



Mr. A. H. Shealy some three years ago bought out the Pomaria Oil mill and has been operating it since. He has been successful in his undertaking for the reason that he gave the business his personal attention, and besides he knows how, and that is the main thing after all, to know how, in any business or undertaking. He is this fall adding—in fact has already added—an up-to-date ginning outfit. He has already installed the Lumus A Blast connected gins just as they appear in the picture which print in this connection. He has all the modern conveniences for handling the cotton and the most up-to-date gins for taking the lint from the seed. This is a big enterprise for the town of Pomaria and is worth much to it in a business way. Mr. Shealy will not only gin your cotton, but will crush your seed and take from it the oil and make the meal which you need for feed and for fertilizer. The gin is ready for the opening of the season.

WILL NOT APPEAL TO FEDERAL COURT

GOV. BLEASE WILLING TO ABIDE DECISION OUR COURT.

Deplores Raising Liquor Issue—Favors Local Option as Law Now Stands.

Former Governor Blease, in an interview given to the press this week, showed that he was opposed to an appeal to the United States courts in the case of John Henry Chappell of Newberry, against Secretary of State McCown and others, should the State supreme court find that the statute calling the referendum election on September 14th is unconstitutional, and, further, he made it plain that he is in favor of local self-government and is against whiskey being dragged back and made an issue in campaigns of South Carolina, to the detriment of more progressive and important issues.

Governor Blease has just returned from Boston, where he addressed the conference of governors, and shortly after his arrival in Columbia he was asked by a newspaper man what further action would be taken in the Chappell case, if any, and what he thought of the fight for prohibition now being waged in South Carolina. In answer to the reporter's questions, the former governor gave out the following interview:

"Personally, I was very anxious for the supreme court to pass on the question of the constitutionality of the last act of the general assembly, as to the whiskey question. I am absolutely satisfied that the act is unconstitutional. The authorities cited by the attorney general's office were mainly upon the question of the right to enjoin the election, and I know that the judges did not take under consideration the constitutionality of the act, from the discussions they had in their room, and from the further fact that the arguments presented by Mr. Tompkins and myself would have required more than forty-five minutes to read. Further, if the judges had taken under consideration the constitutionality of the act, it would have taken any one of them at least a day to have examined the various citations furnished by the arguments, so I know that no moral man could have passed upon the matter as quickly as the court decided the question. I am not criticising the court; that was a question for them. But the act is clearly unconstitutional, and their saying so at this time might have saved the voters of the State many thousands of dollars, for, if prohibition should carry and the act later be declared unconstitutional, either by the State or United States courts, the people, who are already taxed to death and over-burdened with taxation, would have been saved this heavy expense and loss of time. I would like to see the constitutionality of the act decided straight from the shoulder, and our people submit to what our supreme

court says, without any appeal to the United States court, for I do not believe in dragging in the federal court on questions of State rights, and in matters of this kind, and for that reason, personally, even though the supreme court of the United States should decide contrary to my views, I would advise my people to submit to the ruling of their own court.

"Now, as to the election—the only thing we have been able to hear in politics in this State for years and years has been liquor, liquor, liquor. In every town race the fight was 'liquor,' in every county race the fight was 'liquor,' in every race from governor down it was 'liquor,' 'liquor,' until everybody everywhere became heartily and thoroughly tired of the liquor issue.

"In 1892 the State went overwhelmingly for prohibition, and some people thought that would settle the 'liquor issue.' But it would not down. The dispensary was substituted for the old bar room system, which caused bloodshed and strife, and again, with renewed strength and vigor, the hue and cry all over the State in every political race was liquor! liquor! liquor! It looked as if it would never down and that we would never see the last of it. Finally, the State dispensary was abolished—after one of the hardest and most stubborn fights that has ever been known in the legislature of this State. Men who supported the State dispensary were called 'grafters,' or associates and companions of grafters. Some of those same men today hold high offices, and it is said that they represent the 'law and order' element of the State, and are from the 'aristocracy.' This shows that liquor had been side-tracked.

