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THE SPIRIT OF KANSAS,
EVERY SATURDAY,
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The SPIRIT OF KANSAS aims to be a first class family journal, devoted to farm and home affairs, and to all industrial, social and moral interests that go to make up the greater part of our Western life. It will be found useful to those engaged in any of the departments of rural labor. Its miscellaneous, original and selected, will be such as will interest and instruct. Its editorial page will treat of matters relating to our social, industrial, and political life, wherever and whenever the interests of the great working masses appear involved, and always from a broad, comprehensive, and independent standpoint. We shall endeavor to make a paper representing the great west.

Our regular subscription price, for single subscribers will be 60 cents, or two copies \$1.00. Clubs of five or more 50 cents each.

Kansas an Objective Point in Political History.

BY J. C. HERRARD.
NO. 3.

At the formation of the City Association of Lawrence there was inserted an article in its constitution, providing that no intoxicating drinks should be sold within the city limits, and a sale of intoxicants for beverage use would work a forfeiture of title to real estate.

Repeated violations of this agreement having been made in July 1855, meetings of the citizens were held, and a committee was appointed to draft a prohibitory liquor law, which act was entitled an act for the suppression of drinking houses and tippling shops in Lawrence, and having been submitted to a vote on July 30th, it carried by a vote of seventy-four to one.

Early in the same month substantially the same position was taken by the citizens of Topeka in removing the liquor traffic from their midst.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION.
On July 11, 1853, in the Wyandotte Convention, Hon. John Ritchie, of Topeka, offered the following resolution.

RESOLVED, That the Constitution of the State of Kansas shall confer power on the Legislature to prohibit the introduction, manufacture or sale of spirituous liquors within the state.

Hon. Hiram D. Preston of Burlington, on July 23, offered the following: Section—The Legislature shall have power to regulate or prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquors, except for mechanical or medicinal purposes.

Mr. Preston desired to see the state take a stand upon the side of temperance and if stringent laws on liquor-selling were upon the Kansas statute books, it would be a guarantee for a moral and progressive people. Hon. William Hutchinson, of Lawrence, thought this kind of legislation was necessary for the future moral as well as political well-being of Kansas and a guard should be thrown around this power at the outset of the history of the state. Hon. Solon O. Thatcher thought it unwise to have any special legislation in the Constitution of the state. As it was the first State Constitution, it would not savor of wisdom to jeopardize it with so much legislation.

THE PROHIBITION AMENDMENT OF 1879.
Governor John P. St. John in his message to the state Legislature on January 14, 1879, said this: "If it could be fully accomplished, I am clearly of the opinion that no greater blessing could be conferred by you upon the people of this State, than to absolutely and forever prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage."

Senator George F. Hamlin, of Linn County, on February 8, 1879, introduced Senate Joint Resolution No. 3, which proposed an amendment to the State Constitution, the main text of which reads as follows:

The manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors shall be forever prohibited in this state except for medicinal, scientific and mechanical pur-

poses.
On February 21, the Senate adopted it by yeas 37; nays 0; absent or not voting 3. The yeas were made up of 24 Republicans; 2 Democrats; one "Third Party" man. It passed the House of Representatives on March 5, by the following vote: Yeas, 88; Nays, 31; absent or not voting 10. In order to have a constitutional majority it was necessary to have 86 affirmative votes. The yeas were made up of 15 Republicans, 6 Democrats, 17 "Third Party" men. The nays were 17 Republicans, 14 Democrats. The Amendment carried in November, 1880, by a majority of 7,998. The counties in which the 17 "Third Party" men resided, gave a net majority of 8,676 for the amendment. The counties in which the 17 Republicans resided, who voted against submitting the amendment, gave a net majority of 4,889 against the amendment.

Atchison county, which gave 1804 majority against the amendment, had three Republican Representatives voting against the proposition for submission.

Smith County had one "Third Party" representative voting for it; the county gave 423 majority for the amendment.

Doniphan had three republican representatives voting against it; the county gave 1329 majority against the amendment.

Douglas, had three "third party" representatives voting for it, the county gave 1109 majority for the amendment.

Leavenworth had three republican representatives voting against it; the county gave 2396 majority against the amendment.

Lyon had one "third party" representative voting for it; it gave 1460 majority for the amendment; and thus a comparison might be contrived, ad libitum.

THE MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR ST. JOHN, JANUARY 11, 1881.

Antecedent to prohibitory legislation in Kansas, Governor St. John, in his message to the legislature of 1881 with a philosophic, philanthropic mind; with eyes to see; ears to hear; ability to perceive; a heart to love; a will to choose, and a strength to do the right, thus eloquently addressed the law-makers:

The Amendment being now a part of the constitution of our state, it devolves upon you to enact such laws as are necessary for its rigid enforcement.

There are but few citizens-to-day in Kansas who will not admit that "drum shops" are a curse to any people. Some have contended that they should be licensed but it seems to me that if they are an evil, no government should give them the sanction of the law. They should be prohibited as we prohibit all other acknowledged evils. It has been urged, as an argument in favor of licensing drum shops that under that system a large revenue is derived. Granting, this to be true, I insist that we have no right to consider the question of revenue at a cost of the sacrifice of principle. All the revenue ever received from such a source will not compensate for a single tear of a heart broken mother at the sight of her drunken son as he reels from the license dram shop.

