

BLIND TIGERS OF CHARLESTON

A PROHIBITION FIELD AGENT LISTS AND CLASSIFIES THEM

Fruits of Dispensary—Strong Presentation of Conditions in S. C. Consequent upon State's Undertaking Monopoly of Sales.

A staff correspondent of the associated prohibition press, who has made an investigation of the liquor traffic conditions in this state and a special study of the blind tiger situation in Charleston, makes an interesting report on "the fruitage of lawlessness and corruption in the wake of the state saloon system." He says:

"There are 469 Federal tax receipts of 'retail liquor dealers' and 'retail dealers in malt liquors' now in force in South Carolina.

"Including those that have been voted out during the past year, there are 107 regular and thirty-six beer dispensaries in the state. This leaves a total of 326 'blind tigers' in the state that hold a Federal tax receipt for selling liquor. There are, therefore, nearly two and a half times as many 'blind tigers' in the state as legal selling establishments.

"These 143 dispensaries in the state represent but ninety-one towns and cities where liquor has been legally sold during the past year. In twenty of these places the people have voted out the grogshops, so that there are now but seventy-one towns and cities where intoxicants are legally sold.

"A most striking fact comes to the surface of this blind tiger situation: Of the 326 blind tigers of the state only twenty-nine are to be found in prohibition districts. The balance of 297 are all located in dispensary towns and cities.

The Blind Tigers

"In this connection, it is interesting to compare with the above, the dispensary cities of the State and their condition as to blind tigers.

"Below is given a list of the towns and cities of South Carolina where there are more Federal tax receipts in force than there are dispensaries, or have been dispensaries during the past year. The number noted as 'blind tigers' represents the excess of tax receipts over dispensaries.

Dispensary Cities:	Blind Tigers.
Anderson	2
Aiken	5
Beaufort	4
Camden	2
Charleston and environs	213
Columbia	22
Darlington	3
Edgefield	2
Florence	1
Georgetown	1
Greenville	6
Laurens	1
John's Island	18
Moultrieville	3
Mount Pleasant	5
Orangeburg	2
Port Royal	3
Newberry	5
Spartanburg	6
Sumter	1
Summerville	1
Union	2
Total	297

"The official records of the collector of internal revenue and of the State dispensary show, therefore, that there were, during 1904, more than ten times as many blind tigers in the ninety-one dispensary towns and cities as in all the rest of the State combined.

"One of the chief reasons urged by Senator Tillman for the establishment of the dispensary was that prohibition territory was a breeding ground for 'joints,' 'speakeasies,' 'blind pigs,' 'blind tigers,' and other vermin of like character. After twelve years of trial the dispensary proves to have enormously distanced prohibition as a breeder of illicit liquor selling.

"The habitat of the tax receipt blind tiger is chiefly in the larger cities. The rural moonshiner fights it out with the deputy marshals as best he can without giving up to the government the price of the tax receipt. In Columbia, the capital city, the tiger is far less arrogant than he was a few years ago. There are now twenty-two blind tigers in Columbia, which pay the tax receipt, most of them being located within pistol shot of the capitol building and lying in the territory between it and the main State dispensary building."

Conditions in Charleston

Concerning Charleston, the point from which he writes, the correspondent says:

"But it is in Charleston and environs that the blind tiger principally thrives. Here he abides and does

business with but little serious interference.

"In 1902, in gathering some evidence for the Department of Justice for use in the case of South Carolina vs. the United States, involving the right of the government to tax dispensaries, which was affirmatively decided in the United States Supreme Court last month, I had occasion to prepare a blind tiger map of Charleston. This map shows the location of 208 'blind tigers' in the principal part of the city.

"I have just completed a new map of the city, which shows 201 blind tigers in the same territory as they exist today. As the previous map was made during the Charleston exposition, there were naturally a larger number of blind tigers than there are now.

"A comparison of the two maps shows that the greater portion of the blind tigers of 1902 are still in existence after a period of four years.

"The drug stores of Charleston are drug stores. Scarcely any of them take out Federal tax receipts. Here the grocery stores are the principal offenders. A large number of the cheap corner groceries and some of the more pretentious affairs have blind tiger attachments and pay the Federal tax."

What purports to be a full list of blind tigers in Charleston, with their locations, is given and the following remarks made:

"The following tabulation of the number of blind tigers within two blocks of various Charleston institutions is suggestive of local dispensary conditions:

City Hall	15
Public Library	14
Y. M. C. A.	24
Dispensary No. 4	24
Dispensary No. 3	21
Dispensary No. 17	6
Dispensary No. 25	15
U. S. Custom House	14
Academy of Music	7
Postoffice	17
Union passenger station	22
Dispensary No. 7	7
Charleston High School	13
St. Michael's Church	14
Grave of John C. Calhoun	19
William Pitt statue	12
Memorial tablet Gen. Beauregard	12
Statue of John C. Calhoun	10

The State and the Tigers.

