

A trusted bank clerk of two years' standing locally, finds the combination of liquor and gambling a little too much for his equilibrium and is now being sought on charges of embezzlement. Friends who knew him well are very much surprised at his downfall, and now that it's actually accomplished, the young man himself is probably wondering how it all happened.

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Liquor and gambling are the worst possible combination. Together, they have accomplished the downfall of more individuals than any other two things. Realizing this we have passed anti-gambling laws and adopted prohibition. Neither has accomplished the goal sought. Prohibition has not prohibited, and has only served to increase crime and official corruption. Anti-gambling laws have sent the games behind closed doors but have not outlawed them. Nevada has chosen to hold her games in the open, and to let the federal government try and enforce the liquor laws. The resultant condition is hardly worse than that existing elsewhere, except for the temptation offered by wide-open conditions, to weak individuals who would not of their own volition seek out secret gaming and liquor resorts, but who finally fall prey to those that are easy of access.

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Some time ago the attention of the citizens of this community was called to the mistake of allowing liquor resorts to spread outside of the original limit—the spread being governed almost entirely by proximity to gambling resorts. The first break in the original lineup was the establishment of a liquor resort in the alley between Main and First streets just south of Fremont. This was followed by the outfitting of a gambling club adjoining a liquor emporium. Then came a second speakeasy in the supposedly restricted area south of Fremont, and now plans are going forward for the establishment of liquor resorts in the rear of other local gaming emporiums, regardless of location.

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The mistake was made when the bars were first let down—whatever the reason. Now there appears to be no place where the line can be drawn, and we are apparently in

for an era of liquor, vice and gambling scattered thruout the entire city, out of all bounds. Liquor resorts are flourishing in several sections of the residential district, and within a short distance of public schools. Party houses, running in competition with resorts on Block 16, without the usual examination and without any sort of official supervision, have been operating for several months. Until recently one of these resorts was within a block of both public schools.

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It is only a question of time until this condition will become sufficiently obnoxious to force a showdown and drastic cleanup action which will bring forth great weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth on the part of all concerned. When it DOES take place, and it is as sure to come as summer, those hurt by the cleanup, need blame no one but themselves for allowing things to go to the extreme. Why the whole business cannot be so regulated as to run along smoothly and satisfactorily, without periodical cleanups is hard to understand. I have always figured it CAN be done. Perhaps I'm wrong.

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Local juvenile authorities, rather perturbed over the discovery of a sixteen year old runaway, sleeping under warehouse porches, begging his meals on the streets, were completely taken aback upon receipt of a wire from the father of the boy in Lewiston instructing them to "let Fred Wiedeman go wherever he pleases. I am sending him ten dollars by wire and think he can get useful experience by travelling. Tell him to write now and then."

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And so—there was nothing to do but let the youngster go and wish him well. Perhaps the father was right—probably he was not. No mother will agree with the father's action, however, and a majority of fathers will wonder just a bit. Unfortunately the answer cannot be truthfully written until the boy has grown to manhood and carved out his success or failure. He alone will be able to judge the right or wrong of his father's decision. Too bad it cannot be followed thru to completion by all interested parties.