

TEEN ALDERMEN, OUTDONE

THREE HELD THEIR GROUND.

Meeting of Aldermen Called Last Night For Purpose of Reconsideration of Drug Store License Question. Three Members of the Opposition Stood on the Streets and Would Not Come In—Only Two Present and This Number Was Not a Quorum—Drug Stores, However, Will Be Given Their Licenses Back as Majority of the Board is Willing—One Member Who Signed the Call For the Meeting Could Not Be Present Last Night.

Three aldermen outnumbered ten at what was meant for a called meeting of the aldermanic body last night in the city hall for the purpose of rescinding former action of the body in refusing licenses to drug stores to sell whiskey on prescription. Pursuant to a petition signed by Aldermen Garibaldi, Maxwell, Chambers, Williams, Smith, Wadsworth, and Shuler, the meeting was called.

When the hour for meeting had arrived, or shortly thereafter, all those who had signed the petition were present except Alderman Cave, who was out of the city. There was, however, on the scene a trio of officials who did not sign the call and who are opposed to rescinding the former action of the board, these being Messrs. Davis, McKenzie, and Shelton. The first named bunch filed upstairs and got down to business, but it being ascertained on calling the roll that there was not a quorum, Mayor Franklin declared that adjournment was inevitable.

THREE REFUSE TO COME IN.

"Mr. Mayor, there are other members of this board down-stairs," said Mr. W. J. Chambers.

"I know that, but they are not coming up here," answered the mayor, who, as a matter of fact didn't care whether they came up or not.

"If you will give me a little time, I will go down and see what I can do with them," continued Mr. Chambers, who did not want to go away without doing something.

"Certainly I will give you the time, but we are not going to force them up here," was the response from the official chair.

Mr. Chambers picked up his hat and went to the street where Messrs. Shelton, McKenzie and Davis were patiently awaiting results of the gathering in the council room.

THE ELEVEN WILL WIN.

There is little doubt now, despite the failure of the call last night, that the former action of the board nullifying the license of drug stores will be rescinded and whiskey prescriptions will be hereafter a legal matter January 1st when the State prohibition law goes into effect. The men signing the call for the meeting last night constituting a majority of the board, it will be an easy matter for them to get together and invalidate the past action of the body. The other ten members of the board, except one, are against any such course and will fight it to the last, but like the Democrats in Congress, all they will be able to do will be to fight and see their opponents successful. It is first necessary to have a resolution passed rescinding the old ordinance against the further sale of whiskey on prescriptions and this must pass three readings. Then it will be in order to put forth a resolution allowing the drug stores the privilege of selling whiskey on prescription, and this must pass three readings. The best that the opposition can do is to fight against time, and while only three of them were on the ground last night, they made a success in the attempt to force a postponement of action.

TO COME UP AGAIN SOON.

Another meeting of the board may not be had until the regular time for assembling the first Monday night in August. On this night it is understood that Mayor T. S. Franklin will be out of the city on his vacation, necessitating that Mr. James W. Wadsworth take the chairing magistracy pro tem. Knowing how bitterly opposed to reconsideration Mayor Franklin is, Mr. Wadsworth strongly favored some action while he was in the city. In the question comes up as it undoubtedly will, the official body, and a tie in the voting results, Mr. Wadsworth will settle the matter by casting his vote in favor of the sale of whiskey on prescription, and some carrying this point declare that the head of the administration was overruled. In case there is a full attendance at the other meeting when this measure is under consideration, Mr. Wadsworth will not be forced to cast the deciding vote, there being 12 in favor of reconsideration against 3 opposing it. Mr. Willis Henderson, whose name is not on the call and who makes the rounds, is in favor of allowing whiskey to be sold on prescription.

MAYOR FRANKLIN'S FIGHT.

Mayor T. S. Franklin has made a heroic fight against reconsideration of this question which has some elements of an octopus in it. The first time it presented itself to the official body, the vote resulted in a tie and he cast the decisive vote in favor of refusing the drug stores further license. At a later date Mr. Garibaldi who voted with him then was reconsideration, but no seconding was heard. Mayor Franklin then took the ground and established himself on it that the question was killed as an effort to reconsider had plainly failed right under the nose of the whole board. Every method which had the semblance of bleeding with parliamentary procedure was resorted to for the purpose of bringing the question up again, but Mayor Franklin held his ground, declaring that he had all the parliamentary books on his side of the argument. When the petition signed by eleven aldermen was placed in his hands, he strongly debated the proposition of calling a meeting, the charter giving him discretion in the matter. After thinking it over, however, and realizing that the signatures were in a majority of the board, he surrendered, democratically, and ordered the meeting.

A HARD PROBLEM.

This is one of the knottiest problems that has confronted the present administration. Some months ago it was stated at the meeting of the board when the licenses were refused that the druggists wanted their rights nullified and the physicians of the city had signed a petition asking that the whiskey be taken from their reach. Such facts being presented to those present, many voted to take the license away. Some members were

not present that night and they wanted a vote in the matter, since increased daily, some changed their minds about the proposition and many druggists got together and urged that their licenses be continued until the first of the year. The question has divided the board, as hardly any other has since the inception of the administration. Prohibitionists and anti-prohibitionists are all mixed up on the measure and divided among themselves. Those favoring reconsideration argue that a drug store just over the city line is selling whiskey on prescription and that it is not right and just for the druggists inside the limits to be debarred. The other side found it difficult to offset this contention. It is a very safe prediction to make that the drug stores will be given back their privilege in the matter.

RED BUCK'S CLOUDBURST.