"In my race for governor in 1910, I laid aside the whiskey proposition and fought on different lines, although I, of course, stood upon the law of the State, which is the law today, and was elected upon a local option platform. Mr. Heyward had been elected upon the same platform and was re-elected without opposition. Mr. Ansel was elected upon that platform, and was re-elected. As just stated, I was elected on that platform and was re-elected. Members of the legislature throughout the entire State were permitted to make their campaigns without mentioning the liquor cause, because the majority of the people—in fact, it was generally understood that all of the people of the State—were agreed that local option was local self-government, and that local self-government was the fundamental basis and rock-bottom foundation of our entire government; that the counties should be allowed to manage their own affairs without interference from the United States, and that the counties should be allowed to manage their local affairs without interference from the State, and that the towns and cities should be allowed to handle their local affairs without interference from the county. In other words, the great principle of local self-government had thoroughly established itself, whiskey had been eliminated from our politics, our people

were satisfied, and we were moving along more peacefully and more satisfactorily, with reference to the liquor question, than we had since the beginning of the government. But all at once a few men who delegated to themselves the authority to dictate to the people what others should eat and drink, sprang into the lime-light and began to agitate the same old question whiskey! whiskey! whiskey! Now what does it mean? If the State votes prohibition, the fight from governor down, especially for members of the senate and house of representatives, will be the same old hue and cry, liquor! liquor! liquor! and many of the most vital and important issues—those which demand our most careful thought and consideration and mean for the advancement of the progress of our State, will be side-tracked, and the liquor question will again be the chief issue and every candidate will be harassed as to how he stands on the subject. For this reason, if for no other, I think it very unfortunate that this question should have been agitated, especially at this time, and I think the people of the State, if they would stop and consider, would do well to stand by the principle of local self-government and leave the law as it is today, and that if a county wants the dispensary, let it have it. If it does not, let the people of that county alone vote it out. Put just as sure as the issue is forced back into politics by the State going for prohibition, just so surely mark the prediction—will you in a few short years see the whole political atmosphere of our State polluted with this whiskey question, and the fight will be, just as sure as you are a living man, made for a license system, and you will find many people supporting what our constitution allows—a license system for the sale of whiskey. You will find one element fighting for the present dispensary system; you will find another fighting for total elimination, and the result will be, instead of them voting for prohibition today—voting, as they claim, to get rid of the whiskey question and to eliminate it from politics, they will be voting to bring it back into our politics and make it the vital issue in all campaigns. Therefore, many of the preachers of the State, and so many of the so-called Christian people of the State, who claim that they are fighting, and have been fighting, to eliminate whiskey from politics, are today doing the most dangerous thing they can do, and are making, by this fight, the whiskey question the paramount issue of the coming campaigns in South Carolina. I have been accused of lining up with the blind tiger and the whiskey element, which, of course, is an absolute lie, and I know today, personally, of some of the most open so-called blind tigers in the State who are going to work side by side with the preachers for prohibition, and I have had several negroes to tell me that they were going to vote for prohibition because they believed by it they could finally get back to the old bar room system. In fact, a man, who, it is said, is one of the leading so-called blind tigers of the State, told

me only a few days ago that he expected to stand side by side at the box with a prominent minister, and when he (the minister) voted, he was going to vote too, and that would be one time when he and the preacher would be working side by side for the same cause. So we see, in this instance, some of the preachers, some of the blind tigers and some of the negroes lining up side by side, unconsciously, possibly, but surely voting to drag whiskey back into our politics.

"Personally, I shall not vote, because I will be in Chicago, Ill., at the time, attending a meeting of the great council of the Improved Order of Red Men. Neither personally nor politically does it make a particle of difference to me whether the State goes prohibition or anti-prohibition; it will have absolutely no effect upon my candidacy, because I have a great many strong friends who are prohibitionists—in fact, two of the leading newspapers that are supporting me are edited by lifelong prohibitionists and are fighting for it today. While, on the other hand, I have equally as strong friends who are not prohibitionists and are doing what they can to sustain the present local option law; and the only reason that I say it would be unfortunate for the State to go for prohibition is because it will again, as I have repeatedly said, drag whiskey back into our politics, thereby side-tracking more important and vital issues for something which is today handled, and which the people are satisfied with, and truly I think this is a time, of all times, when all of the people of the State could say to themselves, 'Let the sleeping dog sleep,' and let's let the whiskey issue stay where it is—safely resting upon that great principle—LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT."

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