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TO AMEND THE LAW.

Several Sections of the Homestead Law to be Changed.

In response to an almost universal demand for some changes in the present homestead law, the Retail Merchant's Association, of the State has prepared the following bill, which the legislature will be asked to pass:

Section 1. That Section 1 of Article X of the Constitution of North Carolina be and the same is hereby amended by striking out the word "five" wherever it occurs in said section and inserting in lieu thereof the word "two" and by adding to said section the following words: But no merchant or trader shall be allowed an exemption out of his merchandise or stock in trade.

Sec. 2. That Section 2 of Article X of the Constitution of North Carolina be and the same is hereby amended by striking out the words "one thousand" wherever they occur in said section and inserting in lieu thereof the words "five hundred"; and that the last sentence of said section two be so amended as to read as follows: But no real or personal property shall be exempt from sale for taxes or for payments of obligations contracted for the purchase of the same, nor shall partnership property be exempt from sale for partnership debts.

Sec. 3. This amendment shall be submitted at the next general election to the qualified voters of the State in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as is provided by law regulating general elections in this State and in force January 1, 1910 and at said election those persons desiring to vote for such amendment shall cast written or printed ballot with the words "For Constitutional Amendment" thereon; and those with the contrary opinion shall cast a written or printed ballot having the words "Against Constitutional Amendment" written or printed thereon.

Sec. 4. The said election shall be held and the votes returned, compared, counted and canvassed and the result announced under the same rules and regulations as are in force for returning, comparing, counting and canvassing the votes for members of the general assembly January first, nineteen hundred and ten, and if a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the said amendment, it shall be the duty of the governor of the State to certify said amendment under the seal of the State to the Secretary of State, who shall enroll the said amendment so certified among the permanent records of his office.

Sec. 5. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Cuba Left to her Own.

Major General Jose Miguel Gomez was inaugurated President of the restored Cuban republic to-day at noon and within an hour after he had taken the solemn oath of office administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the American officials who had been in control of affairs since the autumn of 1906 had departed from the island.

The American provisional Governor, Charles E. Magoon, who escorted General Gomez to the palace and there turned over to him the reins of government, sailed on the new Maine. The Maine was followed by the battleship Mississippi and the army transport McClellan. An immense crowd gathered along the sea walls to witness the spectacle and a perfect swarm of yachts, tugs and small boats accompanied the ships to the open sea, where full speed ahead was signalled and the gray fighting vessels and white transport soon left the little flotilla behind, with a chorus of whistles screeching farewell salutes.—Havana dispatch.

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE.

Some Expressions Concerning the Attitude of the Anti-Saloon League.

To the people of North Carolina: There is a proper and not unnatural public interest as to the present policy of the North Carolina Anti-Saloon League, and in response to this feeling we have thought it advisable to issue the following public statement.

By an overwhelming majority the people of North Carolina have declared for the suppression of the liquor traffic in this State.

The State Anti-Saloon League stands simply for the enforcement of this expressed will of the voters confidence to the General Assembly elected by these voters to see that in no particular shall the verdict of last May be abated.

We do not ask for more than the people have declared for, nor do we expect less. The people having so unmistakably declared their wishes, it becomes the duty of their lawmakers to provide in all cases the proper legal machinery for enforcing their newly-expressed will, and for punishing all violations of the new statute. Seeing that the enforcement of the law is now in the hands of our own State officials, we call attention to the fact that in most counties no compensation is now allowed sheriffs for breaking up illicit distilleries, and we earnestly ask for a general law providing for the payment of \$25 for each capture made by a sheriff, a policy which has worked successfully in Cumberland and other counties, and without which the machinery is manifestly inadequate. Beyond this we ask nothing.

We do not believe that the whiskey interests can bring any strong pressure to bear upon our lawmakers for any weakening of the present law, but we do not think it amiss to warn our people against agitation for seemingly innocent or unimportant amendments. To make one change will open up the whole subject afresh, and offer another much-coveted opportunity for the whiskey forces to spend money in an effort to corrupt public sentiment. We have seen indications, for example of a plan to use the apple growers as cats paws—the liquor interests insidiously endeavoring to arouse a spirit of dissatisfaction among them in the hope of weakening the law for their own ultimate advantage. We warn our farmers against these schemes: we cannot afford to make a hole in the dike which might lead in the end to a bringing down the whole flood of corruption and intemperance again upon our homes.

