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TEMPERANCE CONVENTION.

Raleigh the Mecca of Anti-Saloon Advocates.

WHAT IS PROPOSED TO DO.

Temperance Workers to Make a Serious Effort to Relieve the Drink Evil in the State of North Carolina.

(News and Observer, June 30.)

The Watts act goes into effect on the first day of July. At midnight to-night every country bar room and every country still will be closed and closed forever, thus shutting up tight fully 500 factories for making drunkards that have been running wide open in North Carolina. Under the operation of the Watts act every town or city in the State that desires to do so can shut up the open saloons. The entire State will be organized with a view (1) To enforcing the Watts Act; (2) To establishing Prohibition in Towns and Cities; (3) To obtaining more effective legislation.

In order that the temperance advocates may work in harmony and plan wisely and agitate effectively a State Temperance Convention has been called to meet in Raleigh on the seventh of July. On account of the Summer School at Raleigh the railroads have granted a rate of one fare plus 25 cents for the round trip, July 6, 7. This will enable many to attend the Temperance Convention. It is a most important meeting, and the friends of Temperance should take this opportunity to manifest their interest.

Below is printed a statement for the purposes of the convention issued by the Executive Committee to the people of the State:

A STATEMENT OF THE PURPOSES OF THE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION AT RALEIGH, JULY 7TH.

The evil of the saloon and distillery, the evil of drinking intoxicating liquors and drunkenness, may be properly referred to as the Drink Evil. As opium is the curse of the East, alcohol is the curse of the West. In North Carolina the object of the present widespread concern is not the extermination of the saloon and the distillery but the cure of the Drink Evil. Too often have States and communities overthrown the saloon only to this Evil persisting.

The time has come to make in North Carolina a serious, earnest, self-sacrificing effort to relieve and ultimately cure this evil. It will be easier now than it will be in another generation—easier than it will ever be again and it is difficult in the extreme now. To wait will be to forfeit perhaps our last opportunity. They do not now even try to relieve the Drink Evil in New York City for example. They have long since surrendered to it. Of late they have actually surrendered the Sabbath day of God to the saloons. Such will be our history unless we shall now rise up and resist. It will not be content with 5,000,000 victims. It will not be content with six days in the week. It will not be content with your neighbor's boy. Its greed looks to your boys and girls.

We have not merely a commercial institution to deal with. The saloon is strong financially; and the inducement to sell liquor is the financial return. But we have a stronger factor yet to cope with. The saloon is strong politically. It is right well entrenched in municipal politics. Each saloon is a factor in every election. But deeper yet and stronger yet is the Drink Evil itself. If it were a mere matter of voting out the saloon, the work would have been done long ago. This evil amounts to nothing less than the characteristic vice of modern Anglo-Saxon civilization, that is, the characteristic vice of the foremost civilizations and most important nations in

the earth. If the Anglo-Saxon shall fall from his present glory, the Drink Evil will be the cause.

To drinking alcoholic liquors is traced four-fifths of the crimes committed in the United States; to drinking alcoholic liquors is traced three-fourths of the number of paupers in this country; to drinking alcoholic liquors is traced fifty per cent. of the number of idiots in this country. The people of the United States drink each year in intoxicating liquors the price of their annual product of wheat, corn, rye, buckwheat, potatoes, gold, silver, pig iron, nickel, lead and precious stones. The tariff—that great instrument of taxation—does not yield in a year enough money to pay the drink bill of the people of this country two months. Our annual liquor bill is \$1,674,663,406. The people engaged in the liquor business number 238,683. The number of liquor drinkers in the United States is more than 5,000,000 and more than one million of them are hard drinkers. According to official statistics of the 140 cities in this country having a population of 30,000 or more there were arrested for drunkenness alone in the year 1898, 294,820 people. Thousands went unarrested. And thousands were arrested for other crimes induced by drinking. But here are 294,820 men actually arrested in 140 cities in one year for drunkenness alone! And the amount of liquor consumed and the number of drunkards made increases every year.

We say that the Drink Evil is the characteristic curse—and the chief curse—of our civilization. These facts indicate how terribly it has gripped modern life.

