

Minister Of The Gospel Hurls Lie At Blease.

Rev. P. H. E. Derrick Charges the Senator from Newberry With Insulting and Impugning the Christian Ministry.

Special to The State.

Newberry, Aug. 15.—An unexpected sensational dispensary debate took place at Young's grove today, when Rev. C. M. Boyd of Prosperity, outraged at statements made by C. L. Blease concerning the Christian church and ministry, protested eloquently.

Following this and at the close of the speaking Blease was halted by the Rev. P. H. E. Derrick, who charged him with insulting and impugning the Christian ministry. On Blease's denial that he had made certain remarks in his speech Rev. Derrick threateningly and flatly contradicted him, renewing the accusation. Blease turned to walk away but before he had taken 20 steps Rev. Derrick shouted after him the words, "and if you deny it you are a liar." Mr. Blease took no notice of the words.

While denouncing general hypocrisy and corruption in his speech, Mr. Blease said that if all the rascals were turned out of the churches there would not be a quorum left next Sunday, and that he had never known a preacher who would not take a gambler's money.

The whole affair created intense feeling. Mr. Jones also interrupted Mr. Blease to express his indignation.

Aside from the above incident the day was without marked features.

All of the speakers acquitted themselves well and were listened to with attention but at no time was there great enthusiasm.

John C. Goggans presided, introducing Arthur Kibler as the first speaker. Dr. Geo. B. Cromer and A. C. Jones followed.

A letter was read from J. A. Sligh, regretting his inability to be present on account of sickness.

Mr. Blease's speech followed, being the only one on the dispensary side. After the incident between Mr. Blease and Rev. Boyd the crowd called for Mr. Boyd on the platform. He responded eloquently for prohibition. The crowd was estimated at about 800.

SICKENING SHIVERING FITS of Ague and Malaria, can be relieved and cured with Electric Bitters. This is a pure, tonic medicine; of especial benefit in malaria, for it exerts a true curative influence on the disease, driving it entirely out of the system. It is much to be preferred to Quinine, having none of this drug's bad after-effects. E. S. Munday, of Henrietta, Tex., writes: "My brother was very low with malarial fever and jaundice, till he took Electric Bitters, which saved his life. At Crawford Bros., J. F. Mackey & Co. and Funderburk Pharmacy drug stores; price 50c, guaranteed."

Pays Big Dividend.

New York, Aug. 15.—The standard Oil Company has declared a quarterly dividend of \$6 per share, payable September 15 to stock of record of August 18th. This makes \$30 per share declared so far this year against \$20 per share for the same time last year.

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Tillman Suggests Remedy in His Anderson Speech.

Believes the Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller General Should Administer the Law—Would Buy Year's Supply From the Lowest Bidder.

By Jas. A. Hoyt, Jr.

The State.

Anderson, Aug. 16.—Senator Tillman came here yesterday afternoon with the expectation of making a speech in which he should outline his views on the dispensary and give his remedies for the canker now eating out the life of that institute. He had gone to the unusual trouble of writing out his speech, showing that he desired it published, and published in full, in order that his views might have the widest publicity. The conditions were such that he was prevented from delivering his speech in full, though it must be said, in justice to Senator Tillman, that had he been ungenerous he could have made his speech and had plenty of time to do it in, but he was very careful not to intrude upon the rights of the other invited speakers, and gave way to them, particularly to Mr. Smith, the president of the Cotton Growers' association. Senator Tillman, had he had the opportunity, might not have stuck close to his manuscript, as he is not accustomed to speaking that way, and the little of it which he did read was interpolated with side remarks as they would pop into his head. But his prepared speech is of interest and is given in full as follows:

"I think the facts will warrant me in claiming that I know as much or more about the liquor traffic in general than any other one man in the State. The law was enacted in December, 1892, and went into effect the 1st of July, following. During this interval I examined most thoroughly into the whole question and gave the administration of the proposed system the most earnest thought. Everybody predicted failure and I was most anxious that the experiment should succeed. For a year and a half I administered the law almost alone and I therefore had the fullest opportunity, both by observation and experience, to find out its good and bad points and above all its weakness. The original draft and much that is still in the law was the work of the prohibition committee, and only such changes were made in the bill as it passed the house as were evidently necessary for the changed purpose to which the law was to be devoted. At the next session of the legislature my efforts were devoted entirely to strengthening the statute so as to prevent and punish the illicit sale of liquor. I gave no thought to safeguarding the State against fraud in its administration except in the rules and regulations because I did not then believe and I do not now believe that the State of South Carolina could elect three men to the highest responsible offices of governor, comptroller general and attorney general who would fall so low as to become thieves. During the 12 years that the system has been on trial the law has been changed time and time again. But my opinion and advice have had no weight. The first bad

