

EVANGELIST OLSON ANSWERS SIDNEY STOREY

the Big Revival Meetings in this City.

Evangelist Olson, who is conducting a big revival meeting in this city, during one of his courses, undertook to answer some of the assertions made by Sidney Storey in the joint debate. Mr. Olson said: "I hold before me a paper containing some of the most wonderful things ever presented to the people of Tillamook (7) the powerful and the speech of Sidney Storey (7) recently delivered here. I have no kind things to say against Mr. Storey nor against the saloon keepers nor against bootleggers nor against blind pig keepers nor against tame tigers, not an unkind word; I have no slur to cast at him. I have been trying to be as God in this respect: Hate the sin but love the sinner. I am with him as with the bedbug. I do not hate the creature; I think she has a place in life, but I hate and object to the way she makes a living. I do not hate the saloon keeper nor bar-tender nor the blind-pig keeper nor the bootlegger nor Sidney Storey, but I do hate the way they all make a living. When they make a living by feasting on others' blood, others' souls, others' characters, then, friends, do not think it is time for the American people to cry out against this heinous thing as they ought to, that is sure.

I have just a few words to say about this speech; there are a few things I want you to notice. The man who gets drunk, says Mr. Storey, is a villain; he says he is braver than a coward. Now, friends, I want to tell you once and for all that is absolutely false. I want to tell you, sir, that the man who gets drunk, 75 times out of 100 is not a villain nor a coward nor a mean man nor a bad man. It is because drunkenness and the saloons get the best of him, that is what. Many of them are people who have the greatest chivalry and love for their fellowmen and families, but cannot say no to a treat. I say to you that the saloon gets the best men that have ever walked upon God's earth. I want to tell you, sir, that 75 times out of 100 the one who gets drunk is not a villain nor a bad man; the villain is the man who deals the death blow. (Applause.) He is the man we ought to get after worse than anyone else. I am here to say to you this afternoon that every time some one deals out liquor, every time you speak a good word for the saloon, and every time you cast a wrong vote, you are among the ones that dash that fellow to the earth. Every time you vote for the licensed saloon you hit that good man a blow, as sure as you live. Therefore, who is the fellow that deals the death blow? This speech of Storey's is just full of such things as I have noted here, which are absolutely false. The saloon-keeper and the people who preach things like that do not believe in a heaven where truthfulness is rewarded, and do not believe in a hell where they are going to be punished for telling lies, so it doesn't make any difference to them how many lies they tell.

Listen again: Mr. Storey says, "Now, my fellow citizens, I want to tell you that prohibition does not prohibit in America and has been a total failure." I want to say that I have lived in at least twenty districts myself off and on throughout my life where they have had local option, and I can prove that it has been a success in every place except one, and why it wasn't a success in that was because the people in that town didn't want it, they didn't enforce the law. I can show you homes, sir, where married life is not a success. Why? Because the husband does not want the wife and the wife does not want the husband, and they are trying to get rid of each other. And that is why local option was not a success in the place I mention, because a whole lot of people didn't want it, but where they want to enjoy decency they can have it, you are right they can! Tell us, is it an absolute failure? It is a success in every case and in every place where people want it, and when you put that to a vote, and the majority says so by vote, that says they want it, doesn't it? And what the majority says settles it, and then they ought to stand by what they want and enforce the laws they vote for.

This other extract says, "Does prohibition prohibit? Not at all." Speaking of a certain state where Mr. Storey said prohibition did not prohibit at all. Now, I am able to say this afternoon that I happen to have some knowledge of the conditions of the State of Maine, and I know some cities in Maine where prohibition does not prohibit, and local option has not done its work, but when anyone says it does not prohibit at all he is telling another

tremendous, monstrous lie, because I can show you city upon city in the State of Maine where it did prohibit and where it does, and therefore his universal sweeping statement that it has not at all prohibited is another tremendous, monstrous falsehood. (Voice in the audience: "Hit him again.") If there is a hot place for "all liars" as the Word says, he will get it.

Mr. Storey said that in Atlanta, Ga., local option has been an absolute failure. He said that in Atlanta there were 200 arrests in one year for drunkenness. Notice: Atlanta is a city with 125,000 population; and then he referred to the city of Denver, with a population of 25,000, and he said that Denver had only 2000 arrests for drunkenness in one year. Now, how many more people in Denver than in Atlanta? 100,000. There are just twice as many inhabitants in Denver as in Atlanta, and in Atlanta where they have prohibition there were only 200 arrests for drunkenness, while in the other place, Denver, there were 2000 arrested for drunkenness. What did Mr. Storey mean? Did he think the people in Tillamook are such blockheads and thick-heads as not to see through that? In Atlanta, the very place he was criticizing and finding fault with, in that very place they had only one arrest for every 626 inhabitants, while in Denver they had one arrest for every 115 persons. Yes, sir, in Atlanta one for every 626, and in Denver they had one arrest for every 115. Therefore there were about six times as many arrests for drunkenness in Denver as in Atlanta. His own argument beats him to death.

