

REPRESS DESIRE FOR STRONG DRINK

Advice to Oregon Voters on How Best to Minimize the Evils of the Traffic in Liquor.

(By Wm. H. Fehse in Oregonian of January 5, 1908.)

Prohibition, what does it mean? As is generally understood, it means to prohibit the manufacture and sale of all spirituous and malt liquors as a beverage—not the drinking thereof as that is a personal privilege, prohibition or no prohibition.

I wish here to make a plain statement: The United States constitution plainly sets forth that it fosters and protects all manufacturers. You may in all honesty and sincerity vote for prohibition but to stop the production of liquor, the constitution will have to be amended by striking out the word "all" and put in an exception.

Does prohibition prohibit? I am bold enough to say emphatically, no. I need not refer to the state of Maine, but take my own native state, dear old Iowa. Prior to 1834 we had local option. The river counties of course were wet and wide open, the wet districts waxing rich on the desires and thirst of the dry. Then came the greatest struggle of all, personal liberty or a state prohibiting amendment. The Prohs carried by 27,000 majority. The Republican party upheld the amendment, the Democrats voting for it as an experiment. What was the result? Under local option we had in my little home town and place of business a German club, whereby we could get good

gages on fine farms. The prohibition cry was, "Wipe out the saloon." Then our most beloved country would be safe. Safe from what? Foreign invasion? I guess not. Safe against a man or woman patronizing a blind pig or a drug store?

"What Replaces It."

What do our most ardent supporters of prohibition put in place of the saloon? Absolutely nothing. The open saloon is the poor man's club. It is a free information bureau; it is a place for a thirsty man to get a drink of cold water just for the asking; it is a place where a stranger is always welcome, a place where he can leave his handbag and feel that it will be kept safe; a place where the clerk, generally speaking, is an encyclopedia of facts concerning the city or town. Ask him a civil question and 99 times out of 100 you will get a civil answer. Should you have a call of nature, where else could a stranger go?

And right here let me ask you who knows of a law making the drinking of liquor or becoming intoxicated a crime? A person may become intoxicated with joy and delight. Take for instance our old-fashioned revival meeting or an old-time camp meeting. To get drunk with liquor is beastly, but not a crime in itself. If arrested by a guardian of the peace, the charge in each every instance is drunk and disorderly. I need not here mention in comparison the case of the Holy Rollers in Tacoma which has recently come to public notice through the public press.

Where Laws Fail. Cities and communities have for hundreds of years had to contend with the strong drink question, as well as that of the social evil. They have found that regulation does regulate only to a certain degree. Suppression does not suppress, and latterly prohibition does not prohibit.



EUGENE ZIMMERMAN.

Cincinnati capitalist who is purchasing mortgages on many historic castles in Great Britain, including those of his son-in-law, the Duke of Manchester.

lager beer shipped to us in bulk. A good number of our members were religiously inclined who would attend divine service Sunday morning but in the afternoon most of them would, with their wives and families, come to the club, enjoying social and neighborly intercourse with music; eating and drinking; wine, beer, soda pop or lemonade; dancing, cards and other games. Now comes the state prohibitory amendment making it a misdemeanor for a common carrier to haul or handle spirituous or malt liquor. This of course put an end to the German Social club.

What followed? The river counties continued wet, public sentiment being against all sumptuary laws, but to us in the interior where religious zeal and, I must say, in some localities rank fanaticism prevailed. They say our boys are safe. The old toppers will have to go on the water-wagon. Yes; the boys were safe, the German Social club was superseded by a young men's club, oathbound password and private passkey. On Saturday night they would have come by express a box of bananas.

The open saloon was a thing of the past, but in my home town, before local option, there had been six well-conducted saloons compelled by city ordinance to close at 10 p. m. and remain closed until 6 a. m. Then we had three or four drug stores; now they maintain and support 11 drug stores. The proprietors of some have built for themselves palatial residences and, I am told, hold first mort-

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Report of Rickay School.

Report of Rickay public school for month ending December 20, 1907: Number of days taught..... 15 Average daily attendance..... 48.5 Per cent of attendance..... 94.7 Names of pupils neither absent nor tardy: Lolo Humphreys, Alma Ashby, Mildred White, Gertrude Ashby, Laura Lofgren, Bertha Lofgren, Myrtle Sheddler, Beate Hilton, Annie Wallace, Hazel Harris, Ruby McGee, Moe Horner, Laura McGee, Harvey Lindsay, Orven Prysley, Irvine Caplinger, William Bellamy, Budd Lindsay, James Siddall, Donald Siddall, Richard Siddall, Monroe Cooley, Lee Cooley, Warren Cooley, Fred Siedow, Warren Wallace, Bruce Wallace, Siandie Dickman, Myrl Poage.

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