

FULL TEXT OF THE WATTS BILL

The Temperance Measure Enacted By the State Legislature, Which Becomes a Law July 1st, 1903

The following is the text of the Watts bill:

Section 1. That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm or corporation to manufacture, sell or otherwise dispose of for gain any spirituous, vinous or malt liquors or intoxicating bitters within the State of North Carolina except in incorporated cities and towns wherein the sale or manufacture of liquor is not or may not hereafter be prohibited by law or regulated by special statute. Provided, this act shall not be construed to forbid the sale of such spirituous, vinous or malt liquors by druggists for sickness upon the written prescription of a legally qualified physician having such sick person under his charge. Provided further, that this act shall not be construed as to apply to wine or cider manufactured from grapes, berries or fruits raised on the lands of the person so manufacturing, or purchased by the manufacturer from the growers thereof. Provided further, that this act shall not be construed to apply to brandy manufactured from fruit or grapes and sold in original packages of not less than five gallons.

Section 2. That it shall be unlawful for any person or persons, firm or corporation to manufacture, sell or otherwise dispose of for gain any spirituous, vinous or malt liquors or intoxicating bitters, except as hereinbefore provided, in incorporated city or town, without first obtaining, as provided by law, a license therefor both from the board of commissioners of the county in which said town or city is situated, and from the board of aldermen or city councilmen, or the governing authorities by whatever name called, of said city or town.

Section 3. That any person violating the provisions of this act with reference to the sale or disposition for gain of spirituous, vinous or malt liquors or intoxicating bitters, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned not exceeding six months or fined not exceeding \$200, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Section 4. That any person violating the provisions of this act with reference to the manufacture of spirituous, vinous or malt liquors or intoxicating bitters shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, be imprisoned not less than four months nor more than two years, and upon a second conviction of a similar offense the person shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and shall be imprisoned not less than one nor more than three years, and fined not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Section 5. That any physician who shall make any prescription, except in the case of sickness, for the purpose of adding or abetting any person or persons who are not bona fide under his charge, to purchase any intoxicating liquor contrary to the provisions of this act, and any druggist who shall duplicate the prescription of a physician for intoxicating liquors for any person or persons not bona fide under his charge, without the written direction of the physician who gave the same, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined or imprisoned, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Section 6. It shall be unlawful for any person to sell wine manufactured from fruit or grapes grown by himself

in quantities less than one gallon, and said wine shall not be drunk upon the premises where sold. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and punishable at the discretion of the court; provided, that the provision of section 6 shall not apply to churches wishing to procure wine for communion service.

Section 7. That it shall be the duty of the governing body of any city or town, upon the petition of one-third (1/3) of the registered voters therein, who were registered for the preceding municipal election, to order an election to be held, after thirty days' notice, in any year in which the petition may be filed, except within ninety days of any city, county or general election, in time for the notice to be given as above required, to determine: 1. Whether intoxicating liquors shall be manufactured in said city or town. 2. Whether bars, rooms or saloons shall be established in said city or town. 3. Whether dispensaries shall be established in said city or town. And any such election may be ordered to determine any one or two or all of said questions, as the petitioners may designate in their petition; provided, that such election shall not be held oftener than once in two years.

Section 8. Whenever such election shall be held, the same shall be conducted and held under the same rules and regulations provided by the laws of North Carolina regulating municipal elections.

Section 9. That whenever the governing body of any such city or town shall order any such election, they shall provide one box to determine the question of manufacture of liquors, if such question is to be voted upon; one box to determine the sale by saloons, if such question is to be voted upon; and one box to determine the sale by dispensaries, if such question is to be voted upon. Any person entitled to vote for members of the General Assembly shall have the right to vote at such elections in all the boxes provided, and every such voter who is in favor of the manufacture of intoxicating liquor shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the words, "For Distilleries," and all opposed to the manufacture of intoxicating liquors shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the words, "Against Distilleries;" and every such voter who is in favor of saloons shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the words, "For Saloons," and all opposed to them shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the words, "Against Saloons;" and every such voter who is in favor of dispensaries shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the words, "For Dispensaries," and all opposed to them shall vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed the words, "Against Dispensaries." Such tickets shall be of white paper and without device.

Section 10. That if a majority of the votes cast in any such election shall be "Against Distilleries," when that question is voted upon, then it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to manufacture any intoxicating liquors in such city or town until another election. But if a majority of the votes cast in any such election in any city or town shall be "For Distilleries," then it shall be lawful to manufacture and sell at wholesale intoxicating liquors in such city or town; provided, that this section shall not be construed to authorize the manufacture of intoxicating liquors in any such town except upon a full compliance with the conditions and requirements which may now or hereafter be imposed by law.

