

# The Watchman and Southern.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims at be thy Country's Day God's and Truth's.

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1850.

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SUMTER, S. C. WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1905.

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## ROTTEN TO THE CORE.

DAMAGING CHARGES AGAINST  
STATE DIRECTOR BOYKIN.

Accused of Soliciting Orders for Liquor  
From Local Dispensaries—Sumter  
Dispenser Windham Had  
Profitable Rake-off.

From the Daily Item, Sept. 6

The tale of graft among the dispensers, their clerks and other minor office holders was somewhat expanded today, but little that was new was brought to light. The rake off derived by dispensers from empty bottles and boxes was told and retold, and but for the conditions existing in Cheraw, few facts of interest were revealed. It is passing strange why those high in office are not brought to the stand and made to explain where the big stealing is going on, and leave alone, for a while at least, the small fry who admit, without exception, having received extra bottles in cases and trivial presents from the houses from whom the liquor is purchased. It is true that every investigation and the examination of each witness generally throws some small amount of light upon the dispensary situation; but, if the big bugs were carefully and thoroughly interrogated, it would soon appear useless and a waste of time and money to travel around the state investigating local conditions. The conduct of the system is what the people of the state are endeavoring to get at, and in order to ascertain true conditions, those who have the system in charge should be required to render an account of their stewardship. Perhaps the other committees will perform their duty as thoroughly as the Christensen-Lyon sub dispensary committee is discharging theirs.

Mr. H. R. Skinner, recently appointed dispenser at Darlington, was called to the stand at 10.05 o'clock, and examined by Representative T. Fraser Lyon. He testified as to the manner in which the dispensary was run by Gordon Wilkes, his predecessor in office, and whom he served as clerk for two years. He knew that whiskey was sold in bottles containing less than one-half pint, and also that some of the liquor sold for quarts contained only one-fifth of a gallon. He named several brands. He said that he had been the recipient of some presents, but that they had no influence upon him, and that they never affected his orders. Wilkes received an umbrella from Troeger & Co., a suit of clothes from Friedman, Kober & Co., and extra bottles of whiskey in many of the cases received at the dispensary. A letter was read from the Richland Distillery Company offering Wilkes for empty bottles of their special brands 80 cents per case for quarts, 90 cents for pints and \$1.00 for half pint bottles. Letters from Cook-Bernheim Company and Bluthenthal & Bickert, stating that gifts of liquor were being sent were also read. He is now making use of the application blanks, and is observing the law in regard thereto. Previously he had omitted to do so, he made no secret of it, and the State board could have ascertained the fact upon mere inquiry.

This is where a bit of interesting testimony pertaining to the empty-bottle profits was presented to the committee. Skinner told of the arrangement of his dispensary, with a conveniently arranged enclosure in the rear of the building which was latticed in and had cork-screws attached to chains and a device for pulling off crown corks in handy and close proximity. On the back door was tacked in a conspicuous place the following sign:

"Notice: Customers opening and drinking beer at this place must put empty bottles in this barrel or box."

This, he admitted, proved one of the chief means of collecting bottles, and was very profitable, as the price paid for the empties is 20 cents per dozen. This particular phase of the business grew to such an extent that a tank for washing bottles was placed in the rear of the building. Wilkes kept extra bottles found in cases on a table in his

portion of the building; he sold them, and kept the money for his personal use. The Richland Distillery Company always sent extra bottles, Mal-lard sent occasionally, but Troeger never did. Letters from various houses stating that checks were being sent for empty cases were read, and the amounts therein stated were \$17.75, \$13.35, \$25.00, \$28.65 and \$29.38. The average receipts from this source amounts to \$14.00 monthly. Remembered shipping as many as 25 or 30 barrels of empty beer bottles at a time for which he received \$2.00 per barrel. Any number of letters were received offering to buy empty cases and bottles.

Mr. J. T. Meehan, of Cheraw, editor of the Carolina Citizen, was next called to the stand. Had heard charges made against S. S. Ingram, chairman of board of control, and on his request a meeting was held at Chesterfield on the first Monday of August. He appeared before the county board of control and in the presence of the Hon. M. J. Hough and Editor Stricklin, Mr. S. S. Ingram gave the following answers to questions directed to him:

"Are you chairman of the county board of control?"

"I am."

