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NO. 5

A STATEMENT OF FACTS.

A Brief Review of the Progress of Temperance Reform in Robeson County.

In reviewing the history of the prohibition movement in Robeson county, one traces the progress of the greatest reformation which has taken place within our borders. There has been a time when whole sections of this county would have opposed the movement with such vigor as would have insured its defeat. Like all great moral reforms, however, it gained in popularity but slowly, crystallizing into earnest effort something more than twenty years ago. At that time, the question was viewed largely from a political standpoint and the Republican party in this county stood for license while the Democratic party, though not in its entirety was for prohibition. While throughout the entire county some efforts were being made for its restriction, it was at the county seat that the fight was waged most aggressively and it was there that the first great impulse was given to the movement which insured its operation throughout the county.

In 1855 there were thirteen licensed bar-rooms, or groggeries as they were called in those days, in full blast in the town of Lumberton; but 1855 marked the last year of the nefarious traffic. In June, 1856, an election was held on the question of prohibition and license. The campaign was an active one and resulted in a vote of 87 for and 20 against prohibition.

At the meeting of the Legislature the year following we think, prohibitionists from various sections of the county sent petitions asking for the incorporation of the churches in the county. This being accomplished, the operations of itinerant vendors was restricted. The effect of the election in Lumberton gave an impetus to the movement throughout the county. Public sentiment strengthened and at a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners there were applications for license to sell liquor in adjacent towns, and these parties were refused license on the grounds that any man who wished to sell liquor was not a man of good moral character.

A fierce fight was had before the Board of Commissioners, the petitioners having employed as counsel to represent them, the late Thomas C. Fuller, of Raleigh, one of the ablest of the State's attorneys, and Col. N. A. McLean appeared for the Board of Commissioners. It was one of the ablest legal battles of his life, and the Commissioners won. The case was carried to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court sustained the ruling of the Commissioners. Clothed with full authority by this decision of the Supreme Court, the question of selling liquor in Robeson county depended solely on the Board of Commissioners, and it was well looked to after that time that such a Board was elected as would leave no question as to what their action would be in case applications for license were made.

Prohibition did not prohibit immediately. We had the law and we had moral sentiment, but that law was not enforced as vigorously at first as it should have been and "blind tigers" infested almost every alley. But the purpose of our people was determined and their fight was unrelenting.

Feeling that the penalty imposed in such cases was insufficient, our citizens had the Legislature to pass an act making it a felony to sell whiskey in Robeson county. One after another of the offenders were caught and punished, but too infrequently in this, as in many other cases, the decree of the court was "judgment suspended on payment of cost."

At last we got the right man on the bench, and our people will ever hold him in grateful recollection for his manly and courageous administration of justice in assisting us to suppress the evil then flourishing in our midst.

Judge Connor during this time held a term of court here. He was informed of the situation and a number of cases for retailing were heard before him and conviction followed in almost every case. The penalty of the law was imposed so that from that time until now there has been little retailing worth speaking of in this county.

About this time, a change in the tide of sentiment placed the Republicans in power again and all was done that could be done in the Legislature to change our existing laws. Permission was given to sell cider and "juicerics," as they were called, were opened up at every cross road and all sorts of vile decoctions were there dispensed.

But the fight has been maintained, and now, neither wine, cider, beer, whiskey, or anything of an intoxicating nature, call it by whatever name you please, can be sold in the county by druggists or otherwise. There are a great many incidents connected with the fight in this county which might be of interest, but space forbids enumeration.

At the time when liquor was sold in Lumberton there were only two brick stores there, now it would be difficult to find a town whose business buildings are handsomer or more imposing, where there is more evidence of thrift and progress. We should scarcely over-state the case if we should say that within those twenty years of prohibition, business has multiplied itself many times over. The county at large is more thrifty and more prosperous than then. Of the lawyers who composed the bar in Lumberton at that time, two only favored license and while the charge was never brought against them, it is a singular fact that neither of them, although both were men of ability, were ever named for any public office.

There is to-day no stronger prohibition territory within the state of North Carolina than Robeson county. It has been given a fair trial and while like all things human, it is not perfect, it has been the greatest blessing which has ever come to this county and if an election were held on the question again, it is our belief that not ten per cent. of the entire vote of the county would be cast for license.

