

THE ROBESONIAN

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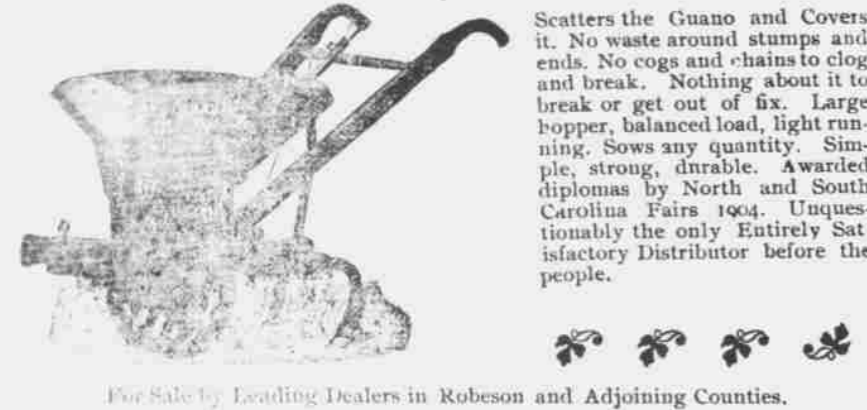
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STRONG PROHIBITION SPEECH.

Judge Pritchard Addresses Large Audience in Charlotte—Would Rather be Hanged to a Sour Apple Tree Than Speak Against Cause Favored by Women and Children.

Judge Jeter C. Pritchard talked on prohibition in Charlotte Sunday afternoon to an audience of about 3,000 people, making one of the strongest arguments made during this campaign. The following is taken from the account of his speech published in the Charlotte Observer Monday.

"The agents of the bar rooms are going about the State talking about blind tigers. It's a dead give-away. If the man who sells liquor on the sly is a blind tiger, then the man who sells it with the sanction of the law is a tiger that can see, isn't he? Which is the more dangerous of the two? If I have to fight a tiger at all, for God's sake give me a blind tiger. (Applause). It's a miserable pretext. They are trying to pad up their conscience for what they know is wrong.

"Why, the women in North Carolina, God bless them, are the best people in the State. They have suffered more from us and endured with more patience than any other class. This is the first time the ladies of North Carolina have ever appealed to us for anything and God pity the man who won't listen to them. Before I'd go out over the State and make speeches against the women and children of North Carolina I'd go out and hang myself to a sour apple tree. (Great applause).

"How many mean things are done in the name of local self-government! No one ever intended that the bar-rooms of the country should hide under the name of local self-government. The idea of invoking this principle to enable the bar-keepers to murder the boys of North Carolina! (Applause).

"And so when they come to me and oppose prohibition on the ground that their personal liberty is interfered with, I tell them that their personal liberty ends where the welfare of my family begins; that their liberty ends where the welfare of the Church of God begins; that their liberty ends where the welfare of Charlotte and all the other towns of the grand old Commonwealth begins. And if they don't understand it, we will teach it good to them in thundertones on the 26th day of May.

"The first environment in life has much to do with what a man shall do, in solving the question of what profession a man shall engage in and the views which he shall entertain on public questions in maturer life. Just after the close of the civil war whiskey in North Carolina was absolutely supreme, from the mountains to the seashore. There was hardly a county which had not stills and bar-rooms in every township. The people before the war had been taught that it was right to distill their spirits and naturally felt that it was an invasion of their rights for the government even so much as to tax it. Whiskey was not only supreme in the matter of territorial sway, but as regards control over parties. It absolutely dominated the Republican party. It absolutely dominated for years the Democratic party.

"My position on this question is very simple. I am unalterably opposed to the manufacture and sale of liquor on a single inch of North Carolina soil. I am also opposed to the establishment of a dispensary or any other makeshift by which men may be authorized to destroy the souls and bodies of our boys and girls. (Applause).