The article continues. "The history of the attitude of the state and the dispensary toward the blind tiger industry has been one of change. In the early years of the institution, the state constabulary did stirring work and some shooting scrapes followed. These stirred up the people against the institution for a time.

"In 1898 the dispensary adopted the policy of fighting the 'blind tiger' competition by putting on the market what they called 'eighty proof whiskey,' an article composed of 80 per cent whiskey and 20 per cent water. A distilling plant was put in and distilled water was used for watering the whiskey. In this way a brand of whiskey was put on the market at a cheaper rate than the 'blind tiger' could supply it. The dispensaries would sell a whole half pint of whiskey for fifteen cents, the price of a simple drink in a license state. The result was that the state was flooded with cheap whiskey by the dispensaries. The colored population particularly became accustomed to chipping five cents each into a pool and drinking whiskey by the bottle and drinking it on the street corners. I have stood on the street corners of Charleston frequently and seen three and four parties of colored men sucking at a bottle that they had bought from a dispensary for the price of a drink in a license state.

"The dispensary followed up this attack on 'blind tiger' competition by lending its influence in the direction of prosecuting liquor sellers who were in competition; that is, those who did not purchase their supplies from the dispensaries. This they were able to do because the dispensary practically controlled the machinery of the dominant political party of the state. The result was that the 'blind tigers' found it to their interest to purchase their supplies from the dispensaries. Since the close of the year 1898 until within the last two years, the policy of purchasing their supplies of liquors from the dispensaries has been closely followed by the 'blind tigers.'

"The agitation growing out of the South Carolina dispensary case in the court of claims has resulted in some modification of this attitude of the dispensary management towards the tiger industry. Since then, a new scheme has been popular. Periodically the police or dispensary constables make the rounds of the blind tigers and seize what liquors are to be found. These liquors are turned over to the state dispensary, there sold and

the state pockets the money. These so-called 'raids' are looked upon more as foraging expeditions than bona fide raids. The tigers carry a trifling stock which is replenished daily so their loss from the raid is small. Such a course enables the police to keep up a show of activity and the crop of free liquor so harvested into the dispensary stock amount to a goodly sum. The Charleston police now turn over to the dispensary for sale from 8,000 to 10,000 bottles of beer each year, and a proportionate amount of whiskeys. Gobbling their supplies of liquor in this way is cheaper for the dispensary than to buy it in the market.

"The 'eighty proof whiskey' scheme of 1898 has been somewhat improved upon in recent years. The dispensaries now sell at retail a corn whiskey at \$1.60 a gallon. This whiskey is billed to the county dispensaries at \$1.44 a gallon. As the government tax on this stuff is \$1.10 per gallon for proof whiskey, it would seem that there would be but thirty-four cents per gallon to go to the distiller and the wholesaler. As a matter of fact, this liquor is only 'seventy proof,' that is, 70 per cent whiskey and 30 per cent water. 'Seventy proof' whiskey at \$1.44 per gallon is approximately the same as 'one hundred proof' or pure whiskey at \$2 per gallon. The wholesaler, therefore, gets about ninety cents per gallon for this liquor after the tax is paid, instead of thirty-four cents. The dispensary doctors the whiskey with 30 per cent water as a money making proposition. This liquor is sold to the consumer at ten cents per half pint. The purchaser, therefore, gets a whole half pint of corn whiskey for two-thirds the price paid in license states for a single drink.

"In the same way, the dispensary 'doctors' some of its rye whiskey with 25 per cent water so as to make it 'seventy-five proof.' This whiskey is billed to the dispensaries at \$1.60 a gallon. The consumer pays fifteen cents for a half-pint, the same as is paid for a single drink in a license saloon.

"This plan of 'doctoring' or adulterating the whiskey was first inaugurated for the purpose of fighting the blind tigers from which purpose it has been diverted by the trend of events. It is now purchased by the blind tigers who sell it by the drink. A ten cent half-pint of whiskey will yield four drinks at 10 cents each. This ten cent whiskey is very popular with the negroes, two of whom can 'chip in' five cents each and get two drinks each. The effect of this is the retailing of whiskey at two and one-half cents per drink. From a scheme to fight blind tigers this adulterated whiskey has become a bond of friendship between the tigers and the dispensaries."

A Plant for The Piazza.

