

"DISPENSARY, NO! YES!"

The law relative to the establishing and the removal of dispensaries in this State is published elsewhere in this paper. It can be voted on and be kept running or shut up at the will of the people. We want every person in this county to read the law and then sign the petitions, or not, as he sees fit, and if the election is ordered, then to go and vote as he sees fit and as his conscience dictates. When you have done this then you have done your whole duty and no man can say aught against you.

There are petitions being circulated asking for an election on this question; many are signing them. Let us ask you to weigh well the question. If you sign and then think you are wrong, let your name stand on the petition and show you are willing for the people to decide and rule; you can sign the petition on this ground, that you are willing the majority should rule.

This newspaper would not be worthy of the name of a newspaper if it did not stand up for what it believed to be right and the best interests of the county at large. It believes in the Jeffersonian doctrine of "a government of the people, by the people and for the people," and to have this all the people are entitled to a say so—not just a few. Because of free speech and free ballot was the primary plan of elections inaugurated. The editor, personally, is quite different from his character as a newspaper man. While personally he might be in favor of the dispensary, as editor he is not such a big fool that he intends to brook the will of the people. They are entitled to a say so in the law making power of the State, and as editor he proposes to stand for their rights, regardless of who it makes or breaks, regardless of friend or foe, regardless of his own personal interests, because he believes it right. If the cause is defeated he will gracefully bow to the will of the people and humbly submit to the inevitable. He is not afraid of starving, be the result what it may.

The dispensary was fastened in this town over the protest of her citizens—they fought then for what they believed to be right; then how can they argue to keep the thing here? There is a change of heart, or at least of front, somewhere, and somebody has shown inconsistency.

The cry of tax is nothing. There is money at the bottom of it all. Some who favor the dispensary (and they favor it because of the revenue) have taken the bottle from their son's lips—yet they are not willing to further remove temptation from him. Some say I would vote to remove it out of the State; am in favor of legislation it out of existence, but as we can't do that let's keep it in Pickens. How do they know they cannot remove it out of the State? Have they ever tried? The State has found it to be too good a thing to voluntarily do away with it. Should the people rise up in their might they could wipe it out. All the State needs is to see that the counties, singly, are determined to remove it from their borders, then it will go. How do you propose to reconcile your conscience by voting to keep a dispensary in Pickens, yet next year you will vote for Martin P. Ansel for governor and his platform is anti-dispensary. He will get lots of votes in this town and county out of men who are now working the hardest to keep this rum shop in our borders.

From a moral and religious standpoint it is wrong, and the people should have a say so in removing it; therefore we stand pat for them to be allowed to express their desires at the ballot box.

Some argue, because of the revenue we have a good school here that we would not otherwise have. It is a poor school district, indeed, that cannot have a school without having to damn some person's soul to educate their child. All we have got to say about any community that is too poor to make a shift for education without help from the dispensary is this—let the children grow up in ignorance, or else let the parents do less towards following the Biblical injunction "Multitudo re et replensit terram."

Spartanburg Falls in Line.

The following editorial appeared in yesterday's Spartanburg Herald:

The voters of Spartanburg county are to have an opportunity in the near future to decide for themselves whether or not the dispensary shall remain in this city. It is fairly and squarely "up to them." A petition is being circulated, and if it secures the necessary number of signatures—one fourth of the qualified voters, an election will be held, and we firmly believe that the dispensary will be voted out. There is a solemn moral obligation confronting the citizens when this petition is presented, and the issue should be met without evasion.

The institution has friends in Spartanburg, as is the case where it operates throughout the State—it is powerful, monopolizing, and seeks to fetter the legislation of South Carolina with rivets of bribery and corruption. A great whoop and slogan will be raised about the benefits and the sums paid in as "net profits," for the schools and county expenses. It will be asked why kill the goose laying the golden egg? But the fowl is corrupt, the money comes as the tribute of the drunkard, debauchee, worthless sot to the court of rum. The pains and aches and pangs of the forsaken wife, the neglected mother, the abandoned child, the worthless life, all are stamped as clearly on this money as the image of the goddess of liberty on the silver half dollar.

Let the people have a voice in the matter, and the dispensary's days are numbered.

HOW IT IS WORKING.

From the Gaffney Ledger.

