

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

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A STATEMENT OF FACTS

Concerning the Proposed Licensing of Saloons In Imperial

Liquor Restrictions in the Land Titles Prevents It and the Fair Name of the Town Forbids Such a Course

As the public mind is more or less agitated concerning the subject of liquor selling in this valley, we again take up the matter, and shall treat it in the light of recent events, with reference especially to the campaign for the election of city officers now in progress in Imperial. In our issue of March 17th we pointed out the status of the liquor traffic in this valley, setting forth in extenso the reversionary clause in the deeds to the property in all the towns, and giving a brief of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States upholding the legality and binding effect of such a clause. In our article we laid particular stress on the force and effect of the clause in the deeds confiscating the property to the original owners, whenever liquor is sold for a beverage on the premises, and insisted that the people of Imperial have no power over the matter. No board of trustees can license the sale of liquor on any of the property in that town, either now belonging to the Imperial Land company, or that has been sold by it. This being the case, no vote the people might cast, or action they might take can control the matter. The rights of the Imperial Land company in the property are absolute. This clear exposition of the subject, however, is not satisfactory to Brother Parazette of the Imperial Standard, and in his issue of March 23rd he voices his objections.

We have read his editorial carefully and we are struck with three things in it that he does not do. First, show the right of the people of Imperial or any board of trustees they might elect, to license saloons. Second, show that the reversionary stipulations in the deeds, to all the Imperial lots are illegal and of no force or effect. and Third, show that the Imperial Land company will ignore its rights and countenance the violation of its obligations by permitting the sale of liquor on any land to which they have reversionary rights. The Standard having failed to discuss the phases of the subject which are of most moment to the people of Imperial at the present time, we are perforce, compelled to disclose some facts of public interest along those lines by way of addenda to what we have published heretofore.

The course of the Standard in ignoring these matters is misleading, and doubtless is intended to be. The impression is sought to be conveyed that the Imperial Land company will be controlled by public opinion, and that if the license ticket is successful, the liquor clauses in the deeds will be ignored, and a saloon permitted to run in Imperial. Right in this connection, a little recent history will be to the point. The question of confiscating the property on which liquor had been sold was taken up with Mr. Paulin of the Imperial Land company last summer, and it was agreed that the city prosecute under the prohibition ordinance, and upon conviction, report the matter to the Imperial Land company, upon which they would at once institute proceedings to

confiscate the property. Not long afterwards the writer was appointed City Recorder of Imperial. In view of the absolute certainty that confiscating the property would stamp out the drink evil, the prosecution endeavored to secure as many pleas of guilty as possible, and for this reason the fines imposed were not made excessive. Being aware of the understanding between the city attorney of Imperial and the attorney of the Imperial Land company, and noting that no actions for the confiscation of property in Imperial where parties had plead guilty of selling liquor, had been entered, we took the matter up with Mr. Paulin ourselves. In reply to our inquiry, he informed us that Mr. Shaw, the city attorney had not reported any of the cases of either conviction or plea of guilty to such charges, and his company therefore, could not institute any actions. We asked Mr. Shaw concerning this matter and found that his plan was to get as large a number as possible before reporting, and that he had not yet turned in any of them.

Further correspondence with Mr. Paulin evolved a plan of action by which the people may act directly in the matter and a contract is already prepared for signature whereby the Imperial Land company agrees that, when a case of violation of the liquor clause in any of the land they have sold in the City of Imperial is reported to them, they will either begin action to recover the property within 15 days, or they will transfer their rights in the premises to H. L. Peck, W. A. Edgar, B. R. Chaplin, A. L. Hill, J. B. Brackett, J. R. Stevenson, W. D. Conser, Leroy Holt, George Varney, H. A. F. Miller, F. J. Bold, F. P. Blake and F. G. Havens, who bind themselves to at once begin action to confiscate the property. It is further stipulated that in case any property is recovered by the last named parties, it shall be sold, and after paying the expenses of the suit, the remainder shall be given to the Anti-Saloon League of Southern California.

