

INVESTIGATION OF WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY DISPENSARY BOARD.

AUDITOR W. B. WEST AND SOLICITOR W. H. WELLS PROBE THOROUGHLY INTO THE MATTER OF ALLEGED GRAFT IN WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY DISPENSARIES—THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

At an investigation conducted in the court house in Kingstree, S. C., March 18, 1907, relative to the conduct of certain officers of the Williamsburg county dispensary board, the following testimony was taken: Mr J D Gilland being duly sworn testified as follows:

Mr West:
Mr Gilland, is that the letter or rather report, I should have said, you made to me in connection with the Williamsburg county dispensary affair?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Mr Gilland, when were you first made bookkeeper of the dispensary board?
A. July 1, 1907.
Q. Were you given full access to the papers and books and affairs connected with the dispensary?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Mr Gilland what was the cause of your writing that letter you hold in your hand, making that report?
A. I considered it my duty.
Q. Did you believe at that time any irregularities were being carried on?
A. I suspected irregularities in the conduct of the business.
Q. Mr Gilland, please read your letter charging irregularities preferred against this board.
Letter read—(This letter is very lengthy, but the charges made by Mr Gilland are in a brief form comprehended in his reply to the Florence Times article printed in THE RECORD last week.—ED THE RECORD.)
Q. Now, Mr Gilland, who paid your expenses to Savannah that time?
A. I paid it.
Q. It is mentioned here that upon the suggestion of a member of the board that he would pay half of your expenses, you went to Savannah to ascertain why Big Springs Distilling Co. had been given so much business. Who was suspicious?
A. Dr Bass.
Q. Did he at that time mention to you of whom he was suspicious?
A. Mr Parker.
Q. Mr Gilland, relate as nearly as you can what conversation took place between you and Dr Bass.
A. Well, at the time Mr Snowden was sick and Dr Bass was very much handicapped in his opposition to Parker and he did not understand why the Big Springs Distilling Co. secured such large business with the Williamsburg county dispensary board and that he suspected Parker of illegitimate dealings with the Big Springs Co.
Q. Did he so state to you at that time?
A. Yes, sir, and he made a proposition that he would pay half of my expenses and I went to Savannah and interviewed the Big Springs Distilling Co, to ascertain if they were doing illegitimate business with Parker.
Q. Has he reimbursed you for this?
A. No sir, he has not.
Q. What excuse did he make for not reimbursing you?
A. Well, he has never offered any.
Q. Did you learn anything from the Big Springs Distilling Co?
A. Well, I learned that they were open for an illegitimate business and that Lee Solemons is their representative in this State.
Q. Did they so state to you?
A. I do not know that he is their representative in this State, but I know from his previous trouble that he was their representative in this State.
Q. Was there any proposition made to you at that time on the part of Dr Bass looking to any spoils or graft to be made out of it by himself and by you?
A. Dr Bass made a proposition to me, but at that time I do not believe that Dr Bass would have accepted any graft.

I believe that Dr Bass would have accepted any graft.
Q. I do not exactly understand you, Mr Gilland. What was the proposition that Dr Bass made to you?
A. He wanted me to go down and see why the Big Springs Distilling Co were getting so much business.
Q. But what proposition did he make to you in connection with the division of the spoils?
A. He said if we got anything we would divide half and half.
Q. He said you and he would divide half and half?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Did you get anything, Mr Gilland?
A. No sir, nothing doing for us.
Q. You went on, however, Mr Gilland, after that proposition was made to you?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Did you accede to Dr Bass' proposition?
A. In what way?
Q. That if there was any thing doing, did you close the matter with him then?
A. I think that was pretty well understood.
Q. It was understood then and there that if there was any thing to be made out of it you would divide half and half?
A. Yes sir, but I don't believe that he anticipated getting anything out of it.
Q. Did you learn anything from the Big Springs Distilling Co that would lead you to believe that some one else was getting something out of this thing?
A. That was the intention of my trip, but I could not find out any thing.
Q. Mr Gilland, I want to ask you this: If you do not believe that at that time it was Dr Bass' intention to get any graft out of that transaction, what event has transpired since then to include Dr Bass with Mr Parker?
A. On account of the awards made and the letters addressed to Dr Bass at Lake City.
Solicitor Wells:
Q. Mr Gilland, do I understand that you make no charges whatever against Mr Snowden?
A. None whatever, sir.
Q. Mr Gilland, I believe the records show, do they not, that since that trip to Savannah, stuff has been bought from Big Springs Distilling Co?
A. Yes sir.
Q. When Dr Bass and Mr Parker alone were present at a meeting of the board?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Mr Gilland, have you not over-heard Dr Bass discuss either Bluthenthal & Bickart or Big Springs Distilling Co, what he thought of them previous to this trip?
A. Yes sir.
Q. What did he think of them?
A. He thought that they were a dirty contemptible set of Jews, unfit to deal with.
Q. What do the records show, since making that statement, in regard to purchases made from this company?
A. There was no purchase made from Bluthenthal & Bickart until the 18th of November.
Q. Since making that statement, what do the records show regarding orders secured by B & B?
A. Bluthenthal & Bickart have made big sales.
Q. How much was ordered from them?
A. 450 drums.
Q. From your experience as clerk of the board could Williamsburg county use 450 drums in three months of Old Joe?
A. No sir, impossible.
Q. You made orders every three months, did you not?
A. Made purchases every three

