

MEDFORD TRIBUNE
FAKE INTERVIEW

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**Questionable Methods of
Our Near Neighbor.**

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SCURRILOUS TRANSACTION

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**Attempt to Injure Grants Pass in
Order to Help Out the
Saloon Interests.**

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The Medford Tribune of January 7th has a purported interview with Ex-Mayor Smith of Grants Pass and also one with Sheriff Russell and still another with the proprietor of the Palace hotel. The persons named are made to take part in the local option campaign which is going on in Medford. It is believed that the interviews are fakes, at least as far as the ex-mayor is concerned as he could hardly be so shortsighted as to be made a cat-paw of, by the saloon element of a neighboring city. It is well understood that the sole object of the so-called interviews used, was to help out the whiskey cause as above stated. Sheriff Russell is used to preach a temperance sermon. Everybody will be glad to know that the sheriff has turned his attention to saving our young men from the evils of intemperance, but just how he is going to protect the young men and the saloon at the same time is a matter hard to figure out. What is said about the Palace hotel is undoubtedly true. The proprietor of that hostelry claimed that his business had been cut in two by local option. That is one of Joe's jokes, for be it understood that a good half of his business was in the saloon connected with the Palace and when local option went into effect it certainly

should have cut the business in two. Below we print the Tribune's effort to help the Medford saloon business by tearing down its neighbor, Grants Pass.

"Previous to the city of Grants Pass voting for and putting into effect local option the tax rate was 6 mills and the business done here was fully equal to that now done in Medford. Our tax rate is now 8 mills—

It is more than what is legally allowed. In addition to that, we have had to increase our valuation 50 per cent, which makes our rate now real-mills, and our business has fallen off and we have decided that we cannot do any paving."

That was the statement made yesterday by Mayor J.C. Smith of Grants Pass, who is not only one of the leading merchants but has also been elected recently to the state legislature.

To show how certain people are trying to mislead the citizens of Medford, it may be stated that according to the Mail the tax rate of Grants Pass was much lower than that of Medford, and that the former place was also paving its streets. Now, there is not only the positive statement of Mayor Smith that the real rate now is only 1 mill less than that of Medford, but that city voted against municipal ownership of the waterworks and also decided not to undertake any paving. These are facts which cannot be disputed.

Nor is this all, for almost any business man in Grants Pass will state that business has fallen off since local option went into effect to a considerable extent.

"How does your business compare now with what it was before you got local option?" was the question asked of the proprietor of the Palace hotel.

"It is more than cut in two," was his reply, "and we now have less than one-half we had before."

This statement was amply verified when the writer had dinner there yesterday, for there were only two others in the dining room besides himself. This in spite of the fact that the charge was only 50 cents for as good a meal as can be got anywhere for double the price. In spite of the fact that the place was almost

deserted all day. The management is good and the hotel is first-class in every particular.

As to the liquor business, it is the same at Grants Pass as everywhere else where local option has been tried. From the car of the train from Medford reaching there yesterday noon no less than 12 quart bottles of whiskey were taken off at the depot. Three drunken men were seen on the streets inside of one hour, being more than the writer has seen in Medford during the Christmas holidays. Like other local option places, there is no denying the fact that the citizens of Grants Pass can get all the liquor they want, but it has driven nearly all the outside trade from the city. The trade is now going to Jacksonville, Gold Hill and Medford.

"A lot of liquor is being shipped in here from Portland," said Sheriff Russell, of Josephine county, as he pointed out a young man staggering down the street. "The great trouble is," he continued, "they send their money for it to Portland, and even if the houses there did care, they have no means of knowing if the people who send in the orders are under age or not. I never knew of young men being drunk here before, but now the sight is a common one."

"This is how we stand," said one of the leading business men of the city. "In one way we would like to see Medford go dry because it would save some of our trade now going there to remain at home, where it properly belongs. The trouble is, however, that many who now go there would go to Jacksonville and there is no chance in the world that making any change in these places."

