

Press and Banner

ABBEVILLE, S. C.

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PROHIBITION PROHIBITS.

Some twenty-five years ago, in an election ordered on the question of prohibition, the State of South Carolina voted to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in the state, but the people of the state are just now coming into their own. The state became a prohibition state on January 1st, 1916.

But we do not believe that the twenty-five years have been lost to the people who want prohibition. In that time the people have had a chance to try thoroughly the plan of having liquors sold under state authority, by sworn bonded officers of the state. The people had already learned that the sale of liquor by individuals was an evil which could not be tolerated, but there were those who believed that a prohibition law would be a farce, and that the ends of temperance could be promoted by a system of state management. This plan has been thoroughly tried, weighed in the balance and found wanting. Neither state management, county management, nor community management, has been able to take the corrupting influences out of the whiskey business.

But the dispensary undoubtedly did a great deal of good, especially in those towns which had formerly had bar-rooms. It may be true and doubtless is, that there has been more drinking in the rural and industrial communities, because people were encouraged to buy liquors in quantities and carry it home, rather than drink in the towns where there were vigilant police officers. But on the whole the dispensary did some good in the way of promoting temperance; no observing man will deny this, we think.

But in the twenty-five years, the people themselves have grown to hate intoxicating liquors to an extent not hitherto known in this country. The cause of temperance has grown of its own force and by reason of the fact that it commended itself to the good sense of the thinking people of the state.

Accordingly, when the liquor business had failed as a business to be handled by individuals, and when the state management of the purchase and sale of intoxicating beverages proved to be a corrupting influence in the state, and an unsatisfactory way of handling a business which cannot be handled rightly, the people of the state arose and demanded that the manufacture and sale of liquors in this state cease, and the state through the sovereign voters has so decreed.

And prohibition will prohibit. It may not stop the sale of liquors to our people, it will not do this. But the amount of liquor which is consumed by the people of Abbeville county will grow less and less as the years go by, because liquor is outlawed, and so is the man who drinks it to excess, and every man who drinks it, sometime or other, does so to excess.

The Wholesale Liquor Dealers' Association has for years contended that prohibition increased the consumption of liquors. But their actions have not supported their preachments, else the people who make up the Association would not always fight prohibition laws. They will tell you that they want to do legitimate business, but the records of the courts of this and other states show that the liquor-sellers are willing to do any kind of business if they may only sell liquor, and the votes and the wishes of the people have in times past counted nothing with the liquor-seller when he wanted to sell liquor. It was BUSINESS and not legitimate business that he sought, and because prohibition decreased the sale of liquors, the liquor-seller has always been and always will be against prohibition.

The estimates from the Treasury Department of the United States show what prohibition has done and is doing for the liquor trade. It is stated that the prohibition laws in the several states, and the fight which has been made on the use of tobacco, has so decreased the revenue from the taxes on the liquor and tobacco industry that the government is forced to look elsewhere for money to make good the losses it has sustained from these two causes. No one will doubt that the Federal Government is collecting all the taxes due it, and no further doubt should be entertained that prohibition is doing the work its friends designed it to do. The letters which come to the editors of the

daily and weekly papers carrying articles collected and sent out by the National Liquor Dealers Association, the hiring of lawyers in the several states in an endeavor to thwart the people of the state in a just endeavor to rid the state of the evil, the great advertising campaign which it sought to carry on in this state last year—all of these show that the liquor association knows that the hand of temperance is at the throat of the liquor business.

And the good work will go on. Within a few years the Congress of the United States will pass an amendment to the Federal Constitution, which will be approved by the states that will outlaw liquor-making and liquor-selling throughout the land. And the young man of today who drinks liquor would do well to ponder the signs of these latter days, else he may wake up to find that the procession has passed.

A MISTAKE.

When we read a few weeks ago the correspondence between our townsman, Col. J. D. Kerr and Mr. Henry T. Ford, we did so with sorrow, because we knew that a great mistake had been made, and that the people throughout the world would have cause to regret the decision which Col. Kerr had made, not to go on the peace mission, although we knew that his furniture business and the buggy business needed his valuable services.

Accordingly, we were not surprised to read in the daily papers that Mr. Ford had taken the town feeling as soon as he saw the big buildings on the other side of the waters. Now Mr. Ford is quite a large man in an automobile factory in Detroit, but it did not take him long to see that he is not a national, nor an international character, and we must all give him credit for having the good sense to take sick.

But that it not where the trouble comes in. As soon as Mr. Ford left the Peace Party, it became necessary to elect a new Leader. There were a good many prominent men, and a good many men with temerity enough to try to settle the war, among them our own distinguished Lieutenant Governor, Andrew Jackson Bethea, but for one cause or another, they could not be gotten into harness. For instance, Governor Bethea had to hurry back to South Carolina to try a case in the Magistrate's court, and he could not take the job, and those who have taken the place have not made a success of the expedition. They have even gotten matters to where a man must carry his own grip.

The emergency which has about ruined the chances of the expedition, is the emergency in which our distinguished townsman would have shined. His high standing with the "poor man" all over the country would have made him the fit representative of the men in the trenches (the poor men) to ride up to Emperor William and King George and the others, cock his pistol and demand that war cease, and that the men be allowed to go home and spend Christmas. And then his large experience with furniture men in Atlanta, Ga., and High Point, N. C., has given him the necessary diplomatic training to put the job across.

All of which causes us to remark again: "There is a tide in the affairs of men," etc.

GOOD ROADS.