months, orders every Monday.
Q. Then it was only necessary to purchase supplies every three months.
A. Yes sir.
Mr West:
Q. Mr Gilland, do you know the proof of Old Joe?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Was the proof submitted with the bid?
A. No sir.
Q. Was no proof given at all?
A. No sir.
Q. And yet an award was given for 300 drums of Old Joe?
A. Yes sir.
Q. And there was no proof submitted at all with their bids?
A. No, sir.
Q. Do you know the proof that S Grabfelder guaranteed Silver Brook to be?
A. XXX Silver Brook Rye 100 per cent.
Q. Has the county dispensary board ever used any stuff of higher proof?
A. No, sir.
Q. Have you seen anything quoted to them over a 100 proof?
A. Not that I recollect.
Q. Do you know whether or not the board understood that when a whiskey house bid whiskey at a certain proof that they were liable for that proof?
A. I think so, sir. They had legal representatives and advice to that effect.
Q. Do you know whether they knew that it was included in the statutes?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And they recognized that they could make it come up to the proof?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Was no proof stated on Mobile Buck gin on the bid?
A. Only in bulk as to that special brand.
Q. What was the proof?
A. 90 per cent.
Q. Do you know whether any other stuff was offered of higher proof?
A. Gin.
Q. Yes, sir, gin?
A. Not that I know of, 90 per cent was the highest I know of quoted.
Q. What was the price to be paid for Old Joe?
A. \$33.00 as well as I remember, \$33.00 for pints and \$34.00 for 1-2 pints.
Q. Silver Brook could have been purchased for how much?
A. \$30.00 per drum.
Q. Thirty all around?
A. Yes sir.
Q. Mr Gilland, about this time did Dr Bass ever suggest to you that you were padding orders for Mallard Distilling Co?
A. No, sir, it was suggested on the out side and reported to me.
Q. Had you ever kicked up any row about this suggestion?
A. I made complaint about it.
Q. To whom had you made complaint?
A. I had talked to Mr Kinder, who has the next office to mine.
Q. Mr Gilland, can you explain, have you any theory as to how these letters written by you to B & B got into possession of these parties or party?
A. Not unless they had an agent in this State.
Q. Do you know whether they have an agent in this State?
A. I do not.
Q. These letters are identical with the letters as written these parties?
A. Yes sir.
Q. It seems from the letters written these people that you received some reply? Where is the letter?
A. I have misplaced it.
Q. You cannot get it?
A. No, I wrote the house for a copy but they did not send it.
Q. How many letters did you receive from those people?
A. I think I received one only.
Q. Between the letter and the telegram from B & B you received one letter?
A. As well as I remember.
Q. What did that letter to you contain as well as you remember?
A. In substance it was a request

New Train Schedule.

The following schedule of the new train from Lane to Florence, which went into effect Monday, December 17, has been furnished us by Mr J P Taylor, the courteous and efficient agent of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad at Kingstree:

North Bound Arrives	
No. 80	7:37 A. M.
*No. 46	11:42 A. M.
No. 50	6:36 P. M.
South Bound Arrives	
No. 89	9:18 P. M.
*No. 47	5:46 P. M.
No. 51	10:52 A. M.
* Daily Except Sunday.	

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