"Would you blame Medford for continuing the present system?" he was asked.

"Why, certainly not," he replied, "You people would be greater fools than I take you to be if you ever follow our example. In addition to more than doubling our taxes, we have lost from 25 to 50 per cent of our business, had to do away with a chance to own our water system and are now forced to give up any idea of paving our streets. You people have already obligated yourselves

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for these and have interest to pay, and yet your tax rate is, in reality, only 1 mill more than ours. And you are getting the cream of business of the valley. Why? Because you have a better city than ours? No, sir; because our loss has been your gain.

"The trouble is that it is not our fault, but that of the state law. Our people here in the city of Grants Pass gave over 200 majority in favor of continuing the license system. Why should we not have what we know we wanted? Why? Because we were downed by the people of the county outside of Grants Pass, another vote would show double the majority here in the city in favor of the license system. The people outside of the city have killed our city but what do they care? It is not a cent out of their pockets."

"Well, so you people want to let the people outside of your city run your affairs the same as they have ours here?"

"All I can say is that if you do so you will richly deserve all that you get."

Since receiving the Tribune of the 7th, the Courier has talked with quite a number of the leading business men of this city and shown them a copy of the paper. The first on the list is Mayor H. C. Kinney, one of the oldest and most prominent business men in this city. His knowledge as to the conditions which prevail in Grants Pass at the present time cannot be questioned. First let us say that Mr. Kinney is the senior member of the large dry goods and grocery firm of Kinney & Truax. He is the man who, at the late election defeated Dr. J. C. Smith for the office of mayor. He is also connected with the First National Bank of Southern Oregon, and is known far and wide as a leading citizen of the Rogue River Valley. When interviewed Mr. Kinney said: "Our mercantile business shows a large increase for the last six months and our cash sales during that time were doubled. I think it fair to say that nearly all of the mercantile establishments of this city have been exceedingly prosperous during the last six months.

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and I feel quite certain that an inquiry at either of the two banks here will show that I am correct. I would like to mention that for a number of years the churches of the city, as the holiday season approached, made it a point to aid to needy families of the town; this year, after a careful investigation, not a single family in destitute circumstances was found within our walls. The committee had the funds on hand and they were distributed among some families not so well provided as they should be."

R. L. Coe, Department store—"There is some mistake about these interviews for our business during the past six months has been very much better than at any period in the history of our house."

R. H. O'Neill, furniture—"My business from July to the present time has been highly satisfactory, and collections have been better than ever before."

Jos. Pardee, grocer—"Conditions are better in my line than heretofore. Trade is good and business satisfactory."

M. E. Moore, new and second-hand furniture—"Business during the last six months with me has been very much better than at any previous period."

J. O. Gibson, grocer—"I bought this business 10 months ago, and I now carry double the stock that I did in the first months. The last few months have been highly satisfac-

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tory."

T. P. Cramer, of Cramer Bros., hardware—"That statement is false. The town is not dead, and our business is better than ever. We have less trouble with collections now than before local option went into effect."

Judge J. O. Booth, Western Hotel—"Business at my hotel has been all that I could take care of and often I have found it necessary to provide rooms outside to accommodate my guests. Everything in the city has for the past six months been growing better. Values of real estate, particularly, are very satisfactory. I offered to sell a certain lot in January, 1908, for \$3000; I am now offered that for half of it. More money has come to Grants Pass and Josephine county for investment during the past six months than for the two or three years previous. It is true that whiskey is being sold and given away here, but in direct violation of law. It seems to me that it is not wise to defend that sort of thing."

Hair-Riddle Hardware Co.—"Our cash sales have doubled during the past six months and the credit sales fully up to the first half of the year."

Frank Mashburn, dry goods—"There has been a continual and steady increase in my business each successive month during the past year."

if time and space permitted, the Courier could have secured a hundred more testimonials as to favorable business conditions in this city.

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