

ing from that source. Assuming that they do, the deductions and assumptions of the article all fall to the ground in presence of one fact, which it has strangely overlooked. These returns do not indicate saloons at all in distinction from others who come under the provisions of the revenue laws, and hence are almost valueless for information as to the condition of the liquor traffic. Every person who makes or sells alcoholic beverages of any kind must pay the revenue tax, whether they be for drinking purposes or not. More than this, every person who tries to sell on the sly and gets caught is made to pay the tax for a year, even though his sales do not amount to a gallon, and land him in prison. Thus in strict prohibition states like Maine and Kansas, where such convictions may be quite numerous in a given period, the revenue figures are doubly unreliable as an index of the saloons actually in operation. Then, too, every drug store, though it sell only under the strictest safeguards, most conscientiously observed; all the makers of proprietary medicines, essences, etc., along with brewers, distilleries and makers of wine, etc., must also come into the returns which are thus made to argue against prohibition. Such use of the returns is entirely unjust.

Again, the figures given to the editorial answer themselves and even argue in favor of prohibition when certain other facts of the case are brought in evidence.

1. Iowa is not a prohibition state. Her former prohibition law was only a legislative enactment instead of a constitutional provision, and becoming a football of politics was replaced by a so-called "millet law," which is practically license, especially in the larger places. Hence if she has 5,000 saloons the fact must not be blamed against prohibition.

2. The "5,000 liquor dealers" said to exist in this ex-prohibition state would be enough to give two and one-half saloons to every post-office in the state, the country cross-roads places included. No tremendous statement kills itself with any one who stops to think or knows anything of the state personally.

3. Now compare the figures given for license in Iowa with those for prohibition Kansas. The two states have about the same number of post-office towns and villages. But even these figures, which are supposed to tell so heavily against prohibition, give the prohibition state only one-half as many liquor dealers as the ex-prohibition state.

4. Kentucky and Iowa compared. Twelve years ago, before prohibition was enacted in Iowa, the writer, as a commercial traveler, visited every back town in fully two-thirds of the state. Since then he resided three years in what is probably as moral a city as Kentucky can boast. In that city of 27,000 population there were about one hundred and ten saloons and several liquor manufacturing establishments, and the saloons were open during all but about six hours of the twenty-four, Sundays and week days alike. No one who saw the moral condition of the two states as I did can possibly compare the two to the disadvantage of Iowa. A state full of

breweries and distilleries has less call for small saloons and will have few prosecutions indeed for illicit selling. Yet the revenue figures which I find are far from being in Kentucky's favor.

Now for a very few figures on the other side. The internal revenue reports for two years ago are the latest I have at hand. These show the liquor taxes received from Iowa as \$242,848; from Kansas, \$72,028; from Kentucky, \$24,777,300—almost twenty-five millions, or 344 times as much as for Kansas! And the population of Kentucky is less than that of Iowa, while that of the Kansas figures (including Indian territory and Oklahoma) is not much less.

Prohibition only asks a fair show and she will defend herself against all comers as equal in effectiveness to any other enactment of the penal code.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. NUTTING.

THE GREAT MERCUR CAMP.

MERCUR, Utah, Dec. 23, 1895.

A few items from Mercur may be interesting to your readers. After scouring the bill for a week and measuring the snow by tramping through it day after day, my report is that it measures from three inches on the sunny side of the hills to two feet on the north-side, according to locality; that it is very cold, but not unbearably so; that the outlook for the camp is very good, men coming in every day from all parts of the West, and some few capitalists of the most enterprising kind, even from so far off as Chicago; and that the excitement is increasing and good reasons for it.

Still a word of caution to your readers may not be amiss; though the camp is good and will carry a much larger population than the present number, which is estimated at from 1,800 to 2,000, and will be apt to increase to say 10,000 within the next two years and double that in the next four years. But caution is necessary especially for people who do not understand much about mining, or the art and uses of the mine promoter and middle man in mining ventures.

I may mildly suggest that any porphyry dyke or lime stone bluff, even if located in Mercur, is not likely to make its owner a millionaire, though it may be within striking distance of a paying mine. It may be suitable for building material, and yet not very profitable for gold. All the latter class of ground is taken up, recorded and thrown on the market, in mining bonds, leases and other schemes to make money out of the soil and quarry. This is now a fact, personally known. I am aware of several such lime stone bluffs which are now on the market. Jones' lime kiln at Hot Springs would produce as good gold ore as any of them.

Next to the bluff claims now so abundantly dealt in, there it means some man owning a location and recording a notice over some good or likely to be good, ground, but said ground being already taken up and appropriated by somebody else. The sufferer sells his claim to some individual who finds after a time that he has bought a losing law suit instead of a gold claim and that he has got his

experience for his money, and somebody else owns the ground.

But after all these drawbacks, now is the time for our Salt Lake people to get an interest in Mercur and to get in on the ground floor for an investment, that if properly made is bound to bring large returns in a reasonable time. There is plenty of ground and good ground to be had on reasonable terms; but caution and discretion is needed in its selection.

One of the most important strikes lately made is in the Herschel, that proves the pay vein on the east slope to be at least one and three-fourth miles wide and the next of importance is Colonel Wall's strike on the western slope that proves payable gold bearing ore to exist in the western foothills facing on to Rush Valley, which practically enlarges the district to double its former dimensions. Of still greater importance is the Clay Canyon strike, that proves that rich ore exists in the districts as well as does extensive low grade.

When capital gets organized and full air play in the district great results may be expected, especially when a few diamond drills get started to operate on the west slope.

Gold may be found running far out into the Rush Valley foothills. All indications point that way. Artesian water may also be looked for where Rush Valley joins the hills—all of which will materially assist in developing the camp and bringing prosperity to the new State of Utah.

JOHN P. SORESENSEN.

MALAD STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the Malad Stake of Zion was held in Portage meeting house, Dec. 15 and 16. Three meetings were held on Sunday and one on Monday at the usual hour. There were present of the First Seven Presidents or Seventies Seymour B. Young, the Stake presidency, members of the High Council and Bishops.

After the opening exercises Elder Wm. H. Gibbs reported the Stake in good condition and the Stake presidency as being united. Seymour B. Young exhorted the Saints to faithfulness.

At 2 p. m. Elder John W. Taylor of the Council of the Apostles, spoke on the First principles of the Gospel, and exhorted the young to study the Scriptures.

At 7 p. m. Elder Young occupied the time in a very interesting discourse on the rise and progress of the Church.

Monday, the 16th, it was thought best to hold but one meeting, the weather being so cold, in order to give the brethren and sisters from a distance a chance to get home before night. At 10 a. m. after the opening exercises, Elder Gibbs presented the authorities of the Church. Elder John W. Taylor occupied the time speaking on general principles and exhorted the Saints to faithfulness.

The good singing, under the able leadership of Prof. David P. Jones, added much to the enjoyment of the Saints.

L. D. Jones and J. W. Dutton, acting clerks. W. H. G.

A San Diego, Cal., manufacturer is shipping in bromine by the railroad from Kansas to be used in making bromine.