"Since you have held this position did you accept a position in the Cheraw dispensary as clerk, and did you, as chairman of said board, raise your salary as clerk?"

"I did."

"Did you as chairman of the board of control, audit and approve your account as clerk?"

"I did."

"What salary was paid the dispensary clerk before you?"

"\$33.33."

"You raised your salary to what amount?"

"\$40.00."

"What salary has been paid for clerk hire since you gave up the position?"

"The old price, \$33.33. Receives extras."

"While you were chairman of the board of control and clerk in the Cheraw dispensary did you find extra bottles of whiskey in certain case goods?"

"Yes, in some cases."

"In cases of barrels of beer would you find about six extra bottles for the dispenser?"

"Yes."

"Were these extra bottles of whiskey and beer sold?"

"I can't say. I think they were put right along with the other goods."

"If these goods were sold where did the money go?"

"I don't know."

He stated that Dispenser Manning owned the building in which the dispensary is located. That previous to his purchase of it, the store rented for \$5.00 a month, and it paid him an income of \$20 a month. The building was worth less than \$500. He next sold the building, bought another store for about \$600 and receives \$290 a year for the dispensary's use of the first floor and \$100 a year as the rental of the second floor. He stated that Dispenser Manning violated nearly every feature of the law, including the non use of application blanks and the selling of liquor to minors and habitual drunkards. Ingram has entire charge of the dispensary. He stated that Ingram was in good health on last Sunday afternoon, and that he knew no reason why he should no appear. He is said to sell liquor very frequently on Sunday on doctor's certificates, and in most cases those who take it are in a much worse condition after they take it than before. When questioned as to his knowledge of the disposition of the extra bottles of whiskey, he gave Mr. Bundy, a clerk in the dispensary, as authority for the statement that Ingram drank about half of it. Often it was sold to take the place of broken bottles.

An affidavit from Mr. Ingram was read stating that he did not regard it as a violation of the law, because of his having served as a clerk in the dispensary, while on the county board. That his salary was raised by the dispenser, and that he regretted his inability to be present.

Mr. F. M. Davis, formerly dispenser at Florence for seven years, was then called to the stand. His testimony in regard to empty bottles and boxes was similar to that of the others examined. He sold on an average of forty barrels of empty beer bottles per month. He kept no special account of extra bottles. Said that they went to the county and city profits, but in explaining the means by which the county and city thus profited, it was made clear that his process of reasoning was illogical, and that he was the gainer by more than \$100. He received 25 cents per dozen from Farnum in Charleston for beer bottles and regarded the additional price an

inducement to try his brands. There was some peculiar transaction between the two that could not be gotten at, and in a letter to Farnum, Davis said: "I don't care to sell out at such a small figure." He said that about \$10,000 was his price. He accumulated bottles by allowing drinking on the dispensary premises.

Mr. J. H. Morris, of Spartanburg, was sworn by request, and in answer to charges preferred against him in some papers as to the inaccuracy of his accounts he produced vouchers and receipts, which he turned over to the committee, showing that his settlement was straight and that he was not behind.

The meeting then adjourned.

From the Daily Item, Sept. 7.

Yesterday afternoon's session of the investigating committee was opened a little after 4 o'clock by the calling of W. D. Howard, former dispenser at Spartanburg, to the stand. The establishment was run in his name, but he was only an employe of Thomasson & Sims, with whom he had a written contract as to wages. He was to receive \$30 per month for the first two months and \$50 per month for subsequent months. He became dissatisfied with the business on account of Thomasson drawing from the cash taken in amounts varying from \$5 to \$20 per day. Saw that the business could not stand the drain for any length of time and decide to quit. Mr. D. M. Miles, chairman of the State board of control, now county supervisor, told me that he had Thomasson appointed in order that he might get \$200 out of him that was owing to him. Mr. Sims paid \$25 United States license just prior to my final settlement with Thomasson and Sims. I paid to the county treasurer \$31.34, the state royalty. I made the payment by check. The day after I made the payment Miles came to the dispensary accompanied by Mr. Dunwoody, the representative of the Atlanta Brewing Co., and instructed me to go to Treasurer Epps and obtain the check on the plea of desiring to make a change in it, and to make it out in favor of Mr. Dunwoody. Miles said that he would stand by me. I obtained the check without trouble, and did as I was instructed to. This all happened in the course of my settlement with Thomasson and Sims. I left Spartanburg and when I returned two years later I was arrested by Mr. William Bishop, charged with not having paid royalty to the State. The indictment was sworn out by the company that went on my bond. I sent for Mr. O'Shields after I had been put in jail and told him about the contract, explained that I did not own the dispensary. I was released by the magistrate on my own recognizance; never had a trial; case was thrown out. After I left Spartanburg I was bottle seller for the state and received from the dispensary authorities a check for \$72.00 two months after I left Spartanburg. I then went to Tennessee to work.