While many might be named who did valiant service in that fight, we cannot forbear to mention the late Edward Knox Proctor, who during twenty of the best and most fruitful years of his life, devoted much of his time both in a public and private capacity to the eradication of this festering evil. Further back than his day Col. Alfred Rowland did valiant service. He canvassed the county in 1881 for Prohibition. It was overwhelmingly defeated and his friends thought he was ruined politically. So far from this he was afterwards elected and served two terms in Congress. An incident occurred during the session of the Legislature of 1881 that passed the Prohibition law, that shows his fidelity to duty. During a visit home from the Legislature a friend discussing the measure with him, asked "What will be the effect of your action on your personal popularity?" He replied, "I have not given that matter a moment's thought. If the people of Robeson want a man to vote against that measure (Prohibition) and will let me know it, I will resign and let them send a man who will vote their wishes, but so sure as I am in the Senate when the bill comes up I shall vote for it because I think it is right." Of the four lawyers who voted for Prohibition, then an apparently Lost Cause, he, as stated, served for years in Congress. Another is judge of the Superior Court, and another Railroad Commissioner.

J. A. McALLISTER.
Lumberton, N. C.

Feel tired, no appetite, cannot sleep, work or eat? That's spring tiredness and will disappear at once if you take Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea this month. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets.—A. H. Boyett, Selma Drug Co.

A VISIT TO APPOMATTOX.

Col. E. J. Holt Tells of His Return to the Place Where He Laid Down His Arms Forty Years Ago.

TO THE HERALD:—

I presume that a few words about a recent trip made by the writer, in company with General Cox, Maj. London, and Mr. Cooper, to the battlefield at Appomattox, will be of interest to the old veterans who closed their military life on that historic field.

There has been but little change in that locality in the forty years, since General Lee's army stacked arms for the last time.

The court house and jail has been torn down and new ones built at the railroad station about three miles away from the old site.

The McLean house, then in the center of the village, was bought by some Yankees, taken down and was intended to have been taken to Washington City and re-erected (it having been the headquarters of General Grant, and in which the terms of surrender were agreed upon) but for some reason the material was never moved and now lies in rotting piles on the ground where the house stood.

Only three or four families live now in the village and it has a most desolate and dilapidated appearance.

The battlefield, including the village, was bought some years ago by a Maj. Ames of the Union Army and about 2,000 acres has been enclosed with a barbed wire fence and is now used as a sheep ranch, but I learned that it was a failure—it is too poor to make pasturage.

Very little of the land has been cultivated in several years and is now grown up in sassafras bushes and spruce pines, and what is strange to me is that where the pines grow there are no sassafras and where the sassafras grow there are no pines.

I went to the place where General Roberts formed his brigade in line of battle the morning of the 9th of April, and then I had no trouble to mark the course taken by the troopers in their last charges and all the movements made by the brigade that day. There was the hill down which we rode with drawn sabres in a swift charge, then the bottom, and the ditches we crossed, then the hill we mounted and the spot where we captured the four pieces of artillery. I marked the location of the battery in a thicket of sassafras with a small heap of stones, later to be marked by a small granite monument.

I walked over the same ground and know that it was the same but somehow it did not seem like the same place it was forty years ago; then shells, grape, and canister and the smoke and roar of cannon filled the air—now all is as quiet and still as a few lean sheep and desolation can make it.

We traced out the route and movements of Cox's Infantry brigade and marked the spot where he captured two pieces of artillery—which was about two hundred yards to the left of the battery captured by General Roberts; we marked the place by a small heap of stones. We had no trouble to locate the place where his brigade fired their last volley and designated the spot for the State monument. It is about two hundred yards to the right of the public road in a dense thicket of spruce pines and unless the pines shall be cut away will not be seen unless after a special search for it. I think this is unfortunate, for it is a beautiful piece of granite and is built to be seen. I, as one of the commission, thought, and wanted it on the road, but was in the minority.

About three hundred yards from our State monument is a Confederate cemetery where the ladies in the vicinity have gathered up the Southern dead and have enclosed the lot with a beautiful and substantial iron fence.

We had over a dozen opportunities to invest our spare change in Minnie balls at 25 cents

and grape shot at one dollar each, and one fellow tried to sell me an old army bride bit for one dollar. I refused to buy and told him that I thought probably it was mine as I lost horse, saddle, bridle, and bit—all right there forty years ago. He still wanted the dollar and I presume is yet hunting a customer.

