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THE BURNING ISSUE.

There never was a time in the history of Cedar City when public feeling was stirred to such depths as it has been during the past week. Knots of excited men have congregated upon the streets and freely discussed mobbing, lynching, etc. Officers as well as others have lost their heads, and either added fuel to the flame by indiscreet remarks or have become insulting to citizens who did not altogether coincide in their views. Attempts to intimidate certain parties to the fight have been made by the firing of fire arms in the vicinity of their lodgings, and public feeling reached its height when a criminal libel was perpetrated against the mayor of the city by the posting of an insulting notice in a number of public places during Tuesday night. The stress has been nerve-wrecking and it is time that some better solution was found for the trouble.

The storm that has just burst upon the community has been gathering for several years. The burning issue is that of controlling the liquor traffic which prior to the municipal election of 1905 had become well nigh unbearable. In that election the citizens combined and carried the day for prohibition by a strong majority. From the time the votes were counted, the fight has been on in greater earnest than ever before. The opponents of prohibition have made all the capital possible of the violations of the law in the hope of showing that prohibition was impracticable, and the officers elected by the people two years ago have waged a persistent fight for the enforcement of the law. The ax fell last Friday when two of the local dealers were arrested on charges of selling intoxicants without a license. The evidence was furnished by two individuals brought here for the purpose of getting cases, and the opponents of prohibition have made capital of the report that their reputation was not the best. To offset this the officers of the city have held that it is impossible to get ministers of the gospel to engage in this class of work, and that the record of these men is perhaps on a par with that of others who engage in this class of business.

The individuals in question have perhaps brought a part of the storm on themselves by their own indiscretion. On the other hand there is a certain element here that tries to intimidate all persons engaged in the enforcement of law, and especially in giving evidence in these liquor cases. Last year two young men from San Juan county swore to a complaint against a local dealer and were threatened with lynching, and a gang of the toughs went so far as to invite one of the young men out of his lodgings, with the intention of mobbing or intimidating him. These facts tend to bring the fight between the law-abiding and lawless elements of the community.

Any person who dares to furnish evidence in these cases is held in the deepest contempt and loathing by a large per centage of the population.

The fact of the arrests coming on the eve of an important election adds to the inflammatory condition. The motives of the city officers have been impugned and is pronounced by some a trick to gain votes. Public feeling was considerably wrought up over the coming election before, and it was an easy matter to fan the smoldering embers into a flame. In fact a county official is quoted as saying, only a tap was needed to precipitate a lynching.

A number of solutions are offered for the situation. The straight-jacketed prohibitionists, who stand on this pedestal strictly, believe that if the fight is persistently maintained the strength of the opposition will soon be broken, and while there will probably always be liquor for those who seek it, the condition will steadily improve.

Another class of the community

holds that the only solution is in the open saloon. That the liquor will be sold anyway and the city had just as well receive the revenue from licensing; that the condition has not improved under prohibition, and that if money were as plentiful as it was three years ago there would have been just as much drinking.

The socialists have placed a ticket in the field and in their platform declare in favor of the city regulating the sale of intoxicants in such a way as to remove the profit in handling from the illicit dealers and in some measure limiting its sale.

In all probability there will be the three platforms in the field and the voters can take their choice.

The great mistake our people make is in allowing themselves to be worked into a frenzy. We should realize that the liquor question is neither a new one nor essentially a local issue.

The drink curse is one of the greatest evils in the world today, and the fight has been on for centuries in almost every quarter of the globe. There are people in almost every community who are interested in spreading the evil for the sake of profit. There are others who become willing tools on account of the appetite they have acquired for the poison, and there are yet another class whose motives are perfectly honest and honorable, who see no solution for the problem in absolute prohibition. Care should be taken to credit this class with sincerity, and to pay due regard to their feelings and ideas, for they are the ones that are likely to throw the balance of power to one side or the other. It is not wise to brand them with cowardice or insincerity if they do not see things exactly as you do.

We believe it is possible to become too arbitrary in these matters and to do a great deal more harm than good for the cause we aim to further. It is often the case that a too vigorous attack makes sentiment for the person assailed, even though his position may be opposed to the public good. Zeal must not be allowed to dethrone reason.

We live in a great and free country. The majority controls and we would not have it otherwise. What we cannot cure, we must endure, and in the great majority of cases more can be accomplished by leading men than by attempting to drive orthodoxy.

In conclusion, we wish with all the force at our command to deprecate the tendency towards lawlessness that seems to be growing in the community. There is a duty we all owe of good citizenship, to uphold and defend the officers in the discharge of duty. There is altogether too much sympathy for the law breaker. We elect men to office and place them in the front and then desert and leave them to their fate. A person not intimately acquainted with the situation is not aware of the pressure that is brought against those elected to enforce the laws. When a case goes into court the room is filled with sympathizers of the accused, while the stable, law-abiding portion of the community is scarcely represented. The result of this influence is obvious and it requires a great deal of courage and stamina to deal out justice under such circumstances. It is not sufficient to elect men to office and say sick-em! The moral support of every good citizen is also necessary.

