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HISTORY AND STATUS OF LIQUOR QUESTION IN JOHNSTON COUNTY.

A Summary of The Facts That Have Led Up To The Present Knotty Problem of Handling This Vexed Question.

DEMOCRATS WILL REPEAL LAW.

The Republican Party in Their Convention in Smithfield on August 11th Passed a Resolution With The Idea As It Appears, to Deceive The People.

The Republican convention, which assembled in the town of Smithfield on the 11th day of August, passed a resolution which is so absurd on its face that it will hardly deceive anyone. The resolution was introduced and adopted for the purpose of catching votes, but when the voters of Johnston County examine the provisions of that resolution it will hardly succeed in deceiving anyone.

It may not be amiss to review briefly the history of liquor legislation in Johnston County. It has been fully twenty years since the sale of liquor in Johnston County was restricted to incorporated towns. Directly after the war at a few places in the county liquor was sold, but the sentiment of the people became so strong against the practice of selling liquor where there was no police protection that by common consent the sale of ardent spirits was restricted to the towns.

Years ago the Board of Commissioners of Johnston County refused to grant license to any person to conduct a bar-room in the country. This determination of the commissioners was received with approval by all political parties. The Republicans had control, practically speaking, of the Legislatures of 1895 and 1897, but even those Legislatures did not dare to defy public sentiment by the establishment of bar-rooms in the country. By common consent of all political parties the sale of whiskey was restricted to the towns.

For nearly a quarter of a century public sentiment all over the State has demanded that the sale of whiskey by small measures should be restricted to incorporated towns. A few stills were allowed to remain in operation in the country, but these institutions caused so much disturbance and disorder that the people living in the country demanded that they should be abolished. Even the Republican Legislature of 1897 legislated whiskey stills out of existence in several counties of the State. A law was passed by that Republican Legislature making it unlawful to manufacture whiskey in the county of Franklin, and the question was never submitted to a vote of the people. A law was passed by the same Legislature making it unlawful to manufacture whiskey in the county of Union, and the question was not submitted to a vote of the people. The same Legislature of 1897 passed an Act providing:

"Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or manufacture any spirituous or malt liquors in the county of Columbus, except as hereinafter provided. Section 2. Provided this Act shall not apply to incorporated towns in said county of Columbus, nor to that territory in Fair Bluff Township, in said county, lying on the South side of the Columbia & Augusta Railroad."

The ratification of this act was not submitted by that Republican Legislature to a vote of the people of the whole county, nor even to a vote of the people in the territory affected by the law. Public sentiment all over the State has been against the sale of whiskey in the country and county after county, through their Representatives in the General Assembly, have demanded the restriction of the sale of liquor to the towns. For some

time it has been the policy of all political parties to leave to the towns the determination of the question of whether whiskey shall in the towns be sold through the dispensary or through licensed bar-rooms.

Since 1900 every town in Johnston County where whiskey was sold, either through bar-rooms or through a dispensary, except one, by popular vote has determined to discontinue the sale of ardent spirits. The exception to the above statement is the town of Jerome. In Benson, Four Oaks, Selma, Pine Level, Kenly, Clayton and Smithfield, elections have been held and the result in every one of these elections was adverse to the legalized sale of whiskey. There was no politics in any one of these elections. Nobody attempted to make any political capital out of the result either one way or the other. Party lines were not and could not be drawn, for the question was not a party question. Republicans and Democrats voted for dispensary and Republicans and Democrats voted against dispensary.

Since these towns have voted on the whiskey question it seems that the Republican convention is trying to make political capital out of the result. Republican leaders are trying to divide the country people against the town people by saying to the country people, "Your privileges have been taken away. You are not allowed to buy whiskey any longer. The sale of whiskey has been forbidden in Johnston County and you have not been allowed to vote on the question." These Republican leaders are endeavoring strenuously to put the blame on the Democratic party for what the people of the towns did when everyone of them knows that many Republicans as well as Democrats voted against the sale of liquor. Every sane man knows that there was no politics in any one of these elections.

