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FATE OF THE DISPENSARY.

WITHDRAWAL OF CONSTABULARY
CONFESSION OF SYSTEM'S FAILURE.

Will Ben Tillman Resign?—The Senator has Declared That, if Necessary to Save His Honor, He Will Leave the Senate and Take the Stump in its Defense. Has Governor Ellerbe Given Up the System?

Columbia, S. C., Sept. 21.—"What is to be the fate of the dispensary system?" is the question uppermost in this State, now that the senatorial succession has been settled. Governor Ellerbe's announcement that he will withdraw the constabulary, which has been considered an indispensable adjunct of the law, on the 1st of October, has brought a crisis upon the people and the politicians and they are puzzled.

Four years ago, on the 1st of July, 1893, the dispensary law went into effect. Fathered by Tillman, who was then governor, it was really an expedient, "a cowardly makeshift," seized upon by the reformers to save them from being engulfed by a prohibition wave which was sweeping the State. The prohibitionists, led by L. D. Childs, of this city, had a radical prohibitory measure before the legislature. At the election at which the general assembly then in session had been chosen a plebiscite had been taken and the majority was in favor of prohibition. Under this pressure the assembly was on the point of passing the prohibition bill. Tillman saw that if his legislature passed the measure he would have to sign it, and if he signed it defeat might be his portion in the next appeal to the people. In this emergency Tillman heard of a "dispensary" which had been for years in operation in Athens, Ga. He seized on it as a way out of the difficulty. A bill incorporating the main features of the Athens dispensary was drawn up, introduced in the house by John Gary Evans, who afterwards became governor and passed.

Though thrown as a sop to the Total Abstinence Corboret, the dispensary was loudly heralded as a revenue-raising measure. Governor Tillman himself declared that the State would clear \$500,000 from the experiment the first year, and the taxpayers, who had seen their burden steadily increasing under the "reform and retrenchment" administration, began to indulge visions of the State's paying all its running expenses out of the profits of its liquor traffic.

STATE BOARD OF CONTROL.

The administration of the dispensary was intrusted to a State board of control and a State commissioner, to hold office two years and receive a salary of \$1,800. The State board appointed a county board of control in each county and these in turn appointed the local dispensers on the recommendation of a majority of the freeholders of the town where the dispensary was located. Only one dispensary was allowed in each county, except in Columbia, where three were permitted, and in Charleston, which was vouchsafed two. At these dispensaries only chemically pure liquors, tested by the State chemist, were to be sold, prospective purchasers were required to present written requests, giving the date, the age and residence of the signor, for whom and whose use the liquor was wanted, and the kind and quantity desired. Only unbroken packages, none less than a pint, were to be sold, and there was to be no drinking on the premises. The net profits of the county dispensaries were to go one-half to the county and one-half to the municipal corporation. The State dispenser was not allowed to charge the local dispensers more than 50 per cent net profit, all of which, of course, was to go to the State.

With this elaborate machinery and wealth of rules and regulations, the much-heralded dispensary system was set in operation. But the predictions of huge profits were never realized and the beneficial effects of the law in the direction of reducing the amount of drinking, which were undoubtedly considera-

ble, were more than offset by the discord and confusion created by the army of constables found necessary to enforce the law. These constables being men unused to the enforcing of law, made themselves obnoxious. They were Tillmanites and came from the country. Their duties brought them into relation with the people of the towns who were conservatives. In searching for contraband spirits they invaded private houses and frequent collisions were the result. The famous and bloody Darlington riot was brought on by dispensary constables who violated the rights of domicile. The constabulary was found to be expensive too, having cost the State \$52,000 last year.

DEFECTS AND DRAWBACKS.

These defects and drawbacks were discovered soon after the dispensary became an institution of the State. The law has been amended at each succeeding session of the legislature, and every attempt has been made to patch it up and hide its defects. The dominant Tillmanite faction was committed to it, and could not afford to confess its failure. Even when it was discovered a few months ago that shortage existed in many of the local dispensaries by which the State had lost several thousand dollars, Tillman, now United States senator, declared that the dispensary system was all right; that the fault was in the administration of the law, not in the law itself, and that if necessary to save it, he would resign from the senate and come back to the State to take the stump in its defense. In view of this declaration, Governor Ellerbe's announcement of his intention to abolish the State constabulary, is rendered doubly interesting, as seeming to oppose the position assumed by his creator and chief.

With its own inherent defects and the errors of its administrators eating the heart out of the law and making it an offense in the eyes and nostrils of the body politic, it hardly needed such a knockout blow as the decision by United States Judge Simonton, that the State could not prevent the importation of liquor in original packages to finish it utterly. That decision was followed by the establishment of "original package" stores in almost every town and city, until they now exceed the State establishments in number and outstrip them in the amount of business done. Representatives of wholesale liquor houses in the north and west and in the surrounding States have flocked in and established "agencies" where spirits in unbroken packages are retailed in direct competition with the State bars. This destroyed the State's monopoly and made the cost of the constabulary even a heavier burden. It was not to be expected that such a state of things should continue, but the people were hardly prepared for so radical a measure as the abolishing of the force altogether.

