

KANSAS AGITATOR

Keep in the Middle of the Road

Equal Rights to All; Special Privileges to None

VOL. 8.

GARNETT, KANSAS, MAY 28, 1897.

NO. 2.



Devoted to the interests of

THE MASSES.

A Fearless, Aggressive, Progressive Advocate of All Reforms.

W. O. CHAMPE AND ANNA CHAMPE Editors.

J. M. ALEXANDER, } Associate Editors
W. H. AMBROSE, }

SUBSCRIPTION: LOCAL EDITION, \$1; FOREIGN, 50c

N. R. P. A. K. R. P. A.

Entered as second-class mail matter at the Garnett, Kas., postoffice.

MAY 28,

GOVERNOR LEEDY

Scores the State Temperance Union.

Following is the speech made by Governor Leedy at the mass meeting at Topeka, on Tuesday night of last week:

"It seems that at a meeting held a few days since, the conclusion was reached that the lax enforcement of the prohibitory law was because the Governor and the police commissioners were receiving money from the jointists. I think that if such charges were to have been



JOHN W. LEEDY,
Governor.

made, it would have been fair and decent to have invited the parties who were accused to be present, and they should have been given an opportunity to defend themselves; but as opportunity was not given, I proceeded to invite myself to the next meeting. (Applause.)

"My opinion is that the failure to enforce the prohibitory law is largely chargeable to the executive committee of the State Temperance Union and to the so-called and pretended friends of the prohibitory law. In order to clearly present my view of the case, it is necessary to go back and look into the history of the State Temperance Union, which in former years was a bulwark to the temperance cause and a great instrument in the hands of the people to promote its enforcement; but, unfortunately, an organization capable of so much good fell into the hands of the agents of the corporations, who proceeded to make of it a political weapon, instead of an instrumentality for good.

CAUSE OF TEMPERANCE IN BAD HANDS.

"Two years ago the committee was re-organized and a new executive committee formed, consisting of a long list of gentlemen eminent in the temperance cause, and some ministers to give it tone and effect, but the chairman of this committee was Willis Gleed. I know not what the forces were that foisted Mr. Gleed upon the committee as its chairman, and it seems strange that the attorney of the railroad corporations, whose profits derived from the traffic in beer and whisky, constitute one of their principal items of revenue, and who pay Mr. Gleed his salary to see that their profits are not reduced, should have been selected to be the chairman of this committee, but the subsequent events plainly show that Mr. Gleed has earned the salary paid him by the railroad since being made chairman of the committee. (Cheers.) His masterly inactivity in preventing the committee from do-

ing anything or in any way interfering with the political administration of affairs that favored corporations and his success in stopping the mouth of the State Temperance Union for two years' time testify to his ability in carrying out the wishes of his employers as the chairman of the committee.

GLEED DOES GOOD INADVERTANTLY.

"At the meeting held a few evenings since, Mr. Gleed seems to have uncorked the committee and told it to howl, and in doing so, I think he inadvertently accomplish some good.

"It has been the policy of the powers that be in Topeka to keep the powers of the police force minimized as much as possible. They have had now power previously to interfere with the liquor traffic except on complaint, and have no right to open doors without a warrant, but the shout that went up at the last temperance meeting a few days since was so great that it actually convinced the city council that at last these people had quit playing to the grand stand and were really in earnest, and the result was that the police commissioners succeeded in doing what they had never before been able to do, although both the board of commissioners and the chief of police have repeatedly endeavored to get the city attorney to prepare and the city council to pass an ordinance for the abatement of nuisance which gives the police power that they did not possess before.

"This has already been productive of a great deal of good, and I hope that Mr. Gleed will still continue to direct the temperance union to continue their efforts, and I think that I can offer the gentlemen some suggestions that will assist them in doing good along temperance lines. At the present time there is a man in this city who has been convicted of selling whisky, but for some strange reason sentence has never been passed upon him. It seems to me that if these gentlemen would pass less resolutions and pay more attention to the ways in which the laws can be enforced, they would not have so much grounds to complain of the officials of the state.

PROHIBITION NOT THE ONLY LAW.

"During the time that I have been governor of the state, no man convicted of crime has had his sentence abolished or a conditional pardon granted him. This administration is not dealing in any chicanery of that kind. Every man in the state convicted of a crime and sentenced by a court has had to go behind the bars.

"I think, further, that the moral effect of the resolutions passed by the State Temperance

Union and by citizens in mass meeting would be much greater if they took some action in regard to the enforcement of other laws, but they never hold any meetings to protest against the enforcement of other laws besides the prohibitory law. It is true that these gentlemen lustily shout that they are in favor of the enforcement of all laws, but they never hold any meetings to protest against the non-enforcement of laws other than the prohibitory law. The prosecution of men for perjury has almost entirely ceased; indeed, it seems to be almost a virtue instead of a crime, and they could do a great deal of good along that line. They have never held any meetings to protest against the enforcement of laws regulating corporations, by means of which people of this state have been robbed out of millions.