Mr. W. S. Glenn was next called upon to testify. I am the representative of the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Baltimore, Md., and have my office in Spartanburg. My company went on W. D. Howard's bond as beer dispenser. Bond was written in November, 1898, and shortage was discovered three months later. Howard, as I was informed, sold out and as soon as I got the knowledge I applied to see if his accounts were correct. I went to Miles for the information and was told that Howard's accounts were correct and satisfactory, and got his written statement to that effect signed by him as chairman of the Spartanburg board of control. This paper was filed with the company after notice of shortage was given. Company did not want to pay claim. I have all of the original correspondence pertaining to the bond, which was then read. Was told that if company did not pay shortage under bond without suit that my company would be boycotted, so the shortage, amounting to \$126.25 was paid by the company, as I considered not as a matter of right, but simply for policy. I am informed that the stub of the receipt showing payment made by Howard is now in the treasurer's office in Spartanburg. We refrained from prosecuting the case because we believed that Howard was only a tool in the hands of other parties.

Mr. Lyon then examined Mr. Windham, the local dispenser. I have been dispenser at Sumter for the past five years and a member of the county board of control for two years. I have sold bottles containing less than one-half pint of whiskey. "Old Fashioned Cocktail" was some of this kind; I measured it and shipped it back to the State authorities. Five's have been and are still being sold for quarts. Neglected the law in regard to re-

quest blanks on account of rush of business. Have not turned over money to county treasurer weekly as the law requires, because he refused to accept it; make monthly payments. Drinking on premises not allowed. Did not consider lot in rear of dispensary as a part of the premises. Sold beer bottles for 20 cents per dozen. Did not get more than \$150 a year from this source and divided that amount with my clerks. Letters were introduced showing remittances to Windham during a period of eight months for the following: \$49.88, \$58.42, \$30.14, \$141.50, averaging about \$35 per month. Sold empty boxes for 25 cents a piece. He did not object to committee's looking over his mail, turned it over to them freely and voluntarily. He seemed to have done quite a nice little business "on the side" with Bluthenthal & Bickert. Used the money received from boxes and empty bottles for his personal use. Regarded extra bottles found in cases to make up for breakage. Within the last three months the State authorities have substituted brands in in sorders. Prior to that time it was never done unless especially indicated in order. Persons connected with the dispensary had never attempted to use political influence with him. His memory was refreshed by reading a letter from L. J. Williams, then chairman of the State board of control, urging his support for Colonel Talbert in his race for governor. Said that drummers never tried to influence his orders, and that they showed no interest in his financial affairs. A letter from W. W. Harris, a whiskey drummer, was then introduced, in which it was stated to Windham that if he would place a large order for a particular brand by a certain date that Mr. Boykin, a member of the board, would consider a raise in his salary. He very reluctantly told that while a member of the county board of control he had been approached on the eve of the election of county dispenser by friends of a candidate for that office, and told that it would be worth something to him to vote for their friend. When forced by the committee he said that the parties were the late Mr. J. E. Gaillard and Mr. Geo. W. Reardon and that the candidate for the office was Mr. J. B. Raffield. He did not know whether or not other members of the board had been approached but stated that Raffield was not elected.

The meeting then adjourned until 9:30 o'clock Thursday morning.

## Morning Session.

With more than unusual interest and with a larger crowd in the court house than has previously been present, the investigation proceeded this morning.

Promptly at 10 o'clock the first witness, Mr. E. T. Windham, who testified yesterday afternoon, was recalled to the stand. Letters were read stating that three cases of wine were being shipped to him to supply shortage in previous shipment. A barrel of wine was also received by the dispenser. Said that L. W. Boykin represented whiskey houses after he was inspector, did not know which houses. He was offered \$50 to vote for Mr. Raffield, refused it, and Mr. J. M. Reams was elected. Shortage occurred in Mr. Reams's accounts; no collection was made to his knowledge and no steps were taken to prosecute. Committee from grand jury examined dispenser's accounts, but nothing further was heard of it.

