

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

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IMPERIAL AND THE LIQUOR LICENSE

The question of license or no license will be presented to the voters of Imperial on Monday next in a way that they cannot act upon except by electing one or the other of the tickets for City Trustees. In spite of the avowed purpose of the people supporting the City Improvement ticket to submit the question to a vote of the people nothing of the kind has been done.

This question could have been placed on the ballot by a petition signed by a half dozen men. There is a good and sufficient reason why it was not done. The prohibitionists did not care to have it done as they are entirely satisfied with the vote of two to one by which the question was settled at the last election. They had no interest in the matter and nothing to gain by doing it. The only parties whose interest might possibly be served by such a vote would be the whisky men. Now why was the question not submitted? The reason is not far to seek. It is found in the many sided campaign that is being made in behalf of the City Improvement ticket. We are assured by Mr. Kucera that it is not a license ticket and that if the Improvement ticket is successful they will not touch the question of saloon license but will improve the streets. He then went into an argument on the expense of prosecuting the "blind pigs," which clearly showed what he was driving at. In this connection we wish to give a few facts. Every incorporated city must have certain officers and these officers must have such salaries as will at least recompense them in part for the time it takes to attend to the business. We dare say the salary list of the City of Imperial is as low as that of any of the cities of the sixth class in Southern California. The City Marshal is paid \$75.00 per month and out of that must hire a man to irrigate and care for the street trees and parks. The City Attorney is paid \$25.00 per month, the City Clerk \$25.00 and the City Recorder \$25.00. These officials are paid these salaries whether there are any "blind pig" cases or not. The only expense that can possibly attach to the prosecution of "blind pigs" is a few cents for the blanks used and an occasional dollar or so in expenses for the City Attorney. We dare say the total expense to the city of Imperial for all these things has not amounted to two hundred dollars in all the blind pig prosecutions since the city was incorporated. More than \$800 has been paid into the city treasury in fines from that source. So it can be truthfully said that the streets have suffered because the city's income was spent on "blind pig" prosecutions.

These prosecutions have yielded the city a substantial income at a very small cost despite the fact that the liquor men have prevented conviction in a number of cases where the evidence was uncontroversial.

On the other hand Professor DeLegro is assuring all comers that if the City Improvement ticket is successful a license ordinance will be promptly passed and that Meier & Zobelein, the Los Angeles brewers will take the license and open a saloon and that if the Imperial Land company or the people of Imperial or anyone else attacks the business on account of the reversionary clause in the land deeds the brewers will fight the matter in the courts and as the Professor tersely expresses it "give the all they want of it." In view of all this it is well to ask what does the City Improvement ticket stand for? Open and uncontrolled "blind pigs" as indicated by Kucera or government by Meier & Zobelein as stated by Professor DeLegro. If these people propose that blind pigs are not to be prosecuted and the prohibition ordinance is to be made a dead letter the people want to know it. If votes are to be solicited by any and all kinds of representations to get in a Board of Trustees that will be the subservient tools of the Los Angeles brewers, the people are entitled to know it. The only expression we have ever heard from the gentlemen on the City Improvement ticket was favorable to liquor selling and a glance at the sort of people that are supporting it will convince anyone that this is true. Some of its strongest and most prominent supporters were in Calexico last Sunday trying to get up a horse race with others of their class in the Border town, and joined in the sneer with their comrades when asked to help build the levee to protect that town from destruction. The support of the lawless and law defying element, the gamblers, thugs and hoboos which that ticket has attracted to it is enough to at least bring suspicion upon the integrity of its intentions. And the manifold and conflicting representations that are being made in its behalf by its leading supporters is enough to justify anyone in assuming that the City Improvement ticket is a whisky ticket and proposes to override the will of the people, overturn the prohibition plan on which all the towns of the Valley are founded and outrage public decency by promoting liquor selling and debauchery in the principal town of the Valley. This is a matter in which every friend of Imperial Valley is interested and the citizens of Imperial in voting for city officers next Monday want to remember that if they make it possible for liquor selling to be encouraged in their town they injure the entire Valley. No more serious disaster could occur to our beautiful and prosperous Valley than for the news to go abroad that saloons, those hot beds of evil and sure signs of poverty had overcome the forces of progress and righteousness and gained a foothold among us. The attitude of the people behind the saloon movement toward the welfare and prosperity of this Valley was well shown by their demeanor when asked to help keep the floods from destroying Calexico. They were intent upon gambling and vicious conduct and answered the good citizens with an insulting sneer. Just so with the saloon advocates in Imperial. They want a

place where they can congregate and gratify their inhuman appetites and destroy their manhood and the manhood and womanhood of all whom they can overcome. Saloon advocates care nothing for your home or mine, care nothing for the education of the young or for the welfare of the boys and girls of your town. They care nothing for anybody or anything except the gratification of their own depraved and besotten appetites. Keep these facts in mind, citizens of Imperial, and go to the polls next Monday and cast your votes in such a way that no one can say you favor the saloon or the "blind pig" either.

