

CORRESPONDENCE

TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

The Plan of Campaign Decided on by the Anti-Saloon League at Its Meeting in Raleigh Last Week.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

The following are the features of the temperance legislation proposed by the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Anti-Saloon League in session with authorized representatives of the North Carolina Methodist Conference and the Baptist State Convention:

1. Prohibition of sale or manufacture of intoxicating liquors outside of incorporated towns. Prohibition of sale of liquor in towns of less than 500 population, whether incorporated or not. Prohibition of manufacture of liquors in towns of less than 1,000 population, whether incorporated or not.

The distinction is made between incorporated towns and unincorporated communities because incorporated towns are organized and policed. It is made also to protect the rural districts from the saloon. It is made also to protect the towns and cities from being surrounded by saloons. The distinction is made in respect to population mainly to prevent the evasion of the law by the incorporation of saloon or distillery settlements.

2. Local Option elections in incorporated towns of more than 500 inhabitants at any time upon 30 days notice and upon petition of one-third of the qualified voters; provided elections shall not take place oftener than once in two years.

In such elections the question of saloons or prohibition, or saloons or dispensary, or dispensary or prohibition, may be submitted as petitioners may request; only one question at an election, however.

3. Prohibition of the importation of liquors by any means into prohibited or dispensary territory.

4. After July 1, 1903, all applicants for license to sell or manufacture liquors shall present with their application petitions in their behalf signed by a majority of the qualified voters, save in those towns and cities in which between the date of the enactment of this bill and July 1, 1903, an election shall have been held and carried for saloons.

These propositions are clear, and need no exposition. They look to the suppression of the saloon and distillery in the rural districts, and to local option elections in the towns and cities in the near future on a fair and reasonable basis. There should not be a saloon in any town or city unless the majority of the people expressly call for it.

The people of North Carolina are entitled to this. They have long been opposed to the saloon. They have never had a fair chance in a struggle with it. They have been hampered by the ignorant vote. They have stood in fear of division. But these things are now passed. And now that they are passed, the General Assembly should freely grant the people's petition for a fair opportunity to grapple with the evil that in their long affliction fastened itself upon them.

Especial attention is directed to paragraph four. That calls for the recognition on the part of the Gen-

eral Assembly that the people of North Carolina are moral people. The saloons now exist not with the consent of the people of North Carolina, but solely because conditions have prevented the moral forces of the State from asserting themselves in elections against the saloons. Every intelligent public man in the State knows that this is true. It is but reasonable to ask now that the patience of the people be rewarded, and that the true attitude of the majority be recognized. Is it unreasonable to presume that the saloons should not be opened unless it is expressly voted by the majority to open them? Is it more reasonable to presume that the people of North Carolina desire the saloons—recognized as ruinous, as the sources of all manner of crime—to go on with their work unless they vote to the contrary? To be sure, he does violence to the character of the people who holds that they favor saloons and that saloons must exist until they have been voted out. One does not ask a good man if he loves virtue. His character is answer. One who believes in the people of North Carolina will say that the people desire the saloons closed, and he will not ask the people to prove this, but will bid the saloon men disprove it. This is just what paragraph four calls for. It is fair; it is representative; it is reasonable; it is only a just recognition of the patience of the moral forces of North Carolina; it presents them with the opportunity that they have long waited for. In their name we ask for this recognition and this opportunity to vindicate themselves and those who respect them.

J. W. BAILEY.
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 2, 1903.
The Executive Committee:—N. B. Broughton, A. J. McKelway, J. O. Atkinson, T. N. Ivey, I. C. Blair, J. O. Oates, J. W. Bailey, and Q. K. Nimocks, representing the N. C. Conference, and M. L. Kesler, representing the Baptist State Convention.

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For the convenience and benefit of our readers and their friends, we have decided to set aside space below in which they may make known their wants to one another. Any one having a pig or a calf, a colt, or a kid, or any other article around his home he would like to exchange for cash, or some other article, can tell the readers of The Progressive Farmer, at the rate of 25c. per week, if expressed in 25 words, or less, and at the rate of one cent a word if more than 25 words are used. Counting each figure and each initial as a separate word. Cash must accompany each order for the full amount.

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