

THE BARNWELL PEOPLE.

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NO. 50.

THEY GOT PAID.

Some Damaging Evidence Against Certain Dispensary Officials

WAS BROUGHT OUT.

A Former Beer Dispenser at Spartanburg Gives Some Rich and Racy Testimony Before the Commission as to How Money Was Raised for Graft.

On the witness stand in the courthouse at Spartanburg on Tuesday last week John Henry Morris, former beer dispenser, testified that he had lost his job as beer dispenser because he complained of the miserable quality of beer sold by the Atlanta Brewing company and because he had refused to pay to C. O. Smith, chairman of county board, the amount that Smith demanded. "Witness swore further that in making final settlement with Atlanta Brewing company that concern was represented by Cole-Lewis, who had said, 'You boys could have kept from telling so much.'"

Regarding the affidavits which witnesses had given Messrs. Christensen and Lyon, Morris also testified that H. H. Evans had asked him to "chip in" \$300 to the election of legislators in Spartanburg county, promising to refund it. Witness never been reimbursed although he had spent money on advice of Jess Mahaffey, former member of legislature, who had told Morris that Evans was good for the amount, as during the session of the legislature Mahaffey had had \$30 bills stuffed into his pockets by Evans during the campaign incident to Evans' reelection. Witness declined to testify further, as Mahaffey was not present and he wanted to say it to Mahaffey's face.

Witness also swore that C. O. Smith, the former chairman of the county board, had told him that he must sell Atlanta beer or none at all when Morris complained that the beer was stale and the customers were quitting him. He testified that he had seen Smith drunk on several occasions and that once he saw Smith try to cut a man with a meat knife. Morris was the only witness examined, as the hearing did not commence until after 5 o'clock.

BLEASER'S NAME BROUGHT IN.

Senator Hay and Mr. Fraser having been delayed, Mr. Lyon stated that he and Mr. Christensen, being members of the sub-committee, would not sit as members of the commission but as prosecuting attorneys. He began by reading a letter from C. H. Henry and his reply to that letter. Henry had asked for permission to reply to statements in an affidavit of which he had heard. Mr. Lyon had replied that Henry would be given a free and full hearing. This was approved by the committee and Henry may appear if he chooses to do so.

On account of the delay, there were not many people in the court house, but the testimony of Morris made quite a stir. Senator Bleaser, who was author of the resolution looking to the dispensary investigation, was referred to very pointedly by the witness but did not cross examine him.

There were several present who are interested in the local fight to vote out the dispensary and they seem to think that the testimony today will have its weight in that issue, for the witness is said to be a reliable man. He testified that he is a butcher and has an interest in a grocery store. He was a willing witness and did not hesitate to declare himself. He had been elected beer dispenser in April, 1904, and was not re-elected at the end of the year. He had spent \$80 to get the job, including the attorney's fee. It had cost him between \$700 and \$800 to fix up his place.

trying to get light the committee would give more latitude to the witness.

THE MORRIS AFFIDAVIT.

After further arguments Mr. Lyon proceeded with the reading of the affidavit of Morris given last April. It read: "I did not know positively what C. O. Smith meant, but supposed it meant that I would have to pay the county board of control something for my reelection. I inferred this because ex-Beer Dispenser B. L. Toland told me that he had to pay C. O. Smith \$375 for his election besides the beer and whiskey he gave him. In addition to this W. F. Lanford told me that J. P. Thackston had to pay about \$450 for his beer privilege to C. O. Smith, chairman of county board. (Objection by Mr. Sims.) Toland and Lanford told me that the \$375 mentioned above was deposited in the name of J. W. Huseman, beer dispenser there. These are a few of the reasons I had for supposing that I would have to pay some of the members of county board for my privilege to sell beer. Later upon asking for a book of instructions for running my dispensary, Mr. Smith said, 'Don't mind instructions, make every dollar you can, you will need it for your next election.' About the middle of March last, shortly before my time for reelection, C. O. Smith came to my place of business, and asked me if I wished to be re-elected. I said I did. He said I had better get busy and go to Atlanta with him and make a trade with Jeff Dunwoody. If I did not, the other fellow would. Dunwoody is the gentleman who represents the Atlanta Brewing Company."