The bar-room was originally driven out of the country because the country people demanded it. If the question was submitted to a vote of the country people to-day whether bar-rooms should be permitted to operate in the country we hazard the statement that such a proposition would not receive the votes of one hundred white men in Johnston County. Until Chapter 248 of the Laws of 1905 was passed the people of Johnston County, subject to certain restrictions, had the right to make and sell wine and cider. An immense petition was sent to our Representatives while the Legislature of 1905 was in session asking that a law be passed forbidding the sale of all kinds of intoxicants. Nearly 2,500 voters signed that petition, and our Representatives in the Legislature felt justified in passing Chapter 248 through the General Assembly, because it appeared to them that a majority of the voters asked for it. Our Representatives did not intend to pass a bill making it unlawful for our farmers to make and sell wine and cider of their own manufacture but since the passage of the act it has been construed to have that effect, and some of the farmers of our county, who for years have been accustomed to manufacture their grapes into wine and their apples into cider, felt that a great injustice had been done them by forbidding them to sell the products of their farms.

The Democratic convention which met in the town of Smithfield on the 1st day of August, by a vote of nearly four to one, passed a resolution instructing our members nominated for the Senate and the House of Repre-

sentatives to repeal Chapter 248, so far as it affects the right of the farmer to make and sell wine and cider manufactured from his own grapes and fruits. Our candidates for the Senate and for the House of Representatives declare that they will see to it that the law is amended so as to restore to the farmers of Johnston County the right to make and sell wine and cider from their own grapes and fruits.

If elected, as we believe they will be overwhelmingly, our members of the General Assembly will see to it that the right to manufacture and sell wine and cider is restored to the farmers of this county. But, if the unexpected thing should happen and a Republican delegation is sent to Raleigh, it is hardly to be expected that their influence in securing the passage of such a law would be as effectual as the influence of a Democratic delegation, for unless all signs fail there will not be more than thirty Republican members in the next House of Representatives, and the influence of a Republican delegation from Johnston County would hardly be as great as that of three Democrats whose wishes their Democratic colleagues would be disposed to carry out. We mention this to remind the voters of Johnston County that a Democratic convention this year has done what it always tries to do, and that is to carry into effect the wishes of the people.

But, on August 11th, a Republican convention assembled in Smithfield adopted the following resolution: "That at sometime between April the 15th and June, 1907, the question of the manufacture and sale of spirituous liquor be submitted to a vote of the people of the county, and if a majority of all the voters favor the sale then in what manner, be determined by an election of all the voters of the county." We have quoted the resolution exactly as it was passed by the Republican convention. Any man who will stop to think for a moment will readily see that this resolution is entirely impracticable, that it cannot be carried into operation and that it was only adopted for the purpose of deceiving the people and to capture a few dissatisfied Democratic voters.

It appears from this resolution that it demands two separate elections. 1st. To determine whether liquor shall be sold in the county at all, and 2nd, It seems they intend to hold a second election to decide how it shall be sold. We do not know what the resolution means unless it means this. Now let us suppose an election is held, what question will be submitted to the people? The question of selling liquor through a dispensary or through bar-rooms? Suppose a majority of all the people of the county should vote in favor of the re-establishment of a dispensary, where will the dispensary be established? It certainly cannot be established in a town where a majority of the people have voted against it unless the general law of the State is changed and unless both political parties change their policy. How many dispensaries do they intend to establish? Do they mean to force the people of the towns which have voted whiskey out to allow the sale of whiskey anyway? Such a proposition is an absurdity on its face. No Legislature which has ever assembled in North Carolina has ever passed a law forcing the sale of liquor upon any community where a majority of the people at an election voted against its sale. Let the people think for a moment of the practical effect of this Republican Resolution if it should be made a law.

Kenly, Pine Level, Selma, Smithfield and Clayton have within the last two years abolished the dispensaries which had theretofore been established. Under this Republican resolution the people of Clayton would have the right to vote upon the question as to whether or not liquor is sold in Smithfield, and the people of Smithfield would have the

HON. CHAS. M. WILSON.

Democratic Nominee for the State Senate.

A Brief History of His Services to His County as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

On August 1st the largest Democratic convention ever assembled in Johnston County unanimously nominated Charles M. Wilson, who has been a member of the Board of County Commissioners for eight years, six years of which he has been chairman of the Board, for one of the Senators from this, the Fifteenth Senatorial District. This nomination came to Mr. Wilson unsought—he was not a candidate. This nomination speaks in the strongest terms the great confidence and esteem in which he is

held by the people he served so well so many years in such a responsible position.

