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Dispensary Rottenness Has Begun to Come Out.

Damaging Evidence Against High and Low Officials of the System.
—Former Beer Dispenser Tells How the Thing is Run.

By William Banks.
Special to The State.

Spartanburg, Aug. 8.—On the witness stand in the court house here today John Henry Morris, formerly dispenser, testified to the fact that he had contributed to a fund to purchase the influence of the Spartanburg Journal in behalf of the dispensary. He testified further that he had lost his job as beer dispenser because he complained of the miserable quality of beer sold by the Atlanta Brewing company and because he had refused to pay to C. O. Smith, chairman of county board, the amount that Smith demanded.

Witness swore further that in making final settlement with Atlanta Brewing company that concern was represented by Cole L. Blease, who had said, "You boys could have kept from telling so much."

Referring to the affidavit which witnesses had given Messrs. Christensen and Lyon, Morris also testified that H. H. Evans had asked him to "chip in" \$3000 to the election of legislators in Spartanburg county, promising to refund it. Witness had never been reimbursed although he had spent money on advice of Jess Mahaffey, former member of legislature, who had told Morris that Evans was good for the amount, as during the session of the legislature Mahaffey had had \$20 bills stuffed into his pockets by Evans during the campaign incident to Evans' reelection. Witness declined to testify further, as Mahaffey was not present and he wanted to say it to Mahaffey's face.

Witness also swore that C. O. Smith, the former chairman of the county board, had told him that he must sell Atlanta beer or none at all when Morris complained that the beer was stale and the customers were quitting him. He testified that he had seen Smith drunk on several occasions and that once he saw Smith try to cut a man with a meat knife. Morris was the only witness examined, as the hearing did not commence until after 5 o'clock.

Senator Hay and Mr. Fraser having been delayed, Mr. Lyon stated that he and Mr. Christensen, being members of the sub-committee, would not sit as members of the commission but as prosecuting attorneys.

He began by reading a letter from C. H. Henry and his reply to that letter. Henry had asked for permission to reply to statements in an affidavit of which he had heard. Mr. Lyon had replied that Henry would be given a free and full hearing. This was approved by the committee and Henry may appear if he choose to do so.

On account of the delay, there were not many people in the court house, but the testimony of Morris made quite a stir.

Senator Blease, who was the

TWO BOTTLES CURED HIM

"I was troubled with kidney complaint for about two years," writes A. H. Davis, of Mt. Sterling, Ia., "but two bottles of Foley's Kidney Cure effected a permanent cure." Sold by Fendlerbury Pharmacy.

author of the resolution looking to the dispensary investigation, was referred to very pointedly by the witness but he did not cross examine him.

There were several present who are interested in the local fight to vote out the dispensary and they seem to think that the testimony today will have its weight in that issue, for the witness is said to be a reliable man. He testified that he is a butcher and has an interest in a grocery store. He was a willing witness and did not hesitate to declare himself. He had been elected beer dispenser in April, 1904, and was not reelected at the end of the year. He had spent \$80 to get the job, including the attorney's fee. It had cost him between \$700 and \$800 to fix up his place.

THE MORRIS AFFIDAVIT.
After further arguments Mr. Lyon proceeded with the reading of the affidavit of Morris given last April.

It read: "I did not know positively what C. O. Smith meant, but supposed it meant that I would have to pay the county board of control something for my reelection. I inferred this because ex-Beer Dispenser B. L. Toland told me that he had to pay C. O. Smith \$275 for his election besides the beer and whiskey he gave him. In addition to this W. P. Lanford told me that J. P. Thackston had to pay about \$450 for his beer privilege to C. O. Smith, chairman of county board. (Objection by Mr. Sims.) Toland and Lanford told me that the \$275 mentioned above was deposited in the safe of J. W. Huseman, beer dispenser here. These are a few of the reasons I had for supposing that I would have to pay some of the members of county board for my privilege to sell beer. Later upon asking for a book of instruction for running my dispensary, Mr. Smith said, 'Don't mind instructions, make every dollar you can, you will need it for your next election.' About the middle of March last, shortly before my time for reelection, C. O. Smith came to my place of business, and asked me if I wished to be reelected. I said I did. He said I had better get busy and go to Atlanta with him and make a trade with Jeff Dunwoody. If I did not, the other fellow would. Dunwoody is the gentleman who represents the Atlanta Brewing company.

DUNWOODY COMES IN.