DUNWOODY COMES IN.

"In August, or previous to that, in July, I received a car of stale beer, and had a lot of it sent back on me, and a lot of my customers quit me, and I told Charlie Smith, and he said I would have to handle that or lose it. He said, 'You know Jeff Dunwoody gave you \$125 to help you build your toe box.' I said, 'I will just pay him \$125 and buy from somebody else, I can't sell that.' Smith says, 'You can sell that or nothing.' That was previous to March, in August or July. I preferred to go, that if it took that to get the beer dispenser I did not want it. Smith came back to me a week later and said that he could have the brewery to pay enough to satisfy himself and Mr. W. M. Avant, without my having to pay anything, if I would go to Atlanta with him and obligate myself to handle their beer."

"That was that stale beer?"
A. "Yes, sir, when I obligate myself I would have to handle anything they put on me."

Mr. Lyon, continuing affidavit: "We did not go to Atlanta and saw Dunwoody. Dunwoody came to me and said that he (Dunwoody) had been told that if I were re-elected beer dispenser that he would have to come to Spartanburg and get busy if any of his beer were sold there. Dunwoody told me that I would have to give \$1 a keg so I would satisfy the boys."

There was more of this kind of evidence in the affidavit, all going to show that Morris, while dispenser, was told that C. O. Smith was master of the situation in Spartanburg county, and that a member of the State board had told Jeff Dunwoody that Smith would remain on the county board until after the election of beer dispensers.

The affidavit continues: "The result of the whole matter was that I lost my position. I attribute this to my refusal to follow Dunwoody's and Smith's advice. No charges were preferred against me, and I called this matter to the attention of Mr. H. H. Evans in a letter which I had Mr. C. P. Sanders write for me, but I have never received a response from Mr. Evans."

A letter was read from Mr. Morris to Chairman H. H. Evans of the State board, protesting against his removal without cause. He asked Mr. Evans to have his removal investigated and for fair play. To this letter he stated he received no reply. There was nothing special in the letter, except a request for fair play.

man and Reibling, beer dispensers, came down and said Mr. Henry said we had better give more."

Q. "What was the object in giving The Journal this money?"

THEY ALL GAVE AROUND.

A. "They said all the rest of them were giving them money to fight the prohibition movement and wanted me to come across and I told them I would."

Q. "You did not have any agreement to put in any advertising matter in The Journal?"
A. "No, I don't know whether it went to The Journal or not, but when I asked the board about it, I asked them why they didn't get The Herald's influence. That Mr. Henry had been fighting the dispensary all along, and they said, 'O we can't get The Herald, and doubtless if they could get Henry, but if I would give it I would be elected again.'"

Mr. Lyon continuing the affidavit: "Shortly after I agreed to Mr. Harmon's proposition to pay The Journal \$300, Mr. Reibling and Huseman, beer dispensers, came to me and said, 'Let's get Henry, the newspaper man of The Evening Journal; that he would take up the fight for \$500.' I asked the reason of the increase, as Mr. Harmon had just said that \$300 was the price. They said that Henry had gone up, that he had said \$300 was not enough, as he would lose subscribers to his paper and his influence, as he had been fighting on the other side." Witness said that was what they told him.

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "Huseman and Reibling told me my part would be \$50, but I declined to give this much. Mr. Harmon came back and said \$25 was enough for me to pay. That they would try and get balance from whiskey houses."

Representing the combined dispensaries here and as secretary for C. O. Smith, Jas. P. McGordy, dispenser, wrote letters to whiskey houses for Smith to get contributions to pay The Journal. I saw McGordy writing some of the letters at Smith's dictation. The letters referred to the movement to abolish the dispensary, and asked for aid to resist it. I recollect that the Richmond Distilling company was mentioned as subscribing one of the largest amounts to this fund. I think Uilman was another, and Mallard's Distilling company and J. W. Kelly & Co."