During Mr. Paulin's visit to the valley last week, the question of closing up this contract at once, was taken up and discussed, and it was mutually agreed that such action just now might be misconstrued, for this reason: Two tickets are in the field in Imperial, and Mr. Paulin is very friendly to the gentlemen on both tickets, personally, and is not willing to do anything against the political chances of any of them. It is therefore necessary that he take no stand at present that will injure either ticket in the election. The fact that the City Improvement ticket is said to be in favor of licensing saloons delays the closing up of this contract until after the election. THIS CONTRACT WILL BE CLOSED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTION, so no matter who is elected trustees, the practice of violating the liquor clause in the deeds to property in Imperial will be speedily stopped.

These facts above stated are known

in the Standard office, as well as anywhere. Now, why does Brother Parazette try to delude his readers into the belief that liquor selling can be legalized or licensed in his city? He states that "The town will vote on the question of license or no license at the coming election." A careful examination of the election ordinance published in the same issue of the Standard fails to disclose any provision for such vote. This ordinance should have contained it if Brother Parazette's statement were true. It is therefore evident that the question of license or no license is not to be submitted to the voters, and that if so submitted, it would be without force or effect. It follows, then, that the City Improvement ticket stands for something it cannot carry out and Brother Parazette is dealing in "gold bricks." The only thing the "pro-booze" people could do in case of their success at the polls would be to discourage the "blind-pig" prosecutions, and encourage violations of the liquor restrictions, and this we do not believe they wish to do. The only other hope Brother Parazette can hold out to his people is that Mr. Paulin and the Imperial Land company will repudiate their principles and throw over their reversionary rights, in case it can be made to appear that a majority of the people of Imperial desire them to do so. In this the Brother is evidently building on a false hope for Mr. Paulin is strongly committed to anti-saloon principles. He not only put the reversionary clauses into the land titles at Brawley as the Standard states, but at a critical time his voice and influence forced their retention in the Imperial deeds. He is a large contributor to the support of the Southern California Anti-Saloon League, and a consistent temperance man. There is no doubt whatever of his loyalty to the liquor restrictions in the land deeds of all the Imperial Land company towns. Nor is there a shadow of doubt but that he stands ready to help the people of those towns to keep them clean. The fact that the Land company has not yet enforced its rights, is largely accounted for by such conditions as have obtained in Imperial for the past six or eight months, where they have been waiting on the report of the city attorney.

So much for the situation in Imperial and the Imperial Land company's attitude toward liquor selling and their reversionary rights. Now concerning the question of liquor license or prohibition we will assume that no one favors a saloon unless he wants to legalize liquor selling. This cannot be done in this Valley for the reason that at the last election every precinct in the Valley voted against it.

The saloon therefore, is an outlaw and the liquor seller is a criminal everywhere in this Valley. The Standard calls attention to violations of the law and argues therefrom that the way to prevent violations is to repeal the law. That is exactly what anarchists want to do with all law. The Standard quotes the statement that someone sometime saw a wagon load of beer being hauled toward Riverside and argues therefrom that prohibition is a failure in that city. We lived in Riverside for ten years before coming to this Valley while Brother Parazette lived in San Bernardino. During that time Riverside, which was prohibition all the time, more than doubled in population and tripled in wealth, while the only things which increased in San Bernardino during that time was taxes, drunken wrecks, bankrupts and disre-

putable resorts.

Imperial Valley has started right and has an enviable name on account of its stand on the liquor question. Any retreat from our position in this matter will be a distinct loss of standing in the estimation of respectable people everywhere. The Standard's allegations that some parties in El Centro have violated the prohibition ordinance and that other parties gamble here are matters of which we have no knowledge. Of one thing we are certain however. There is no newspaper published in El Centro that advocates placing the sanction of law on such practices. As a citizen and resident property owner of Imperial we feel justified in taking an interest in her affairs and as a loyal citizen of Imperial Valley we shall oppose the invasion of any of its towns by the saloon. In this attitude we are endorsed by the very men whose money makes it possible for Brother Parazette to publish his paper. The saloon has no place in the Imperial Valley. Our good citizens will not tolerate it. The proposition to license crime and put the public in partnership with criminals is too repugnant to be entertained.

We hope to see every town in this Valley become a Riverside or a Redlands and the sure course to pursue in attaining such goal is to clean out the violators of the law, uphold the moral tone of your town and appeal to the class of people who have created Riverside and Redlands. The people of Imperial cannot afford to follow Brother Parazette and bring reproach upon themselves, their town and the entire Valley.