THE CONSTABULARY.

Now that the Governor has declared that he will do away with the spies and constables and leave the administration of the law to the local officials, there is diverse speculation as to what it means. Governor Ellerbe's friends say it is in the interest of peace and harmony, a sort of olive branch, as it were. His enemies say that the idea is to invite a temporary "free whiskey era" by giving carte blanche to original package and blind tigers, with a view to causing a reaction of sentiment in favor of the dispensary.

Another theory is that Governor Ellerbe has recently come to the conclusion that the dispensary is dead and is on the point of surrendering it. In any event, the question of what to do with the system is sure to be the biggest question before the general assembly when it meets in January and the vital issue in the next election when it may be that Ben Tillman may have to carry out his threat and resign his senatorial seat to defend his pet scheme.

PROHIBITIONISTS HOPEFUL.

Meanwhile, the prohibitionists, who were switched on to the dispensary side-track on the very eve of success are picking up hope. They think that, with the discontinuance of the constabulary, the dispensary law will be so openly and flagrantly violated, with tolerance and continuance of the police of the towns and cities who have never been in sympathy with it, that the chances are prohibitory legislation by the next general assembly will be greatly enhanced.

THE MOWER COMPANY!

In this day of extravagant advertising we wish to come before the good people of Newberry County and the counties adjoining, among whom we have so many good and faithful friends and customers, with some simple and true statements as to what we are doing and what we are selling.

In Dress Goods

We have everything desirable. Serges, in black and colors—all wool imported goods from 25c to 50c. Henriettas all wool, imported and cannot be excelled anywhere, at 50c, 60c, 75c, \$1, \$1.25. — Our silk warps Henriettas are all that they should be.

In Fancies, Novelties

And all the new things in Dress Goods we have them. The prices range from 12½c to \$1.25.

Hosiery

Is one of our specialties and we have an excellent line. Our 10c and 12½c grades are **GOOD**. Our 25c line is of the **BEST**.

In Undervests,

Union Suits for ladies and children—cotton, wool, wool and silk, we have fine lines.

Blankets! Blankets! Blankets!

We have just opened a number of cases of these and are going to sell them very low. Prices begin at 50c per pair and end with large all wool 11-4 at \$4.50. 12-4 at \$5. Call for these.

JACKETS AND CAPES

We carry in great variety and in specially good values for the money asked for them.

In Our Domestics

We can please you. We carry Androsoggin, Barker, Fruits, Pride of West, Wamsutta, etc., etc. Sheetings, Tickings, Casings. We have a line of Table Damask of good variety and prices from 25c to \$1.50 per yard with the Doilies to match.

OUR MILLINERY DEPARTMENT

In charge of Mrs. Redus is as attractive as it has ever been. We have the newest designs and are up to date.

In Our Other Store

Are things to please the housekeeper. Carpets, Matting, Floor Coverings generally. Crockeryware of the best makes only. We do not carry any stuff which will craze or crack. Prices are very little if any higher than the cheap goods.

OUR SHOE STOCK

Is very large. We make no effort to advertise the lowest prices. We do give the very best to be obtained anywhere for the price paid. We do not carry shoddy Shoes at all, we guarantee satisfaction.

We Name a Few Lines:

Little Giant School Shoes \$1 to \$1.50. R. T. Wood & Co.'s celebrated line of children's and misses' Shoes 75c to \$2.50. Allen & Co.'s line fine Shoes \$1 to \$2. Our own line Ladies' fine Shoes, Welts, Turn, Buttoned, Laced at all prices in Goat and Dongola stock. We have the heavier goods which we know from experience to be equal to any made.

WE PAY CASH, buy at the lowest prices and always give our customers the benefit of it. We will not be undersold.

COME AND SEE US....

C. & G. S. MOWER CO.

ORIGINAL PACKAGE DEALERS.

Atlanta Dealers Bring Action in U. S. Court to Compel Southern to Accept Uncased Bottles.

[Special to the State.]

Atlanta, September 21.—Tillman's widely celebrated South Carolina dispensary law figured in a very important hearing before Judge Newman of the United States circuit court today. The hearing was on a bill brought by Bluthenthal & Rickart, through their attorneys, Glenn, Slaton & Phillips, to compel the Southern railroad to carry whiskey into South Carolina. The bill, which was filed yesterday, prayed that Judge Newman grant an order forcing the road to carry the whiskey as regular freight. Conspiracy or collusion was charged against Governor Ellerbe, of South Carolina, and Traffic Manager Culp of the Southern road in the bill of the plaintiffs. Attorney General Barber of the State dispensary was here to represent and defend the Governor.

Judge Newman declined to grant any order in the case at present, but took the matter under consideration.