Witness: "I really saw the list but I forgot the names. That is the part of them. It was shown to me in McGordy's whiskey dispensary. Smith and McGordy went over it and said Joe went over it. I don't know how much the amounts were."

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "C. O. Smith said Hub Evans would also contribute."

Witness: "I believe he said he had already contributed."

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "I have seen C. O. Smith drunk on the street and in my place several times. One time I saw him try to cut Harry Thompson with my meat knife while he was drunk, but I took the knife from him. Smith is a notoriously disorderly person and gets drunk frequently."

REFUSED TO PAY.

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "Referring again to my reelection as dispenser, C. O. Smith told me that I must put up a bonus of \$250 cash, besides what he could get from the brewery, which he said would be \$200, making \$450, the same amount paid by Thackston and Reibling each for their privileges."

Witness: "The same man who sold stale beer to me."

Mr. Lyon continuing affidavit: "He then said to arrange the matter with Dunwoody; to let him charge \$1 extra on each barrel of beer and pay it over to him (C. O. Smith) as the beer was ordered. I refused to do this."

Q. "Are these statements correct?"
A. "Yes, sir, correct."

Mr. Lyon then read a number of letters from Dunwoody to I. C. Blackwood, Morris, and others. The first letter was to Mr. Blackwood in March of last year in reference to the establishment of the beer dispensary for which Morris was afterwards elected dispenser. Dunwoody told that he would assist Morris to get the job if the latter would use Dunwoody's beer. Mr. Blackwood is a former member of the legislature and appeared as one of C. O. Smith's attorneys.

At the conclusion of the reading of these letters, Mr. Lyon read to the witness an affidavit given several weeks after the first one. What happened between the time of the giving of the two affidavits related to the matter between Morris and Senator Bleaser, the author of the resolution causing the investigation and a member of the commission. The following are extracts from that affidavit.

Q. "Mr. Morris, since Mr. Christensen and myself were here the last time, were you consulted about the dispensary situation by Senator Bleaser of Newberry?"
A. "Yes, sir. He came to see me about a settlement between the Atlanta Brewing company and myself."

Evans' room every night he went there?"

A. "Yes, sir."
Q. "What else, Mr. Morris?"
A. "Well, he went on to state, which I suppose maybe a lot of people in this court house heard on several other occasions—Hub Evans was asked on one occasion in his room what was the salary of the State board of directors, and he went on to say that two of them received a salary of \$400 a year. Evans was asked what his salary was and he said he couldn't tell until his term was up."

Q. "Didn't Mr. Mahaffey tell you at the same time that he put some of these \$20 bills in the pockets of members of the legislature?"
A. "Yes, sir."
Q. "Tell us exactly what you know."
A. "He went on to state who he gave the \$20 bills to, but I can't recollect the names; I don't remember them."

Q. "That was in the interest of having Mr. Evans elected a member of the board of control?"
A. "Yes, sir."
Q. "Do you see any gentleman in this room who heard Mr. Mahaffey make that statement?"
A. "Mr. Blackwood there I think heard it."

Q. "Look around and see if you can see any others around here who you can recognize as having heard it."
A. "Most anybody heard it who ever loafed around the beer house and he made the statement so frequently and before so many people it looks as if it would be a very easy matter to get just anybody."

Q. "Do you recollect anything else about the transaction that you could tell us?"
A. "Not just now, I don't, Mr. Lyon."

HE SOLD WHISKEY.

Q. "Do you recollect a statement made by Mr. C. O. Smith in regard to his going to Charleston to sell whiskey to a certain dispenser down there and the dispenser refused to buy, and the transaction that took place?"
A. "Yes, sir, that was on Saturday before my defeat on Monday, I believe about the 8th of April. Mr. Smith was talking there in the beer house in the presence of Mr. Farley, myself and others."