W. N. Craig in Garden Magazine.

Few plants are more useful for piazza decoration than heliotropes, when grown in standard or tree forms. The rich deep mauve color of the flowers, and their delicious fragrance make the heliotrope a favorite with everyone. As ordinarily grown it is not a very conspicuous object. If given a light situation, where they can get a reasonable amount of sunshine, and be watered carefully, they will flower nearly all summer. Even under a heavily-shaded piazza or in a hallway they will keep well for two or three weeks, after which they should be placed outdoors in a sunny position, pruned back a little, syringed two or three times daily, and carefully watered. Within a month they will again be a mass of bloom. Four good crops of flowers can thus easily be secured between May and October.

There is nothing specially difficult in the growing or training of this type of heliotrope. In March or April secure a few small, vigorous plants from a local florist, which should be potted along as required, taking care never to allow the plant to become matted with roots or pot-bound. The top must not be pinched from the main stem until the desired height is reached, but all the flowers and side shoots should be carefully removed, and the stem tied to a stake sufficiently stout to keep it firm. The stem can be run up to any desired length before being topped; the usual height is about four feet. A number of side shoots will soon appear, which, when they have made a growth of five or six inches, are pinched, and this pinching is continued until the plant carries a head of the desired size.

A cutting rooted in the spring will produce large heads during the summer of the year following. If started in the fall, and grown all winter in a moderately warm house standards can be had the following July. Seedlings make better standards than cuttings.

The plants may be flowered in ei-

ther large pots or tubs, preference being given to the latter. We use tubs sixteen inches square and round ones of the same diameter. These will carry a plant several years if liberal top dressing and liquid stimulants are given. It is a good plan to raise a few standards each year; the older plants can then be set out in beds or borders, where they are very effective.

Heliotropes are best grown outdoors from June 1st until the first frost. They can be carried over in a temperature of fifty degrees in a greenhouse or light cellar, and should be kept moderately dry during the severe winter months.

Care must always be taken to see that the plants are securely staked, as otherwise strong winds would break or seriously injure them. A compost of two-thirds turf loam, one-third well dried cow manure, in which there is a good dash of sand is excellent.

The one cultural fact that makes for success with heliotrope, is to keep the plant growing. It suffers more than most plants if it once gets dried out, and must be kept fairly moist at all times.

There are several varieties offered by the florists and seedsmen, but the best is probably Queen of Violets.

Gardens and Vegetables.

Southern Farm Magazine.

Irish potatoes should be planted in all the border states in March. The best early varieties or at least those which have given the best satisfaction, are the Triumph, Early Hebron and Early Rose, preference being generally given to the first named. No stable manure should be put in the rows when the potatoes are planted, as it induces scab and makes the potatoes waxy. With land well prepared and enriched in the preceding fall or winter two good workings will usually make a large yield of potatoes. They are usually cut and dropped in rows three and one-half feet apart at intervals of 10 inches in the rows. They are then covered by throwing the dirt with a single horse plow over them, making a flat ridge. Just as the potato sprouts begin to break through the overlying ridge, a harrow should be run over the land breaking down the ridges and destroying all the weeds and grass. Two weeks after this harrowing the potatoes should be "sided out" with a one-horse plow, and two weeks later, if the weather has been seasonable, the dirt should be thrown to them. This completes the cultivation. Level culture is preferred by many growers, and the cultivation in that case is done with double-shovel plows.