Appomattox is a difficult place to get to from this part of North Carolina. The nearest route is via Durham and Lynchburg then east twenty-five miles to Appomattox station, then over a rough country road three miles to the battlefield. I understand a special train will leave Durham at six A. M. on Monday, April 10th, and will be expected to reach Appomattox about twelve o'clock and leave there about five P. M., reaching Durham Monday night about twelve o'clock.

E. J. HOLT.

BENSON NEWS.

Miss Vira Smith visited relatives in Benson Sunday.

Hon. A. K. Smith, of Smithfield, is in town Monday.

Dr. G. A. Hood visited his parents in lower Johnston last Sunday.

Miss Ellen Eldridge visited her parents in Smithfield Saturday and Sunday.

Messrs. J. W. Holmes and J. G. Smith went to Smithfield Monday on business.

Mr. A. B. Hudson is having a large dwelling erected on Church Street, near the Academy.

Mr. Heber Creech visited his sister, Mrs. W. H. Stallings, in Selma, last Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. T. J. Stewart left Tuesday night for Sanford to attend the marriage of his brother, Mr. Zeb. Stewart.

Messrs. E. F. Moore and U. F. Wallace are having a nice office fitted up in the rear of Hood & Benson's drug store, to be used as an insurance office.

Mr. Zeb. Stewart, of Pittsburg, Pa., and Mr. S. J. Stewart, of Red Springs, N. C., visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmon Stewart, here last week.

Dr. J. C. Johnson has moved his dental office from the corner of Main and Market Streets to the corner of Main and Railroad Streets, over Hood & Benson's drug store.

The negro which attacked Mr. N. Stewart on Mingo Creek trestle as was reported in our letter sometime ago, passed through town under arrest on his way to Fayetteville jail, having been arrested at Rocky Mount.

Dr. E. O. Taylor, the noted temperance lecturer of Boston, will deliver a series of lectures here, beginning on Thursday night of this week, at the Methodist church. On Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday morning and night, he will lecture at the Baptist church.

Col. Ryals was very busy last Sunday arresting drunken rowdies. After taking a few races he succeeded in capturing three of them and put them in what he thought to be safe keeping, until Monday morning, that they might have a hearing before Mayor Hood. Some one sometime during the night supplied the prisoners with an axe and two of them made their escape. The other decided that he was about as comfortable as he cared to be and remained in the guard house until Monday morning, when he was given a hearing before the Mayor.

April 6th. SOLON.

Dr. Taylor's Lectures.

We learn that arrangements have been made with Dr. E. O. Taylor to deliver his series of temperance lectures in Benson, beginning last night, and continuing until Sunday night, April 9th. These lectures were delivered in Smithfield a short time ago and we are prepared to say that the people in and around Benson will be well repaid for attending them.

SELMA NEWS.

Election on Prohibition Called for May 15.—Items and Personal Notes.

Mr. Sprinkle, of Charlotte spent Sunday here.

Mrs. Pet Temple, of Wake, spent a few days here this week.

Miss Placie Ellington, of Raleigh, is visiting Miss Margaret Ethredge.

Mr. M. L. Davis left Wednesday for Richmond to have his eyes treated.

Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Carrington have taken rooms at the Merchants Hotel.

Mrs. N. R. Batton and daughter Jimmie, went to Raleigh Tuesday on a visit.

Hon. John C. Scarborough, of Murfreesboro, N. C., spent Friday with Dr. K. J. Noble.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. McKinne, of Concord, spent Wednesday night with M. C. Winston, Esq.

Messrs. Robert Millard Nowell and Luther Richardson spent Sunday at Mr. Berry Richardson's.

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Winston and children spent Saturday and Sunday with Dr. Thos. H. Avera in Wake.

Dr. P. C. Hoffman, general manager of Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co., was in town Wednesday.

Mr. Roger A. Richardson, of Washington, D. C., is home on a visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Richardson.

Miss Lillie Pair, who is at school in Raleigh, spent Tuesday night here the guest of Mrs. C. W. Richardson.

Next Friday night M. C. Winston, Esq., will entertain the stockholders of the "Bank of Selma" at the Merchants Hotel.

Mr. J. R. Royal, of Wilmington, has rented a store from T. H. Whitley and will open a dry goods and millinery store this week.

Mr. A. Jones was called to Clayton Tuesday by the serious illness of his sister, Mrs. Barnes. We are glad to learn that she is now improving.

