

# Saint Mary's Beacon.

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LEONARDTOWN, MD., FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 8, 1878.

NO. 21

## ST. MARY'S BEACON

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make no progress. I will be more magnanimous than the friend Option and acknowledge the correctness of one remark, viz.: where he speaks of the rich man's dog killing the poor man's hog I think that the fund should be used to pay for all stock injured or killed by dogs of their own accord.

M.

Correspondence of the Beacon.

GISTOWN, Jan. 28, 1878.

Messrs. Editors—Dear Sirs:—I paid a visit to our grates business center on Saturday last, and you may judge my surprise when I heard that these temperance men were trying to stop us from having our drinks. Pleg on em I say. First thing when I entered Dick Spikes says, Hello, Mr. Trimble, heard the news? No, says I, what is it, Dick? Why, says he, they are trying to get up a thing in the Lejislaeher which will stop us from getting our drinks bear on Saturday evenings. Is that so, says I, who told you, Dick? Why, says he, Dekun Pollygrab's wife told me that she was likely to be shut to get to skule this Winter because I wudn't be abul to get my drinks, and we cud save the munny to by Hozz with it for the old woman and yung wuns. Oh! says I, that's not consiohousal. Oh! yes, says he, tis. Dekun Pollygrab says that the Corts and Lorys said it was. But, says I, shurely they wudn't do it. Yes they will, says he. They ar getting up petisuns now to send on to Anapuls prang the Lejislaeher to send it down as soon as possible. Well, says I, Dick, what do they call it? Lo-Lo-Lo. What is it, Mike? says he. Lo-kai Op-shun, says Mike. Who told you, Mike? says I. Why, says he, I went over tother day to help Mr. Snodgrass, and while I was eating my dinner I heard him reding to his wife sumthing in the Lejudown Dekun about it. I asked him when he cum where I was, and he tole me awl about it. He says sum uv the peple who don't like whisky and cum who do, think we will do better without it, and they want the Lejislaeher to send Lokai Op-shun down so that we may get rid uv the whisky, and we ar to vote on it to say which we will have. Well, I declar, says I, I have staid home so long that everything seems turnd up sid down. I awmost believe that the skule teacher says about the world being round in true, and that I am standing on my head.

Crooknose, says I, (he's the tavern keeper,) what do you say about it? Say I says he, and he emfazed his remarks by mawling the counter with his first. Say I says he, I tell you, sur, that words wud ekpess my thorts. But, Mr. Trimble, says he, we have our champagne. Mr. says he, but it is no use, Opshun has him. Now don't you be better to sell what we have? A perfect right to sell what we please? M calls our places gambling and drinking hells, and say we luer men to destrushun. Now when we by our whisky, we expect men to by it from us, and no one can blame us. What's the use of bying if we don't try to sell. Its not bred to be sure, but still it's very exkilling and necessary to their comfertible subsistance and prevents their children from securing an education, I say, and not only I, but every man who has the welfare of the county at heart, that you have not the right to pursue it, and your community can truly say like the down-trodden frog, "that which is sport to you is death to us."

Concerning the constitutionality of such a law, it has already been decided in the Courts of Maryland. Constitutional and why not? The people, through their representatives, have the right to abate a nuisance. Whiskey shops are certainly nuisances. They rob the people and give no return, and corrupt the morals of the community in which they are. And they can and do pass laws prohibiting impure articles of food from being offered for sale or sold. Concerning my drinking necessities, which friend Option talks, I am confident about I will simply state to him, that if he sells so more annually to each of his customers than I have drank and bought in my life-time, his wife and children must find other shelter or be other employment. But suppose I had destroyed lots of it, have not I a right to ask that the temptation be removed? Is not the drinking man's wishes to be respected, friend Option? I have found and have also heard other men of large experience say that it is not the drinking man who declaim most against local Option, but a few cold, calculating, selfish men, who drink nothing or but little themselves, and who are in it's death blow to their own selfish aims. But to those the whiskey business. I see no reason why our representatives should not give us an opportunity to try our strength in the county as their vote will not be used, that will carry it where all the people should go, viz.: before the people.