It is our belief that the people of the State, the Anti-Saloon League, and the General Assembly are alike resolved upon what has become known as the "stand pat" policy. Let us have no hurtful agitation, and if it come, let the blame be upon the heads of the whiskey element.

If they seek to violate the law, swift and sure punishment must be noted out to them. Upon this point we ask all good citizens to be alert. It is the duty of every friend of temperance, of course, to see that our prohibition law is thoroughly enforced, but it is not more the duty of the temperance man than of any other good citizen. It is now one of the State's statutes which every official and citizen is sworn to support, and whatever his original attitude may have been, it is as much the duty of every man to support the Prohibition Law as to support the laws against gambling, theft, or arson. The same penalties provided by law for failure to enforce these last named laws are also available in the matter of prohibition, and the duty of every citizen

ANOTHER BIG SUIT.

Engineer Roneche Asks \$50,000 Damages for Injuries Received.

Col. W. B. Rodman and Moore & Rollins of counsel for the Southern Railway Company yesterday filed in the office of Clerk Hyams of the United States District court a transcript of a damage suit for \$50,000 brought by Peter Roneche against the Southern which Judge Ward of Superior court recently refused to remove to the Federal court. The suit was instituted by Mr. Roneche some time ago. He retained as counsel Craig, Martin & Winston of this city and A. H. Price and Bismark Capps of Salisbury. The question of removal from the state to the federal courts was raised and Judge Ward refused to move. Counsel for the Southern Railway therefore filed a transcript of the case in the United States Circuit Court here and at the proper time the question of whether or not the case is properly in the federal courts will be argued. In the meantime counsel for the Southern appealed from Judge Ward's decision not to remove and the Supreme court will pass on this point.

The suit for \$50,000 grew out of a head-on collision between extra No. 12 eastbound and No. 11 at or near Swannano station one Sunday afternoon in 1906. Peter Roneche was engineer of train No. 12 and sustained injuries from which he has never recovered. A number of passengers were severely jolted or bruised as a result of the collision, while Conductor Hough and a brakeman were killed.

In suing the Southern the plaintiff names L. D. Flack, O. T. Hallman and L. Sumner as co-defendants and counsel for the Southern alleges that the plaintiff sued these persons not because he hoped to recover from them but for the purpose of preventing the removal of the case to the federal courts. In its answer to the allegations of the plaintiff the Southern denies liability to the plaintiff.—Asheville Gazette News.

zen is the same in each case. Any negligent official should be promptly removed as provided by this statute.

Good citizens everywhere should also let their city officials, sheriff, deputies, and their solicitors know that the better public sentiment of the community is behind law-enforcement, and in such cases even a determined minority, acting with the law as a club, can secure the same thorough-going enforcement which is expected in strong prohibition communities.

The moral argument for prohibition has been too often stressed to require further mention here; but we do not think it unwise to add that considerations of patriotism have been no less potent in bringing the people of North Carolina and the South to the new policy of statewide prohibition.

As a part of our progress in striving for industrial leadership and because the first consideration here must be the development of a strong, efficient people, the South in the same spirit in which it resolved upon an educated citizenship, has also unalterably resolved upon a sober citizenship. And having put our hands to the plow, we appeal confidently to the patriotic men and women of North Carolina to see to it that there shall be no looking backward.

By order of the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Anti-Saloon League.

CLARENCE H. POE, Chairman.

Raleigh, N. C., January 16, 1909.

The Johnston County Method.

Dr. Broughton, of Raleigh, relates an amusing incident of his automobile run to Clayton last week. When some distance from the city, he saw a team approaching. The road was narrow, and the doctor was just considering what effect his machine would have on the mules, when the driver reached down in his wagon and picking up a double-barrel shot gun, laid it across his knees. The doctor instantly decided that the mules needed all the road and stopped his machine until the wagon had safely passed.—Clayton, N. C., Enterprise.

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HOW WILL THIS WORK?

A Bill to Regulate the Shipment of Booze. It's a Hard One.

Representative Langley, of Kentucky, will introduce Monday the interstate liquor shipment bill prepared by the Anti-Saloon League of America to obviate the objection of unconstitutionality urged against the Littlefield bill.

The objection to the Littlefield bill, was that it made interstate shipments of liquor subject to State laws immediately upon crossing the boundary. This was claimed by its opponents to be an attempted delegation of congressional power and therefore unconstitutional. The new measure prohibits the shipment of liquor to any State, territory or district of the United States, where such shipment could not be legally made within the same. It is designed to protect both prohibition States and dry territory within local option States.—Washington dispatch.



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