Not to endeavor to relieve it is to ignore the greatest obstacle to progress and to be indifferent to the supreme call of human and divine need. It is likewise to despair; for the Evil is growing rapidly. The alarming proportions of the Evil have often excited people to thoughtless and ineffective policies. It is too great an Evil to be met with excitement. Indeed it has overcome most serious efforts to relieve. It has grown steadily despite every effort to check it. State prohibition has been overthrown in twenty-four States. Local prohibition has often been thwarted and abandoned. The pledge system has been long in disuse, though there is now an effort to revive it. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union has of late seemed to falter even in its hopes. Political parties have invariably failed. The Dispensary substitute has proved greatly unsatisfactory—a failure as a State system, at least so far as relieving the drink evil is concerned and as a local institution sometimes a success and again a failure.

These are the facts that confront us as we come in North Carolina to make one more serious effort to relieve the Drink Evil.

They should not discourage us. They should engage us most seriously. If there is a way out, it is our duty as men not to rest until we shall have found or made it. And as God lives, there is a way. It is weakness itself, it is criminal too, to falter. It is a hard way, doubtless; and it is a long way, surely; but we have only the more obligation to give ourselves.

The Convention that will meet at Raleigh, July 7th, will take up this matter. It is no mere rally. It is no cranks' affair. Its object is not office or oratory. It is one of the most important meetings in the State's history. It is a grave hour in this Commonwealth. There is a calling out now for men who have hearts and have the burden of this great curse upon their hearts, and who will not say "it is too hot, I cannot come," or "there will be others, let me out," or "it is expensive, excuse me." We do not want men that may be deterred by such considerations. We want men and must have men who will say, "This is a supreme matter of duty here am I."

We will find a way. First, we will organize to stay organized.

We will address ourselves to this evil as an evil in our civilization well entrenched. We will organize not only a Convention, but we will organize every county in the State. Yes, every county, whether it is a prohibition county or not. Why? We need organization in prohibition counties to enforce the law, and to maintain the law, and to see that men are elected to the General Assembly who will improve the laws. We need organization in non-prohibition counties to get prohibition established. We need organization everywhere to enforce the Watts Act. If we shall fail here, well may we despair; and the Watts Act will not stand without organization to support it. We will organize in the towns on the same plan for the same reason. Prohibition has failed because the people failed to stand by it. These organizations will stand, will work, will watch, will agitate, will fight, will win. We will exterminate the saloon and the distillery first. Of the five forms of the liquor traffic these are confessedly the worst. These exterminated, we will fight the blind tigers, and fight them desperately. And then we will look after their victim, the drunkard. We will find a way to punish him and to save him.

It is a grave task. It is worthy of the best that is in a man. One cannot do his duty by his country, his fellow, or his God, and remain indifferent to the Drink Evil. If you are in earnest, come and give yourself now to this holy cause.

BENSON.

Miss Nellie Parrish is in Clayton.

J. L. Hall came from Raleigh Sunday.

Mrs. J. W. Benson and children are at Chapel Hill.

Mrs. E. J. D. Boykin is visiting in Wilson county.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Whittenton spent Sunday in Harnett.

Miss Mattie Stillely has returned to her home in Wilson county.

Miss Newsome, of Harnett county, is now assistant post master.

Preston Allen, who lived near here with his mother, has been adjudged insane.

Notwithstanding the heavy rains, Benson is dry, and if all that glitters were gold she would stay dry.

It is not "too late" but it was "too hot" to go to the highways and hedges, however some of us may go soon.

If your crop of pure crab seedling is not what you want it this writer can supply you with enough plants to get a stand.

Benson is not howling much but the farmers have their ears to the ground. They will know where to unload their filthy weed.

If the Watts Bill is our law there will be an election in Benson to decide: License or no License; that will settle a controversy of long standing.

Visitors here: Bradley Johnson, of Emporia, Va.; J. B. Allen and family, of Bentonville; Mrs. Spence, of Buie's Creek; Dr. E. N. Booker, of Cleveland; Mrs. E. D. Dew, of South Carolina; Mrs. Charles Barefoot, of Wayne county; V. L. Stevens, of Dunn.

Brutally Tortured.

A case came to light that for persistent and unmerciful torture has perhaps never been equaled. Joe Golobick of Colusa, Calif. writes, "For 15 years I endured insufferable pain from Rheumatism and nothing relieved me though I tried everything known. I came across Electric Bitters and it's the greatest medicine on earth for that trouble. A few bottles of it completely relieved and cured me." Just as good for Liver and Kidney troubles and general debility. Only 50c. Satisfaction guaranteed by Hood Bros., Druggists.

The largest hotel in the world—the Ansonia of New York—has 2,500 rooms, and there is not a piece of wood in the building.

A MISTRIAL AT WILSON.