BEGAN GRADUALLY. "Owing to the situation just described the politicians were diplomatic in handling it. They began by incorporating the territory for a mile square about every church, and then dedicated the rest to the devil and the bar-rooms. Then finally they mustered courage to dedicate one mile around each school house to the Lord, and then increased the dry territory around the church to two or three miles. By and by whiskey was driven out of a few counties. The sentiment in favor of prohibition got to work in the

State and those who opposed bar-rooms finally sent to the Legislature men with courage to abolish prohibition in many of the counties. In three-fourths of North Carolina today there is no liquor to sell. And if we as a people do our duty from this day on till May 26th and do our duty on that day there won't be any whiskey sold in the grand Old North State.

"There are many men of character in North Carolina opposed to prohibition," continued Judge Pritchard. "They are as honest as you or I. And some of them advance arguments which would be very potent unless they were properly met, as they can be in every instance. Now, we had a prohibition election in Asheville last October, and the most dangerous argument brought forth in that city was the argument that prohibition would injure the business interests of Asheville and ruin it as a resort town, kill it as dead as a door nail. While I was amply prepared to answer this argument, I disposed of the matter this way. I told them that while I could prove to a mathematical certainty that that position is untenable, nevertheless, if your position is correct and if keeping the whiskey business in Asheville and destroying the boys and girls would make Asheville a success financially, and drive out the traffic would ruin Asheville in both respects, and if the matter were submitted to a test, I'd vote with far more pleasure to drive out the liquor business. (Applause). I have one girl and three boys and I would not take all the money in North Carolina with all the money in the United States piled on top for one of my children. (Applause).

"When you issue license to a bar-keeper, you authorize him to destroy the boys and girls of North Carolina, you authorize him to make widows and orphans, you authorize him to separate husband and wife, you authorize him to embarrass those who are trying to establish the Church of God, you authorize him to establish a fortune, you authorize him to bring a blight on the community when you license him to sell liquor.

"Prohibition has been vindicated in every community in North Carolina where it has ever been tested. They said in Asheville that we ought not to be deprived of the taxes which were received from the saloons. We received annually \$17,000 in taxes from bar-rooms. The bar-rooms received from us \$800,000. Wasn't that a money-making proposition? We invested \$800,000 and received in return \$17,000—and about 20 per cent. of our boys and girls were absolutely ruined.

"The proposition reminds me of the story of the boy in school. His teacher gave him a problem about a cat in a well, which jumped up three feet and each time fell back twelve. He was directed to figure out how long it would take the cat to reach the surface of the earth. The teacher came back after awhile to find the boy working diligently. 'Have you got the answer yet, Johnny?' the teacher asked. 'No, not yet,' replied the boy, still figuring rapidly, 'but if you'll give me another small piece of paper I'll figure him into the infernal regions.'

"They were driving us very much in Asheville in the same direction that that boy was figuring the cat."

Judge Pritchard told of investigations which he made to find out the workings of prohibition. He wrote to the mayor of Charlotte, where conditions were reported first-class. He wrote to the mayor of Fayetteville, who reported that the revenue of the city was doubled. Under saloon regime there was one bank, now there are 5; with saloons there was \$250,000 on deposit, now there is \$1,325,000 on deposit. Where there was one cotton mill, now stand 5; where there was no silk mill now stands 2. Formerly the town had 14 saloons and 6 cotton mills; now there are no saloons and 14 cotton mills. "If you had 100 bar-rooms in the City of Charlotte and could exchange every one for a cotton mill with \$200,000 capital, it would be the best trade ever made in Charlotte for the good of the community. That question is one of the main questions confronting the people of North Carolina. Are we go-

ing to prefer the bar-room to the cotton mill?

"According to the amount of capital invested, the laboring man gets a smaller per cent. from the liquor business than from any other. And yet men say that bar-rooms increase the business of a community. There never has been and there never will be an intelligent reason given by any human being to sustain that proposition." (Applause.)