Mr. E. F. Miller was the next witness. He is managing a newspaper in this city. Dispensary had not been conducted according to the legal provisions, and reported same to the county board. He read letter from Mr. L. J. Williams to Secretary Walsh stating that the State board had no authority to remedy defects in Section 5 of the dispensary law, so he waited until he could see Mr. John Bell Towill and made complaint to him. Mr. Towill promised to have the dispenser removed if Mr. Miller would prosecute him. A letter was received from the governor stating that the State and county board would look into the matter Mr. Miller carried affidavits before the State board, but they were without effect and he was informed that similar violations of the law were to be found in every county. He had a conversation with Mr. H. H. Evans, of the State board, concerning the matter, in which the latter said that he did not give a damn about Sumter; that he had never received support but from one man in the town. Advised him to discontinue his efforts to expose the system, as it would only tend to make him unpopular, and no other papers seemed to be very much interested. Mr. Miller stated that he just wanted to see the law obeyed. In reference to the attempted bribe of Mr. Windham, he said that he heard Mr. Gaillard say on the day after the election of dis-

penyer that he never would have offered Windham the money if he had not expected him to accept it.

Mr. Windham swore that Mr. Gaillard apologized for having offered him \$50 to support Mr. Raffield.

Mr. W. M. Sanders, of Stateburg, a member of the Sumter county board for six and one-half years, was then called upon to testify. While a member of the board, he introduced a resolution to have the law obeyed, but no action was taken. Mr. A. G. Warren, former dispenser at Mayesville, told him that he made about \$40 a month out of the bottle business, and that he had a buyer in Sumter, who brought bottles over to Mayesville by the wagon load. He stated that Mr. Warren offered him half of his bottle profits for his vote for re-election, which he declined. Said that he lost his membership on the board because he and other members could not agree to the enforcement of the law.

Senator R. I. Manning, Representatives Altamont Moses, John W. Clifton and T. B. Fraser were all sworn and testified to the fact that the reason given by Mr. Sanders for having lost his position was entirely incorrect.

Mr. J. B. Raffield, county dispenser from 1897 until 1899, presented himself for examination. He denied that he had anything whatever to do with the offering of a bribe by Messrs. Gaillard and Reardon to Mr. Windham. The cause of the unpleasantness between him and Mr. Windham was from a disagreement about the bottle graft. Windham refused to employ a clerk. He voted for Thomas for railroad commissioner. The committee appointed by the grand jury to investigate the local dispensary was treated to drinks by Dispenser Windham.

The next witness was Mr. E. D. Smith. Worked at dispensary at Mayesville in 1899 and 1900 and employed in the Sumter dispensary during the year 1901. Now in the employ of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad. Stated that Mr. L. W. Boykin while a member of the state board, urged him to send orders for wine to Garrett & Co., of Weldon, N. C., and for Westminster whiskey to the Uman-Boykin Co., of Cincinnati. Had heard that Mr. Boykin in this firm was a relative of the commissioner. Promised that if I would push those brands that he would have my salary increased. Later on Boykin pressed the purchase of beer from the Acme Brewing Company, and gave for his reason that they made good beer and that furthermore the management was going to give \$5,000 to help elect L. J. Williams governor of the State. This conversation took place in the dispensary. Later he and Windham conferred privately. Said that H. B. Best had received a jug of whiskey from H. H. Crum as a Christmas gift, and that all the employes in the Mayesville dispensary got drunk.

Mr. J. D. Blanding, Jr., local beer dispenser, testified to the fact that he was once visited by a representative of the Weideman Brewing Company, of Newport, Ky., who quoted him prices on bottling beer. When asked for quotations on export beer said that he could not afford to ship it into Sumter, as the rake off of the State board was too much, being about a dollar per barrel. That he ordered beer by the carload of from 60 to 70 barrels.

