

# THE WEEKLY PICKET.

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[ADVERTISEMENT.]

## Prohibition Column.

[Edited by the Prohibition Committee of Madison County.]

P. O. BOX 187, CANTON, MISS.

Jackson, Tenn., has gone dry a majority of 934.

Have you kept account! The following towns in Tennessee have gone dry: Clarksville, Bristol, Knoxville, Jackson. The fight is now on in Nashville, and Memphis with Chattanooga "scared."

### THE CASE OF THE SALOONS AS PUT BY THEIR ADVOCATE.

### THE INCOME OF THE SALOONS OF CANTON.

### THE DRINK BILL OF MADISON COUNTY

There is a well written and conservative article published in the Herald of last week in opposition to the local option election to abolish the saloons.

The writer is evidently well posted as to the extent of the business at Canton, and makes for the saloons as strong a showing as can be made. We would print the whole article if we had space, but as we have not, we will give its salient points:

1st—He says the Canton saloons sell from \$350,000 to \$500,000 worth of whiskey each year to dry counties.

2d—That if they had to depend on the local business it would not pay to license two saloons out of the nine.

3d—That these nine saloons are preferable to the blind tigers that would spring up in their absence.

4th—That Canton cannot do without these saloons; that it is her only source of revenue and that without the saloon it would go bankrupt, or words to that effect.

This is the argument of an able man who represents the saloons and whose argument is endorsed by their organ at Canton, and coming from such a respectable source, we are forced to analyze and consider it. For the sake of argument we will admit the writer's premises. We will not controvert his statistics.

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF WHISKEY is sold to dry counties by the nine saloons of Canton, besides what is sold in Madison county.

Now, not to exaggerate, let us throw in the amount sold in Madison county and call it all together as the amount sold by the nine saloons at Canton.

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF WHISKEY. These nine saloons have equal facilities for selling whiskey, they are of equal respectability, all do a rushing business, and their trade will average about the same. We have only to divide the \$500,000 by nine to get the average, and the result is found to be that each one is selling

FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS WORTH OF WHISKEY.

This writer for the saloons insists that it will not take two of these nine saloons to supply Madison county. To be perfectly fair we will concede more than he asks in this analysis, and for the sake of the argument we will admit that the county buys the average sale of one saloon, which is

FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS WORTH OF WHISKEY.

Now, if it be true that there is no drunkenness in Canton, that it is the soberest town in the state, this

FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS WORTH OF WHISKEY.

must be drunk by the men who make corn and cotton, and we will have to accept this able writer's assertion that the surrounding country is improving as it never did since the civil war, with a grain of salt. The farmers tell us that labor conditions are so changed, that their farms yield less

money than they did years ago when they sold cotton at seven cents per pound. That there is a general disposition to sell out farms in Madison county because they cannot depend upon their labor, which insists on coming to town on Saturday morning and spending the whole day. When night comes they go yelling home through the country, firing off pistols, having a good time Sunday, and taking Monday to get sober. These farmers may exaggerate the situation however, but we believe that the able writer of the article in the Herald will probably admit that the consumption of

FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS WORTH OF WHISKEY

per annum does not improve the cotton scraping and cotton picking labor in Madison county.

We are moved to ask at this point, how many bales of cotton it requires to foot this drink bill of Madison county? From the best information we can obtain the cotton crop does not average over \$40 per bale. Sometimes it sells for more and sometimes for less. Averaging it at \$40 we divide this drink bill by that sum, and the number of bales of cotton it requires to foot the bill is,

ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

One thousand three hundred and eighty-nine bales of cotton is a train upon the resources of Madison county, which constitutes a good answer to the able article in the Herald.

Suppose some other tyrant than the saloon had the power to exact contribution from this people of

ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

bales of cotton for a spectacular bon fire every year on the Fair Grounds of Canton. How long would the farmers continue to cultivate their farms? How long before the whole population would leave the county? And yet, we ask the question in good faith, would they be any worse off in making this sacrifice annually, than they are in the

FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS WORTH OF WHISKEY

consumed? We think we might leave the answer to this question to the saloon keepers themselves. And by the way, we want to be understood in this matter of condemning the licensed saloon; that we do not make war on the saloon keeper. His business is legalized, he pays an exorbitant price for the privilege he exercises to make us all drunk, and it is not the saloon keeper we condemn so much, as the men who petition for the license, or who vote for him to continue the business.

The editors of this column readily concede the point made by the writer we are answering that the saloon keepers in Canton are exceptionally good fellows.

But you farmers, mechanics and toilers, how long do you propose to be parties to a business that only brings ruin financially and morally upon the county we love so well. This business cannot endure. It is bound to be stopped. It is no longer a moral question only. It is a question of private and public preservation. And the man who believes that it is going to continue indefinitely lacks common sense. Our county is bleeding to death. The propnets of her fields instead of being poured into the channels of legitimate trade and commerce, are being sold and the money poured into the coffers of the brewers and distillers of the West. We need this

FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE DOLLARS

at home, to improve the farms and for the comforts and conveniences of life, that we do not raise or manufacture at home; instead of its going back to buy more whiskey. Pour this golden stream into the pockets of our laborers instead of down their throats in saloons, and every branch of industry will feel the impulse right here at home.