In the roughest mining camps of this western country the conditions in this respect is infinitely better than it is here. Many of you have been in the mining camps of eastern Nevada and elsewhere and will bear us out in this statement. Let a man there get drunk and "run a muck," and what becomes of him. He is taken in charge by an officer. If he resists he is knocked down and dragged to the cell. When his trial is called he stands up and takes his medicine.

Nobody takes any particular notice of him or cares what the penalty is, unless prompted by idle curiosity. One or two such lessons suffice to convince the would-be bad man that he is no hero, and he is glad to live within the laws.

But how is it here? No sooner does the law-breaker get into the toils than there are a dozen fellows on hand to go his bail, sympathize and condole with him and curse the officer who arrested him.

The situation is regrettable and it behooves every citizen having the interest of the town and our valued institutions at heart to take a decided stand on the side of law and order and frown down this sentiment that is getting root among us, while there is yet time.

Abating the Fly Nuisance.

Fly killing is a discouraging business, because there always seems to be an unlimited supply of the enemy. But poison and "tanglefoot" paper would become unnecessary if only people would adopt the simple measures necessary to prevent the breeding of the pests. We are bothered by flies because we choose to be thus annoyed; if we liked, we could get rid of them altogether, says the Saturday Evening Post.

Already many stable owners are doing much to abate the nuisance. They have learned that a small quantity of kerosene used two or three times a week will entirely prevent the propagation of flies, thus making a great difference in the comfort of people who dwell in houses near by. An expenditure of a few cents a month will accomplish the purpose.

Every stable where proper precautions are not taken is a fly hatching. Practically all of the flies are bred in stables. It is amazing that in these days of enlightenment such a nuisance should be permitted. Here is an insect that causes more discomfort to human beings than all others put together, and which, in addition, is known to be a carrier of typhoid fever and other diseases. Yet though easy of prevention, its propagation is freely allowed.

Mosquitoes, when they infest large areas, are hard to deal with; not so the flies. The latter in all probability never go far from the stables in which they are bred. From little footless maggots they are transformed in a few days into the winged shape and the first thing they want is water. There is nothing so thirstier as a fly; it wants to drink all the time. A saucer of poisoned water placed in a stable will destroy nearly every fly hatched in that place.

But the kerosene method is easiest and most effective. A sprinkling two or three times a week will do the business, killing every larva or pupa with certainty. Some day the adoption of such measures in every stable will be required and rigidly enforced. Then we shall be rid of the plague for good; epidemics of disease will be less frequent; the screening of houses will be rendered unnecessary, and a specimen of *Musa domestica* will be so rare as to be regarded almost as a curiosity.

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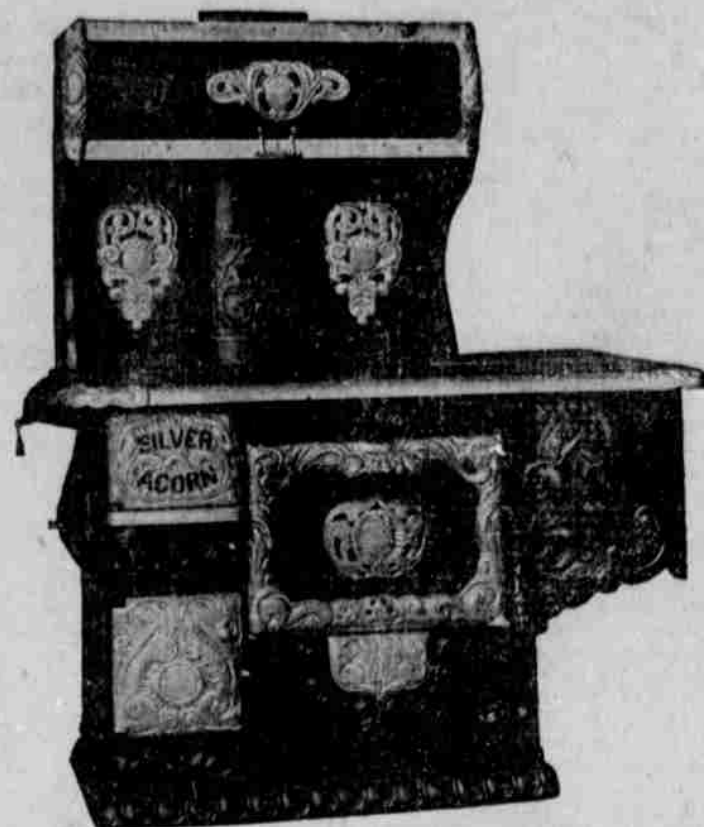
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