blunder was taking the law out of the hands of men elected by the people and putting it into the hands of a board elected by the legislature. The next mistake was taking the appointment of the county board out of the hands of the State board and giving it to the delegation in the legislature from each county. The state board is no longer directly responsible to the people and there is no way to get at it unless the governor should exercise his implied power of removal. The county board is no longer responsible to the State board because it does not depend upon that board for that appointment and is not responsible to that board except in a way, but looks to the legislative delegation. Temptations that the governor and other high State officials would have been expected to withstand, have, I fear, proven too strong for the boards elected by the legislature. The administration by the State board has been lax and altogether censurable. It has allowed some of the most valuable restrictive features of the law to fall into disuse—filling out request blanks, selling to minors, drunkards, etc. There has been no executive head with power to see that the law was administered in good faith and the county boards have too often allowed improper influences, nepotism and other selfish motives, to govern in electing dispensers.

Most Farreaching Actions.

"One of the most farreaching and destructive actions of the State board was the change in the manner of buying liquor from that which was instituted in the beginning. To wit: the purchase of whiskey to be sold under the brand and name and in the packages of the seller. The original scheme, which has the soundest reason in good business judgment for its inauguration, provided no liquor except that bought in barrels and bottles at dispensary labelled X, XX, XXX, XXXX, according to age and quality. All of the bottles sold through the dispensary were of full proof as designated on the label, and all were sealed tightly with the best sealing wax. The prices were put on a card and hung in the window so that there could be no cheating of the purchaser by the dispensers. Case goods were sometimes bought but only upon special orders of individuals. They were not kept in stock. Let us see what demoralization has been wrought by the departure from this policy. The first years of the dispensary's existence the local dispensers were not approachable by any man in the whiskey trade because no one knew where the liquor came from and there was no chance to bribe or corrupt a local dispenser to rush any special brand. No cases were then shipped directly to the dispensers in the packages from the distillery, so there was no chance to put in extra bottles as bribes. Everything went from the State dispensary. All cases were uniform size, one for quarts one for pints and one for half pints and they held a given number of bottles. The liquor was sealed hermetically. There was no chance to change labels or alter bottles. Request books prevented that and the governor was in the closest touch with every cog and wheel in the machinery. I had a detective who watched the constables and who reported to me

alone whether or not they were in collusion with blind tigers. I had another detective who watched the dispensers to see whether they were complying strictly with the law and the regulations. Whiskey drummers hanging around the hotels in Columbia to get a chance to sell whiskey were unknown and the agents of whiskey concerns traveling over the state and getting in close touch with the local dispensers for the purpose of corrupting them were also unknown, and the condition of affairs disclosed by the Spartanburg investigation was simply an impossibility.

SOME OF THE TEMPTATIONS.

"What are some of the temptations which seem to have been too great for the state board of directors to resist? Purchasing whiskey as it has been done left opportunity for collusion. This man or that on the board receiving money as compensation for purchasing from a given concern. The state commissioner subjected to the temptation of sending out the case goods of this or that firm in preference to those ordered by the dispensers. The opportunity for graft, the pet phrase now in vogue, was immense. The original scheme adopted, as I say, hastily depended for the integrity of its administration upon the high character and honor of the State's highest officials. But when we recollect that it is now administered and has been for six or eight years through the breakage charges, leakage charges, watering the liquor in the local dispensaries, because of the bottles not properly sealed, changing labels, buying places as dispenser, the opportunity for stealing at the State dispensary in not sending out all the liquor bought but shipping it off, it is a wonder we have not had a worse carnival of corruption than seems to exist. I do not doubt after the exposure in Spartanburg others will equal if not eclipse it elsewhere. I could go more into detail and discuss this phase of the subject more at length but I prefer to point out the remedies which have suggested themselves to my mind and which in the future I feel sure will be adopted by the means of reforming the dispensary system and making it wellnigh impossible for anyone anywhere to steal any of the public money or be corrupted by the temptations which have been so plentiful heretofore.

"We will take the state dispensary first. I believe the administration of this law should be in the hands of men elected by the people the same as the other laws are. I believe and always have thought that a board ex-officio composed of the governor, attorney general and comptroller general to be the best that can be devised. How to prevent even these high officers from being subjected to temptation or laying themselves open to charges of corruption, such as my enemies have not hesitated to bring against me, I suggest the following plan:

HOW TO AVOID TEMPTATION.