By the verdict of the people of Kansas, the license system as it relates to the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, has been blotted from the statutes of the state. We now look to the future, not forgetting that it was here on our soil where the first blow was given that finally resulted in the emancipation of a race from slavery. We have now determined upon a second emancipation, which shall free not only the body but the soul of man. Now as the past the civilized world watches Kansas and anxiously awaits the result. No step should be taken backward. Let it not be said that any evil existed in our midst the power of which is greater than the people.

Leavenworth county furnished seven votes against the prohibitory

liquor law of 1881. Atchison, five; Doniphan, and Marshall counties each three.

These four counties unitedly gave 5954 majority against the amendment; in 1882, they gave Glick 4789 more votes than Governor St. John; in 1884 Governor Martin led Governor Glick in these counties 426 votes.

RETROGRESSION OF KANSAS REPUBLICANISM.

The Topeka Capital, the official state paper of Kansas and the organ of the Kansas State Temperance Union, which is a republican party annex, said on January 27, 1885:

So far as the Republican party in Kansas is concerned, it was never stronger, more harmonious or united than it is to-day. We have boasted that we belonged to the party of ideas, of progress, and so we do. The evidence lies in the difference of opinion, existing to within the party in every county in the state. There is no occasion for alarm that a large element in the party in Kansas believes in the principle of prohibition, while others are firmly opposed to it.

Upon the great underlying principles of the party as indicated in National and State platforms the Republican party is united.

Governor Martin was elected by a splendid majority representing every shade of opinion in the party.

On August 10, 1882, the Convention that nominated Governor St. John by a vote of 287 out of 365, adopted the following platform planks:

That we declare ourselves unqualifiedly in favor of the prohibition of the manufacture and of the sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and pledge ourselves to such additional legislation as shall secure the rigid enforcement of the constitutional provision upon this subject in all parts of the State.

That we request our delegation in Congress to secure such an amendment to the revenue laws as will prevent the issuing of receipts or stamps to sell intoxicating liquors to any persons other than those authorized so to do under the State laws.

That we request the next Legislature to submit such an amendment to the constitution of the state as will secure to women the right of suffrage.

As far as any action by the State Legislature of 1883 was had, upon the foregoing, it might truly be said, the resolutions were but "made to the ear, to be broken to the hope."

The convention that nominated Governor Martin adopted among its planks, the following:

That the National Republican platform meet with our hearty and enthusiastic indorsement as the best statement of living principles ever presented to the American people.

That prohibition has, by a vote of the people, with out distinction of party, been adopted as the organic law of this State.

That we favor a faithful and honest enforcement of the constitutional amendment, that the full effect of prohibition may be realized, that the declared will of the people may be respected, and that the majesty of the law may be vindicated.

The Republican National Convention at Chicago on June 5, 1884, refused the slightest endorsement of the principle of the prohibition of the liquor traffic for beverage use, as may be seen in the following:

That this convention recommend the submission by Congress to the Legislatures of the States of a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, providing for the prohibition of the traffic in alcoholic beverages, that the same may be adopted or rejected, according to the will of the people.

Kansas had in its delegation of eighteen, at Chicago, Senator Preston B. Plumb, who of his own volition had introduced into the United States Senate, a prohibitory amendment to the National Constitution; who in the canvass of 1882 had declared that "Prohibition had come to stay," whose county of Lyon had given 1460 majority for the Kansas Prohibition Amendment in 1880. It had

J. G. Woods of Sumner, which county

gave 1193 majority for the amendment; W. P. Hackney of Covley, which county gave 2373 majority for the amendment and who was a senate champion for Prohibition; J. R. Halliwell of Cherokee, which county gave 471 majority for the amendment; R. Aikman of Bourbon, which county furnished in the House of 1879 three votes for the Amendment proposition; J. P. Root of Wyandotte, which county furnished two members of the House who voted to submit the amendment; George R. Peck of Shawnee, which county gave 646 majority for the amendment, and who was on a sub-committee on Resolutions at the Chicago convention, and recommended the rejection of the resolution quoted above; William Martindale of Greenwood, which county gave 118 majority for the amendment; James S. Merritt of Pottawatomie, which county gave 72 majority for the amendment; E. C. Culp of Salina, which county gave 203 majority for the amendment; A. W. Mann of Jewell county, which gave 301 majority for the amendment; J. S. McDowell of Smith county, which gave 423 majority for the amendment; J. W. Ady of Harvey, which county gave 290 majority for the amendment, and who was an active House supporter of the Prohibitory law of 1881; R. D. Walker of Sedgwick which county gave 152 majority for the amendment.

These men like sheep before their shears, at the Republican National Convention never a one opened their mouth to urge the justice of the above mild resolution in the interest of the home, as against the filthy lucre worshippers who could profit by a prolonged reign of King Alcohol.

The 18 counties from which these delegates came had 42 members in the Kansas House of Representatives of 1879, 27 of whom voted to submit that amendment. Of that 27, there were two democrats, and six "third party" men, and there were eight republicans who voted against the proposition, and yet the following is from

GOVERNOR MARTIN'S CORRESPONDENCE.
Howard H. Russell of the Oberlin—Ohio—News, gives to the public the following unique letter:
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, TOPEKA, MAY 8, 1885.

As far as the agency of a third party is concerned it has never been exerted in Kansas, except as a hindrance to the temperance cause. As a rule, a "third party" is made up of impracticable bigots and disappointed demagogues, who talk very loudly about principle, but who always have a view to their own personal aggrandizement.

JOHN A. MARTIN.
It is submitted that the foregoing letter might have been hastily written.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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