While on the war path he must needs attack my little idea about taxing dogs, and says no poor man is likely to keep more dogs than he needs. I know that many keep more than are of any use, while the farmer is taxed for keeping a horse, a hog, a cow or a sheep, the worthless curs that stroll about the county go scot free. I am a laboring man, who earn my bread by my daily toil, and am not even able to open a whiskey shop if so inclined. Yet I am well aware that it is to the best interest of every man to try and build up the county, and I am slow well aware that such things as such law affecting taxation to stock that we as a people can

## The Road Grievance.

In conformity to announcement made in our last paper, we give below the plans suggested by Messrs. Parsons and Ballenger on the subject of the Public Roads. The paper of Mr. Parsons, it will be seen, discusses other questions of complaint, but, bethinking ourselves that our readers might wish to know what these are and also what remedies he proposes for them, we have concluded to give his views in extenso. The paper of Mr. Ballenger, confined itself exclusively to the Road Question. And, first, of the scheme of Mr. Parsons.

"The subject which most engages the attention of the people is the public road problem.

"I think we need no additional legislation upon the subject, as some suggest, for the County Commissioners are already vested with plenary powers in regard to the management of the roads or at least enough for all practical purposes, and they should be required by the force of public opinion to enforce them.

"We will never have good roads until the law in regard to the fencing along the line of the roads is enforced, and I suggest that the Commissioners be immediately requested to pass an order positively requiring all the supervisors to enforce the law in that respect, that is to notify all persons interested to move their fences back the legal distance, 10 feet from the centre of the road by a certain date, and if not complied with said fences to be removed as other obstructions are.

"The season for fencing is now at hand and it would be the most favorable time to enforce the law on that subject.

"I also suggest that the supervisors be required to cut out all bushes, stumps and roots and trees where necessary for the space of 50 feet, in order that the sun and air may the more speedily dry the roads. This is a very important requirement, the necessity of which is patent to every observing man.

"There is nothing which makes a country more attractive than wide roads and straight fencing. The roads if kept open and clear would then almost mend themselves, as it were, in many places, for sufficient room would be given for travel, and vehicles would not be compelled to follow one beaten and cut-up track.

"In regard to gates on the roads I am in favor of a law being passed to go into effect after one year, removing them entirely, as they certainly are in most instances great nuisances and impediments to travel.

"I trust that there will be an earnest effort to get a law passed during the present session of the Legislature that every voter, petitioner excepted, be compelled to give two days, or its equivalent in work or money, to be collected by the supervisor, on the public roads and to be called out at such times and in such numbers as the supervisors may select.

"I suggest then that the roads be sectioned out to honest and reliable taxpayers, irrespective of past or probably future party services, who shall keep a watchful supervision at all times over their sections and enforce the instructions of the Commissioners, and to be paid for their own services \$12 dollars per day and for cart and team or horses and plow the same and 75 cts. for the driver.

"I think this institution should be under the entire control of the County Commissioners, to be managed as they see fit, but in a more economical manner or rented out, as they might find best. One item of expense at least in connection with its management can in my judgment be lessened and that is the appointment of Trustees. I think the Commissioners themselves could take a general supervision of its management by occasional visits at but little extra pay and that they should make arrangements by which the necessities for the inmates be furnished at much lower rates than heretofore. There are rarely at any time over twelve inmates to be cared for and the manner in which it has at times heretofore been managed in the matter of purchases of supplies, &c., has been a gross outrage upon the heavily burthened tax-payers. I would suggest that the farm and house be rented out on the most favorable terms to the county and that the contract be entered into with the renter, say not exceeding \$1200 a year, to take good care of, clothe and feed the pauper occupying same, and that he enter into a bond for the faithful compliance of his duties.

"I will make another suggestion which is to rent the farm to a responsible man, the belongings of the house to remain as they are and in the event that homes cannot be obtained for the inmates and those who may in future be compelled to go there, by liberal pensions, that he be required to take such, feed, clothe and treat kindly for a sum not exceeding \$—per month.

