

## How Prohibition Works in Washington

The following article, written by Halsey R. Watson, formerly a well known newspaper man of Lewistown but now located at North Yakima, Washington, will doubtless prove of interest to the people of Fergus county.

(Written by Halsey R. Watson of North Yakima, Washington, at the request of Mrs. Geo. J. Wiedeman.)

You ask me to set down briefly my impressions of the results of prohibition in Washington. It must be borne in mind that as prohibition went into effect in Washington only on the first of January last, ten months ago, we have so far reaped all of the disadvantages and only some of the advantages. Such losses as occurred from the operation of the law, cessation of revenue, vacated buildings, an idle brewery, loss of employment by many, etc., took place immediately, while it took several months for the individuals who had purchased large quantities of liquor just before the law took effect to exhaust their supply and the greatest benefits from prohibition are those which are felt indirectly—some of them not for years, or perhaps a generation.

Of what I have to say it must also be taken into consideration that I am writing of effects in North Yakima, where I have lived for five years; I frankly admit that the benefits in the first ten months have not been as great in Seattle, Aberdeen, Hoquiam, Everett, Tacoma or other cities on the coast or Puget Sound and probably not as great in Spokane, the large city of the eastern part of the state. In Seattle, for instance, it is very easy to land booze from boats and difficult for the officers to find it after it is landed. Besides a strong preponderance of public opinion is necessary to the efficient enforcement of any law. The great majority in Seattle were opposed to prohibition; the rest of the state forced it upon Seattle and other large centers. But Seattle men have told me that were the question again submitted to Seattle the majority of the voters would favor prohibition.

North Yakima is a city of 20,000 people; an inland, agricultural town with two railroads. The majority for prohibition in North Yakima two years ago was 900; in the county of which North Yakima is the county seat, the majority for prohibition was upwards of 5,000. The sentiment of the people supports the officials in the enforcement of the law and it is well enforced. We have some bootleggers; we always had them, even when we had 28 saloons. We have some drug stores that sell liquor, but no larger number than we had before prohibition was adopted. Some people get drunk, so do some people commit murder, others robbery and others commit suicide. Prohibition has not in ten months made over the human race, not even that small portion of it which lives in North Yakima and Yakima county and there will probably always be some crime committed, no matter how many laws we pass or how severe they are. The millennium is not at hand just because we closed the saloons and limited to small quantities the amount of intoxicating liquor which individuals could ship in, under supervision, for their own use.

But the law has greatly benefited social and moral conditions. Not even the liquor men are asking the return of the open saloon. Their own literature, supporting a bill to permit the sale of home brewed beer, admits that the saloon was an evil and never should be restored. I cannot quote positive figures because I did not come to Lewistown prepared to make prohibition speeches or write prohibition articles. But I can approximate results. Since the first of January arrests for drunkenness have fallen off two-thirds and nowadays every man seen in a condition approaching drunkenness is arrested and fined—in North Yakima, mind you—not less than \$40 or given 10 days in jail. The old habit of taking a drunken man to his room or to a friend's room, or to his own home to sleep it off, has passed. Now they go to jail and their offense and their name is public. Publicity is in itself a great corrective of the evil and the newspapers of North Yakima publish the news, no matter who it hits.

Arrests for all purposes, including drunkenness, have since the first of January been reduced one-half, the great reduction, of course, being in drunkenness and vagrancy. The gang which made the greatest trouble for the police, the sporting element, the saloon bums, the chair warmers, the gamblers, the hangers on, the pick-pocket, etc., etc., have left us. I have seen two or three of my old "friends" in Lewistown since I arrived here and the majority of them are probably in Butte, Helena and other Montana towns prepared to vote "wet" here this fall, as they did in North Yakima two years ago. The number of registered voters in our "bloody Fifth ward" the home of this bad class on the edge of the old red light district, has been reduced in two years from about 720, as I remember, to 380 or thereabouts. None of us are sorry they have gone. Their places in the election have been taken by good citizens, law abiding and industrious, who have come into other portions of the city.

In the county at large crime has also greatly decreased. I cannot quote exact figures, but I recall that the sheriff's semi-annual report showed that on July 1, 1916, he had two prisoners in the county jail, compared with 78 on the first of July, 1915. In making up the budgets of expenses for the year 1917—Washington has the budget system—our sheriff, clerk of court, judge, charity superintendent and juvenile officer, made severe cuts in their estimates from the year before—the prosecuting attorney, too—on account of lessened crime.

Our charity budget, for instance, was cut from \$28,000 to \$20,000 for the year and our superior court costs from \$22,500 to \$18,000. We have had but one jury term this year and the day before I left the docket was made up for a term in November, criminal cases being for but five days.

The rest was civil business. Three murder trials, but one of which can be remotely connected with liquor evils, are among the cases docketed.

Our county physician has had but one case of delirium tremens to treat since January 1; he averaged nearly seven each month.

Property valuations have been reduced, quite true, but not because of prohibition. North Yakima had a boom, prices for realty jumped. They settled again and valuations settled with them. There was also a reduction in property values made in 1914, certainly not due to prohibition for prohibition was not adopted until 1916. Our tax rate has also been increased, quite true.