Mr. John A. Oates, the editor of the North Carolina Baptist, was here and conducted services at the Baptist church Wednesday night.

Drs. H. A. Royster and W. D. McNider, of Raleigh, and J. J. Young, of Clayton, were in Selma Tuesday morning the guests of Dr. Noble.

Messrs. J. R. Hood, G. W. Evans, A. Jones and J. W. Liles went to Raleigh Wednesday to attend, as delegates from Selma, the State Baraca meeting.

Mr. John H. Parker returned Sunday morning from a visit of a couple of weeks to Hot Springs, N. C., Morristown, and Chattanooga, Tenn. He seems much improved by the hot baths and his trip.

Mr. Alex Green was married to Miss Hal Burton Newland last Thursday, March 30th, at Winston-Salem, N. C. The happy couple left for a trip South. Mr. Green is a general favorite here and our people wish them much joy.

We are glad to see that Charles U. Harris, Esq., of Selma, has been appointed United States Commissioner for Johnston county. It is a good appointment for he is a promising young lawyer and has made many friends since he has been in Selma.

The Board of County Commissioners last Monday appointed Messrs. C. W. Richardson, R. J. Noble and C. F. Kirby road committee for Selma township, the Board at its monthly meeting, having ordered that the roads in Selma township be worked by taxation. It is to be hoped the committee will have the roads in good fix by next winter for they were in bad order all last year.

The Town Commissioners have ordered an election to be held on May 15th to decide whether the dispensary shall remain or whether we shall have prohibition;

but, some think it would hurt trade to have prohibition here and dispensaries at Smithfield and Pine Level. Therefore if the prohibition people of Smithfield are in earnest let them vote the dispensary away. Then Selma will do the same and Pine Level will also vote prohibition, for neither place can afford to have liquor sold at it and nowhere else in the county. We have heard people say they would move away from either place were liquor sold there and nowhere near.

North Carolina Bank Examination.

The Corporation Commission, something like two years ago in response to the request of the State Bankers' Association, inaugurated a system of State bank inspection that is not surpassed by the national government or any State. In looking about for a fit man to make State Bank Examiner, the commissioners were fortunate in choosing Mr. Jno. O. Ellington. He has more than met the high expectations of his friends and measured fully up to the important delicate duties of the responsible position. He is honest, efficient, capable, courageous—a model public official who has "done the State some service." Having been elected vice-president of the Bank of Fayetteville Mr. Ellington has resigned and will enter upon his duties on the 10th of April. The Bank of Fayetteville is to be congratulated upon the election of Mr. Ellington. He has the capacity and the character to help make that strong old institution greater than it has ever been in its long history.

As successor to Mr. Ellington the Corporation Commission yesterday elected Mr. John Aycock, who has from boyhood held a position of responsibility in the Bank of Wayne. Training and promotion in that banking institution is in itself a guarantee of his knowledge of the banking business and of his integrity. He is a young man of character and had the highest recommendations.

The State of North Carolina has the best inspection and management of banks of any State in the South, thanks to the Corporation Commission and State Bank Examiner Ellington. That is of value, not alone to the banks, but to the whole public as well.—News and Observer, Saturday.

HOOD BROS. UNUSUAL OFFER.

Sell Dr. Howard's Specific at Half-Price, Guarantee a Cure.

"It isn't often that we have faith enough in the medicine put up by other people to be willing to offer to refund the money if it does not cure," said Hood Bros. to a HERALD man who dropped into their store, "but we are glad to sell Dr. Howard's specific for the cure of dyspepsia on that basis."

"The Dr. Howard Company, in order to get a quick introductory sale, authorizes us to sell their regular fifty cent bottles at half-price, 25 cents, and, although we have sold a lot of it, and have guaranteed every package, not one has been brought back as unsatisfactory."

"One great advantage of this specific," they continued, "is its small dose and convenient form. There are sixty doses in a vial that can be carried in the vest pocket or purse, and every one has more medicinal power than a big pill or tablet or a tumbler of mineral water."

Picnic at Sealey's Pond.

On Monday after Easter, April 24th, there will be a picnic at Mr. J. W. Sealey's pond near Archer. Everybody invited to come and bring well filled baskets.

R. H. Biggs.

A strength tonic that brings rich, red blood. Makes you strong, healthy and active. That's what Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will do. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets.—A. H. Boyett, Selma Drug Co.