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Whiskey House's Letters to Col. Mixson Read.

Show Debauchery and Corruption says Mr. Gaston—More About Attempted Bribery.

Columbia, S. C. August 25.—Special to Greenville News.

When the legislative investigating committee was appointed, Arthur L. Gaston was named as a member of the committee by virtue of his chairmanship of the dispensary committee of the House. He has ever been decidedly the champion of the dispensary. It was therefore all the more significant when he arose today and stated calmly and with force that he was satisfied that the whiskey houses were debauching the people of the State and that the debauching and corruption was not alone in the lowly places, but that it extended to the highest officials connected with the dispensary system. This, he said, was a result of facts that he has gathered and particularly of the letters that had been secured by the committee, notably those from Kelly & Co., surrendered by Col. Mixson.

Today closed the second session of the committee. There will be other meetings and from the way things are developing there are likely to be very many more sessions because the several committees seem to have taps all along the line and about all that is necessary is to start the ball rolling.

Messrs. Spivey and Gaston, of the special committee on business methods have developed a great deal and when the tables and figures that they have in hand are all studied there will be more force in the work. They are keeping the pace of the Lyon and Christensen committee, and the Fraser-Blease committee is yet to be heard from and it evidently will have much to report and many witnesses to present. There was much lively evidence today and some of it dramatic.

THE KELLEY LETTERS.

Mr. Gaston stated without any equivocation that the Kelley letters, while extremely guarded, meant very much and showed a very bad state of affairs. It is to be noted that this firm sold only \$38,000 of nearly \$3,000,000 of liquor used by the dispensary annually. Mr. Gaston had studied the letters during the night and he read extracts from the Kelley letters to their agent Col. Mixson so as to give point to what he wished to develop. From the letter of March 15th he read:

"Our Mr. White will write Mr. Evans in a few days and ask him when he will be in Atlanta, when our Mr. White, or Leskinsky will meet him there."

In the letter of September 1st, there was this paragraph:

"We will endeavor to keep the gentlemen mentioned on our side, and will trust you to look after Messrs. T. & B. In regard to the cases of whiskey which you asked us to ship Messrs. Towill and Boykin, we beg to advise that we shipped them promptly, and wrote you twice to this effect."

Then came these sequels:

"Oct. 10th, 1903. Mr. White saw your friend in Atlanta the other day and fixed things up with him. We feel sure that we will get an order for some Silver

Springs at this meeting, but will not hope for an order for Deep Springs now, but are quite sure it will come later on."

"Dec. 5th, 1904. We beg to advise we have completed the 1,500 case shipment."

After the letters had been read Col. Mixson stated that this firm did not know either Mr. Boykin or Mr. Towill and had never met either of them. He did not know if the firm knew the third member of the board, but the letters would show for themselves on that point.

These letters from one wee bit of a seller showed many things.

Up in Spartanburg the dispensers insisted that they knew nothing about sample or complimentary cases and got real mad when it was suggested that they wrote for them and then put the goods on the shelves and sold them.

Here are two extracts from the Kelley letters on this side line:

"We are also enclosing you a letter from J. W. Harmon, Spartanburg. We have shipped this party three cases in the last year, and think this is simply a gouge."

"Also shipped today one case of Silver Spring to Mr. Howell the dispenser at Union, S. C., and one case to Mr. J. W. Harman at Spartanburg. Also a few bottles each to James Macfie, at Wainsboro, and A. C. Murrell of Toddville."

THE LABEL GRAFT.

The dispensary has established a bottling plant for higher priced liquors. Mr. Boykin representing the board went to Cincinnati to inquire into the business. He took with him whatever bids and papers there were on the subject and when he returned he had bought over ten million lithographed labels for more than \$35,000. This label transaction was a red light all day. Every now and then some one would run into it. Mr. Charles, the dispensary clerk, in his testimony presented the bills and there they were for over ten million labels. The committee figured and kept on figuring, but could get no basis. If there were any bids for these labels no one seemed to know it definitely, except that Mr. Boykin had taken with him all bids and had not returned them to the files of the dispensary. Mr. Charles stated that the bill had never yet been approved by the board nor had it been ordered paid. The labels are being used. It was developed that the cheap labels now in use are sold at 25 cents per thousand and at one time that they were supplied at eleven cents per thousand.

THE MIXSON AFFAIR.

Col. Mixson had nothing to say on the subject of the Lanahan denial of his story, but Col. Hal. W. Richardson stated that a Cincinnati man told him at that time that he would willingly pay Col. Mixson \$60,000 for a slice of the dispensary melon and that Col. Mixson would not talk business. L. M. Fouché also told that at the time Col. Mixson spoke to him and others of the alleged Lanahan offer and that it was generally talked of at the time. Mr. R. E. Blackeney related that he heard Col. Mixson accuse Mr. Lanahan of supplying "Blind Tigers" with whiskey and that he would not talk business with him or buy any of his liquors.