Now listen, I want to tell you something on this subject which is important: I was in the collecting business for five years, and had to go into saloons and gambling dens and every other place imaginable to collect bills, and I learned some things about the saloon business and blind-pig keeping and bootlegging that have done me worlds of good in my lectures on the temperance question and against the liquor traffic. I learned this and some of you know it too—I went into places in cities to collect money where they had saloons, and could go into those places at nine, ten, eleven, twelve p.m. and at two and three o'clock in the morning, and find people by the scores lined up in the back rooms so dead drunk that they didn't know what their names were or what they were doing. They were not arrested for drunkenness, no. I can take you to Portland and Seattle and find you places every night where they are laid out in back rooms. Are they arrested? No! Does anybody see them? No. They are taken care of so they won't be seen! But say! In a local option town (even if the law is not well enforced) they don't dare to keep one drunken man; they kick him out into the street for they are afraid to have him around because someone might catch him, and accuse them of giving him the dope that fixed him. Therefore there are more chances to catch a man that gets drunk in a local option town, ten to one, than under the license law. Do you see that? How many don't? I wish I had the time to make a list of all the statements of this man. He said "I am sure the women of Tillamook will advise their husbands to vote against local option in Oregon." What do you think of that? How many say he is mistaken? I wonder how many women are going to advise their husbands to vote against temperance and to vote for the license system. How many are going to do that? I guarantee that such are almost as scarce as hen's teeth here. That fellow didn't know the women of Tillamook when he said that, that is sure. Now, a man making such statements will say anything, I don't care what it is. He enumerated a lot of places where local option didn't prohibit.

If a man will lie like that about this place, what in the world will he do about other places when he is 2000 miles away? I would not take that man's word on oath; how could I? Listen again: He says here, "In Texas local option is disastrous and a failure from every standpoint, and has brought economic disaster all over the country." Mr. Storey forgets that he isn't the only fellow that has been around some. I am glad that some one else in the world has been over the country and has traveled some too. How many will testify that this is another tremendous lie—that it hasn't brought financial disaster all over the country, and can testify by personal experience of places where it has been a glorious success, financially, morally, socially and spiritually? For I have been to many such places.

Here is another big one for you: "Why should they want to destroy the industries created by free America?" asks Mr. Storey. Now, how many of you ever built a brewery? Are you the people of America? Do those institutions

represent you? And yet he says these institutions represent the American people! I thank God no beer-belly ever represented me. (Applause.) And I thank God that no beer-keg ever represented the good people of America. (Applause.) Why men alive, that fellow told more lies by the square inch than any one I ever listened to in thirty minutes in my lifetime. If I had time to go through the whole thing it would surprise you to see how many he could tell, and God is certainly merciful. It is a wonder he didn't strike the man dead.

Listen again: He says at the close of his speech, "They claim that money is the root of all evil, and yet I never saw one of them that were willing to part with any of the 'evil.'" We never said a thing like that; money is not the root of all evil; that is what he said we said. Why didn't he get it correct? The Bible says "the love of money is the root of all evil"—not the money itself. The devil tries to quote the Bible sometimes and gets it awfully twisted. (Laughter.)

Listen again: He says "The Greater Oregon Home Rule Association is composed of American citizens engaged not merely for the purpose of fighting this enthusiasm and fanaticism, but our countrymen to-day throughout the land, whether in Oregon, or California, or in the north, or west, or south, are engaged for the purpose of solving this business along sane lines." Notice, the saloon business—no other. And yet he represents himself as representing all business enterprises. How many business men here to-day deny that he represented their business? (Vote.) Many here deny this.

Listen again: It says, "If it was the same then it is the same now, and if you admit it was the same then as now, you destroy the whole fabric of civilization upon which we have built for 200 years. It shows the absurdity of such a contention." He was speaking of the fact that prohibition did not prohibit the people in the Garden of Eden from partaking of the Tree, and therefore just because it didn't prohibit, therefore all prohibitory laws must be destroyed; therefore you must never say to your boy—don't you drink or do any such thing; no, whatever your boy or girl does you mustn't say: Don't you do this or that, says Mr. Storey—don't say to them: You shall not, because even if you do it won't prohibit now, because it didn't prohibit then. You must not say: You shall not steal; you shall not kill, no; do away with all laws against killing and stealing because prohibition does not prohibit; therefore do away with the law against gambling and drinking and everything that prohibits, and let every one kill and steal and gamble and do as he please—shall we do that? All because it doesn't prohibit, do away with all such laws. Prohibition doesn't prohibit—that is the whole contention through the entire speech of Mr. Storey. Many murders, therefore, do away with all laws against murder. That's what his logic says. But reason never could.

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