(American Highway Association.)
In his last annual report the Secretary of Agriculture emphasized the intimate relation of good roads to both the production and distribution of farm products. "They are," he said, "prerequisite not only to economical production and distribution, but also to the promotion of the broader life of the communities. "It does not require arguments to prove it. The visible evidence is in every community where the roads have been improved. Without good roads suited to the traffic they must bear there can be no economy in the handling of agricultural products from the field to the market and every dime or dollar expended in transportation is a tax upon every pound of stuff brought out of the soil. Millions have been wasted on the public roads of the country because they have not been properly built in the first place and have not been maintained after construction. Something more, a good deal more, is required than the building of roads and one of the most important of the conditions to be considered is their proper drainage.

There are in the United States vast areas of land that might be made productive if they were drained effectively and though all these regions the building of good roads ought to go hand in hand with the drainage of the lands. An object lesson of how the two things should go together is to be found at Char-

leston, South Carolina, where the drainage and road construction have gone together. What has been done in road-building amounts to very little in respect of distance but where drainage and roads have gone together there has been a very notable increase in the volume and ease of traffic with corresponding benefits to the farmers served in getting their stuff to market. Thousands of acres of the most productive land laying idle five and ten years ago have been brought under cultivation and are now yielding enormous crops. Great sections where men could not live because of malarious conditions have been opened to settlement and the building of good roads has made it possible for the farmers to market their crops without paying out all the profits for transportation.

No farm can do its best without drainage and no road can be built or maintained without drainage. Mr. Marsden, engineer of the Office of Experiment Stations of the Department of Agriculture, says that from one hundred to one hundred fifty millions of acres, not including the eighty million acres of swamp and overflowed land, in the United States could be drained with profit under present conditions of market facilities and cultural methods. In North Carolina there are six million such acres, of which only about six thousand acres have been drained. In Alabama only about one thousand acres out of 1,500,000 needing drainage, have been cared for. In the West the same condition largely obtains. The cost is inconsiderable compared with the profits derived from the proper drainage of the lands. It is not a matter of guess work. Farmers who have drained their lands testify that its value has been increased from fifty to three hundred per cent. Mr. Marsden cites the case of a farmer in the coast country of North Carolina, who drained twenty-five acres at a cost of \$250 which now yields a bale of cotton to the acre, which at \$50 the bale would amount to \$1,250.

But what would it profit the farmer to drain his land without good roads over which to haul his cotton and other farm products to market? The two things go together. The cost of hauling over the ordinary roads of the country is reckoned at 23 cents per ton per mile, or for the immense tonnage thus transported about \$650,000,000 annually. The cost of hauling over hard-surfaced public roads would be about 13 cents per ton per mile and the saving would be immense, something over \$400,000,000 the year; or about the value of all the apples, beans, rice, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes and honey produced annually in the United States. The waste of the United States would support in Chinese comfort all the teeming millions of the Flowery Kingdom—waste on account of undrained lands, ill-constructed highways, exorbitant cost of transportation on the common roads of the country, all of which would be escaped if the people could be impressed with the insanity of the methods generally prevailing in dealing with these matters.

Just as the improvement of the waterways and fair dealing with the railroads are essential to the prosperity of all the people, so also are the drainage of productive land and the building of substantial highways, which are, as it has been said so well, "the primary means of transportation for all agricultural products—the only avenues of transportation leading from the point of production to the point of consumption or rail shipment." There is in all this, or ought to be, a confederacy of interest, and with the New Year it is the hope of the American Highway Association to mobilize these economic forces for the public welfare.

GEMS OF THOUGHT.

Those who forget today seldom remember tomorrow.
Petulance is a shadow that clouds the sunshine of life.
There is always one chance, when you think you have a chance.
Conclusion goes in leaps and bounds while thought lags behind.
To like poetry is not a duty, but it is a misfortune not to do so.
Poets seek the beautiful; philosophers the truth; cynics the worst.
From out of the soul, pluck out the sight,
For hope is here, while life is night.
That slang is always expressed best,
When immigration expresses the rest.
There are old men who sit dreaming in the sun,
Waiting and watching until their day is done;
Not caring then how the chain is wrought,
That holds them but how ease can be bought.
False modesty will not look at naked truth, unless it is draped in fig leaves.

Holiday Clothes

For Men and Young Men

Everybody "dresses up" more or less around the Holidays—it's a part of the program—something you owe yourself—this business of looking cheerful, prosperous and happy. Let us help you do it with

Schloss Bros. Co., and Styleplus CLOTHES



"This Store Wishes You a Happy New Year!"

and trusts that the "Good Times" now on their way and already making their effects felt, may bring you a full share of prosperity and welfare. Business is GOOD, good in all lines, and getting better every day, and prosperity is bound to come in these next few years, to everyone who goes half way to meet it. And, in this connection, don't overlook the importance of "a good appearance—good clothes." More important than ever before, more expected—more looked for—Good Clothes are nowadays a vital necessity to the man who would "get on" and make his mark in the

Splendid lines of new styled, handsome-fitting suits and overcoats here to choose from, the latest models as designed by famous style-leaders. All sizes, shapes and prices, equal to the best custom-made \$10 to \$25.

world. Remember this, and it will help you more than you have any idea of. Remember too, that this store is headquarters for Prosperity clothes—the kind that not only make you look prosperous, but that help bring Prosperity to everyone worthy of it. A Happy New Year.

Good furnishings too, have their place in giving that well-roomsed prosperous look that marks the successful man. You'll find all the most useful things here—all the little things a man needs, from hosiery to hats, at little prices and of sure and certain quality.

Let Us Outfit You for the Coming Year!

PARKER & REESE

1916!

Haddon-Wilson Co.

—ARE MAKING—

Extensive Preparations for Early Spring Business.

—WATCH FOR OUR—

WHITE GOODS SALE IN NEXT ISSUE