WHAT THE RECORDS SHOW.

The business committee presented a great many intensely in-

teresting figures of the sales by certain of the supposed favorite houses to the dispensary. Evidence was presented to show that during twelve months the dispensary bought from the Richland Distillery Co., \$992,000 worth of liquor. The records show that the dispensary for the same year bought from all sources \$2,299,007.23 and that, therefore, the Richland Distilling Co., secured 40 per cent, of the total business and that for sixteen months that the same distilling company of Columbia secured about \$1,212,000, worth of the business. This detailed statement is in the Internal Revenue reports. The statistics also show that Lanahan & Son—the firm that Col. Mixson says offered him \$30,000 for a part of the business—sold the State in six years \$543,800.99 worth of liquors. Figures along this line were presented as to other firms but these two seem to have been the best patronized.

Col. Willie Jones, cashier of the Carolina National Bank testified that soon after he went on the Board of Control, ten years ago, that Lanahan placed \$40,000 on special deposit in the bank of which he was cashier. He did not like this and asked the president of the bank to have the special deposit removed and that such was done as he did not think it right to have such a sum on deposit in the bank of which he was cashier and at the same time be chairman of the purchasing board of the dispensary.

Quite a number of the witnesses today, including Col. Jones, did not think much of the present system of purchasing by the board and thought there was no competition whatever under the rules of the board. The competition as to quality they thought purely nominal as few, if any, could really tell anything and that competition as to price is entirely eliminated by the present board.

A STAR WITNESS.

There is a young man connected with the dispensary by name of G. H. Charles. He is a wonder. He was on the witness stand today for several hours. He gave a multitude of figures, records and data, and practically all of it from memory. He was accurate and careful and thought it all ever careful not to say a thing that would hurt the feelings of anyone. He was familiar with every detail of the shortages, the stocks, the ins and outs of bookkeeping and satisfactorily explained whatever may have appeared as needful of explanation. Mr. Charles said that he had no knowledge of the members parcelling out the purchases, each member taking a third of the purchases and then lumping the thirds to make up the entire purchases made, and that he did not think such to be the case. The evidence today again indicated that the dispensary has been slow pay, but that the slowness was agreeable to the sellers and that they understood the situation. Mr.

MAKES THE LIVER LIVELY.

Orino Laxative Fruit Syrup gives permanent relief in cases of habitual constipation as it stimulates the liver and restores the natural action of the bowels without irritating these organs like pills or ordinary cathartics. Does not nauseate or gripe and is mild and pleasant to take. Remember the name Orino and refuse substitutes.

Funderburk Pharmacy,
C. O. Floyd, Kershaw, S. C.

Charles explained in detail why the dispensary was hard up and why its capital has been going to meet the profit accounts.

One of the questions asked in the resolution was whether relatives of members of the board acted as selling agents. In the course of Mr. Charles' evidence he stated that Mr. Cantey, who is a brother-in-law of Mr. Boykin, indirectly represented Fleischmann & Co., who sold the dispensary. Mr. Cantey simply did some clerical work for the regular representative of the firm and was not and had been for only a short while employed by Mr. Earl, the regular agent of Fleischmann. Mr. Charles was positive that Mr. Boykin had never represented Lanahan, as had been testified to, and he had no knowledge of his ever having represented a liquor house.

There was considerable testimony as to the Weikers case, from Charleston. It was shown that the State Board held up \$5,277.75 out of the profits of Charleston because of this Weikers case. Of this amount \$5,152.28 has been paid for fees to eminent counsel, for fines, printing, expenses, travelling and the like. The attorneys are to be congratulated as they received \$3,700 of the money and if it was to be spent it was fortunate that such good folks got the money for their legal talent.

Mr. Harris added to the stock of letters the committee is accumulating and presented several letters from the Mallard Distilling Co., which gave some interesting side lights.

Mr. Harris denied that he had ever received a cent for getting Howie a job, but he was candid in saying he was satisfied Howie had paid some one for trying to get him his job. Mr. Harris went on to say that while he never accepted a cent, that offers were made him and that it seemed to be recognized at that time as being quite the thing to pay some one for work necessary to get jobs on the constabulary and other places, although he had no idea that it did any good.

The committee will meet here again on September 5.

August Kohn.

A NEW JERSEY EDITOR'S TESTIMONIAL.

M. T. Lyneb, Editor of the Phillipsburg, N. J., Daily post writes: I have used many kinds of medicines for coughs and colds in my family but never anything so good as Foley's Honey and Tar. I cannot say too much in praise of it." Sold by Funderburk Pharmacy, C. O. Floyd, Kershaw S. C.

Charleston Dispenser Short and Skips Away.

Special to Greenville News.

