

The Columbus Courier

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LOONS MUST ALL CLOSE ON OCTOBER 31

Order issued by the mayor to effect that all near beer joints must close with this month. Means great reduction in the village revenue.

Notice was served upon the proprietors of all places in town where the drink known as near beer is sold Wednesday to the effect that the places would all have to close on October 31st. There is about eighteen or twenty places in town affected by the order. The village has been realizing \$50 per month in revenue from this business, or a total of \$600 to \$1,000 per month. The improvements started by the trustees will have to be cut short now on the account of the lack of funds. The water problem should now take care of itself. The sum of \$2,500.00 has been spent during the last three months for water mains, tank and tower, etc., and the system will shortly be in very good condition for supplying the village with water.

It is hard to imagine the motive for putting the lid on so tight now. One of the reasons given in the order is that the question of the removal of the troops has arisen over the near beer places. This is without a doubt a mistake, unless a place is desired where the real goods can be purchased. Columbus is the only town on the border we know of that is supposed to be by except throughout the state of Arizona. We have it from a revenue man that there is more booze being sold in the towns in Arizona where soldiers are located than in many towns where the business is legalized. There is no kick in El Paso and Deming, where there is open saloons about the booze sold to soldiers and the talk of the removal on this account is all moon. It has only been a short time since Captain Van Schaick complimented the town and said that there was less booze being sold here than any place he had ever seen under similar conditions.

The idea that certain officers in Deming are indirectly responsible for the order. Whether there is any truth in the report is not known by us. It no doubt will bring about some court decisions. If the court says near beer is an intoxicant the local officers never had a right to legalize the business. If it is not an intoxicating drink the places cannot be closed any more than a soda fountain or a grocery store. It is a question for the courts to decide, however, and the decision will be awaited with a considerable amount of interest. There is no question about the town being much more quiet and orderly when the moon can satisfy their thirst with two per cent than when they depend on bootleg whiskey. Columbus has had enough experience in the booze problem to know this. If

CHEMICAL ENGINES NOW READY FOR BUSINESS

The chemical fire engines belonging to the city, which arrived several days ago, have been set up and are ready to do their work in case a fire breaks out. They were stored and no one seemed to think anything about them until the little fire Tuesday evening. The village trustees had a meeting that evening and the first business considered was getting out those fire engines and getting them so they would be of some use to the city. One of the extinguishers will be kept in the lower part of town near the Crystal Theater and the other up near the postoffice. A large number of small extinguishers are being installed in the business houses. The equipment for the new village well has all been installed and with the increased water pressure much better fire protection is assured. The plugs are being installed just as rapidly as possible.

RETURNS WITH HAM FROM EXHIBITION

Lee J. Riggs went down to El Paso first of the week for a visit to the exposition, remaining only one day. He has many interesting things to tell of what he saw, but most interesting of all is a ham which he brought back to Columbus with him. We do not care to tell how he came by it but those who desire to know can learn by asking Mr. Riggs. Mrs. Riggs and the two children are in El Paso during the exposition visiting with relatives.

WALLACE BARBER SHOP HAS SMALL FIRE

The barber shop belonging to Frank H. Wallace one-half block east of the postoffice, caught on fire Tuesday evening and would have soon gone up in smoke had it not been for the rapid work of the soldiers who happened to be near and the civilians who are located near. The building was damaged to the extent of about \$100 and there was at least \$50 worth of laundry lost. The fire started from the explosion of a gasolene heater, which Wallace was filling, having failed to turn off the gas or had not waited for the blaze to go out. The explosion occurred in the back room but spread to the front of the shop, burning the wall paper, and the heat was so intense that the glass in the front was broken from its effect.

The illegal sale of whiskey can be stopped then there should be no objections raised for closing out near beer, but this cannot be done under present conditions and anyone knows that it is easier to handle the situation by allowing a non-intoxicant sold if it will satisfy the thirst than to open a wholesale market for bootleggers.

