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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 2, 1909.

HEAR THE PEOPLE.

The closer the latest proposed bill for the regulation of the saloon traffic is studied, the more evident it becomes that it is not what the people generally want. It does not meet the hopes and expectations of the great majority of the constituents of the legislators.

It does provide, for instance, that the protest of a majority of voters in a given case, and that looks almost like local option. But it is not. As long as the saloon has a firm grip upon political machines and knows how to manipulate party leaders, the liquor dealers can always thwart the will of the majority of voters, and though they fail in one district they may succeed in the other. There can be no off-ice local option law, if the saloon is in a position to control election machinery. This alleged local option provision is a good sample of the entire measure, because it promises much and gives so little.

The provision that saloons must not be located less than 200 feet from churches or schools and 50 feet from theaters is almost ridiculous. If the distance had been made a mile, instead of 200 and 50 feet, respectively, there would have been some sense to it. Most of our streets are 122 feet wide, and the liquor interests can therefore, if they see fit to do so, open a saloon opposite every theater in this city, and one on each side of it, still closer, for the convenience of those who are in the habit of going out between acts. Could the liquor dealers ask for any greater consideration?

As "business hours" all day is set apart from 6 a. m. to 12 p. m. This is an outrage. Whenever regulation is attempted in earnest early closing is one of the chief features considered. It is generally thought necessary to close the saloons for the day so early that laborers returning from work shall not be tempted to drop in and leave their day's wages there, instead of bringing the money home. Saloons, in well regulated cities, are closed at 6 p. m. and still earlier on Saturdays. To permit them to keep open after every legitimate business is ended for the day, is a violation of all sense of decency. It is just what the liquor dealers want.

The clause that prohibits keepers of hotels and restaurants "to serve intoxicating liquors at meals" is a farce, since it does not make it unlawful for patrons of such places to bring their drinks with them. The clause against treating is equally farcical. The one who wants to treat a crowd has only to distribute the money beforehand and let every one pay for himself. He cannot order drinks for others and pay for them, if he is consumed on the premises, but he can stand the treat just the same.

We do not hesitate to say that if the saloon interests were to inspire a bill, in order to prevent material injury to the saloon traffic, they would probably suggest just some such impossible and ineffective regulations. The liquor traffic has its forces everywhere lined up to prevent effective legislation, and oppose social reform. In its struggle for existence the saloon knows no partisanship. It is true to no party. Its candidates are supported solely with regard to their willingness to serve the traffic interests. Saloon owners and controllers stand together as a unit. There are over 200,000 men in the country, and they never hesitate to contribute when funds are needed to promote, or defeat, legislation. Every state is well organized, and even the press, to its infinite shame be it said, is too often brought under the influence of that power. At every state capitol the agents and representatives of the saloon are busy, and through their devices methods the people are betrayed and wronged. Is it any wonder, then, if the people, fully awake to the situation, demand relief. They will not accept a stone for bread, nor a serpent instead of fish. They demand a good, conservative prohibition bill that closes the saloons and makes the liquor traffic as now conducted illegal. They demand nothing unreasonable.

TWO ARGUMENTS.

The Salt Lake Real Estate Association in its majority report against the adoption of prohibition by the state of Utah, makes the following statement: "It has been demonstrated in every instance where prohibition laws have been enacted, that prohibition by law does not prohibit, but that on the contrary, such laws are harmful to the cause of temperance and have left in their train consequences in the way of a detriment to all laws and a serious menace to the honest standard of citizenship, and has been harmful in every instance to the development of the resources and business interests of the communities which have been brought under the control of such laws. Therefore without doubt will be disastrous to the business interests of every section of this state."

If the foregoing arguments were well founded, it would be one requiring the most careful attention before the state decides upon the policy of prohibition; but the minority report from the same committee manifests, as it seems to us, the contention of the majority; The other side of the argument is that the

effect of state wide prohibition for long periods in other states of the Union refutes the principal claim made by the majority that the enactment of such a law would hurt business, and particularly the real estate interests. The minority says:

"We submit one comparison of the effect of prohibition under each of three heads:

First—Prosperity of the people as shown by deposits in savings banks:

Savings per capita in bank.

State.

Ohio, High license and part local option.....\$19.71

Illinois, High license and part local option.....\$14.43

Pennsylvania, High license and part local option.....\$4.72

Kansas, State-wide prohibition, \$3.00 Maine, State-wide prohibition.....\$5.22

Second—Prohibition decreases pauperism:

"From 1850 to 1899 paupers increased in three of our best states, but in which prohibition was not in force, as follows:

"Ohio—138 per cent increase.