"I would suggest that by Legislative enactment the sheriff's charge for feeding prisoners in jail be reduced to forty-five cents and finally that the County Commissioners be required to critically examine and have returned all accounts of county officials and pass upon none, whose fees and charges are not strictly in conformity with the law.

"The State's Attorneys fees, the Register of Wills fees, the Clerk of Circuit Court's fees are all regulated by law and can only be reduced by legislative enactment, but at the same time we feel and know that their accounts are extravagant and that the tax-payers paying very dear for their services.

"As regards to the State's Attorneys, he should only be paid for one appearance in such case \$5-\$30; and not continued from one term of court to another and additional appearances charged. I think some arrangement might be entered into by which the State's Attorney could be paid a fixed salary in lieu of fees.

"A contract might be entered into with the State's Attorney, which would require necessary printing at much less than heretofore charged or at a fixed yearly price.

"These are some of my views hastily thrown together and I suggest them for what they are worth. If properly elaborated and carried out, they may do some good and help to alleviate the burthen of an over-taxed people.

"There is great depression everywhere, consequent upon the general shrinkage in all values, particularly the products of the farmer class and it is time that we cry a halt in public extravagance and demand retrenchment where it can possibly be effected."

"The Road Plan of Mr. Ballenger is, substantially, as follows:

"To levy \$8,000 for the present year, one-half to go for repairs of the public roads the present year, the other half to repairs for the year 1879, the said amount to be divided among the different districts according to the assessment. The County Commissioners shall appoint in each district three real estate owners as Road Supervisors, to hold office for two years, with full charge and power over the roads, who shall receive for their personal services 10 per cent. of the amount levied and expended in their districts, said amount to be equally divided between the three, one of the number to be named as Chairman by the County Commissioners and said Supervisors to give bond in the sum of \$— for the faithful performance of their duty. They shall receive the road money direct from the tax-collector, keep a just and fair account of same, making their returns to the County Commissioners at their first meeting in each month, under oath, and with vouchers for all money paid out.

"For the year 1879, and every year following, the County Commissioners shall levy, not exceeding 20 per cent. on the hundred dollars, for the repairs of the public roads the following year, to be spent in the district in which it is collected.

"All gates, fences, posts, stakes, riders, rods, or projecting over the public road, shall be removed within 15 months from the passage of said bill, and in every case of violation of said law, it shall be the duty of the tax-collector to serve notice on the owner of said land, or in case where the owner is a non-resident of the district, on a tenant to remove the same in 30 days, and for every notice he shall charge 50 cents, to be collected from the land owner. If the said obstructions are not removed at the expiration of thirty days, the said tax-collector shall bring the owner or tenant before a Magistrate who, upon proof that the said obstructions still remain on the public roads, shall fine the party or parties in default \$10 and costs, and for every thirty days the said obstructions shall remain on the road thereafter, the said party or parties in default shall be subject to the same fine and costs, which shall be collected as the taxes are collected and go to the road funds."

## State Tobacco Inspection.

On Wednesday, the 30 ult., the legislative Joint Committee on Inspection held a meeting at Annapolis at which were present Messrs. George Thomas, of this county, and Wm. M. Waring, of Prince George's county, who are a committee appointed by the State Grange, and Mr. Leftwich, of Ricard's, Leftwich & Co., of Baltimore, besides a large number of members of the House and Senate, drawn to the committee room by the prospect of an interesting discussion. Chairman Thomas presided. Senator Hill, of Prince George's county, presented a communication from Bick & Hine, No. 44 N. Broadway, Baltimore, proposing with ample security, to run the tobacco warehouses for two years and guaranteeing to pay an annuity of at least one-fifth of the gross receipts to the State. The communication embodies the following comparisons: The gross receipts of the State tobacco warehouses as per Comptroller's annual reports for the past three years, ending September 30, 1877, are as follows, viz:

1875, Total receipts,	\$90,014 32
1876, " " "	130,354 38
1877, " " "	109,477 85
Grand total,	\$329,846 55

Against which the following expenses are charged, viz:

1875, Expenses,	\$68,500 58
Inspectors' and Superintendent's salaries, 15,000 00	
1876, Expenses,	\$101,500 48
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1877, Expenses,	\$102,226 39
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