Section 11. That if a majority of the votes in any such election in any city or town shall be "Against Saloons," then it shall be unlawful for the county commissioners of any such county, or the governing body of any such town, to grant license for the sale of any intoxicating liquors, and any person engaging in the sale of any such liquors shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished at the discretion of the court.

Section 12. That if a majority of the votes cast at any such election shall be "Against Dispensaries," then it shall be unlawful to establish any dispensary in such city or town until another election. But if a majority of the votes cast at any such election be "For Dispensaries," then the board of commissioners of such city or town shall establish a dispensary therein.

Section 13. That whenever it shall become lawful under the provision of this act to establish a dispensary in any city or town, the governing body of said city or town shall appoint three commissioners from the voters of said city or town, who in the election voted for said dispensary, whose duty, it shall be to conduct such dispensary under such rules and regulations, and with such officers and employees as may be prescribed and allowed by the governing body of said city or town, who shall fix the compensation of said commissioners and their officers and employees.

Section 14. No liquor of any kind shall be sold in said dispensary on Sunday or election days, and said dispensary shall never be open or liquor sold therein before sunrise or after sunset on any day. The prices at which said liquor shall be sold shall be fixed by said dispensary board. Provided, all sales shall be for cash and at a profit not to exceed 80 per centum of the cost thereof. No liquor shall be sold in said dispensary except in unbroken packages or bottles, which shall contain not less than one-half pint and not more than one quart; and it shall be unlawful for said manager or other person to open any such package or bottle in the premises; and the said manager shall not allow loitering, loitering or drinking on the premises and any person refusing or failing to leave said premises after being ordered to do so by said manager shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and fined not more than fifty dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days. It shall be the duty of the manager to keep a register, on which shall be kept a record of the names of persons to whom any liquor is sold, the quantity sold, price paid, and dates of sale; provided further, that said register shall be open only to the inspection of the dispensary board and its employees, and the contents thereof shall not be published. No intoxicating liquors shall be sold to any minors, and the dispensary board shall

make such rules and regulations not inconsistent with this act as may be proper for the management of the dispensary. If the manager or clerk shall procure any intoxicating liquors from any person other than those that the dispensary board shall direct, and offer the same for sale, or shall adulterate or cause to be adulterated any intoxicating, spirituous, vinous or malt liquors by mixing with coloring matter or any drug, or ingredient whatever, or shall mix the same with water or with liquor or different kind of quality, or shall make a false entry in any book of returns required by this act, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned not more than thirty days, or fined not more than \$50, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Section 15. That in any town in which a dispensary is established under the provisions of this act it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to sell or otherwise dispose of for gain any intoxicating liquors other than in the manner provided for sale in the dispensary established in said town. Any person violating this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and fined or imprisoned, or both, in the discretion of the court.

Section 16. That said dispensary commissioners shall make quarterly settlements with the governing body of said city or town, and the said settlements shall be made within ten days after such settlement, pay one-half of the net profits of said dispensary into the treasury of the county in which said city or town is located, for the benefit of the public schools of said county.

Section 17. That any officer or employee of a dispensary established under the provisions of this act who shall violate any of the rules and regulations prescribed by the governing body of the city or town in which said dispensary is located, or by the dispensary commissioners as herein provided for, shall be deemed to have violated the provisions of this act, and shall be liable to the same punishment as if he had violated the provisions of this act, and shall, upon conviction, be fined or imprisoned, or both, in the discretion of the court.