Original packages were the immediate cause of the trouble which Judge Newman was called upon to adjust. Since Judge Simonton's decision original package liquor dealers here have been shipping great quantities of whiskey to South Carolina, housing it in stores and disposing of it in original packages. The Southern railroad has been hauling this freight, but on September 16, it issued an order declining freight not packed securely enough to prevent damage from breakage and not packed in such manner as to answer all the requirements of the original package law. This shut off much of the freight which had been shipped from Atlanta not uncased.

Bluthenthal & Bickart, local whiskey dealers, had established agencies in the towns in South Carolina and were hit harder by this decision of the roads than any other whiskey house in the country. They established these agencies on the strength of Judge Simonton's decision and after the Southern road had accepted shipments of uncased goods. As the Southern road is the only medium by which they can reach their South Carolina agencies they feel that they have a grievance.

They were further encouraged to expand their business in Carolina, because some time last month, when one of their earliest shipments of original packages was seized, Bluthenthal & Bickart immediately brought a bill of injunction against the constables to restrain them from seizing the whiskey and Judge Simonton at once issued an order restraining the constabulary from interfering with or seizing their whiskey.

Take JOHNSON'S

CHILL & FEVER

TONIC.

Literary Note.

The interiors of one thousand of the most attractive homes in the United States have been photographed by The Ladies' Home Journal. One hundred of the best of these pictures will be reproduced in that magazine. The first article of the series—"Inside of a Hundred Homes"—will appear in the October Journal. Bad chambers, reception and dining rooms, bathrooms, halls and apartments of every kind will be pictured just as they are in daily use. Each picture contains dozens of suggestions. Every woman is interested in taking a peep into the most attractive homes in the land, to all how they are furnished and arranged. She wants to get practical hints and new ideas for furnishing her own. The houses photographed by the Journal are those occupied by persons of moderate income. Their interior arrangement shows what perfect taste can accomplish with a little money and the touch of a woman's deft fingers. Homes in every State in the Union—from Maine to California—were photographed for the Journal's unique and useful series. The Ladies' Home Journal Philadelphia.

FEVER CAUGHT FROM PAPERS.

A Panic Caused at Houston, Texas, by the Death of a Newsboy at Beaumont.

Houston, Texas, Sept. 22.—The death of the Lovejoy boy at Beaumont this morning has caused consternation here. The town is rigidly quarantined. The little victim was a newsboy and handled New Orleans newspapers. Citizens are fleeing to the woods for refuge from the dread disease. A number of health officers met here today for a conference. The following telegram was received:

Orange, Texas, Sept. 22.—In Mississippi and Louisiana science has made a gallant struggle to suppress yellow fever and has signally failed. I have tried to inaugurate a quarantine of like kind in Texas, and I believe I have the best line of defense ever made against an epidemic, but I think it too, will fail, and, therefore, have declared absolute quarantine and intend to so instruct my quarantine inspectors.

R. M. SWEARINGEN.

After this was read the conference resolved to await the coming of Dr. Swearingen, who will arrive to night, and just what will be done in Texas will be decided upon to-morrow.

A Bit of Advice.

[Detroit Free Press.]

The young man had been introduced to the political club as a rising orator who would make a few brief remarks. He had evidently become impressed with the belief that the mantle of Cicero had fallen on his shoulders, and he was not going to let it slip off if he could help it. When he had at last brought his talk to a conclusion he went to a group of friends to receive congratulations. One of them, an old friend of his family, took him by the coat lapel and let him aside.

"My boy," he said, "I want to talk to you."

"About my speech?"

"Yes."

"It's very kind of you"—began the young man in misguided anticipation.

"I know it is. You may not think it's kind, when you hear it, but it is. That speech of yours lasted an hour and three-quarters."

"But I was applauded four times."

"You were. For the reason that we were misled three times into thinking you had finished."

"I'm sorry you were disappointed. I am going into life without much capital beyond my ability to make speeches."

"There's the point precisely. I want to call your attention to an immense difference between that capital and the other kind. In the ordinary investment the longer you wait the bigger their interest gets. But in speechmaking it works precisely the opposite way."

Population of the United States.

[From the Buffalo Courier.]

According to an official estimate made in the Treasury Department, the present population of the United States slightly exceeds 77,000,000. This indicates an annual increase of more than 2,000,000 since the last Federal census was taken in 1890, when the total population of the country was found to be more than 62,000,000. We are now within three years of another Federal census, at which, it is reasonable to anticipate, the total population of the United States will exceed 80,000,000.

The Old Green Stamp Again.

[Atlanta Journal.]

We are going to have the old green stamp again. The secretary of the treasury and the postmaster general, after consultation with the president, have decided to change the color of two cent postage stamp from carmine to the shade now used on government notes. The government, it is said, will save \$10,000 a year by printing the two cent stamps in green as ink of that color is less costly than carmine. The public will be glad to see the familiar color once more. It will recall the time when it took three cents instead of two to send a letter.