"In August, or previous to that, in July, I received a car of stale beer, and had a lot of it sent back on me, and a lot of my customers quit me, and I told Charlie Smith, and he said I would have to handle it or none. He said, 'You know Jeff Dunwoody gave you \$125 to help you build your ice box.' I said, 'I will just pay him \$125 and buy from somebody else, I can't sell that.' Smith says, 'You can sell that or nothing.' That was previous to March in August or July. I preferred to go, that if it took that to get the beer dispensary I did not want it. Smith came back to me a week later and said that he could have the brewery to pay enough to satisfy himself and Mr. W. M. Avant, without my having to pay anything, if I would go to Atlanta with him and obligate myself to handle their beer."

Q. "That was that stale beer?"
A. "Yes sir, when I obligate myself I would have to handle anything they put on me."

Mr. Lyon, continuing affidavit: "We did go to Atlanta and saw Dunwoody. Dunwoody came to me and said that he (Dunwoody) had been told that if I were reelected beer dispenser that he would have to come to Spartanburg and get busy if any of his beer were sold here. Dunwoody told me that I would have to give \$1 a keg so I would satisfy the boys."

There was more of this kind of evidence in the affidavit, all going to show that Morris, while dispenser, was told that C. O. Smith was master of the situation in Spartanburg county, and that a member of the State board had told Jeff Dunwoody that Smith would remain on the county board until after the election of beer dispensers.

The affidavit continues: "The result of the whole matter was that I lost my position. I attribute this to my refusal to follow Dunwoody's and Smith's advice. No charges were preferred against me, and I called this matter to the attention of Mr. H. H. Evans in a letter which I had Mr. C. P. Sanderson write for me, but I have never received a response from Mr. Evans."

A letter was read from Mr. Morris to Chairman H. H. Evans of the State board, protesting against his removal without cause. He asked Mr. Evans to have his removal investigated and for fair play. To this letter he stated no received no reply. There was nothing special in the letter, except a request for fair play.

THE JOURNAL MAN.

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "Recalling a bill was put in circulation here for the purpose of having an election on the dispensary for this county. When the petition for election was circulated J. W. Harmon, dispenser, came to me and said that The Evening Journal would take up our fight for \$300 and that my part of this would be \$25. I gave Mr. Harmon a check on the Merchants' and Farmers' bank for \$25. Before subscribing this I saw C. O. Smith and W. N. Avant about it, and they said it would be all right to give it. These men were members of the county board."

Afterwards Smith came to me and said to keep quiet, that Dunwoody would give \$50 for this purpose, and that Joe Huseman had collected from representatives of whiskey houses in Columbia about \$285, after Huseman's expenses had been taken out, and that he, Smith, had received a check from Fleischman & Co. for \$25."

Q. "Did C. O. Smith represent Fleischman & Co. as selling agents at that time?"

A. "I think Mr. Smith represented them at that time; I won't be positive. Probably Mr. McGorty could tell you all about that, because he seemed to act as Mr. Smith's private secretary at that time."

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "I saw this check. It was payable to C. O. Smith. He said BRONCHITIS FOR TWENTY YEARS."

Mrs. Minerva Smith, of Danville, Ill., writes: "I had bronchitis for twenty years and never got relief until I used Foley's Kidney and Urinary Cure, which is a sure cure." Sold by Fendlerbury Pharmacy. Also C. O. Floyd, Kershaw.

Pay your subscription.

this check was to go to Dispenser McGorty, part of the money to be paid to The Journal."

Witness: "As for Mr. Henry, I never saw him in my life as I know of, and whether it was to go directly to him or not, I don't know. I paid it to Mr. Harmon. I told him \$25 was all I would give and after Mr. Harmon told me that \$25 would be enough, Huseman and Reibling, beer dispensers, came down and said Mr. Henry said we had better give more."

Q. "What was the object in giving The Journal this money?"

THEY ALL CAME ACROSS.

A. "They said all the rest of them were giving them money to fight the prohibition movement and wanted me to come across and I told them I would."

Q. "You did not have any agreement to put in any advertising matter in The Journal?"

A. "No, I don't know whether it went to The Journal or not, but when I asked them why they didn't get The Herald's influence, that Mr. Henry had been fighting the dispensary all along, and they said, 'Owe can't get The Herald,' and doubted if they could get Henry, but if I would give it, I would be elected again."

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "Shortly after I agreed to Mr. Harmon's proposition to pay The Journal \$300, Mr. Reibling and Huseman, beer dispensers, came to me and said, 'Let's get Henry, the newspaper man of The Evening Journal; that he would take up the fight for \$500.' I asked the reason of the increase, as Mr. Harmon had just said that \$300 was the price. They said that Henry had gone up, that he had said \$300 was not enough, as he would lose subscribers to his paper and his influence, as he had been fighting on the other side. Witness said that was what they told him."

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "Huseman and Reibling told me my part would be \$50, but I declined to give this much. Mr. Harmon came back and said \$25 was enough for me to pay. That they would try and get balance from whiskey houses."