Let advertisement be made, as now required by law, for bids to be submitted to furnish the State of South Carolina for a year with such whiskey brandy, rum wine and beer as it may require. Let the act go into details and specifically describe the kind and

quality needed. Whiskey and beer are the two main things and these two are staple articles and can be described with such definiteness and particularity that there will be slight need even of an analysis by the chemist. Let these bids be submitted in triplicate sealed with wax—one sent to the State treasurer accompanied by a check for \$10,000 as evidence of good faith, one sent to the chief justice of the supreme court and one sent to the speaker of the house of representatives. Have these opened during the session of the legislature in the presence of the dispensary committee of the two houses and award the contract to the lowest bidder. Then let the State board enter into a contract with such lowest bidder requiring the contractor to deposit, for the fulfillment of his obligation, \$100,000 in South Carolina State bonds or such amount as may be thought necessary, which shall be subject to forfeit if he does not comply strictly with all the terms and conditions of his agreement. The contract being thus made for the purchase of whiskey of a given kind and quality at a given price, the State commissioner who will have charge of the business part of the dispensary can order out from the distillery at such time and in such quantities as may be necessary the liquors needed to supply the demand of the local dispensers. Have the bottles and other supplies that may be needed purchased in a similar manner to the whiskey, all of these being paid for by cash checks on the treasurer. Let the State commissioner take out a rectifier's license and have the liquor bottled after dumping and mixing when desired, and this must be under the immediate supervision and inspection of a United States revenue officer whose books will be a check as to the quantity that will thus enter into the consumption. Let the dispensers' books and the internal revenue collectors' book be inspected quarterly by such persons as the State board may appoint for that purpose to see that the quality of the goods contracted for and the goods delivered corresponded and that all the goods purchased have been sent out from the State dispensary, or otherwise accounted for. The legislature through its committee can examine into and report at each session upon the whole management.

BRAND ON THE GLASS.

"Let the name and brand be blown into the glass, so there can be no change of labels. Have no case goods kept in stock and confine the purchase of these to special orders from private individuals. Do away with beer dispensaries as now run and let the regular dispensers keep beer on ice to be sold by the bottle only and not drunk on the premises. Above all see that the request books are always used before a purchase is made.

"So much for the central depot.

"Now for the local dispensaries. I believe more satisfaction will result and a better administration of the law be had if the supervision and control of the local liquor dispensaries be placed in the hands of the county supervisors elected by the people, the mayor of the town in which the dispensary is located, elected also by the people, and one person to be appointed

by the State board who shall receive reasonable compensation for his time and labor. Then have the local dispensers elected by the people of the country; where there is more than one they can be elected on a joint ticket. Let the governor have the power to remove for cause and let him exercise it vigorously.

"Any one familiar with the conditions as they now exist can readily understand why such amendments to the law as are here outlined will make it almost impossible for any one connected with the dispensary from the top to the bottom to steal any of the public money.

"We will have better liquor and if the grand juries do their duty we will have no more Spartanburg scandals. It must not be forgotten that no law ever devised can enforce itself.

Union County Joins Ranks of Prohibition.

Majority of Two to One Against the Dispensary—Small Vote is Polled.

Special to The State.

Union, Aug. 15.—Union county today joined the ranks of prohibition counties by a more tremendous majority than even the most sanguine temperance workers had anticipated. The complete returns tonight show a majority of 352 and the vote against the dispensary to be on the basis of over 2 to 1.

A great deal of interest has been manifested in this fight for temperance reform, particularly within the last week, as the dispensary forces have been unusually active, bringing here one of their great champions, Senator Cole L. Blease of Newberry, and employing an attorney, W. Boyd Evans of Columbia, to block the election by having an injunction taken out. This latter attempt failed, Judge Townsend refusing the injunction. The evidence submitted was insufficient and the very fact that an effort was made to take away their rights as citizens added many votes to the prohibition column, and statements made by both Blease and Evans on the stand, when speaking last Saturday, turned hitherto dispensary friends into foes. The voting was rather light, the total number of votes cast being 1,178. The number cast in the primary last August was 2,675, and in the general election in November 1904, was 1,651.

The very noticeable falling off in the number of votes cast today was largely accounted for by the very strict and impartial enforcement of the election law requiring voters to present their registration certificates and tax receipts before being allowed to cast their ballots.

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 Honey and Tar which is a sure cure." Sold by Funderburk Pharmacy. Also C. O. Floyd, Kershaw.

Be happy today, for tomorrow you may be married.

You never hear of a knocker using his little hammer to nail ties.