The mayor of Greensboro, though elected an anti prohibitionist, has been converted by its workings in the Gate City. Four hundred and forty new residences were built last year, at a total cost of \$445,980, an average of \$1,011. Seventy-five per cent. of these cost not over \$750. "What does this mean? It means that the laboring men who under the reign of bar-rooms paid tribute to them and deposited their money across the counter of the saloon, have gone to work and have built beautiful homes where in their wives and children may live as God intended they should. (Applause).

A CRISIS COMING.

"There used to be a preacher up in my country who always prefaced his remarks by saying, 'I'm not an alarmist, but— Now I'm not an alarmist but I want to make a prediction. Some of these days the institutions under which we live will be in peril. Why do I say that? Because the spirit of anarchy, the spirit of socialism is rampant in the United States today. What will we need to face such an emergency? Not only a God fearing people, but a sober, intelligent people. The people of North Carolina should use every means in their power to bring about a condition which will make not only this State but the United States invincible.

"Give a man a home," said Judge Pritchard, "and you will make him a patriotic citizen. If the time ever comes," he added later, "though God forbid it should come, I believe a majority of men who march under the Stars and Stripes will come from the section South of the Mason and Dixon line." (Great Applause.)

The speaker quoted from a letter from M. S. B. Tanner, of Henrietta, president of the Southern Cotton Growers' Association, telling how much better mill conditions were since the abolition of saloons than before.

IN MADISON COUNTY.

Judge Pritchard began a detailed account of the conditions in Madison and Yancey counties some years ago and now, since the day of prohibition. The judge said he had spent most of his time in Madison. When he went there both parties were dominated by the liquor interests. In fact, "if the Democrats nominated a man for sheriff whose nose was one-fourth red, the Republicans would turn around and nominate one whose nose was three-fourths, or entirely red." (Laughter and applause.) Half the men apparently had not washed their faces in six months, their linen was soiled and tattered. When ministers came into that section of the country about the time they got the second line of a hymn sung, a pistol would go off and that preacher was lucky to get away with his bones whole." The county was known as "bloody Madison." There was a Superior Court, but all its time was occupied with murder cases, so an Inferior Court was established. The jail at Asheville had to be resorted to and The Asheville Citizen said the Madison jail was so full that the prisoners' heels hung out the windows. The county paper was worth 25 cents on the dollar. Finally the prohibitionists got to work and liquor was eliminated from all parts except Marshall, where there is a dispensary the Legislature had not nerve enough to remove. The result is there is only one court, the men wear clean shirts, the women are happy and contented. A new jail has been built, for fear the liquor men may get back in power. A new court house and electric lights are in evidence and the county paper is worth 100 cents on the dollar. Every community has its church and its school house.

Yancey, if anything, was worse. "The liquor question exercises a sort of talismanic influence over politicians," said the Judge a moment later. "I speak from experience because I have been there myself. If this were not true, the Legislature would have had the courage and the nerve to have given us absolute prohibition in North Carolina. (Applause). "Both parties sat there and absolutely palmed this thing off on us to avoid responsibility for their acts. And they did another thing they oughtn't to have done. I'm not criticizing the bill, for it is a step in the right direction, but to keep on good terms with the grape growers of the east they inserted that clause protecting them. I told the grape growers that if I had any influence in shaping its action, the first act of the next Legislature would be to put the wine business on the same level as the liquor business. (Applause). "Lincoln said 'a man cannot be half slave and half free.' Neither can he be half drunk and half sober; nor half wet and half dry.

