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Prohibition Proven a Monstrous Humbug

Editor Courier: I herewith in close you a denunciation of Prohibition by Senator Tillman of South Carolina, which appeared in the Picayune of Aug. 26, 1906. Inasmuch as no man in these United States had had greater experience with the liquor question than the Senator, the reproduction of his views at the present moment is timely indeed. The late Ben Butler of Massachusetts once said: "I have been charged with man crimes and misdeeds, and have been called by many names, but no one ever yet called me a fool." Paraphrasing this statement, I can truthfully assert that while Senator Tillman has been given many names, and by some charged with insincerity, yet no one has dared charge him with being a hypocrite.

Yours truly,
GILBERT L. DUPRE.

Senator Tillman has concluded a campaign of the most violent denunciation of prohibition known from the lips of a public man in many years. In these days of political cowardice, when the average legislator condemns prohibition in one breath and in another votes for something like it in framing laws, because he is afraid of prohibition organizations, Senator Tillman's campaign has been a remarkable one.

Prohibition candidates for Governor in the Democratic primaries of the State in past years have polled more than one-third of the votes, yet in spite of this, Senator Tillman has in nearly every county declared prohibition a "monstrous humbug." In one speech a few days ago, he said:

"I am here to point out why it is a humbug. Prohibition has bred in South Carolina the worst breed of hypocrites that God ever let run over one State and ruin it."

Senator Tillman then proceeded to declare that in the counties of the State where liquor was not legally sold (about one-third of the total), drunkenness has greatly increased and "blind tigers" were to be found in all directions. He asserted that the people were sending their money into other States for whisky instead of keeping it at home, and pointed out that the effect of such as this was to immensely increase the consumption of strong drinks and greatly cut down the mild ones like beer, which, because of its bulk, cannot be handled with the ease of whisky.

Many of Senator Tillman's followers in the State say that the farmers have become alarmed over the increase of drunkenness and vice among the negroes in the prohibition counties. This is due to the fact that the negroes obtain all the strong drinks they want, much of it vile and adulterated. In the past the negroes were able to get beer and the lighter drinks, and this had the effect of promoting temperance. In the counties where these drinks are to be had without trouble, the farmers report a better state of affairs with their negro farm hands.

Senator Tillman has condemned more strongly than any other feature of prohibition that which causes evasion and disregard of law. He sees that one bad effect is to increase the consumption of strong drinks and practically stop the light ones that contain little alcohol.

The curious part of the whole

campaign is that Senator Tillman is not opposed to re-election, and that he has voluntarily taken the chances of offending the prohibitionists by his course. Many of them, however, swear by him regardless of his denunciation.

OUR OWN SENTIMENTS

Whatever may be said of the Watchman, we have never faced the charge of having asked other people what this paper should say about any question which affects the public welfare, or affects anything now or in the future. Neither has this editor stood behind a curtain or rattled phonograph fashion what we had to say.

This prohibition question is now coming to the front and will cut a wide mark through things before long. Whatever others may think about it is of no concern to this paper, but as far as we are concerned, the Watchman is going to oppose it.

Prohibition does not prohibit. It never has, and we do not believe it can. Moonshine tangle-foot or the blind tiger kind will furnish a jag with all its horrors and none of its pleasure. It takes away every spark of hilarity in the human make-up and puts in its place the idea of murder, wife-beating and other crimes which fill up the jails, penitentiaries and asylums.

No one defends its traffic, but this is not the question involved. It is one rather of the freedom and independence of the citizen as to whether he cares for an occasional nip or not, and if he is willing to delegate to others whether he can take it or must he let it alone by virtue of their sentiments. Properly regulated, and carried on as it is done in Franklin, no harm beyond that inflicted by dissipation in anything else, is in evidence by virtue of its existence.

With St. Mary it is a legitimate business transaction. The dealers pay a large amount in license taxation, which is needed for the maintenance of public works of utility, and if it is removed, just that much more taxation is needed to meet the expenses of government, and must come from the pockets of the property owner, already burdened to his last limit to come across with his annual obligations.

In Franklin these men put up \$10,000, which is used for all municipal purposes. Take this away, and the producing classes must find the difference. Comparably, these men do their part in maintaining and lightening the burdens of the yeomanry, who are not consumers in the sense of extensive use of intoxicants.

When the saloon is well regulated and properly policed, such as exists in Franklin, there is no material danger of trespassing upon the welfare of the country and its people.—Franklin Watchman.

Prohibition has a foothold all over the country, and its advocates are working like beavers, even in Louisiana. The Review favors high license, so high that the low dens will have to go out of business; that good whisky will be sold at high prices; that a man can't take a dollar and get a dozen men drunk on it, and all of them land in the jail.—Morgan City Review.



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NOTICE

All persons to whom petitions with reference to the new State Normal College were sent, for the purpose of obtaining signatures thereto, are requested to return same to me at their earliest convenience.

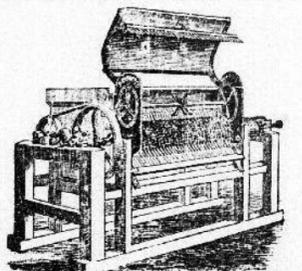
C. J. THOMPSON
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March 7, 1908—tf

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March 28, 1908

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THE THRICE-A-WEEK WORLD'S regular subscription price is only \$1.00 per year, and it pays for 156 papers. We offer this unequalled newspaper for THE OPELOUSAS COURIER together for one year for \$1.75. The regular subscription price for two papers is \$2.00.

ISLAND THROUGH PASSENGER TRAIN

Island Talk has it from a good source of information that the Island Railroad Company has as soon as the condition of a new section of the road between here and Eunice permits, a solid vestibule train with cars, diners, etc., between St. Louis and New Orleans. This information comes through a prominent official of the road, who has the statement to a prominent Alexandrian. They expect to start the road and put it into the best possible shape and give a first class mile an hour schedule.—Island Talk.

Good for Everybody
Norman R. Coulter, a prominent doctor, in the Delbert Building, San Antonio, says: "I fully endorse all that is said of Electric Bitters as a tonic for the system. It is good for every body. It cures stomach, liver and kidney disorders in a prompt and efficient manner and builds up the system." Electric Bitters is the best medicine ever sold over a counter; as a blood purifier it is worth \$50c. at all druggists.

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