Some folks say that you can't have prohibition, and we know we haven't got it in this county, because we saw several jugs of liquor come in by express the other day, but we are here to testify that as a consequence of voting out the dispensary this community is infinitely better off. The other day we asked a prominent criminal lawyer what he thought about the operations of the law, and he said in effect that there was no calculating the benefits the country was deriving from it; that life was much safer, and that the present term of court would have less criminal business than any term since the organization of the county. When asked if he was willing to pay the additional tax incurred by voting out the dispensary, he replied: "Yes, and twice over."

Only yesterday a magistrate came into this office to purchase a lot of blanks, such as summons, etc., and he took occasion to say that the small purchase he was making was due to voting out the dispensary, as he practically had nothing to do now except civil business. He said he firmly believed the county would save money under the new order of things.

These two gentlemen are quoted simply to illustrate the operations of the law. They are from different sections of the county, are truthful citizens, and what has been their observation has been the observation of every citizen.

Those who can afford to send after liquor generally send when they take a notion. There are a great many, however, who can't afford to send after a jug of liquor who are doing without it—and they were spending in small sums for the chemically pure for other purposes. Another thing to be remembered is that we have removed the temptation from the boys. They can't pick up a negro and send him to the dispensary for the stuff. How about the blind tiger? Well, Chief Lockhart and his men, assisted by Bert Hallman, make it so warm for the tiger that he keeps on the move. In other words, they burn the woods and run him from his lair, and when they catch him Mayor Gaffney and U. S. Commissioner J. B. Ball let the tiger know that they have been entrusted with the power to inflict punishment—and they do it.

In Darlington Too?

We believe the time has about arrived when the dispensary should be voted out of Darlington County. The dissatisfaction with the administration of this institution seems to be rapidly growing all over the State and we note that a strong campaign is being waged in Oconee County for its abolition. The dispensary seems to be run now principally for the benefit of those who administer it, and Dar in, too.

County could well afford to forego the small revenue from that source in order to stop the sale of the nauseous whiskey that is being dispensed in constantly increasing quantity. It is a pleasant and infrequent surprise to see a daily newspaper that does not contain some account of a killing or murderous assault that is caused by dispensary whiskey.

We would be glad to have expressions of opinion from our subscribers and correspondents as to the advisability of circulating a petition to vote out the dispensary.

If we get sufficient encouragement we will prepare and circulate this petition, but would like to be assured that it has a reasonable prospect of success.—Hartwell Messenger.

Pistol "Toting."

We have never been able to see why a brave, honest and upright man could be encumbered with a pistol in his pocket. If we were living in a sparsely settled community that was infested with robbers then we might be justified in arming ourselves against such a foe. It is cowardly for men in an enlightened and intelligent community to carry a pistol to protect themselves against onslaughts. Perhaps if the law were a little more stringent along this line there would be less of it. With possibly a few exceptions, it is only toughs and rowdy characters that are guilty of this off-use. The lives of good men are often endangered by this atomizable practice of carrying pistols. The man under the influence of liquor often exhibits bravado by flourishing his pistol, and sometimes with deadly effect. If young men will be wise they will arm themselves high and ennobling qualities and discard protection (?) his dangerous weapon, the pistol.—Hendersonville Haster.

Mr. Alonzo Pyle had the great misfortune of killing a horse which he had hired from the Elliot stables one day last week. He had stopped at Mr. J. H. Stewart's near O. K. and while sitting in his buggy, talking to Mr. Stewart, a large hawk alighted on a tree in the yard. Thinking he would kill the hawk, he took the reins in his hand and with his right hand got his pistol. When he fired, the horse jumped, and he involuntarily grabbed the lines with his right hand; the pistol, being a self-acting one, was discharged, the ball entering the horse about the hip, supposedly penetrating the bowels, as it died from the effects of the wound the following day.—Lancaster Ledger.

"He got his pistol." He did not have to get a pistol. He simply "got HIS pistol," which was handy, where it could be quickly used against a hawk, horse or a man. We so often read of a man drawing HIS pistol, implying that it is a part of his regular outfit, not a pistol, which he might be supposed to have had with him at the time by mere chance. A timid man who is afraid of all sorts of bogies is the most dangerous man to have a pistol. At the rustle of a leaf it is ready for action and is fired for imaginary cause, or in his nervous grasp, is discharged unintentionally. In the one case it is self defense, in the other accident. In a majority of cases when a pistol causes death, an innocent person is the victim. Sometimes it is a friend, sometimes a little brother or sister, the pistol dropping from a pocket. It is remarkable that those who do not carry pistols never need them, while some of those who go around armed are continually having to kill a fellow man in "self defense."—Chester Lantern.