Q. "What did he say Mr. Morris?"
A. "How come the conversation to come up, he had told me about some sales of whiskey he had made in various places in other towns, in Newberry; he said he had sold some right there in Hub Evans' own town; at least he had had dispensary order from some of the brands of whiskey from the houses that he was representing. He had the dispensary order which key from the State dispensary, the brand of whiskey he was representing."

Q. "In other words Mr. Smith represented whiskey houses and he went to local dispensers and asked them to order from the State dispensary the whiskey he, Smith, was selling; is that it?"
A. "Yes, sir."
Q. "Go ahead and tell the rest of the conversation."
A. "I asked him what kind of business did he do in Charleston. He said he sold more to blind tigers there than to dispensers. He said he sold 12 blind tiger people, and had the privilege of cursing out one dispenser."

SOME PLAIN FACTS

For Voters to Study Before Voting on Whiskey Question.

Some Interesting Statistics Quoted for Consideration of Prohibitionists and Dispensaryites.

A writer in the Florence Times says "when you vote for prohibition, stop a moment and consider, what is to be the result. Don't take preachers' words, don't take dispensaryites' but go into it with a business view, and when we say a business view, we do not exclude the moral aspect. The town of Florence is getting \$12,000 from the dispensary, the county is getting the same. The taxable property of the county is a little over \$3,000,000, and at 10 mills will raise a revenue of \$30,000 and with \$12,000 from the dispensary makes \$44,000, it takes all this to run the county and yet we could expend judiciously, more."

"Now vote the dispensary out of Florence, and this \$12,000, is got to be made up in taxation and half a mill additional under the Brice bill. This means about 40 per cent added to each man's taxes, that is every man who pays \$10 taxes will have to pay \$14, this is state and county, now if you happen to live in the city of Florence, you have 15 mills now with the \$6,000 from the dispensary. "The taxable property of Florence is a little over \$1,000,000, at the present rate of taxation you pay 1 1/2 per cent to raise \$15,000 and with the dispensary \$8,000 is barely sufficient to run the city, now take away the \$8,000, and we have to increase our taxes 33 per cent so the man who pays to the State \$10, and to the city \$15, will have to pay to the state \$14, and to the city \$20, in all \$34, where he paid under the dispensary system \$25 or \$9 additional for the man in the city and \$4 additional for the man in the country. Now this is sufficient to warrant a quid pro quo, are you going to get it? Will you give prohibition, will there be no liquor sold in the county, if so you have gotten rid of liquor cheaply, and our advice is to vote the dispensary out."

"But who vouches for the fact that you will get prohibition, the preachers and the advocates of prohibition, from whence comes their authority? Kansas is a prohibition state, and yet according to the United States revenue reports last year 3,800 licenses to sell liquor were taken out, that means there were that number of blind tigers in prohibition Kansas. Maine is a prohibition state, and 800 licenses were taken out, or that number of blind tigers run in prohibition Maine. South Carolina is a dispensary state and 512 licenses were taken out, this includes dispensaries, for each dispensary has to take out a license so that probably there are 350 blind tigers in South Carolina, for each tiger arms himself with a United States license. The percentage of liquor sold in the United States is said to be \$17 per capita in South Carolina it is \$4.70 per capita, showing that perhaps there is less liquor drunk in South Carolina than any other state."

"Now you can better this by prohibition, if you can vote out the dispensaries. But are you better than the people of Kansas or Maine? Can you answer that question in the affirmative? Then what is your proof? But if we take humanity as an average, where can you expect better results in South Carolina, than in Kansas or Maine. Now if there is run in South Carolina 350 blind tigers where there are dispensaries, at which liquor can be procured, what will be the ratio when the dispensaries are removed. It is a mathematical question that each must solve for himself. In our view, every cross road will sell liquor under the guise of blind tigers, or some other harmless name, and the latter end of the whiskey question in South Carolina will be worse than the first."