A Flood That Thatched His Train Out West Made Him Love His Neighbor and Think Well of All Mankind—Hall, Water and Logs Came Down on the Train All in a Burst—Two Miles in Two Hours by the Watch.

"You seem to have enjoyed your trip through the West," said a friend of the Observer to Red Buck yesterday.

"Yes, all but one little experience." "What was that?"

"A cloudburst or something akin to a flood. Sunday a week ago, just after our train left Colorado Springs for Limon, where we caught the Denver train for Kansas City, a cloud—not much larger than the one Noah saw—rose in front of us, and settled over the track several miles up the road. I thought nothing of it at first, but when I saw how excited the negro looked out of his white eyes I began to fear we were in for a lively time of some sort. Eighteen miles east of Colorado Springs our train met a flood. To the right and to the left there were rivers of surging water. A little further on a hail storm began to pelt the cars. Soon it was all that we could do to move. The train crew was frightened and the passengers became hysterical. The ditch on the upper side of the cars was ten feet deep in water, logs and chunks and hail stones. Spray fell against the windows. This was something that I had never witnessed before. The track was washing away before and behind us. Once we started back but could not cross a stream that we had just run over. The conductor, porter, brakeman and engineer were out prodding at the water-covered track, looking for washouts. Several places new cross ties were put in before we could proceed.

"While all of this was going on we sat there—three cars of passengers—and wondered what we would do if the train floated off. I was not altogether comfortable. Had I been down in Providence, where they don't have such floods, I would have spent the night. I thought of all the meanness I ever did and loved my neighbors better than I did myself. I recalled the fact that I had left my Bible in my old trunk at Charlotte for the first time since I started for the West. I looked first to the east and then to the west for comfort, but there was nothing in sight to greet me. No farm house, not even a wind mill, cow, or horse, was between us and the horizon.

"We were two hours going two miles around a wire fence. Put, by dark, we had passed the area and all was well once more, and that friendly feeling for all mankind had passed from my breast."

Will Travel the Carolinas.

Mr. Thomas W. Dixon, who some time ago was elected secretary and

COLONEL MAXWELL TO MOVE.

Has Sold His Residence on Elizabeth Heights and Will Move into the City.

Col. W. C. Maxwell definitely decided yesterday to change his residence and negotiated a deal with Mr. C. P. Heath who bought his pretty homestead east of the city in consideration of \$5,500. Colonel Maxwell intends to move into the heart of the city the last of October, but has not yet decided where he will live. He contemplates the erection some time in the future of a handsome home in the grove near his present residence on the Shorter Caldwell property, this being one of the loveliest suburban sites around the city. Colonel Maxwell will give up his duties as alderman in consequence of the change of home. Between now and October he will hand in his resignation as the representative of Ward 7. It goes without saying that he has made one of the most aggressive and painstaking aldermen of the present administration and his counsel will be missed in that body.

Will Travel the Carolinas.

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MR. LESTER OATES TO LEAVE.

Charlotte Man to Take Position With Dan River Cotton Mills, in Danville, Va.

The Charlotte friends of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Oates will be interested to learn that they will shortly move to Danville, Va., to live. Mr. Oates having accepted the responsible position of superintendent of the Dan River Cotton Mills, which are among the largest in the South. Mr. Oates is a capable and experienced cotton picker and the son of a well-known mill man, having recently been superintendent of the Charlotte Cotton Mills of this city. Aside from his connection in local business circles, Mr. Oates is an influential member of the board of public safety and has always displayed a keen interest in the public good. Of course his departure will necessitate his retirement from the board. Mrs. Oates will leave for her new home between the middle of August and the 1st of September. Mr. Oates assuming his duties August 1st.

Mr. Henry to Be Elector-at-Large.

One of the pleasures of the coming campaign will be a joint debate between the Hon. W. M. Long, of Salisbury, and Col. Walter R. Henry, of Charlotte, the one representing the Democrats and the other the Republicans as elector-at-large. The approaching State convention of the Republicans will name Mr. Henry if all signs do not fall. In the days of Mr. Henry's Democracy he was a wheel horse. Later he went to the Populist camp and made the walk in ring from every stump in the State, seeing the Democrats steal the Populist thunder he became angry and joined the Republicans.

Much Fine Fruit This Season.

The fruit crop in this section of the State has been very fine this season. Peaches, plums and apples have been bountiful. Some time ago Mr. Flynn Henderson brought to The Observer office some of the prettiest plums ever grown in North Carolina. They were large, juicy and sweet. Yesterday County Commissioner W. M. Long sent around a basket of most delicious free-stone peaches. Mr. C. W. Cathery, of Croft, sold on the market this week a lot of luscious yellow peaches. Every orchard seems to be doing its best. In the mountains the farmers are taking advantage of this, the last year for brandy making.

Important Club Meeting To-Night.

One of the important meetings of the year in club circles will be that of the Southern Manufacturers' Club this evening at 8:30 o'clock. It will be decided once and for all how much of the ground recently purchased at the corner of Poplar and Trade streets will be used for club purposes and how much will be expended on the projected club house. With these two important details settled, the committee on plans will at once get busy. All members are urged to be on hand promptly this evening. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Gresham to Charleston.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Gresham have gone to Charleston, S. C., to live for awhile. Mr. Gresham assuming active charge of the popular St. John's Hotel there. Mr. Gresham is one of the best-known hotel men in the South, his forte being the operation of railway eating houses, which in excellence of management, table and service are not to be surpassed anywhere. Charlotte is Mr. and Mrs. Gresham's home although they are sojourning for a season elsewhere. The best wishes of their many friends go with them to the City-by-the-Sea.

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