We call attention to the splendid article published in this issue from the pen of Mr. L. M. Lyon on the subject of asparagus growing in this Valley. Mr. Lyon is one of the largest dealers in fresh fruits and vegetables in the United States and has as wide knowledge of the Eastern markets and their demand for such things as any man living. Therefore what he advises in such matters is authoritative. His statement that 2 1/2 lb. bunches of asparagus will bring 50 cents each any time between the first of March and first of May is certainly encouraging to the prospective asparagus grower. Mr. Lyons' closing statement is well worth remembering. "I do not know of any part of the United States that has such possibilities for a money maker as the Imperial Valley," says Mr. Lyon and we heartily agree with him.

WILL GIVE HIS AID

Mr. Paulin Will Help the People of Valley in Making the Towns Clean and Temperate

LOS ANGELES, April 2, 1906.
MR. F. G. HAVENS, EDITOR
IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS,
EL CENTRO, CALIF.

DEAR SIR: In reading the article in your issue of March 31st, headed "A Statement of Facts," and relating to the liquor question in Imperial, would like to say that it seems to me you must be mistaken in assuming that one of the tickets that are up to be voted on at the election on the 9th inst., is in favor of licensed saloons and the other against it, as I see nothing in the notice of the election to indicate it, nor can I believe by going over the names of the men on both tickets that any of them are running on a saloon platform.

I have never had any desire to interfere myself, or have the company in any way interfere with the politics of any of the towns in the Valley, nor do I wish to in this case. I believe they are all good men, and all I want to see is for the best men to win.

There can be no question in this election of saloons or no saloons, because the clause in all of the deeds would absolutely prevent saloons being established in Imperial. I have never had a moment's doubt as to the advisability of enforcing this saloon restriction in the towns in the Valley, either from a financial or moral standpoint. I believe it pays in both ways, and would be more than glad to join heartily with the people of Imperial, or of any other of the towns in the Valley, in making it a clean temperance town in fact as well as in name.

As I have before stated, I do not wish in any way to influence the election, and I do not believe that this question of saloons is the issue that is up at the election, but if this question is in the minds of any of the people I think it is only fair that the position of the company on this matter be made entirely clear, as nothing could possibly be gained by an attempt to license saloons in Imperial, and any attempt to do so would only be a reproach on the town and on its people without accomplishing the results aimed at. I am satisfied that none of the gentlemen on either of the tickets named have any such idea in their minds.

Yours very truly,
F. C. PAULIN, Pres.

Ed. E. Boyd has some bargains in real estate at Holtville, too.

Holtville Happenings

From Our Regular Correspondent.

W. P. Mason of Los Angeles was doing business in town Monday.

I. P. Silliman, secretary of Water company No. 5, was in Imperial on business Monday.

W. C. Hargraves was in Holtville over Sunday and returned to his home in Redlands Monday.

F. J. Cole was at Imperial Monday on business for Water company No. 5 and was accompanied by his wife.

The Alamo river is considerable higher again from the recent rise in the Colorado but the residents of the East side are not alarmed as it is impossible for the Alamo river to do any damage such as is being done by the flood waters in the New river.

Sam Webb goes to Brawley the last of this week to build a new bridge across the New river near that place, for which he has secured the contract. Sam has recently finished the Holtville bridge

across the Alamo river and has shown that in this line of work he can insure the Brawley people a first-class bridge.

J. A. Chamberlain and his wife who were injured so seriously in a runaway at Imperial Saturday, are improving as rapidly as can be expected, and it is hoped will soon be entirely recovered; as yet they have not recovered sufficiently for their removal to their home from the Commercial Hotel where they are now being cared for. Miss Iva Lott who was also injured but less seriously has recovered from the shock and will soon be feeling as well as usual again.

Rev. Leak and wife of Chicago, arrived last week and opened church services for the Methodist people last Sunday, holding both morning and evening services in the Bridenstine building. On next Sunday a Sabbath School will be organized at ten o'clock a. m. and the preaching services will be at eleven o'clock in the morning and at 7:30 in the evening. Rev. Leak is an active, energetic young minister and is assisted by his wife who is taking charge of the music for the church to which she is especially adapted. A movement is now on for securing a parsonage for these young people who have come to live and work with us for the building up of our new and pleasant Valley.

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