"Now each voter must decide for himself; we have no advice to offer. We simply state facts, which can't truthfully be contradicted, but when you vote be sure you are not jumping from the frying pan into the fire."

FATAL COLLISION.

A head on collision at Norfolk between electric trains of the reenvisioned division of the Norfolk Railway and Light Co.'s system Wednesday evening resulted in the death of motorman Sydney Thomas, formerly of Lynchburg, and the slight injury of Robert Tait and wife, of that city, Charles Gibbs, of Berkeley, and John Grinstead, all passengers. The railroad authorities say the collision was due to disobedience of orders. Both trains were badly damaged.

The Dispensary in Georgia.

Col. T. Larry Gantt in speaking of the dispensary says it is the best solution of the liquor question in South Carolina if the graft is eliminated. He said that there were some counties in Georgia which had made a great success of the institution, and cited Terrell county, which has, unadvisedly, every road in the county, and has built a thriving county; in the county of which Athens is the county seat, they cleared \$42,000 last year—but they are free of the corruption which "headquarters" like those in Columbia give.

Lighting.

Newberry was Monday night visited by a severe electric storm accompanied by a heavy rain. Four residences in the city were struck by lightning, one of them having the weatherboarding torn from one end. Fortunately no one was injured and there was any of the houses set on fire.

POORLY BUILT.

Many People Crushed to Death by Collapse of a Store.

DISASTER IN ALBANY.

Over One Hundred Men, Women and Children Buried in the Ruins. Between Twenty and Thirty Were Killed, Many Injured and Fifty Entombed.

At Albany, N. Y., the middle section of the big department store of the John G. Myers company on North Pearl street, collapsed early on Tuesday of last week, carrying down with it over 100 persons.

Caught in a chaos of brick, plaster and wooden beams, between 20 and 30 men, women and children met death. Twelve hours' frantic work on the part of rescuers disentangled 60 people, six of them dead and many of the rest badly injured. Three bodies were in sight at a late hour Tuesday night, but many hours' work will be required to get them out. Anything like a complete list of the killed and injured will be unobtainable until the workers have made their way to the very bottom of the mass of the wreckage. With few exceptions those caught in the ruins were employees, a large majority of them girls.

The catastrophe occurred shortly after the opening hours when barely a score of shoppers were in the store. A clock found in the debris had stopped at 12 minutes before 9, showing when the crash came.

The best account of the event that probably caused the ruin is given by the head of the crockery, glass and drug department, which occupied the basement.

"The workmen were saving at a wooden floor beam," said he, "which runs underneath one of the central pillars in the middle of the store. Excavation for the cellar was going on about the base of this pillar, and I believe that jarring of the beam beneath it displaced the foundation of the pillar. The first thing I knew, two of the counters near the place where the men were working began to sag, and several pieces of glassware slid off into the floor with a crash."

"I yelled to my clerks to run for the front of the store. The words were not out of my mouth when there came a creaking and everything around us began to fall. The wreck came slowly, however, and I think everyone in my department escaped as well as the workmen."

The pillar which drew away supported the ends of two giant girders, and when it fell, the main support of the central part of the building was gone. With a noise that could be heard blocks away and which shook the adjoining buildings, nearly half the great structure, from cellar to roof, and extending from one side wall to the other, came grinding down. Into this cavern fell scores of employees who were working on the four floors above and lacked the warning which enabled those in the basement to escape. Some, however, were apprised of the danger by falling plaster and saved themselves by rushing to the front of the store or to the fire escape in the rear.

Clouds of dust which shot out of the front entrance caused those outside to believe that the store was safe, and a fire alarm was immediately turned in. When the fire department arrived they had plenty to do in rescuing those who were pinned under the big wreckage. They were joined by scores of volunteer rescuers and within an hour 15 or 20 persons were carried out, none of them fatally injured.