem).

The Duty to Woman as Related to Suffrage.

I am glad the women of Oregon have decided not to longer waive their right of Suffrage and allow it to remain dormant.

Their present promising campaign had reached the stage where it is conceded with practical unanimity that such an intrinsic right exists.

Such opposition as is encountered is founded upon other objections.

Woman's strongest appeal for the exercise of the ballot may be based upon the question of her duty to enter politics and make her influence felt in the advancement of the necessary reforms in which our best citizenship is interested.

It should be remembered now that after the victory has been won, the results of the first election in which women will participate, will raise our political standards, just in proportion to the loftiness of the ideals maintained throughout this campaign.

The largest contributing factor present unsatisfactory political conditions is that so many men have a false and unpatriotic conception that they are too good to participate in politics, and whilst their selfish neglect of public responsibility places them in a humiliating position, the woman who fails to appreciate that it is her duty to take a hand is liable to precisely the same criticism.

B. LEE PAGET.

Portland, Oregon.

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