"Kentucky—173 per cent increase.

"Illinois—176 per cent increase.

"During the same period, pauperism decreased in Maine (under prohibition), 145 per cent (decrease).

"Third—Prohibition diminishes crime:

In 1888 Massachusetts (high license and part local option) had 23 prisoners for every 1,000 population, while Maine (state-wide prohibition) had only 13 for every 1,000 population.

"We feel that a system that has enabled the people of Kansas to change a distressed and financially disordered community into one that now absorbs many of the securities of other sections of our nation, to lift the mortgages from their farms, buy bonds and stocks of less favored districts and to show bank deposits of \$129,000,000 belonging to 1,300,000 people need not frighten the people of Utah, nor the real estate association of Salt Lake."

It is hardly necessary to state that we agree with the argument of the minority. It will be seen that the majority gives no facts in support of their theory, but voice only their opinions; while the minority gives the facts upon which their conclusions are based. We suggest to those who are investigating the question a careful perusal of the two arguments.

STRANGER THAN FICTION.

One of the most marvelous shipwreck stories was that of the Republic recently told by the press. The big White Star liner was out down in the fog 65 miles southeast of the Nantucket lightship, by the Italian steamer Florida. When disabled and sinking she sent out a call for help by wireless telegraph, which brought to her aid a number of steamships that caught the cry of distress. What a wonderful invention is Marconiography! By it the terrors of the deep have been lessened. Those that go to sea in ships can call to each other, though separated by miles and miles, as easily as can neighbors across the street, and a cry for assistance is sure to meet with response.

The story of the rescue of hundreds of passengers is a most thrilling drama. As soon as the big ship had been pierced in its vitals, the operator sent out the distress signal. This was caught at a wireless station on the shore of Nantucket Island, and as soon as the operator realized the import of the signal he asked for particulars. From the ship was telegraphed:

"We are struck by an unknown boat—engine room filled—passengers all safe—can stay afloat—latitude 40.15; longitude 70. Republic."

Then the operator on shore, with his more powerful apparatus, flashed the collision signal and repeated the message received. In a few minutes word came from Charlestown Navy Yard, Newport, Boston, Vineyard Haven and Woods Hole, all of which stations caught the alarm sent out from the land station. Woods Hole said that the revenue cutter Albatross had started out to the rescue. From Boston came the report that the revenue cutter Gresham had the news and was leaving for the spot where the report came from. The Mohawk and Seneca told the operator that they had picked up his flash off the coast and were off for Nantucket light. Later the Baltic telegraphed that it was going to the assistance of the disabled vessel.

Half of the terrors of an accident at sea are abated when communication can be established with follow creatures ready to render all assistance in their power. The success of the wireless in the service of life-saving was fully demonstrated when the cry for help was sent out over the deep that dark, foggy morning.

GENUINE AND BOGUS.

The Tribune cannot see the difference between petitions signed by citizens of their own free will and choice—citizens who understand the questions involved; and petitions supported by names obtained under false pretenses—names of people who do not know, and do not profess to know, anything of the matters of the petition except by hearsay. Of the latter kind were many of the anti-Snoot petitions that were sent to the United States Senate. They were bogus. They were signed by men and women who knew nothing about Utah except what they had from hostile sources. They were, many of them, influenced by falsehoods deliberately told to deceive. The Senate placed the true value upon signatures so obtained.

The petitions against the liquor traffic now being circulated in Utah are entirely different. They are signed by people who know what they are doing. Nobody is misrepresenting the saloons to them. No pressure is exercised. Prejudices are not appealed to. The petitions are the result of a spontaneous movement by the people for the salvation of the growing generation by the purification of public morals. They are genuine. The Tribune does not comprehend the difference between a genuine appeal by the people and a bogus petition. But everyone else does. It is the same difference as that between a genuine and a bogus coin.

Jack Frost has been living on Florida oranges lately.

The actor who says the air usually doesn't "saw wood."

If tuberculosis germs lack in the

street why do not the police drive them out?

Many a political deal is a deal in futures.

Government by commission is all right—in law.

Gibraltar captured the fleet and the fleet captured Gibraltar.

"Plum" pudding and "pork" pie are what the politicians are after.

Eggs fifty cents a dozen! And still hens have to scratch for a living.

The "measure" is called a founding because nobody is willing to father it.

Boston has been lavish in her tributes to Poe's genius. She can afford them.