But if a person has a piece of property taxed at \$5,000 valuation and he pays taxes at the rate of 40 mills thereon, he will pay \$200 in taxes. If the valuation be reduced to \$4,000 and the tax rate is raised to 45 mills he will pay \$180, a saving of \$20 in taxes. That is the case with us. Lower taxes.

Each of North Yakima's 16 saloons paid \$1,000 per year license. The city lost that, but the expense for the coming year is \$23,000 less than it was in 1914. Saving has been made in the cost of maintaining the police department, in the salary of the police judge who has now little to do, and in the board of prisoners; also in many other minor ways. With a \$16,000 loss in revenue, the taxes levied on the people have also been reduced to \$7,000. Surely not a bad showing for prohibition.

Few places occupied formerly by the saloons are now vacant. There is a shoe store in one, a men's furnishing goods store in another, a restaurant in a third, two have been transformed into soft drink establishments and another is occupied by a second hand store. One of the best corners formerly occupied by a saloon has recently been purchased by a bank and a \$25,000 building will be erected thereon soon.

Our former saloon proprietors are employed and they appear to be prospering, though probably not in the proportion that they were when taking the money that should have gone to buy bread, shoes and milk and pay the rent.

Not once a month, but many times each month, sometimes several times a week in the "good old days" of the open saloon, has the police reporter come to my desk, that of city editor of the Yakima Republic, and asked whether or not he should use the names of young girls and young boys arrested by the police in raids or otherwise who had been haled into court for crime committed while under the influence of liquor, crimes against the public, against themselves, or merely the first downward step. And all too frequently have young girls or young women come to me with tears in their eyes, pleading that their names might be omitted from accounts of some disgraceful affair. They feared publicity more than court reprimands or court fines. If only their names could be omitted or assumed names used they would promise never to go astray again, never to go to the cafes late at night and take a few drinks, never to be found in the car barns with men; never to be in a lodging house when they ought to be at home. They were sad cases; in many of them discovery and correction had come too late; in others there was yet time.

BUT NOT ONCE SINCE THE FIRST OF JANUARY HAS THAT QUESTION BEEN PRESENTED TO ME.

Mrs. Quinn Pierce and Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Conway of Moccasin, are visiting in the city.

**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**  
Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Lewistown, Montana, October 24, 1916.

Notice is hereby given that HARRY E. JOHNSON, of Gilt Edge, Montana, who on August 1, 1910, made homestead entry, No. 011657, for lot 4, section 28, lots 1, 2, 3, section 29, township 16 north, range 20 east, and on June 3, 1915, made additional homestead entry No. 032459, for lots 5 and 6, section 28, and lots 6 and 8, section 29, township 16 north, range 20 north, M. M., has filed notice of intention to make final three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before register and receiver, at Lewistown, Montana, on the fifth day of December, 1916.

Claimant names as witnesses: Owen Dunn, of Gilt Edge, Montana; August Van Lake, of Gilt Edge, Montana; Edward Dunn, of Gilt Edge, Montana; William F. Dunn, of Gilt Edge, Montana.

H. J. KELLY, Register.  
11-2-16.

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# To the Farmers of Fergus County

## Do You Know Mr. Farmer

That only 2½ per cent. of the grain crops of the country are used in the manufacture of liquor and that many times this amount would reach thousands of homes if money was not wasted for liquor.

### Your Biggest Gain

That the farmer's biggest crop is his boys and girls, many of whose lives are ruined by the saloon.

That the crop produced by the saloon consists of poverty, crime, insanity, degeneracy and immorality.

That prohibition brings increased prosperity. Why? A state is prosperous if the people is prosperous. Go ask the banker who makes the deposits, the drinker or the sober man.

### Nothing in Return

That when money is spent for booze nothing of value is received in return. When money is spent for bread, meats, hides and other farm products both the farmer and the purchaser are benefited.

### Others Are Prosperous

Prohibition has brought increased prosperity to every state which has adopted it. Official reports from the southern states, Colorado, Kansas, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and other nineteen prohibition states show the same result.

That if prohibition carries the capital invested in producing liquors would be invested in other lines of business employing from five to seven times as many men and benefiting the whole community.

### U. S. Revenue Records

That prohibition does prohibit. The U. S. revenue records show that there are from two to four times as many "blind tigers" in wet states per capita as there are in dry states. Dry states consume but a small fractional part of the liquor they consumed before they went dry. Official reports show this.

### Think of This

That the decrease in crime, insanity, poverty, the decrease in taxes, the increased prosperity the increased consumption of bread, meats, hides and other farm products and the necessities of life all show that prohibition does prohibit.

That prohibition decreases taxes. The average per capita tax of wet states is \$16.98, while the average for dry states is \$10.12.

That the farmer has taken the lead in ousting the saloon. Farmers' organizations speak out annually against the saloon. The farmer has taken the lead in the states that have voted dry. There is a reason, Mr. Farmer, and you know it.

What has the saloon done for you, Mr. Farmer? For every dollar received from liquor licenses every taxpayer in 1914 paid \$3.35. Is this good business? Read the ad.: "Fergus County in Account With Liquor," in another part of this paper.

### You Will Gain

Mr. Farmer, think it over. Vote for your home, your state and country, for your prosperity, decreased taxes, better morals, and the welfare of humanity by casting your ballot For Prohibition on November 7th. (Vote the little ballot first).

WHAT HAS THE SALOON DONE FOR YOU?