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The Lantern, Chester S.C.- June 14, 1898

J T. Bigham

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MR. HASELDEN'S REPORT.

Shortage - Breakage - County Boards.

SHORTAGES.

Dispenser J. W. Henry, Laurens, who was summoned here at the last meeting of the board, was checked up soon after our adjournment and was found in arrears \$526.25.

I have just received information from Inspector Edwards as to a shortage of \$308.91 against Dispenser J. K. McMillan, at Toddsville, S. C. Mr. Edwards writes that this dispenser acknowledges that he has been short for three years; yet his reports at this office have been made to conform with accounts here against him, and the same being approved by the county board of control.

BREAKAGE.

I desire to call your attention to breakage sustained in the shipments of whiskey to the sub-dispensaries. I submit a report on eight dispensaries, which is a fair index to the others; as I have taken four of those who report the largest amount of breakage and the four who report the lowest.

Mr. W. J. Motte, of Charleston, heads the list with the highest amount. He started in business in September, 1897, and purchased \$362.28 and reports breakage \$6.65 - 2 per cent. In April his purchases were \$167.70, and breakages \$12.97 - 6 per cent. - which is 4 per cent. greater in April, 1898, than in September, 1897, when he assumed charge of the sub-dispensary.

This is out of all reason and there must be something radically wrong in his management from a business standpoint. I next call your attention to the Mt. Pleasant dispensary, which is near Charleston, and to which the goods are shipped by way of Charleston and over the same railroad, and in addition to this, these goods have to be unloaded upon the steamship wharfs and reloaded upon steam boats and unloaded upon the wharfs in Mt. Pleasant again, which requires one more handling than Mr. Motte's goods does in the city; with this additional handling the Mt. Pleasant dispensary breakage is not as great as Mr. Motte's. The figures are:

May purchases, 1897, \$933.40; breakage, \$3.44; 1.3 per cent. April purchases, 1898, \$414.06; breakage, \$5.25; 1.4 per cent; which is 7.8 per cent. greater in April, 1898, than in May, 1897, when the present dispenser assumed charge. But his breakage is increasing instead of decreasing as it should with experience and proper management.

I believe if the records were searched it will be found that the Chester dispensary would have the largest breakage accounts of any in the State. I have taken this as I have the others, the first report of breakage of the present dispenser's management and the last report, which is April of this year.

In July, 1896, the Chester dispenser purchased \$2,162.20; breakage, \$16.15 - 3.4 per cent. His April, 1898, purchases were \$829.18; breakage, \$30.09 - 3.12 per cent; which is 2.34 per cent. greater in April, 1898, than in July, 1896, when he assumed charge. Breakages growing and yet he has had nearly two years of experience, and his breakage should under ordinary circumstances have been kept down to 3.4 per cent., if not reduced.

The next and last one of the high ones is Kingstree. In September, 1897, purchases \$1,291.77; breakage, \$7.95 - 5.8 per cent. April, 1898, purchases \$953.07; breakage, \$15.30 - 1.2 per cent., which is 7.8 per cent. greater in April, 1898, than in September, 1897, when he assumed charge.

A small increase, which prompt business management would have kept down to the good record he commenced with.

are three of them which run about even in the breakage. Marion in April, 1896, purchased \$729; breakage, \$6.58. Very near one per cent. In April, 1898, the purchases were \$1,072.90, breakage, \$9.38, which is the same - very near one per cent. This amount of nearly one per cent. of breakage is true of Lancaster dispensary, also of J. S. Hill, of Greenville. Aiken is the model in the line of breakage of the entire State. In April, 1896, his breakage is 1.2 per cent., which is 1.4 per cent. less in April, 1898, than in April, 1896. He evidently conducts his dispensary in a businesslike way, as all the circumstances show.

Under ordinary circumstances the breakage should never be over one per cent. Now I ask that you give this subject of breakage your attention and see if we cannot devise some plan to reduce these amounts very materially; and suggest that if it is not done otherwise, we will try new dispensers, which I think would have the desired effect, judging from the data we have from the Florence dispensary, ex-dispenser Williamson, who was removed by you. His breakage account, taking the first six months of a year, amounted to an average of \$38.41 per month; and the newly elected dispenser, Mr. Davis, managing the same dispensary, has a breakage account of less than \$10.00 per month.