As Pickens goes so goes the State.

Pickens leads against the Dispensary and the other Counties follow fast. Spartanburg is the last one to come in.

The Columbia correspondent to the Charlotte (N. C.) Observer says that Oconee is trying to rid herself of the dispensary. May she succeed.

Are you, a church member and praying Christian, in favor of the dispensary? Then get on your knees and pray to God to bless it and increase the sales. Pray as you preach.

"Whosoever ye sow that shall ye also reap," is a Biblical quotation and it is not meant to apply alone to the seed sown by our Congressmen. It covers every thing. Had you thought of it in its true light?

We see by the newspapers that the prohibitionists and the moonshiners of Pickens have pooled their issues and are now fighting in solid phalanx against the horrid dispensary which for its sale of liquor for twelve hours out of every twenty-four.—Abbeville Press and Banner.

The fight on the dispensary started in Pickens and not in any other town in the county. What right would another town have to try to remove some thing we wanted to keep? No, the fight started here and the other towns and communities have been asked to help.

Card of Thanks.

Mr. Editor: Will you be so kind as to give me space in your paper to return my heartfelt thanks to all of my friends, both far and near, for the kind attention given me during the recent illness of myself and family. What I wish to say is that we're all well and that I feel toward you, but assure you that your kind deeds will linger with me while life lasts, and the fragrance will endure in eternity. Hoping that God may give me grace to bear up under my great bereavement, I remain, yours truly, B. F. Murphree.

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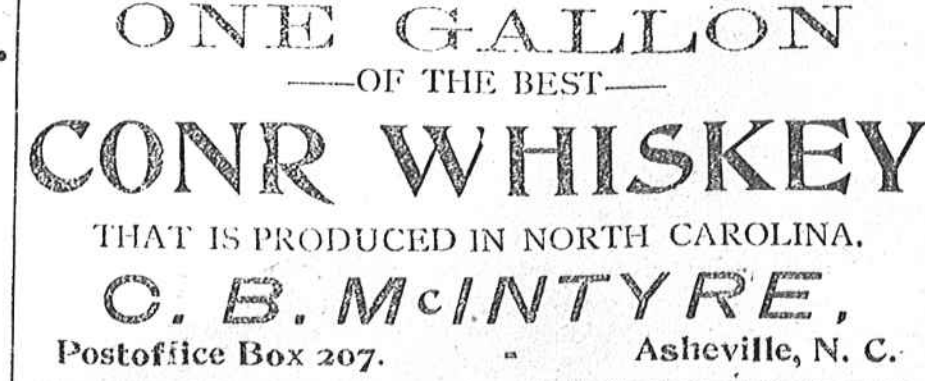
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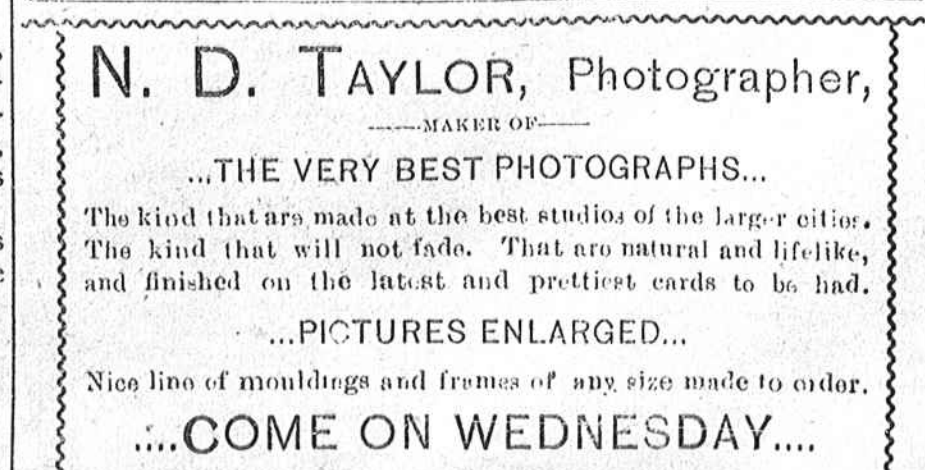
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