The ground-hog saw its shadow today, which it appeared like the handwriting on the wall.

It looks very much as though the defense in the Cooper case were trying to stave off a trial.

Judge Taft is pleased with the Culebra cut. Those who set the fashion may yet adopt the Culebra cut.

Some of the messengers carrying electoral votes to Washington have been as slow as the regular messenger boys.

Senator Tillman says that he is more of a statesman than of a politician. In which case it seems to be the more the merrier.

A scientist says that the white ant lays 50,000 eggs a day. The statement probably is something more than a white lie.

Some people would try and make other people believe that the moral and material welfare of the State depends on the whisky business.

The people of Utah do not want the power to control the whisky business placed in the hands of any set of officials. They want prohibition and no makeshifts.

"Senator Reed Smoot has been unanimously re-nominated. Perhaps the home community loves him for the enemies he has made," says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. To a certain extent, yes.

Nevada proposes that those seeking divorce in her courts shall have been residents of the state two years before they can bring suit for it. Good for Nevada. Such a law would do much to remove a reproach from her good name.

It looks very much as though some of the California legislators were trying very hard to engender ill feelings between the United States and Japan so that a great fleet may be stationed off the California coast. It is bad business, but quite as good as the various schemes for enlarging the army and the navy.

LAWLESS NEW YORK.

"New York is rife with murder," writes Victor Rousseau in Harper's Weekly. "It is a commonplace of the day's news; it has ceased to attract attention. Men are stabbed or shot down or blackjacked, not secretly, but in the open, crowded streets at midday for little or no cause. Life has become cheaper in New York than in the wildest western mining camps."

HIGH CLIMBING.

London News.

We are reminded by a correspondent that the heights of 23,000 and odd feet already achieved by climbers will be far exceeded by the Duke of the Abruzzi if he ever stands on the top of Everest. He will have to climb beyond the 29,000-foot line—though exactly how far beyond is somewhat uncertain. The accepted height of the summit is 29,002 feet, but some very careful measurements just finished by the Indian survey make it slightly higher, and it seems that 29,140 feet is the most accurate computation. The varying depth of snow and the tricks played by changes in atmospheric refraction, however, introduce grave sources of error into the calculations.

TOYS IN EGYPTIAN TOMBS.

Dundee Advertiser.

None of all the chapters in Prof. Maspero's popular written volume, "New Light on Ancient Egypt," excites the concluding one for interest and suggestive thought. He there deals with the toys that have been found from time to time in Egyptian tombs, describing exactly what they are like and indicating the purpose they were intended to serve. Playthings to all appearance, they were not playthings to the dead. The Egyptians' ideal of earth was to possess a home, land, slaves and concubines, for the ownership of which they were indebted to none but themselves. The little painted dolls and the miniature houses that were interred with the dead procured a paradise in which their dreams were realized. The belief was that the dolls would come to life and grow to full stature of men and women and that the houses would expand to their normal size—all by some miraculous intervention. During the early periods of Egyptian civilization the right to a future life could be claimed only by the extremely wealthy. The lives of many women, children, slaves and animals had to be sacrificed to accompany the "double" into the other world. The descendants, overcome with grief, but chary of the cost, substituted for these expensive victims statues representing each of them at his craft, the woman grinding the corn, the baker at his kneading trough, the cellarer seating up his wine jars, the mourner beating his forehead and cutting his face.

JUST FOR FUN.

A Weighty Question.

"I took in two dollars just now," said the first promoter.

"Good enough," declared the second promoter. "Shall we issue additional stock to correspond with our increased capital, or shall we have lunch?"

Consultation.

Does your wife ever take your advice about anything? asked the impatient relative.

"Certainly," answered Mr. Meekton. "She frequently consults me as to whether her hat is on straight."—Kansas City Star.

On Different Sides.

When Oliver Cromwell first coined his money an old exchequer, looking upon one of the new pieces, read the inscription:

tion on one side, "God with us!" on the other, "The Commonwealth of England." "I see," said he, "God and the Commonwealth are on different sides."—Ex.

The Touch.

The young wife of a Philadelphia man, who is not especially sweet-tempered, one day approached her lord touching the matter of 100 or so.

"I'd like to let you have it, dear," began the husband, "but the fact is, I haven't that amount in bank this morning—that is to say, I haven't that amount to spare, inasmuch as I must take up a note of 250 this afternoon."

"Oh, very well, James," said the wife, with ominous calmness. "If you think the man who holds the note can make things any better for you than I can, why, do as you say, James!"

She got the money.—Ex.

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