COUNTY BOARDS.

A very serious matter requires our attention in the management of the various dispensaries throughout the State as regards the duties of the county boards.

Many of them give such little attention to their duties as to be absolutely worthless and in many instances are a hindrance instead of a help in the dispensary management. Many of them keep no account of the stock of goods charged against the dispensers at consumers' prices, and do not know whether the county dispenser makes a correct showing or not.

In nearly every instance where we have found dispensers short to us at our invoice prices, the county boards have been and are unable to find the amount of the dispenser's shortage to the county.

This shows that they keep no account against the dispensers at consumers' prices, as they should do in order to determine the dispensers shortage to the county and to properly know at any time just how he stands in regard to the city's and county's profits. As an example of the slack and unbusinesslike management, I refer to the Beaufort dispenser who has not even as much as a request book showing account of sales each day, and whom I have ordered before this board to show cause why he should not be turned over to the attorney general for prosecution for violating the law.

This loop hole given the dispensers by the county boards not doing their duty, permits them to rob the county and city of their profits. When the State finds them short they can pay up shortages to the State at our invoice prices, but the county boards having nothing charged against them at consumers' prices, they profit at the expense of the county and city.

This gives the business entirely to the dispenser and not the county; we must try to find a remedy to check this dereliction of duty, and get the county boards to keep their dispensers straight, and thus save the counties and cities their profits.

I suggest that we require our book-keepers to charge each dispenser, in addition to our invoice price to dispensers, the dispensers' prices to consumers, so when we send our inspectors to check up a dispenser we arm him with the consumers' price and he checks the dispenser and holds him accountable for every cent received and distributed to the city, county, and State.

One of the great hindrances to the success of the dispensary is the incompetency of some of the country dispensers who are elected by the County Board of Control. While it is true he can be confirmed until this board comes to the action of the county board, yet we fail to en-

quire into his qualification or competency; I suggest that before a dispenser is allowed to take charge of a dispensary he be required to report at this office to be examined as to his qualification and competency. If this is done, good men, though incompetent, may never be placed in a position they cannot fill with credit to themselves and families and an honor to their countries. As it is now, they are placed in positions in which they cannot sustain themselves, and do great injustice not only to the State and county, but to themselves and families.

In reporting these matters for consideration I do not mean to be understood as having reference to all county boards and county dispensers, but there are too many to give them singly, and while my language may seem harsh, my interest in the welfare and success of the dispensary demands that I speak plainly and make an effort to eradicate existing evils that lie in the path of the successful management of the dispensary.

Is He Qualified?

It is reported that Governor Elerbe's friends are trying to have him appointed a Brigadier General. Now why? What military record has he? What peculiar qualification has he to serve in this capacity? Considerable complaint has been made in some of the northern States that civilians have been appointed by the President to have very important military positions because either they themselves or their fathers or some ancestors had a pull, and we hope that the President will not carry this policy into the South. It is always gratifying to see a southern man honored by the Federal Government, but we believe in the eternal fitness of things. With the kindest feelings towards our Governor, we do not think such an important military office should be entrusted to him. His friends are not only doing him injustice, but if successful they will have done a great injustice to the soldiers who may be under him. Politics should have nothing to do with the conduct of this war, and the mere fact that he is Governor does not make him competent.

There are plenty of experienced soldiers. Give the positions to them. -News and Herald.

Mr. Geo. McC. Witherspoon, who has been judge of probate in Lancaster for 22 years, announces that he will not be a candidate for re-election.

Anger a Disease.

An English journal thus comments on the injurious effects of anger: "Anger induces the unhappy mortal who indulges in it much the same as intoxicants constantly taken do the inebriate. It grows into a sort of disease, which has various and terrible results. Sir Richard Quain said, not long ago: 'He is a man very rich indeed in physical power who can afford to be angry.' This is true. Every time a man becomes 'white' or 'red' with anger he is in danger of his life. The heart and brain are the organs mostly affected when fits of passion are indulged in. Not only does anger cause partial paralysis of the small blood vessels, but the heart's action becomes intermittent; that is, every now and then it drops a beat - much the same thing as is experienced by excessive smoking." -Medical Record.

"Well, Schley," signalled the Spanish admiral, in a fine burst of sarcasm, "do you want to make an even exchange of fleets?" "By no means," signalled Commodore Schley in response. "I expect to throw in a few bombs." -Chicago Tribune.

