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ORDINANCE NO. 4 A BLOT ON YUMA'S FAIR NAME

State Constitution and City Charter Clearly Provides No Authority for any Partnership With Vice, But Does Say "Regulate, Restrain and Punish" Offenders

(By Benjamin Franklin Fly)

"Ordinance No. 4" is now "the talk of the town"!

Wherever you find two or more men standing on the street talking, it is almost a certainty that the conversation will end, if it does not begin with a discussion of this nauseating measure.

Not only on the street corners, but in family and in church circles, "Ordinance No. 4" is being given more serious thought than any previous measure ever passed by a Yuma city council.

It is like Banco's ghost of old—it simply will not down! It stands out in bold relief as a living ghost of the days when Yuma was a frontier village, a mining town, when vice and crime went hand in hand.

The great question now uppermost in the minds of those of our citizens who want to see Yuma climb the ladder of prosperity is:

Shall we go back to the days of '49, when "everything went"? Or, shall we go forward to our rightful place of pre-eminence?

Under the territorial form of government, crime was as common as it is now uncommon.

Gambling houses were licensed and were conducted wide open on the ground floor, in plain view of every passer by.

Women of ill-repute were

licensed and looked upon by "rounders" and "roustabouts" as "uncrowned queens."

Saloons were licensed to keep open all night and sell liquor to whomsoever had the price.

Murder was more common than "drunks" are now to be found.

One by one, however, progressive, God-fearing, law-abiding men and women moved into Arizona from all sections of the world, until there were a sufficient number of them to knock so loudly at the door of the sisterhood of states that Miss Arizona was admitted, and in the intervening few years that she has enjoyed this great blessing, and, because of her wonderful resources, "the baby state" has already attracted the eyes of the civilized world.

The territorial laws gave way to a new constitution, and all our present laws are supposed to be in accord with that sacred instrument.

Judge Fred L. Ingraham was one of Yuma's representatives in the constitutional convention, and had the distinction of being on the sub-committee that really drafted that document in its minutest details.

Judge Ingraham agrees with me when I say that the constitution DOES NOT authorize any city in the state to license prostitutes! IT

REGULATES THEM.

The state statute DOES NOT authorize any city in this state to license prostitutes. IT REGULATES THEM!

The new city charter of Yuma, in perfect keeping accord with the constitution and state law, DOES NOT authorize the city council to license prostitutes.

It authorizes the council to "REGULATE, RESTRAIN, AND PUNISH," just the same as it authorizes the council to regulate the places where automobiles or hacks may stand; and just as it regulates many other things, such as the keeping of "cows" in the city limits.

But I defy any member of the city council, or the city attorney, or His Honor the Mayor, to point to a single word or paragraph in the new charter that gives the council the right to stain the good name of Yuma by placing a LICENSE on prostitutes!

That being the case, it necessarily becomes the sworn duty of the council to so amend "Ordinance No. 4" as to wipe this particularly indecent feature out of the laws of the city of Yuma!

A mere suggestion from the mayor that this will be done will stop a lot of ugly talk that is gradually growing from whispers to thunderous tones of protest.

And, while amending that

feature, it is but right to the people that the ordinance (No. 4) should be otherwise amended along the lines of fairness and decency.

BE CONSISTENT IN THE BUY-AT-HOME IDEA

The prevailing plea heard throughout Yuma these days is "Patronize home merchants and industries and keep Yuma dollars in Yuma."

Verily, this is a worthy slogan, and everybody knows what a mighty advantage this would mean to Yuma and all its citizens were such a consistent policy lived up to by every one of us. Yet we realize what an interesting list could be compiled of those who send away for many things which could be purchased at equal cost right here at home. Many of our most prominent citizens, as well as financial institutions, buy their furniture elsewhere, probably not realizing that the same goods could be purchased locally at equivalent prices. Not a few women go to the expense of a coast trip to furnish their season's wardrobe.

Yuma grocery stores push eastern products and ignore local goods of the same kind and identical quality. If Yuma wants more factories here the townspeople should foster the baby industries which are struggling to grow.

The Examiner has undertaken a campaign along these lines.

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○ "Blessed is the boy with a ○
○ strict boss and a hard task—for ○
○ he shall learn many things that ○
○ are kept from the fellow with a ○
○ snap." ○
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