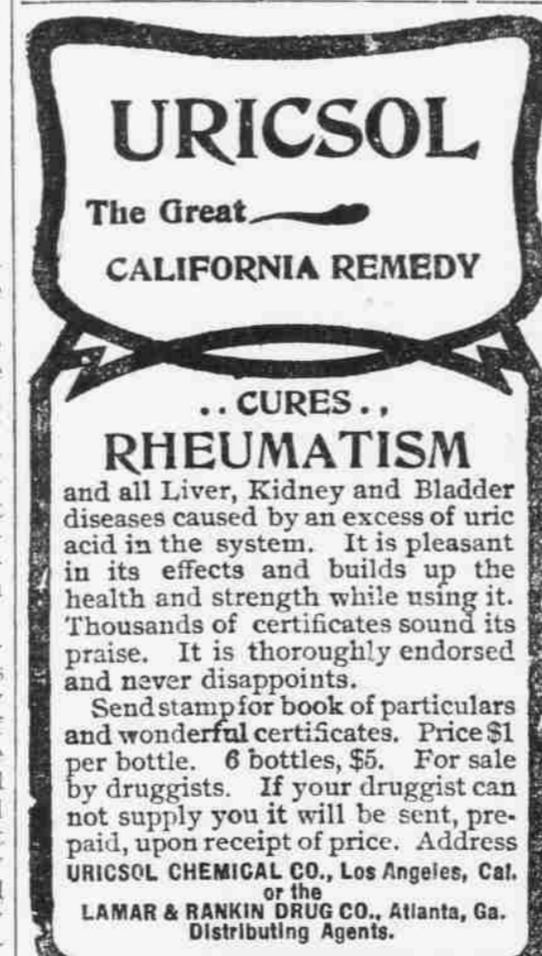
Section 18. That the governing body of any city or town in which a dispensary shall be established under the provisions of this act, shall have power to fix the terms of office of the dispensary commissioners provided for herein, and determine the amount of bonds required from said commissioners and officers, and shall (have) the power to remove any or all of such commissioners and any officers or employees appointed by such commissioners, for good cause shown.

Section 19. That nothing in this act shall be construed to repeal, alter or amend any special act prohibiting or regulating the manufacture and sale of liquors in any locality, township, county or incorporated city or town.

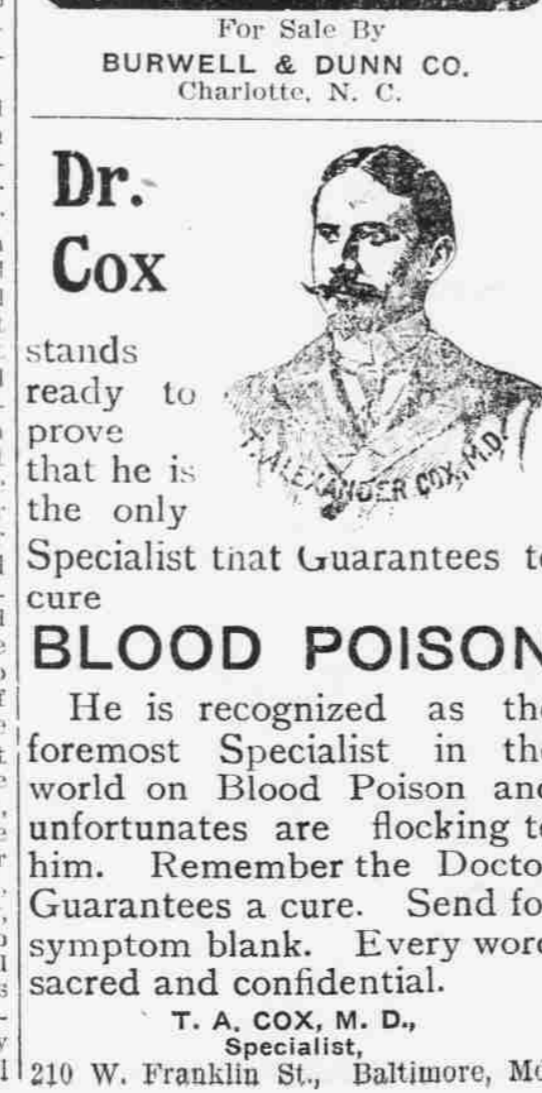
Section 20. That this act shall be in force from and after July 1, 1903.

QUESTION ANSWERED.