"After awhile Yancey sent men to the Legislature with nerve enough to pass a law that said any man who sells liquor in Yancey shall go to the penitentiary at Raleigh and wear stripes and work for two years. (Applause.) The result? Yancey county went dry and has been dry ever since. (Applause.) If anybody in this crowd says prohibition don't prohibit, let him write some of the convicts in the penitentiary from Yancey county and you'll find out." (Laughter and great applause.) The speaker told a harrowing tale of a man who inflamed with liquor beat out the brains of his wife and now languishes in Marshall jail. "And yet we find men frothing at the mouth about personal liberty." The speaker interspersed through this portion a number of amusing anecdotes which took well with the crowd. He then entered into a defense of the part the Asheville ladies took in the campaign there. "Vote your husbands, ladies," he exclaimed, half humorously, half seriously. "Vote 'em fairly, if you can, but for God's sake vote 'em." He urged the young ladies who next to the ministers have most influence, to use it for prohibition.

Referring to the local self-government, Judge Pritchard said that in his mountain country when the men saw a fire burning ten miles away they hastened without any ceremony to put it out. The fire is burning in Salisbury. It is burning in Wilmington, and in other places in North Carolina. If it sweeps west of Charlotte it will destroy not only our properties, but the bodies and souls of our people. And by the Eternal God, we're going to put it out."

CORPORATION COMMISSIONER.

Major Henry A. London Well Fitted For That Office.

From the Statesville Landmark. The position of Corporation Commissioner is a judicial one. Most of the questions that come before the commission for decision are of a judicial nature. The position is one of the most important under the State government. No man should be placed on the commission because he represents any special class; because he is for the corporations or against the corporations or is anxious to do some special thing. The place should be filled by a man of judicial temperament, one capable of looking at all sides of a proposition and doing justice without fear or favor. Such a man is Major Henry A. London, of Chatham county, who is a candidate for the position. Major London would fill any position in the State with credit, but he is peculiarly fitted for the position of Corporation Commissioner. He could not be carried off his feet and made to do an unfair thing by clamor; neither could he be wheedled into granting improper concessions to corporations. In addition to his qualifications for the place he seeks, Major London is a Confederate soldier and has a record of intelligent and faithful party service which deserves recognition.

Major London is well-known in North Carolina as a gentleman of character and patriotism. As a boy he entered the Confederate army and carried the order for the last charge at Appomattox. He is a lawyer of ability and stands among the leaders of the bar in his section. He has for twenty five years been editor of the Chatham Record and made it a power for Democracy. As Democratic elector, State Executive Committeeman and State Senator, he has served his party with fidelity and singleness of purpose.—Raleigh News and Observer.

The office of Corporation Commissioner is a very important one in North Carolina. Mr. Beddingfield is to retire voluntarily and the latest announcement to succeed him is that of Maj. Henry A. London, of Chatham, who is a man of ability and poise. The position is one of dignity and responsibility and he is a person to realize these qualities residing in it. The convention will make no mistake if it nominates him.—Charlotte Observer.

That Little Affair in '98.

Newbern Sun. Mr. Kitchin declares with some show of pride, that he never did anything against the Democratic party. How about trying to fuse with Butler, head of the negro office-holding brigade in 1898, when the dicker was on the basis of a division of the offices? It didn't succeed, thanks to a sufficient number of Democrats who preferred defeat standing by principle rather than victory in such a shameful alliance as was proposed.

Mr. Pandemonium.

Charlotte Observer. Senator Culbertson having said that it will be either "Bryan or pandemonium at Denver," The Washington Herald protests that it never heard of the last-named gentleman "but he might do for Vice President." By George, that's tip top! There are no evidences yet of mental decrepitude at the Round Table.

The aeroplane with which Wilbur and Orville Wright had made successful flights at Kill Devil Hill, near Nag's Head, for two weeks, was wrecked Thursday. It is said to have flown 8 miles in 7 minutes and 40 seconds under perfect control and the disaster was due to an error on the part of the navigator, who directed the course of the machine downward too quickly. The Wright brothers began immediately to pack their effects preparatory to returning to their home at Dayton, Ohio. They will make no more tests on the North Carolina coasts for the present.

A tornado wrecked the towns of Louisville, Bellevue and Ritchfield, Neb., last Tuesday, killing several persons and injuring a large number.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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