"Representing the combined dispensaries here and as secretary for C. O. Smith, Jas. P. McGorty, dispenser, wrote letters to whiskey houses for Smith to get contributions to pay The Journal. I saw McGorty writing some of the letters at Smith's dictation. The letters referred to the movement to abolish the dispensary, and asked for aid to resist it. I recollect that the Richland Distilling company was mentioned as subscribing one of the largest amounts to this fund. I think Ullman was another, and Mallard's Distilling company and J. W. Kelly & Co."

Witness: "I really saw the list but I forget the names. That is part of them. It was shown to me in McGorty's whiskey dispensary. Smith and McGorty went over it and said Joe went over it. I don't know how much the amounts were."

Lyon continuing affidavit: "C. O. Smith said Hub Evans would also contribute."

Witness: "I believe he said he had already contributed."

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "I have seen C. O. Smith drunk on the street and in my place several times. One time I saw him try to cut Harry Thompson with

my meat knife while he was drunk, but I took the knife from him. Smith is a notoriously disorderly person and gets drunk frequently."

Witness: "Mr. Huseman saw him too when he had the knife after Harry Thompson."

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "Referring again to my reelection as dispenser, C. O. Smith told me that I must put up a bonus of \$250 cash, besides what he could get from the brewery, which he said would be \$200, making \$450, the same amount paid by Thackston and Reibling each for their privileges."

Witness: "The same man who sold stale beer to me."

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "He then said to arrange the matter with Dunwoody; to let him charge \$1 extra on each barrel of beer and pay it over to him (C. O. Smith) as the beer was ordered. I refused to do this."

Q. "Are these statements correct?"

A. "Yes, sir, correct."

Mr. Lyon then read a number of letters from Dunwoody to Mr. Blackwood, Morris and others. The first letter to Mr. Blackwood in March of last year in reference to the establishment of the beer dispensary for which Morris was afterwards elected dispenser. Dunwoody told that he would use Morris to get the job if the latter would use Dunwoody's beer. Mr. Blackwood is a former member of the legislature and appeared today as one of C. O. Smith's attorneys.

A LATER AFFIDAVIT.

At the conclusion of the reading of these letters, Mr. Lyon read to the witness an affidavit given several weeks after the first one. What happened between the time of the giving of the two affidavits related to the matter between Morrison and Senator Blease, the author of the resolution causing the investigation and a member of the commission. The following are extracts from that affidavit.

Q. "Mr. Morris, since Mr. Christensen and myself were here the last time, were you consulted about the dispensary situation by senator Blease of Newberry?"

A. "Yes, sir. He came to see me about a settlement between the Atlanta Brewing company and myself."

Q. "Who did Senator Blease represent?"

A. "I thought the Atlanta Brewing company, from the way he talked. He did not say who he represented, but from the start I took it that he represented the Atlanta Brewing Co. or Dunwoody."

Q. "Did he have a bill?"

A. "No, he did not have a bill. I had the bill and he asked me for it."

MR. BLEASE COMES IN.

The witness then stated in the affidavit that he gave his bill to Blease, who carried it over to the Argyle hotel to get Dunwoody to receipt it. Morris declined to accept settlement when Blease came back with the receipted bill until he could see his attorney Stanyarne Wilson. Accordingly in the presence of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Howard Carlisle, Blease tendered \$15 to Morris in payment of the \$13.35.

The purpose of this testimony was to show that Senator Blease

planned on the hearing this statement and had a bill.

The one up to the 12th of July writing, was placed in evidence as was a note which Blease wrote when Morris had been elected dispenser. It was dated August 25 to the effect that Morris had been elected dispenser and that Mr. Blease offered to try and get his money returned, or go and get it himself, and that he voluntarily resigned his office and suggested that Mr. Morris send it to Mr. Harmon. The following is a copy of said note or letter, Morris having given it to me in investigating connection with the case of his job.

Spartanburg, S. C., May 4, 1905.
Mr. J. W. Harmon, C. P.

I paid \$25 for my part contribution to the party to help the dispensary and I would be reelected as I have not been. I consider this bill for the first of the money. Please send me a bill for the balance of the money.

Respectfully,
John Henry Morris.

Mr. Lyon then read Mr. Morris' affidavit in reference to the bill which he had sent to Mr. Harmon.

Q. "What was the bill for?"
A. "It was for the money I paid for my part contribution to the party to help the dispensary and I would be reelected as I have not been. I consider this bill for the first of the money. Please send me a bill for the balance of the money."

Q. "Did you get the bill?"
A. "No, I did not get the bill. It was sent to Mr. Harmon and he did not send it to me. I did not see it until after the hearing."

Q. "What was the bill for?"
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