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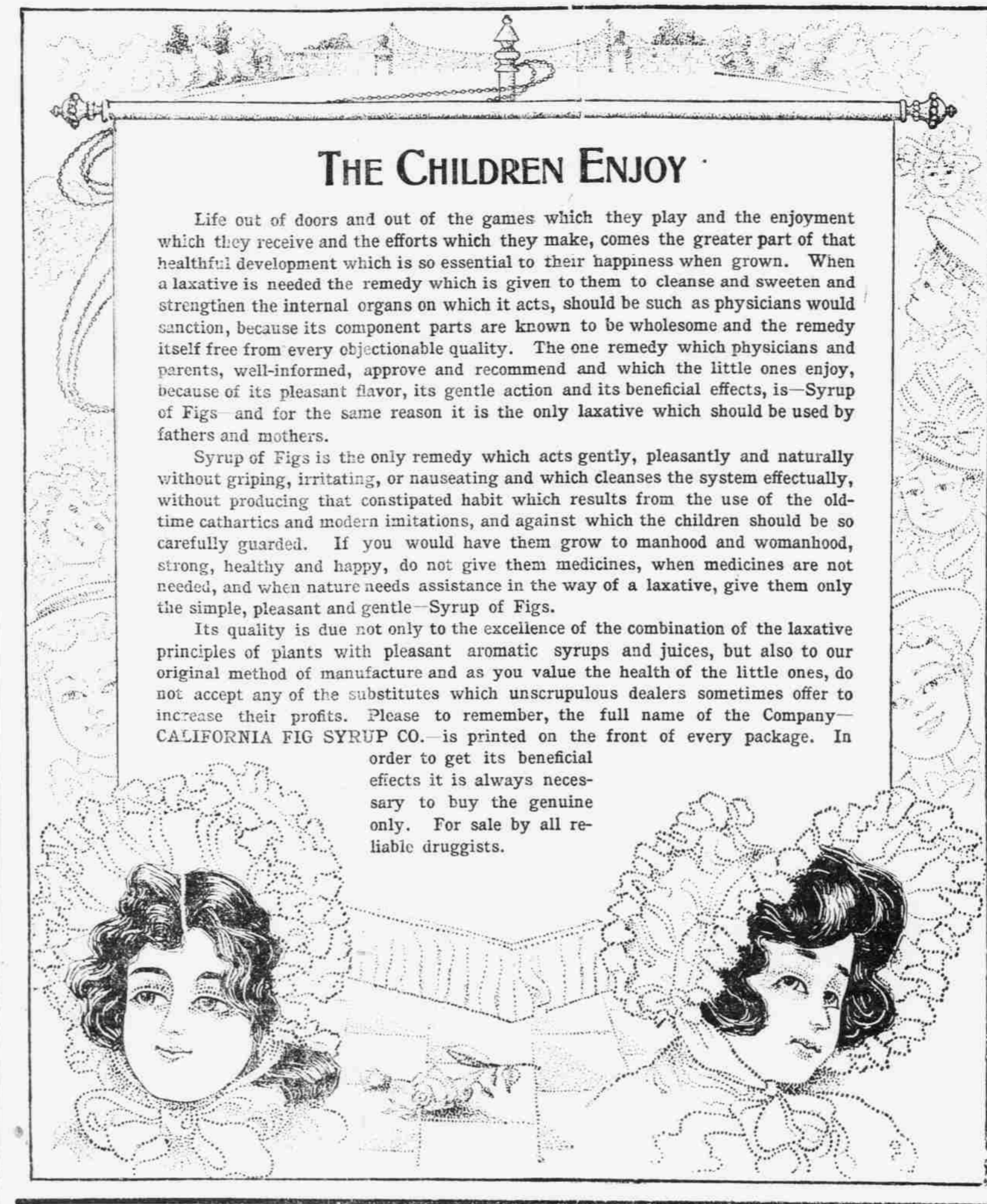
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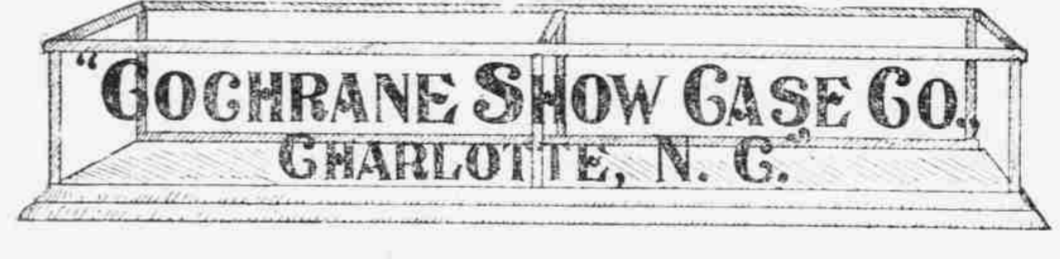
Syrup of Figs is the only remedy which acts gently, pleasantly and naturally without griping, irritating, or nauseating and which cleanses the system effectually, without producing that constipated habit which results from the use of the old-time cathartics and modern imitations, and against which the children should be so carefully guarded. If you would have them grow to manhood and womanhood, strong, healthy and happy, do not give them medicines, when medicines are not needed, and when nature needs assistance in the way of a laxative, give them only the simple, pleasant and gentle—Syrup of Figs.

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