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"WHY WORRY—IT'S NOT AN ISSUE"



"If E. C. de Baca Is Elected He Will Make the Same Kind of a Governor I Have Been...W. C. McDonald."

MEETING OF BAPTIST CHURCH MEMBERS

The Baptist people and friends are requested to meet in the home of J. W. Blair on Monday evening of the 23d inst. at 7:30 sharp. Important business to be transacted. This will be the last meeting of the present missionary. Every member should make special effort to be in this meeting.—W. E. DAWN, Mod.

END OF TROUBLE IN SISTER REPUBLIC

T. A. Hulsey has the dope on when Mexico will be able to settle her problems. How do you think the following fits it? When the lion eats grass like an ox. And the hickory swallows the whole. When the serpent knits woolen socks. And the lute is strum by the wall. When the serpent walks upright like men. And the doodie lings travel like frogs. When grasshoppers feed on the hay. And feathers found on the hay.

ONLY TWO MORE DAYS FOR REGISTRATION

The registration books will be open only two more days, Saturday, October 21st and Saturday, October 28th. It is important that your name be on the books, and if you want to vote this fall you had better be certain that you are registered as required by law. The books are at Judge Pugh's office and will be open from nine o'clock in the morning until twelve noon and from two to six o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Genaro Forzan are expecting over the arrival of an eight pound baby girl at their home. The baby was born Wednesday night.

CITIZENS WANT COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION

Several of the Columbus business men and citizens are working up to the fact that we are badly in need of a commercial organization. We have stood by the wayside and seen other towns go after what they want and get it, and all this time we have just been taking what was handed us and saying nothing. They seem to be among some of us a spirit of jealousy, or something on that order, most everyone being afraid to undertake to do anything for fear it will benefit someone else more than themselves, and again others will see some man with a good money making proposition and instead of recognizing with him in his prosperity, begin trying to plan some way to kill off his business. This spirit is not universal by any means, but it has been manifested right here in Columbus. The trouble is we have no recognized organization to turn over matters to that are of importance to us all. The town of Deming has practically been made by the work of its chamber of commerce. Work has often been done through this organization that could not have been done otherwise. Take the matter of soldiers, it was through the efforts of the chamber of commerce that Deming was able to make that a mobilization point. Columbus just as well have had a large militia camp as net. There was never any organized effort made by us to get anything, and we got nothing compared with what other towns did when the militia first came to the border. Right at the present time there is need of more men here. The New Mexico guards are doing the duty they were when the 2d Massachusetts regiment was here and in addition the duty the Massachusetts regiment did. And from conversations with both officers and men of both regiments, all had plenty to do when they were here. No doubt the military authorities know of the superior advantages of Columbus as a camp site, but naturally they think we don't care about a larger one and this is the way the matter stands. Let's organize and get things going. Get permanent business enterprises established and at least let 'em know we are alive.

N. B. Hampton arrived here from Louisiana Thursday evening, having made the trip in an auto. The Hamptons resided in Columbus for several years, and about three years ago went back to their old home. Mr. Hampton will probably locate in Columbus again.

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MEN FINED FOR ILLEGAL SALE OF LIQUOR

The following cases were disposed of in police court this week: George York, charged with assault and battery, fined \$10 and costs. Chuck Conners, fined \$5 and costs for being drunk and disorderly. M. McGovern and C. A. Holland paid \$50 each into the village treasury for dealing in liquors. Walter Moore dug up \$10 in addition to the costs, on a charge of vagrancy.

FOUNDATION LAID FOR BAPTIST CHURCH

The construction work of the new Baptist church has been started, the foundations having been laid, and the walls started. Almost enough money has been paid in to complete the job and it is hoped that it will be but a short time until the Baptist people will have a house in which to worship. The church will be located on Boulevard Street, just across the Grade from the Columbus hotel.

