

An Appeal to the Voters of Fairfield County.

For more than twelve years the sale of liquor through dispensaries owned and operated by the State has been the law of the land in South Carolina. By a vote of the people in 1892, it was declared that they desired the prohibition of the liquor traffic, except for medicinal, scientific and sacramental purposes. Instead of prohibition, as the people asked for, the Legislature enacted the dispensary law. It was given to the people ostensibly as a temperance measure, designed to curtail the consumption of liquor, and lessen the evils thereof, and we are told that it was to be "a step towards prohibition."

For more than twelve years this has been the policy of the State in dealing with this great subject. It has, therefore, had time, ample time, to demonstrate the good or ill effect of the policy. The old scriptural way is a good way in determining the good or ill of any policy, and that way is, "By their fruits shall ye know them."

Let us see what has been the fruits of the dispensary, as judged by these standards. These years have demonstrated the fact that it is not a temperance measure, but that its real design is to sell all the liquor possible, and thus make a large revenue for the use of the State.

Instead of decreasing the consumption of liquor, and lessening the evils of intemperance, it has increased both, and the effort of the dispensary authorities has been to sell all the liquor possible, thus raising a larger revenue. For years the State Board of Control, in its annual report to the Legislature, has congratulated itself on the increased sale and the larger volume of revenue realized on the business. Every effort has been made to place dispensaries wherever possible, and to sell all the liquor possible.

The restrictive features of the law, such as signing application blanks, selling to habitual drunkards and minors, have been utterly disregarded by a large majority of the local dispensaries, and thus as a breaker of law, the dispensary has a black record.

As to crime and its responsibility therefor, its record is blacker still. The records of crime during these years in murders, man-slaughters and assaults, a large majority of which are directly traceable to the dispensary, is the blackest in the history of our State. Thoughtful citizens have been shocked and horrified by this fruitage of the dispensary.

There are homes all over our State to-day, darkened over with shame and grief, caused by the State's dispensaries. We maintain that the State has no right to debauch its citizens to raise revenue for itself. The dispensary has been the fruitful breeder of crime and lawlessness. The investigating committee, appointed by the last Legislature, has brought to light, what has long been believed, that for political corruption, bribery and stealing, it has a record scarcely surpassed by the dark days of Radicalism prior to 1876. It has itself violated the law, is a breeder of crime, and is an engine of political corruption and the seat of bribe-giving and bribe-taking. Another of its evil fruits is that it has lowered the moral tone of the citizenship of our State. It has elevated the liquor traffic, which was under the ban of public opinion, and has attempted to give respectability to that upon which God has set his curse. It is a festering sore on the body politic, a moral cancer on the conscience of the people and an awful ulcer on the home. It stands discredited before the people, and the time is ripe for its overthrow. Since, then, it serves no good purpose in the moral, civil, social and industrial sphere, why keep the corrupt and corrupting thing?

For years it has not been possible for the people to rid themselves of a dispensary, when once it was placed amongst them. The Brice law, enacted by the last Legislature, gives the people an opportunity to vote out the dispensary, if they so desire. The requirements of the law have been complied with in this county, and on the 12th day of December next, the opportunity will be given the citizens of good "Old Fairfield" to express their wishes on this subject.

Fellow-citizens, we appeal to you to cast your ballots on that day against this monster evil.

The issue on that day will not be, as some may have you believe, that this is an effort to rid the county of the dispensaries, in order that the towns may have high license, and thus deprive the county of any profits arising from the dispensaries, and the towns be enriched by license from saloons. That is contrary to the law and is foreign to our effort.

The issue is clear cut and sharp, "Dispensary" or "No Dispensary," and the result from voting out the dispensaries will be the prohibition of the liquor traffic in Fairfield County. It is said that we will be overrun with blind tigers under prohibition, and our condition will be worse than with the dispensaries.

Blind tigers are evils, indeed, but we had them under the saloons; we have had them under the dispensary, and we will have them under prohibition; but they will be no more than now or heretofore, and the evils from them will not compare with the awful evils of the dispensary system, and under prohibition we will raise up a generation of men who will shoot the blind tiger and uplift the State.

We have chosen this time, when no other issues are before the people, that they may consider this one question, and, unbiased by other issues, may express their will on this question. The following counties have voted out the dispensaries: Cherokee, Pickens, Union, Newberry, Marion, York, Lancaster, Darlington, Horry, Oconee, Spartanburg and Greenville; and Greenwood and Marlboro have never had dispensaries. Thus about one-third of the State has freed itself from the corrupt and the corrupting reign of the dispensary system. Shall "Old Fairfield" not join with these others and wipe this disgrace from her borders? Thus, fellow-citizens, the issue is joined and every man must take his stand and vote for what he believes to be right.

We honestly and earnestly believe that we are right in appealing for your votes against the dispensary. As a moral issue, it should appeal to all, who love God, the church, the home and the State; for the dispensary is an enemy of each and all. As a political issue, it should appeal to all who love their country, for it is steadily debauching our citizenship and lowering the tone of public morality and all that makes for good government. Confident in the righteousness of our cause, and believing that this is the opportune time to meet the issue, and that good results will follow from the voting out of the dispensaries, we call upon the voters of the county to go to the polls on the 12th of December and cast their ballots against the monster evil.