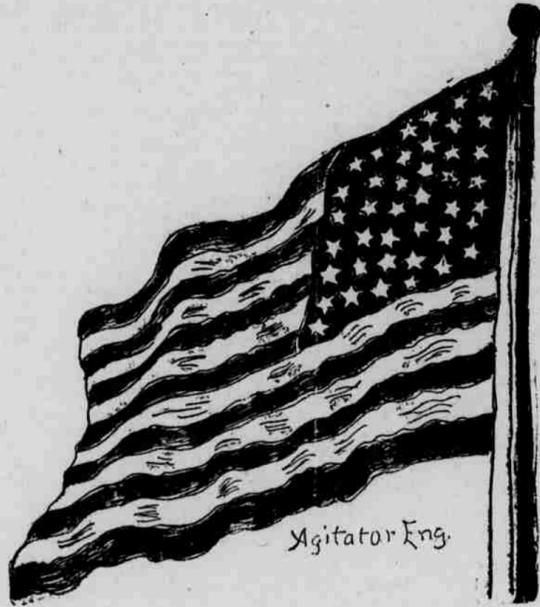
RUN BY A CORPORATION ATTORNEY.

"Can it be true that these gentlemen have their exits and entrances at the back of a corporation attorney? It is possible that they shout when he waves his baton? Verily, verily, it looks so, and I think that the temperance cause could best be promoted by the temperance people of this state, especially the ministers who are truly in favor of temperance reform (and there are thousands of good and honest Christians of that kind, serving the Lord as ministers in this state), coming together and reorganizing the State Temperance Union by displacing the men who have for the last two years made its name a synonym for political treachery in the ways that I have described.

"Speaking for myself, I can say to you that I intend to give the temperance laws the same execution that I do other laws, and other laws the same execution that I give the prohibitory laws, so far as I am able. I have appointed to be police commissioners in the various cities as good citizens as I could find, who were willing to accept the positions. I have not asked them what their views are on the temperance question, because it is not my business to do so. Neither do I ask a notary public when I appoint him, what his views are with regard to keeping a record of his office as required by law.

POLICE BOARD'S GOOD SHOWING.

"But I desire to say in defense of the police commissioners of Topeka that they have convicted more men of selling whisky in the short time they have been in office than was done in a year previously. It is supposed that every man who is appointed to an office understands his duties and will fulfill them to the best



of his ability with the power that is given him, and the courts are open to any citizens who desire to make complaint. Every man convicted of a crime and sentenced by court during my administration will have to go behind the bars whether he be friend or foe. (Applause.)

"I believe in a government of law, and have not, nor will not, set aside the judgments of the courts by granting pardons in advance of the sentence or issuing conditional pardons. If I think a sentence is too severe for the crime committed, I may reduce it, as the law contemplates, but I have no sympathy with the class of people who desire to have their views carried into effect regardless of what the laws may be, and have found, when I have looked up a citizen of that kind, that he was generally a law-breaker himself.

VIOLATORS OF THE LAW URGE FORCE.

"At a meeting recently held in this city some letters were read from two eminent railroad attorneys who were not able to be present. One of them favored mob law and anarchism in place of public courts and legal machinery for the enforcement of the law. If any man in the state of Kansas shall resist a legal process of any court in the state, I will see that he is properly dealt with, but I do not think that the governor's office was intended to supersede the courts and am unable to understand why this gentleman should take the view he does of this matter when he seems to be a violator of the law himself.

"I do not know of a certainty the reason why Mr. Williams or Mr. Gleed could not attend this meeting, but I am told that it was because they were called to Chicago to attend the meeting of the freight rate association to devise means of evading the Sherman anti-trust law, and it seems that these gentlemen were successful, because I read in yesterday's newspapers that a new agreement of the Western lines to maintain schedule freight rates after June 1 has been reached in violation of the law. Now, in the face of the Sherman anti-trust law and the decision of the supreme court of the United States construing that law so as to make it a felony for railroad companies and their agents to engage in this kind of meeting, they have no more right, legally or morally, to go to a meeting of this sort than the counterfeiters of the country would have to hold a meeting to evade the law. They are all felons alike under the law [cheers], and I hope that the gentlemen who are so anxious to promote the enforcement of the prohibitory law will find also some way to take action in regard to law-breakers of high degree.

TAKES A PARTING SHOT.

I believe it is my duty to do what I can to enforce the laws against corporations as well as to enforce the prohibitory law, and I have started in to do what I can in that direction, and I do not propose to be diverted from my purpose by any howl that can be raised about the prohibitory law by men who are put forward by the corporations to do the screaming. If these gentlemen desire a better enforcement of the prohibitory law than is now being had, let them quit playing to the galleries and come down to business, and they will find that I have less saloon money and less corporation money in my pockets than they have in theirs [cheers], and that I will make every man convicted and sentenced in court serve a just and reasonable sentence behind the bars, even though the saloons and corporations both stand behind him."

THERE are rumors afloat that a few political fixers in the Populist and Democratic camps are already at work getting up a slate for the next state campaign. If this be true, let them beware, for they are reckoning without their hosts. The rank and file of the Populist party in Kansas were never more aroused than now, and they mean that right shall triumph over wrong. If, therefore, judgment has already begun at "the house of God" with the people, the political ungodly and sinners will not appear in nomination in the coming campaign.—Ft. Scott Lantern.