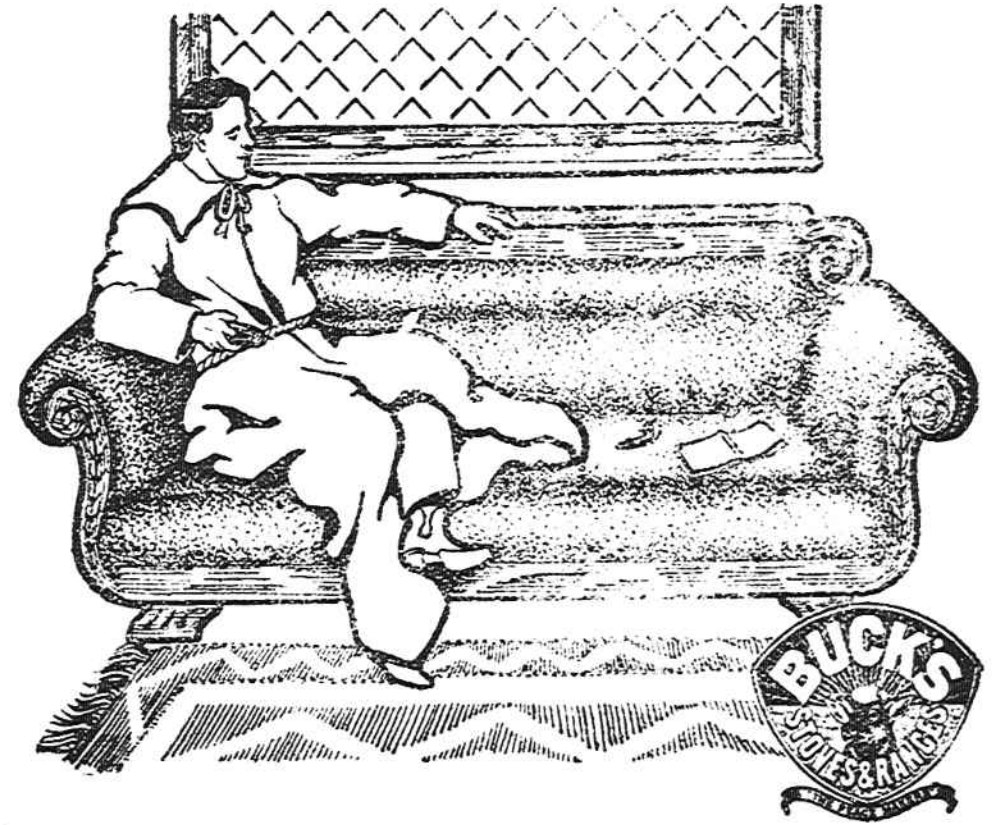
Nearly all garden vegetables should be planted in March, and especially the hardier kinds, such as peas, onions, salsify, parsnips, cabbage, carrots, lettuce and spinach. Tomato plants should be raised in a hotbed, but not transplanted until the warm moist days in April. Snap beans cannot stand cold weather, and the planting of these should be deferred until the danger from frosts is over, unless protected by a canvas covering. In the extreme south all kinds of garden vegetables should be in good headway in March, and will need active and frequent cultivation.

From An Address By Susan B. Anthony.

At this time when the whole world is mourning the loss of Susan B. Anthony some of her reasons for advocating the political rights of women may be of interest to many. In an address many years ago she said:

"We recognize that the ballot is a two-edged, nay, a many-edged sword, which may be made to cut in every direction. If wily politicians and sordid capitalists may wield it for mere party and personal greed; if oppressed wage-earners may invoke it to wring justice from legislators and extort material advantages from employers; if the lowest and most degraded classes of men may use it to open the sluice-ways of vice and crime; if it may be the instrumentality by which the narrow, selfish, corrupt and corrupting men and measures rule—it is quite as true that noble-minded statesmen, philanthropists and reformers may make it the weapon with which to reverse the above order of things, as soon as they can have added to their now small numbers the immensely larger ratio of what men love to call 'the better half of the people.' When women vote, they will make a new balance of power that must be weighed and measured and calculated in its effect upon every social and moral question which goes to the arbitrament of the ballot-box. Who can doubt that when the representative women of thought and culture, who are today the moral backbone of our nation, sit in counsel with the best men of the country higher conditions will be the result?"

"There are grave questions of mor-



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al, as well as of material interest in which women are mostly deeply concerned. Denied the ballot, the legitimate means with which to exert their influence, and, as a rule, being lovers of peace, they have recourse to prayers and tears, those potent weapons of women and children, and when they fail, must tamely submit to wrong or rise in rebellion against the powers that be."

B. C. Whitney's "Isle of Spice."

"To say, generally, that the American stage differs in no way from that of any other country, would not be altogether true," says dainty Leslie Leigh prima donna of B. C. Whitney's piquant musical mixture, the "Isle of Spice" soon to be seen in this city. "Human nature is the same the world over, yet custom and tradition must be taken into account. Our people, for example, have never taken kindly to the so-called trained drama. We have delighted in that which was uplifting and ennobling, and shunned that which was salacious and degrading. It has been the rule that a play that is unfit for the 'young person' to see was unworthy for the elders to attend. Foreigners have poked the finger of derision at us on this account, but, we have stood our ground and upheld our 'traditions.' Of course, plays which were beyond defense and beneath contempt have enjoyed some little prosperity on our stage, but these have been like angel's visits, few and far between.

"As to reforming the American stage, I do not see where any reform is necessary. Good plays succeed and bad ones fail; vicious plays are driven from the stage, and scant support is given to the trifling and inane. These, then, may be said to be halcyon days for the American actor, and playwright and manager. What defects there may be will find speedy remedy, for that which is lacking in truth, cannot long survive."

Washington Stubbs, the principal character in "The Maid and the Mummy" is pursued by Trixie Evergreen, an actress. Finally Stubbs, in desperation says: "I'll have to marry that woman just to be in a position to get a legal separation from her." The troubles of this queer pair are only one of the bits that go to make "The Maid and the Mummy" such a perfect musical play. This merry melange by Richard Carle and Robert Hood Bowers will appear at the opera house.

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