Corn and Lentils.

A limited amount of corn and lentils will be taken on order by THE LANTERN, if ordered before we are supplied. (If) I can pay a girl a few compliments she is very apt to feel hurt when she sends payment.

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Ohio River & Charleston Ry. Co.

-CONJUNCTLY WITH THE-

South Carolina & Georgia R. R.

SCHEDULE IN EFFECT MAY 1, 1898.

Table with 3 columns: SCHEDULE IN EFFECT MAY 1, 1898. NORTHWARD, SOUTHWARD, and GAFNEY DIV. Includes destinations like Charleston, Kingstree, Camden, etc.

Trains North of Camden run daily except Sunday. For information as to rates, Clyde Line mail, etc., call on local contracting and traveling agents of both roads.

Carolina and North-Western Ry.

CENTRAL TIME STANDARD.

Schedule in Effect M'ch 6, '98.

Table with 3 columns: GOING NORTH, GOING SOUTH, and GOING WEST. Lists stations like Lancaster, Yorkville, etc., and times.

Trains Nos. 8 and 10 are first class, and run daily except Sunday. Trains Nos. 66 and 67 are second class, and run daily except Sunday. There is good connection at Chester with the O. R. & C. R., and at Lancaster with the A. & C. R., and at Kingstree with the W. & N. C. R.

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Easily, Quickly, Permanently Restored. MAGNETIC NERVINE. Sold with a written guarantee. Nervous Debility, Lost Vitality, Seminal Losses, etc. Guaranteed by J. J. STRINGFELLOW, Chester, S. C.

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RELIABLE WHOLESALE AND RETAILERS. One of the most complete stocks of Goods ever exhibited in the City of Chester. We offer the following Bargains:

- 2 cases Barker's 4-4 Bleaching 10 yds for \$1.00 Value 10c. 3 cases best Dress Calicoes, 4 cts. per yard. Value 6 1-4 cts. 2 cases best quality standard Shirting Prints, 3c. yard. Value 5 cents. 2 cases figured Dimity, 5 cts a yard. Value 10c. 100 pieces D. Gingham, 5 cts. a yard. Value 8 cts. 600 pieces white India Linen, 5 cts a yd. Former price 7 1-2 c.

- Special Bargains. 25 pieces black figured India Silks, 75c per yd. Value \$1.00. 100 Patterns, beautiful styles, all new, 25c. to 40c. TAffetta Silks. 50 pieces Taffetta and Colored Silks, in all the newest shades, 50c to \$1. per yard. Great Sale Ladies Shift. Waists at half price. 500 Laundered Waists with Collars and Cuffs. 25c Cheap at 50c. 300 Laundered Waists. 30c Value 75 cents. 200 with white collars and cuffs. Value \$1.00.

- HATS, SHOES, GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS. We are now opening a beautiful line of Fur and Straw Goods, all the correct things for Spring. Our stock of Russett and Patent Leather Shoes is very complete and cheap. See our line of Negligee Shirts from 25c. to \$1.00. Can't be surpassed anywhere.

Remember we do not keep old goods. Come and buy where you can get goods at wholesale prices. Goods warranted as represented or money refunded.

S. M. JONES & COMPANY.

Lancaster and Chester Railway.

(EASTERN TIME STANDARD)

Time Table in Effect May 1, 1898.

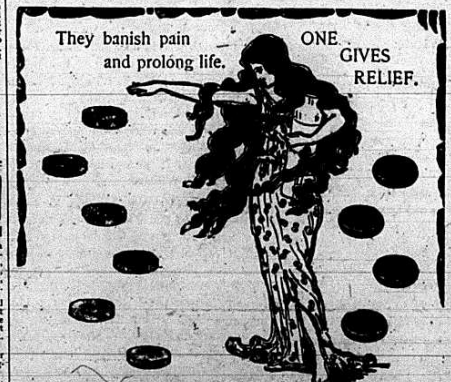
Table with 3 columns: SOUTHWARD, NORTHWARD, and CONNECTIONS. Lists stations like Lancaster, Yorkville, etc., and times.

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Tuesdays and Fridays. PRICE, TWO DOLLARS, CASH.



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No matter what the matter is, one will do you good, and you can get ten for five cents.