MISS COLUMBUS OFF TO THE BIG BALL

Miss Frances Dabney in the capacity of Miss Columbus, accompanied by Miss Doris Burton, left Wednesday on the Golden State for El Paso, where they will attend the ball given by Miss El Paso. Miss Burton went as the attendant of Miss Columbus.

S. C. Pierce and Ernest Engendorff left Tuesday on a trip to the northern part of the county where they will spend a few days in the interest of their candidacy for representative and commissioner, respectively.

The townsite company have opened a new addition, Military Heights, and are now selling lots. The new addition lies just northwest of the original town.

SEVERAL NEW BUILDINGS UNDER WAY

J. L. Greenwood has started the work on a large building adjoining the postoffice on the west which will be used as a theater. J. W. Blair has taken a permit to build a garage just west of the old Sisco Building. Carter and Parrish have let contracts for two buildings on the lot south of their store. One will be used for business and the other for a dwelling.

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DEEP WELL TO BE COMPLETED IN NEAR FUTURE

Has purchased largest drilling rig in the state of Texas at expects to ship same to Columbus if people come through with leases as promised.

The chances for a thorough test for oil in the Lower Minors are again looking good. The well started several months ago was discontinued and E. J. Kniffin, the promoter of the project, had almost decided to leave the field. George Peter finally persuaded him to drill a providing he could secure some more leases, and Kniffin is a this time busy signing up-lease for the property he desires.

Mr. Kniffin would not agree to do any thing in the first place unless he could secure a certain acreage in the vicinity of the Anderson well where oil was first found. The acreage desired was promised very readily but when the little matter of signing came up many absolutely refused to do the act. Mr. Kniffin had already been put to an enormous expense so he decided to begin operations, thinking those who had given him their word would come in later. This never did materialize, so he finally gave up hopes and discontinued drilling and had practically completed arrangements for making a test well in Texas.

A meeting was called last Saturday of those who had not yet signed a lease and they decided to give in and keep Mr. Kniffin in the valley. It was easily seen that if he left the field without knowing what it contained after spending about \$6,000 the chances of getting someone else to undertake the job would be very slim.

Mr. Kniffin has purchased a well drilling rig that is said to be the largest in the state of Texas, and also a car load of pipe. The same has been loaded and is ready to be sent forward but the decision of the point to which it will be shipped has not been fully decided, and will not be until he learns definitely just how much land he will be able to lease. If the leases are all signed that he required he will wire manufacturer to ship to Columbus. If not the rig and pipe will be left in the state of Texas, where he has a good proposition offered him.

The matter will be decided at once and if the decision is in favor of Columbus it will be but a short time until the new drilling machinery will be set over the old hole, which is now down to a depth of several hundred feet. The exact depth has never been published, due to the fact that several land and claim holders were endeavoring to speculate on the promoter's money. If he starts the drilling operation again the depth of the hole will be published, and the progress made each week.

Mr. Kniffin evidently believes the prospects for oil are good or he would not risk the sum of \$25,000 or more to learn. But as the matter stood before he was really working for the interests of other people more than his own, and he had but little show to win even if he found oil, his acreage was so small.

It will be but a few days until we will know whether or not the test will be made, and the opinion of many of the people is that the future of the valley depends upon the matter of the test, thinking that there is but little doubt about finding oil in commercial quantities.

Lieutenant Clyde E. Ely, of the New Mexico Infantry, has been detailed in the Quartermaster Department and has been assigned to duty in the clothing depot just west of Butt Bros. drug store.

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Work Shirts and Overalls

When you buy work shirts or overalls you want something that will stand up under hard wear and give satisfaction in fit and convenience. Our work shirts are made up in several colors and vary in weights and materials from the light chambray to the heaviest of flannels and woollens. They are manufactured by the best shirt makers in America and are first class in finish and workmanship. No matter what your work may be you will find our line of jackets and overalls suited to your demands.

SAM RAVEL

COLUMBUS, New Mexico

THE DOLLAR OR DIME YOU SPEND WITH US STAYS RIGHT HERE AT HOME