Now we know exactly what the answer will be of the whiskeyites to this article. We do not have to wait to hear it. They will not deny the facts which their own representative has stated and that we have simply used to drive to their logical conclusion, but they will abuse the writer of this arti-

## Attractive Easter Offering!

### JOHN McGRATH & SONS CO.

The One-Price Merchants of Canton, Mississippi.

At this season of the year you will find it profitable pleasure strolling through and inspecting the handsome Spring Goods now on exhibition.

We are better prepared than ever to supply your Easter wants.

### Silk Jumper Suits.

A swell line of these New Silk Jumper Suits from \$10.00 to \$25.00

### Silk Shirt Waists Suits

Also elaborate White Silk Shirt Waists, some new creations, fresh from the mill of style.

Special display of

### Lingerie Waists

Suit of Clothes

if it bears the name of SCHLOSS BROS. is all that can be desired.

Our line is now complete, comprising as it does Serpes, Flannels and Worsted in all the latest styles and cuts. Bring your Boy around and let us show how easy we can save you from

50c to \$2.00 A SUIT

the same moral restraints thrown around him or the same incentives to keep sober that the white man has except in exceptional instances and he thus frequently becomes a victim more to be pitied than blamed.

In Madison county a large proportion of the race are gradually forming the dram shop habit. They are ruining themselves as well as the white men who employ them.

This crying evil has set the farmers of the county to thinking and is the prime factor in the present movement to put the dram shop out of business. The arrogance and tyranny of the boycott is a grievance confined to Canton but the eminent destruction of labor has aroused the men who employ it to make corn and cotton. They say that on account of labor conditions they make less money on their farms now than when they sold the staple at seven cents. Their hands are no longer satisfied with being supplied with plenty to eat and while making the crop but demand money before the crop is made, and if they are refused they can and do go elsewhere and work for some one will pay the cash. The railroads, the saw and oil mills and even neighboring farm-

ers who are behind with their crops will pay cash for labor, and so the farmer who employs them, feeds and clothes them, is compelled "to come across" and the dram shop at Canton gets the money.

When Saturday comes the laborer and his work mule comes to town. These men have a common rendezvous, the dram shop. Here they loiter and have a good time till they have spent all of their cash and when darkness comes those not in the calaboose go yelling and firing off their pistols on the public roads till they get home. Monday morning the employer finds his man with his head tied up. He has a headache, he is unfit to work.

This employer used to lose his temper and curse the negro or cudgel him, but he has grown wiser because he has discovered that this is no remedy, he no longer curses the drunkard but blames the drunkard maker.

What is its effect upon the colored farm laborers? We know that the colored man on his farm in the absence of the liquor habit is a patient worker and useful citizen, but that when he adopts the habit it destroys his usefulness and inclines him to crime. He has not

## An Ordinance

Entitled, An Ordinance to Prohibit Proprietors of Pool Tables and Billiard Tables for Hire or their Agents, or Employees to Permit any Minor to Play Any Game upon such Tables, or to Loaf or Loiter about their Premises, or to Enter the Room in which said Pool Tables and Billiard Tables are.

Be it ordained by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Canton:

[1] That it shall be unlawful for the proprietor of any pool table or billiard table operated for hire in the City of Canton, or any agent or employe of such proprietor, to permit any minor to play any game of pool or billiards upon such tables, or to loaf or loiter about the premises upon which such tables are operated, or to go into or remain in the room in which such tables are.

[2] That any person convicted of a violation of this Ordinance shall be fined in any sum not less than Five Dollars nor more than Twenty Five Dollars.

[3] That this Ordinance take effect and be in force from and after April 1st.

E. B. HARRILL, City Clerk.

## For Sale or Rent.

A house with four rooms, water hydrants and other conveniences, situated on North St., in West Canton.

For terms apply to M. V. DUDLEY.

## Wanted.

A partner to cut and sell the timber from twenty acres of land, within half a mile from Canton. Virgin forest of hard wood. Some of it will make lumber or cross ties, the balance fence posts, rails and fuel.

Might sell the timber or be cut and removed before next November.

Address with references. W. CARNAHAN, San Marcos, Tex.

Remember \$1.25 in advance gives you the Picket and the Weekly Commercial Appeal for one year.

## LUMBER YARD

OUR STOCK OF LUMBER, SHINGLES, SASH AND DOORS, LIME AND CEMENT was never more complete than now, and our prices are as low as the lowest. Give us a chance to figure on your bill and we will save you money. Telephone, 73

A. J. ALEXANDER, CANTON, MISS

## Real Estate.

If you want to buy or sell CITY PROPERTY, FARM or TIMBER LANDS, make your wants known to me. If you want to INVEST YOUR MONEY IN PROPERTY that pays 10 per cent. and up, I can supply your wants. My commission is very reasonable.

A. H. CAUTHEN.

## COAL and LUMBER YARD

Our stock of coal is full, and lumber and building material, generally, was never so complete as now, and while building material is higher than usual. We will meet all competition.

Stiles-Tull Lumber Co.

HIGHEST MARKET PRICE PAID FOR COTTON SEED.