Jury Stood 8 to 4 for Conviction—The Defendants Bonds Placed at \$6,000.

Much interest has been manifested here in the Percy Jones murder trial at Wilson. The trial began Friday June 19, and ended Tuesday, June 30, in a mistrial, the jury standing 8 to 4 for conviction.

A great many witnesses were examined and considerable time taken up by the counsel on either side in presenting their argument. It was a hard fought case and one of the remarkable features was the splendid characters proven by the defendants in spite of what the people at large think.

Says the Wilson correspondent of the News and Observer:

Upon the announcement of disagreement Judge Shaw addressed the jury and the spectators assembled in the court room, his earnest, yet deliberate words impressing all who heard him with their wisdom and force.

He told the jury they should have brought in a verdict if possible. Further than that he could not go and be just to both the State and the defendants. He said a decision in this case was of great moment to the community and that the trial had cost the county much. While there has been some criticism as to what two or three jurors have said, there is no evidence upon which the court can act, though the court has given its consent to the Solicitor to investigate the charges.

He said he felt it was due the jurors, especially to Messrs. Liles and Hayes that this investigation should be made in order to purge whatever odium might rest upon their good name, because of any suspicion or rumor.

Judge Shaw complimented the jury upon their conduct during the trial, saying that though they had been on duty for several days, not a word of complaint had come from them, and that he never had seen a jury pay closer attention to the proceedings, speeches of counsel and charge of the court.

With reference to the statements as to some of the jurors being unduly influenced, Judge Shaw said if there was any one who knew of any evidence which would tend to show this condition of affairs such could be reported to the Solicitor and he would stay to investigate.

The defendants on trial in this case—Ward, Morgan, Rich, Whitley and Allen—were remanded to the custody of the Sheriff in the sum of \$6,000 justified bonds.

W. P. Snakenburg, ex-policeman, was then called up, and Judge Shaw, in burning and impressive words, reprimanded him for his neglect of duty as a sworn officer of the law.

Mr. Snakenburg was turned over to the Sheriff and his bond for appearance at the next term of court to answer the charge of criminal neglect of duty was fixed at \$200.

Turning his attention to criminals generally, Judge Shaw told them they might succeed for awhile, but that a day of reckoning would come, the people were becoming aroused against crime, and that all any community needed was a healthy public sentiment before which crime would flee as mist before the sun.

There has been no finer spectacle of high public service than has been exhibited in this famous case by Judge Shaw and Solicitor Chas. C. Daniels. The Judge has borne himself in a manner to win the respect and honor of the law-abiding people of the county and State. It is a great thing for the administration of justice when men like Thomas Jefferson Shaw are on the bench. Solicitor Daniels performed a most difficult and unpleasant duty with ability and courage of a high order. The State has reason to be thankful that in a trial of such importance it had in the Solicitor an official who shirks no duty, but with unflinching devotion to his oath vigorously prosecutes men charged with one of the worst crimes in the annals of the State.

Wilson has suffered terribly from crimes that have gone unpunished. Nearly every one—including the Jones murder—was hatched in a bar-room. But for open saloons, Jones would be alive to-day and the men on trial for their lives would not be in jeopardy. Wilson has voted to shut up every bar-room. If it will also punish men guilty of crime it will take another long step toward making the town free from crime. And what is true of Wilson is true of other towns and cities. Too many of them, like Wilson, live in glass houses.

SELMA NEWS.

Mr. J. H. Hailey is painting the bank and M. C. Winston's store.

Miss Minnie Strachan, of Princeton, spent Tuesday night with Miss M. F. Preston and went on the excursion Wednesday.

Miss Emma Matthews, of Kenly, is visiting her cousin, N. E. Edgerton. She is on her way to the summer school at Raleigh.

There is a movement being made towards the erection of a cotton factory here. About one-half of the necessary funds have been raised.

Messrs. Burnice and Claude Narron and J. R. Taltor, of Oneals township, were in town Wednesday. They say crops are small and late with them.

A new street has been laid off and will be opened soon that will enable persons from Pine Level to get to town without having to pass all the trains.

Mr. F. M. Hood who has been visiting his parents, had the misfortune to slip and fall Tuesday. He did not injure his leg or arm but was considerably jarred and suffered a great deal all night.

Mr. J. A. Underhill, Sr., sold a bale of cotton last week to M. C. Winston, weighing 415 pounds at 12½¢ per pound. It was thirteen years old. Does any one know of a bale of cotton older?