Mr. Charles M. Wilson, Democratic nominee for the Senate, was born at Wilson's Mills 48 years ago. His life has been spent at the village where he was born. He is a working man and knows what the working man needs.

Mr. Wilson is peculiarly fitted and qualified for the position. He is a large manufacturer, farmer and business man. He has been identified with the government of the county for eight years in the capacity of County Commissioner. This is one of the most important offices in the county. It is a position that calls for the best skill and judgment and how well he has performed the varied duties of this office is told in the following



HON. CHARLES M. WILSON
Democratic Nominee for the State Senate from Johnston County.

brief account of the financial condition of the county when he took charge as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners and the conditions as they exist to-day.

Mr. Wilson has been chairman of the Board for six years. The chairman is expected to inform himself on all matters connected with the duties of the Board of County Commissioners and his recommendations are, in a very large measure, adopted by the Board. Mr. Wilson has been very active in the discharge of every duty in connection with his office and has performed his duties with such rare judgment and painstaking skill that his name will always be honored in this county.

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ciate his services and that they are willing to place greater responsibilities upon him and we confidently expect him to make a Senator of whom every right thinking man in this county and in the entire district will be proud.

Benson News Notes.

Cotton gins are the busiest of the busy.

Democrats are jubilant; prospects are encouraging.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hall returned from Buie's Creek Sunday.

N. T. Ryals has moved his law shop to the Hudson Building.

A few of our enterprising merchants are in the Northern markets.

William Jernigan is a happy "dad," it may be for the first time in his life.

Our people are not neglecting the State Fair; several of them are there this week.

Bradley Johnson, of Virginia, was shaking hands with his old friends here Monday.

The cotton market here is maintaining the position it opened with—paying the highest.

Republicans positively refuse to divide time. They do not want the light thrown on their record.

It is a dull day in Benson when there is not something doing. George Holland is fitting up apartments in C. T. Johnson's Brick Block.

The cider and wine question has been settled. The Republican party has drunk up all in sight and by the time of this writing we think it is settled.

W. A. Stewart, of Dunn, spoke to a large and appreciative audience Tuesday night. The scarecrow of a Republican speaking had made the people, so to speak, hunger and thirst after better things. The contrast was a striking one. In the day the Republican audience was made up of a few Democrats who went out of curiosity; about seventy-five old line moss back Republicans with sorry recruits and a few negroes. The Democratic speaking was attended by ladies and gentlemen of the old school.

The Republican county candidates, together with Perry Nodlin and a little fellow Spriggs essayed to speak here Tuesday. Mr. Nodlin says his wife thinks he is a good fellow. Mr. Spriggs' arms were evidently made to beat the air; his mouth looks like it would fit a water-melon cut into "rashers" better than a political oration, and any dog that can jerk his neck and head as fast and as often and as severely as can this sprig of a Spriggs, could snap the life out of a snake too quick. Most of the candidates did acquit themselves creditably by not trying to make any speech, and it was only Mr. Spriggs and Mr. Nodlin that succided on the party.

A small affair that happened in our community a few days ago, inspired a frosty poet to inscribe the following upon the fly-leaf of his last year's almanac:

"There was a man in our town who boarded at a hotel,
But politics plays funny tricks that nobody can foretell.

"So when to breakfast all had come and politics bobbed up,
'Twas hotter than all the coffee that filled up any cup.

"The war with words waxed warmer still,
Till all was sulphurous blue,
'You're a—! you're a—! you're a—!
'Yes, and you're another, too!"

At last the parting sentence came with emphasis quite bold:
'When you've been dead ten thousand years
In hades kicking coal,
I'll come board with the widow
And pay her in pure gold!"

A Badly Burned Girl

or boy, man or woman, is quickly out of pain if Bucklen's Arnica Salve is applied promptly. G. J. Welch, of Tekonsha, Mich., says: "I use it in my family for cuts, sores and all skin injuries, and find it perfect." Quickest Pile cure known. Best healing salve made. 25c. at Hood Bros' drug store.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.)