C. E. McDONALD,
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G. A. WHITE,
T. L. JOHNSTON,
S. C. BYRD,
C. P. WRAY,

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Executive Committee.

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Wednesday, Nov. 22, 1905.

It will be killing the goose that laid the golden egg for the Southern farmers to go another year and plant too heavily of cotton. The result could only be the selling it at a much less price than they are now getting for it and paying much higher prices for the feed stuffs, which they should raise at home. The sensible thing is for the them to make more sure of all their home supplies so that they may not only have their cotton as a surplus crop, but that at prices that will mean a considerable item on the right side of the ledger.

An exchange contains a note to the effect that the school in one of the best of South Carolina's smaller towns was closed one day the past week because there was no wood on hand and because several of the glass were broken from the windows of the building. Teachers and trustees should see to it that the pupils have to suffer no discomfort for either of these reasons. Comfortable school rooms are a great item in the schooling of children. If not possible to have the rooms attractive, at least let them be warm during these cold days of winter.

By their fruits ye shall know them is the scriptural test for men and measures and the only one that is worth while. There is already a big hue and cry about the failure of prohibition in the counties, which have recently voted out the dispensaries, and these counties are cited to show that prohibition is neither practicable, nor advisable. Even the most hopeful prohibitionists will not go so far as to say that whiskey is not being shipped into these counties and even being sold by blind tigers. But this does not argue that prohibition is a failure, for it has not been given a full enough trial in these counties for it to have accomplished its good results. This continuing demand at present for whiskey in these counties is the fruitage of the dispensary system rather than of prohibition, under which this appetite for drink has been encouraged by the State selling whiskey for the elevation of its youth. If the real fruits of prohibition are to be seen, then go to a county, where the sale of whiskey has been restricted for a reasonable number of years.

It is not necessary to go out of the state to make this study. Greenwood and Marlboro are both good illustrations of what has been accomplished under prohibition. There are none who can gainsay the statement that in these counties there is less whiskey sold per capita than in any other counties in South Carolina and that blind tigers are not to be stumbled upon here and there and yonder. But says the ardent dispensaryite Greenwood has not had the legalized sale of whiskey for quite a number of years and that Marlboro has never had it in any form. So the very argument that is advanced to show that these counties are the exception rather than the rule is the very best argument possible that prohibition is not an entire failure right here in South Carolina. It is worth all it has cost Greenwood or Bennettsville to enjoy the distinction, "the hardest town that I was ever in to get something to drink." So let no one who would be favorably disposed to prohibition be turned aside by these herculean efforts of those, who would prop the Great Moral Institution up in its downfall, to show that a county is necessarily doomed forever to the illegal sale of whiskey, when it votes the dispensary out. Rather let them take renewed courage in this great moral fight by turning to those counties, where the non-selling of whiskey has been tried for a sufficient period to prove that if the old not be stopped from their whiskey drinking, that at least the young can be brought up under a temperance influence that lessens the drink habit. Apply the fruitage test and prohibition will win.

Erskine Boys Have Fun.

(Due West Correspondence to The State, Nov. 15.)

The college boys have been having a little fun at the expense of the ministers. A wasp was caught and placed in the bed of a Columbia pastor one night. In the dead hours of the night the miscreants listening at the door heard evidences of combat within and knew that the preacher was sleeping the horrid slumber of nightmare.

The boys of the college home have a swing. The following sign was hung on the tree the day before the delegates began to arrive: "All visitors are cordially invited to swing in this swing except Rev. C. E. McDonald Hon. Geo. S. Mower and Rev. G. G. Parkinson." The two first named tip the scales at something under 300 and the latter is the genial little professor in the Theological seminary and weighs about 90 pounds.

A Common Sense View of It.

Many men think that newspaper men are persistent dunners. By way of comparison, let us suppose a farmer raises one thousand bushels of wheat a year and sells this to one thousand persons in all parts of the country. A greater portion of them say, "I will hand you a dollar in a short time." The farmer does not want to be small and says, "All right." Soon the one thousand bushels are gone, but he has nothing to show for it, and he then realizes that he has fooled away his whole crop, and its value is due him in a thousand little dribbles; consequently, he is seriously embarrassed in his business because his debtors, each owing him one dollar, treat it as a small matter and think it would not help much. Continuing this kind of business year in and year out as the publisher does, how long would he stand it? A moments thought will convince any one that a publisher has cause for dunning sometime.

—Exchange.

—The friends of Miss Maggie Neil were charmingly entertained at her beautiful home on Friday evening by a progressive "Set Back" party, given in honor of Miss Seymour Hadden. Miss Mary Pagan and Mr. Louis Bye tied for the first, but Mr. Bye gallantly withdrew and it was presented to Miss Pagan by Mr. Jesse Doty. Several contested for the "Booby." After the prizes were delivered, delightful refreshments were served.

—Mrs. Eunice Bacot and Miss Maggie Aiken have returned from Charleston where they attended the Caldwell-Bacot wedding.

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Presents

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