Mr. J. B. Waddell, a son of Charles B. Waddell, Esq., has been appointed mail carrier on rural free delivery route No. 1. It is not known when he will begin delivering the mail, but it is to be hoped soon.

Miss Celia Lewis who has lived with Mrs. Nancy Eason for a number of years was stricken with paralysis on her left side last Saturday morning about five o'clock. She is doing as well as could be expected.

The excursion of the Selma and Clayton Sunday Schools left here Wednesday a. m. about one hour late. There were about one hundred and seventy-five on it when it left here. A great many of our people went on it. Of course Robert Millard Nowell, John W. Futrell and Clarence W. Richardson went.

The Cost of Neglect.

We can never tell the outcome of a fault or failing which seems to us trivial. The Saturday Evening Post gives an incident illustrating the cost of neglecting to do one's best in small things.

When the instructors at Rugby school took a lad to task for his poor penmanship he replied: "Many men of genius have written worse scrawls than I do; it is not worth while to worry about so trivial a fault." Ten years later this lad was an officer in the English army doing service in the Crimean war. An order he copied for transmission was so illegible that it was given incorrectly to the troops, and cost many brave fellows their lives.

This may be aged, but it is all the better for a little ripeness: The colored preacher, cousin of the Sun-Do-Move Jackson, thus addressed his congregation: "Brethern en Sisters—En dese kays o' hossless cariges, skirtless gals, en sinless sinners, it'd be better fo' de modesty o' dis yere congery gasbun ef dey wuz'er few mo' chickenless chicken coops."—New York Press.

STATE NEWS NOTES.

Short Items of Interest Clipped and Culled From Our Exchanges.

Last Sunday while sitting asleep in his buggy in the rear of a church building Mr. J. H. Thorn, of Wilson county, fell out breaking his neck instantly.

The body of an unknown negro, half the head severed, was found on the track of the Southern railway Monday night. An empty whiskey bottle was by his body.

A special meeting was held by the city aldermen in Durham Tuesday night for the purpose of passing on the saloon license question and as a result but nine of the twenty bar rooms of Durham opened their doors for business Wednesday morning. The action of the board created quite a sensation.

The Mengel Box Company of St. Louis and Louisville is to locate a plant in Winston-Salem. The concern makes boxes for the leading tobacco factories in those two cities and at other western points. It comes to Winston-Salem to bid for the trade of the south and west. It gives employment to 300.

The North Carolina Millers' Association will meet in annual convention in the city of Greensboro, July 3rd and 4th. Business of much importance to millers will be discussed. The millers industry in North Carolina is a very important one. There are over \$3,000,000 invested in mills, and the value of the output for the year 1902 was \$8,867,462.

Jno. Thomas, a negro who lived about four miles from Maxton suddenly fell dead while beating his wife with a leather strap a few days ago. The coroner held an inquest but found no indications whatever of violence and rendered a verdict that he died from natural causes. Negroes in that community are very much wrought up and attributed the death of Thomas to some avenging agency that was supernatural.

Last Monday Mrs. Annie D. Martin, who conducts Victoria Inn, one of the most fashionable boarding houses, was seen to walk up Patton avenue, cross Court Square and enter the office of Justice of the Peace Ware in company with a deputy sheriff. This naturally excited a deal of comment and upon inquiry it was ascertained that Mrs. Martin had been arrested on a charge of slander, the prosecuting witness being a young woman, Miss Dora Justice.

Musical Contest at Princeton.

Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Grantham entertained a few friends Friday evening, June 23, in honor of Miss Ada Barnes, of Smithfield. The feature of the evening was a musical contest. The prize was won by Mr. Leslie Massey, the booby by Miss Mabel Edwards.

The home was beautifully decorated in white and green. At 11 o'clock the guests were called into the dining room as follows: Mr. Harry Candler and Miss Louise Massey; Mr. Leslie Massey and Miss Lola Massey; Mr. Luther Lynch and Miss Ada Barnes; Mr. George Grantham and Miss Mabel Edwards; Mr. Alkie Massey and Miss Laura Otterburg; Mr. Luby Lynch and Miss Ethel Grantham; Mr. Malcolm McKinne and Miss Eunice Grantham. Delightful refreshments were served.

A GUEST.

Working Night And Day.

The busiest and mightiest little thing that ever was made is Dr. King's New Life Pills. These pills change weakness into strength, listlessness into energy, brain-fog into mental power. They're wonderful in building up the health. Only 25c per box. Sold by Hood Bros.