Charleston, Aug. 26.—Dispensary Inspector Floyd, has announced that a shortage of about \$2,700 has been found in dispensary No. 5 on East Bay street and Dispensary O. F. Fortune has disappeared, leaving his bondsmen in the lurch. This dispensary was a resort for dock laborers, teamsters and negroes generally, and did an enormous business in "old hog" as the negroes call "Palmetto One X." Empty cases and empty jugs by the dozen were found in the stock and these had been counted as full, no doubt by the agents, who made a recent inventory.

Pay your subscription.

Ansel States His Position.

Candidate for Governor Shows Where He Stands on the Important Issue of the coming Campaign.

Editor Greenville News:

I have received many inquiries as to my views of the liquor question in South Carolina, and the best way of dealing with that all absorbing question, dispensary or no dispensary, and I take this means of stating my position.

In the first place, I am opposed to the system of a State dispensary. I once thought it was the best solution of the liquor question, because I thought it would minimize and decrease the sale of liquors in this State, but when we consider that more than three million dollars worth of whiskey has been sold by the various dispensaries of the State the past year, my hopes have been disappointed; and it appears to me that some other method should be adopted.

In the second place, I am in favor of local county option as between prohibition and county dispensaries. That is, I am in favor of any county in the State voting upon the question as to whether they wish county dispensaries. If a majority of the qualified voters of the county desires prohibition for that particular county, then I am one who believes that they should have it, and I further believe that the good people of such county will see to it that the prohibition law is enforced.

If the vote of any county should be in favor of the sale of liquor in that particular county, then I favor a law providing for a county dispensary with a board of control of three members, to be appointed by the Governor of the State, which county board shall have control of the purchase of liquors for the county dispensaries, the appointment of dispensaries, fixing their salaries, etc., all sales to be made under the rules and regulations of the present dispensary law, with such other and further restrictions as may be thought wise by the Legislature.

I am opposed to beer dispensaries, as I think that beer when sold at all should be sold in the regular county dispensaries.

I favor a straight law against the unlawful sale of liquor. My experience of twelve years as one of the solicitors of this State, has convinced me that whatever system may be adopted that unlawful sales will be made by some. It is, therefore, necessary that stringent laws should be passed to punish the "blind tiger," those who sell unlawfully.

Make it the duty of all sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, magistrates, constables, policemen, and town marshals to see that the law against the unlawful sale of liquor is rigidly enforced in their counties, cities and towns, and it might be well to give them half of the fines that are collected from those convicted through the agency of such officers of the offence of unlawful sales, transportation, or making of whiskey.

The county boards of control should be required to make a report to the presiding judge at each term of the Court of General Sessions for their respective counties, showing the purchases made, the amount of sales by the county dispensaries,

and of all their acts as such county board of control, and should be liable criminally for any violation of the law, rules and regulations of the dispensary law.

I am opposed to the high license system. It is too near the old barroom system, and would not decrease the sales of liquor, whatever the restrictions might be, but would increase them. The man who pays the high license would want to make all the profit he could, and hence, the more sales, the more profits.

Personally I would like to see no liquor sold in this State as a beverage, but it is a condition which confronts us, and the question is how best to deal with that condition. There is no law that can be passed that will keep some people from drinking liquor, still I believe it to be the duty of the State to pass such laws as will minimize the use as much as possible.

This is a brief outline of my views upon the liquor question.

Martin F. Ansel.

Greenville, Aug. 26.

Blease and Lyon Spat.

One Thought the Other Discourteous and Then the Chairman Had to Get Between—The Two Made up.

Columbia Record, 25th.

There was something else for the spectators to talk about at the dispensary committee meeting just before adjournment this afternoon. Mr. Charles was on the stand and Mr. Blease made a motion for a recess, saying that Mr. Charles should not be exhausted. The motion came just after a question by Mr. Lyon, who at once remarked about it. Mr. Blease rose to his feet and Mr. Lyon started towards him.

Mr. Fraser, the chairman, got between the two and said that nothing discourteous was intended.

Mr. Blease also said the same, but remarked that he was ready for Mr. Lyon any time he came for him. Then Mr. Lyon remarked that when he did come he would smash his (Blease's) face. Mr. Blease remarked that he would be ready for it.

"Yes I suppose you have a pistol," said Mr. Lyon.

"No, I have not," said Mr. Blease.

All this time the chairman and the sergeant at arms were between the two gentlemen and endeavoring to quiet them. Mr. Blease insisted on being searched and nothing was found on his person.

Afterwards the two gentlemen made up in the committee room and mutual explanations were made.

USED FOR PNEUMONIA.

Dr. C. J. Bishop of Agnew, Mich., says, "I have used Foley's Honey and Tar in three very severe cases of pneumonia with good results in every case. Refuse substitutes. Sold by Funderburk Pharmacy, C. O. Floyd Kershaw, S. C."

Tillman a Prohibitionist.

Southern Christian Advocate.

Recent utterances and actions of Senator Tillman indicate that at heart the senator is a prohibitionist. The belief appears justified that if the dispensary were not his creature for which he feels an unusual responsibility, he would join with all power to secure prohibition instead of the dispensary.