PETITION GOVERNMENT

Scheme of Yuma Valley People to Sell Useless Irrigation Plant

The following from the Yuma Sun illustrates the practical workings of the Reclamation Service's policy with regard to the purchase of ditches and property to be incorporated into reclamation projects:

"J. E. Ludy and others are circulating for signatures among the farmers, merchants and other business men of the town and Valley, a petition, asking the Reclamation Service to take measures to immediately irrigate the farming lands in the Valley below town, stating that the coming of the Reclamation Service project has stopped private canal enterprises and consequently stopped farming, to the ruin of the farmers.

"There is more, however, than that in the document, which calls special attention to the damage done private canal enterprises and urges the government to buy one of the said canals.

"Mr. Ludy states that the petition has been drawn up by the "United Water Users," but makes no effort to impress on the prospective signer that the canal owners are interested in the move.

"A number of people signed the petition, but many declined generally on the ground that the only effect such a petition could have would be to interfere with and annoy the officials of the reclamation service, who are doing all they can for the farmers of the Valley, but have declared that they will not buy canals they cannot use.

"Some months ago an effort was made to induce the government to purchase the Farmers' gravity canal, but it came to naught, the department giving Mr. Lippincott, who had originally favored the plan, to understand that the matter could not be effected. It is safe to assume that neither Mr. Lippincott nor the department will alter their determination at this time."

Miss Emma Britton of Ashland, Oregon, niece of L. M. Van Horn, is visiting here. Her family are thinking of following to make this their home.

"HIT IT AGAIN"

Rev. Harcourt W. Peck Scores the Saloon and Argues Strongly For Prohibition

FRESNO, CAL., 3-22, '06.

EDITOR IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS,
EL CENTRO, CAL.

I wish to thank you for your able article in the "PRESS" March 17th, 1906, on "Imperial Valley and the Liquor Traffic."

It is to be hoped that everyone having any real interest in the welfare of the Imperial Valley will back the Land Companies in their enforcement of the clause in the deeds by which the sale or vending of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is prohibited.

The record of the saloon, everywhere, is well known. It is the prolific mother of poverty, misery, licentiousness, drunkenness and vices of all kinds.

Why should any level-headed man want to introduce a thing which sucks the life blood not only of the morals but also the business of a community?

It takes the money of the people and gives them back three-fourths of the crimes and criminals of every place where the saloon is firmly established.

If it is a crime, as it is, to participate in theft or murder, then, it is equally a crime to establish, or take part of the profits of a business which everybody knows, full well, produces thieves and murderers, to say nothing of other crimes.

A community which licenses a saloon does so knowing what kind of material it must have to keep going. It takes a daily grist of boys and girls going in at the front doors of the saloon to keep up the steady flow of drunkards and prostitutes which are the inevitable output of its back doors.

When a community licenses a saloon, it goes into partnership with it. The license money is not paid by the saloon. It is paid by the community. The saloon keeper takes at least \$30 out of the place for every dollar given back by way of license, and then he turns over to the community the paupers, bums and thugs which his business inevitably makes to be cared for at the expense of the people. To license a saloon is to share in its crime. As a property owner in the Valley, I wish to congratulate you, and say "Hit it again."

Faithfully yours,
HARCOURT W. PECK.

Carbolic Acid for Abortion

Having had trouble in my dairy by abortion, I read all I could find and inquired of many. The time and expense of some of the recipes made me shrug. Finally, I concluded to give carbolic acid. This was two years ago. Seven or eight cows had it very bad. One had sores on hips and sides most as big as my hand; now she is one of the best. I had at that time 22 head and I gave carbolic acid to all of them from the middle of Jan. to spring and did not have another abortion, although some had started quite a bag. I have had but one case since.

I gave 20 drops to each animal every other day. I took an old teaspoon and dropped it full, just 60 drops. This was enough for three cows. Put a pint of feed into a basin and put the acid on it, gave it a good rubbing and mixed it with 2 qts. of feed. I gave each animal a handful, then put on their regular mess.—[W. H. B. Matheson Co., N. Y.]