The most amusing testimony adduced at the trial was that of Mr. L. E. Farley, who is on the staff of the Spartanburg Herald. He visited Columbia about once a month and frequently attended the meeting of the state board. He vividly described how the whiskey drummers would hover around like vultures over the carcass of a dead beast, and urge the sale of their brands. He told of the process of "sampling" and how the commissioners drank and drank until they lost their faculties and got into a beast-like condition. The drummers came loaded with quantities of samples, which they dispensed with lavish hands. Entertainments were given by the members of the board in their rooms at the hotels, liquor being furnished by the drummers and general invitations were extended to the "opening." The members at that time were Cooper, Miles, Jones, Douthitt and Williams, none of whom were "exempt from the openings." He has seen some of these gentlemen suffering from alcoholic poisoning, would not like to mention names. A man in such a condition loses all mental and physical powers and experiences a sensation of constant jerking. Had great influence with the board, and often received money for recovering seized liquor. Had helped several liquor houses to get orders, the Atlanta Berwing Company was one of them, and in appreciation of my services sent me a barrel of beer on two occasions. Also got numerous shipments of liquor. I have had positions to represent various houses of-

ferred me time and again, declined all. Assisted in securing the appointment of Mr. Lawrence, of Darlington, as chief clerk in State dispensary. He held the position only one month; gave it up because he had learned not to be led into temptation and because he was a prohibition man. The entire surroundings were foreign to him. At the conclusion of this evidence the meeting adjourned subject to the call of the chairman.

## KILLED ON THE RAIL.

Two Men Killed and Three Seriously Injured Today.

Pittsburg, September 7.—One man was killed, another fatally injured and three seriously hurt by being run down by a train on the Pennsylvania railroad at Homewood station at 6:21 this morning. The men were standing on the track waiting for a train when the fast passenger train coming from the opposite direction ran them down. The dead are William Gardner and a man thought to be William McKee, who died on the way to the hospital. The injured were William Gundy, whose skull was fractured and the left arm so badly crushed that it was amputated; Robert Patton, aged 20, whose back was injured, taken to the hospital and Harry Courtney, aged 23, injured internally, and also taken to the hospital.

## WAR OF EXTERMINATION.

Tartars and Armenians at Baku Trying to Destroy Each Other.

St. Petersburg, September 7.—The troubles at Baku, according to the latest reports, continue unabated and if anything are growing worse. Over 500 oil wells are now reported to have been destroyed as a result of the policy which has been adopted by rioting Tartars and Armenians of setting fire to tanks and wells. The damage has been tremendous and it will be a long time before operations can be resumed. The heat from the burning wells is so intense troops who have been trying to extinguish the flames have been compelled to cease their efforts. All homes in the vicinity of the wells have been abandoned. It is doubtful if the troops, even with the reinforcements sent them will be able to quell the antagonists, who seem to be bent on destroying each other.

## BEER DISPENSARIES CLOSED.

Charleston Now Without Any Beer Dispensaries—Do the Bottling Works Supply Blind Tigers?

With the closing of the beer dispensary of Thomas G. Carey, Charleston is left without a place where one can buy beer at retail. He has gone into a position at the Charleston navy yard and his resignation makes three places vacant in Charleston. The Evening Post of that city says that it is not likely that the vacancies will be filled soon and continues, saying:

"The dearth of applicants is due to the profitless character of the retail beer establishments. The return to the dispenser depends upon the amount of beer that he can sell, and with the blind tigers in full blast on all sides and three large bottling plants the Germania and the works of J. S. Farnum and Robert Graham turning out a large quantity of stuff and keeping the illegal places supplied, notwithstanding the business of the agents of several of the large breweries, it is to be seen that there is not much room for the retail beer dispensaries."

Another reason ascribed is the "premises" clause. The Post says that few beer drinkers will take the trouble to get a bottle of beer and walk out to some other place where it can be drunk.

George Gore, colored, was convicted of manslaughter in Union Friday. He killed a negro several months ago.

## Letter to W. P. Smith,

Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: \$1.50 a gallon is dear for water. There is a good deal of water in some paint, and shouldn't be any.

They say oil and water don't mix; add alkali; that makes soft soap. A certain amount of oil water and alkali make thick paint; it is thick in the can; it is thick to look at, feels thick in the brush. But soap isn't paint; and you can't cheat Nature; you can't cheat Weather; you can't cheat Time.

The alkali don't do the paint any good; it isn't put-in for that; it is put-in to hide the water; to sell it and sell you; \$1.50 a gallon for alkali-water. Buy Devco, and go by the name.

Yours truly,

F. W. Devco & Co.

113.

The DuRant Hardware Co. sell our paint.