

THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY TRIBUNE PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

A Weekly Journal Devoted to the Best Interests of Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County and the East Coast of Florida.

A. R. WILSON A. D. BROWN TRIBUNE PRINTING COMPANY PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS

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Published in the interest of the people of St. Lucie County, Fla. by the people, for the people, and for the people.

ANSWER TO THE NEWS

The Tribune Extra is forced out by the eleventh hour conversion of our contemporary, the Fort Pierce News, to the liquor side. During the five or six weeks of the campaign the News has expressed no opinion on the wet and dry question, although it was generally understood that it represented the whiskey element. In their issue of August 4 (last week), they stated emphatically they were neutral in the matter and would be to the end. During the past week it was rumored on the streets authoritatively that the paper would announce in its next issue in favor of the open saloon. It being the last issue before election day and very little chance of their so-called arguments being answered, their issue of Friday came out boldly for saloons and advocated licensing the sale of the despicable stuff.

Instead of coming out in the open and fighting squarely on the issues of the campaign, they have hidden in their shell and waited until the last issue of THE TRIBUNE before election was on the streets, thus hoping to force their arguments to go unanswered until after the votes were cast. When the News appeared on the streets there was no question as to where it stood. It was wet from start to finish and whiskey literature was its sole contents. The "fine Italian hand" of the new associate editor, whose name does not appear at the mast head and who is supplied by the saloons, could be traced all over the sheet, and the master mind of the commander-in-chief of the liquor forces was apparent in the selection of the so-called arguments in favor of the open saloon.

As the sole cause for taking that standard championing the whiskey cause the News states that THE TRIBUNE forced them to do so. We may or may not be guilty of so doing, but if it is true we are not aware of the manner in which the deed was accomplished. In the language of one of the candidates in the recent primary, "We are glad we 'smoked' you out." Now, let us take up the alleged force used by THE TRIBUNE.

In their issue of July 13, at the beginning of the wet and dry campaign, THE NEWS said editorially:

"A newspaper should be manly and not hesitate to speak out on all questions that may arise. It should not sell its freedom of speech for a mess of pottage. The best interests of the people should be guarded and protected regardless of fear or favor."

We would like to ask just here, parenthetically, what amount would be considered a "mess of pottage?"

In our issue of August 3, after waiting for the News to state their position and be manly enough to speak out on this question, we asked Brother Geiger if he was willing to stand by the statement or was merely shirking his duty to the homes and mothers of St. Lucie county. About twelve hours later the News came out, and under the editorial heading of "Our Stand," stated that they were neutral and would remain so. This was considered an answer to our query if there was to be one. Among other things it said:

"Being a comparative stranger here, we perhaps are not as conversant with the requirements and needs of the people as they are. (because different localities often differ under exactly like conditions) therefore, as the policy of the News was a neutral one in the past two elections, it is the same in this. Not having been here long enough to vote ourselves, we did not feel that we could consistently dictate to others as to how they should vote."

Now we assume that Brother Geiger is honest in his statements, and perhaps he is. A week ago he did not know what the people of this county wanted (although he should have known what he wanted); but the last issue of his paper reveals the fact that some one much interested in the welfare of St.

Lucie county and particularly interested in the saloon business, has told him just what the people want, and he proceeds to champion the cause represented by his informant.

In his account of the visitation of the ladies to his sanctum, the editor, he it said to his credit, recognizes the purity of womanhood. He states that the object of the visit was to ask him "not to express himself for the licensed saloon in preference to the blind tiger." As we understand that visit, without whatever was said about blind tigers except by the editor himself. In fact, it will be found that the whiskey advocates are always the ones who turn on the blind tiger argument, and every time it is done it is a reflection on the integrity and ability of the officers of the law who are sworn to do their duty in suppressing lawlessness. If the whiskey element, as represented by the News, are so terribly down on blind tigers, these need be no fear of any existing here, for it is well known that the prohibition advocates are against them. With the prohibition and whiskey forces behind the officers, how can the blind tiger do business?

In the same article Brother Geiger states he was doing his best to weather through the campaign and keep his position strong in the fence. But he admits he found it was a barbed wire fence, and the barbs were sharp.

Jersey Miner S. Jones says: "The blind tiger will not thrive in your midst, for in my opinion the court officers now serving, and those to succeed, are lovers of the law and will be zealous in enforcing it in all particulars." Such high and excellent authority as that should set at rest forever the silly talk that we will have blind tigers at every corner. Such talk is an insult to the integrity of our officers who are sworn to enforce the law. Public sentiment in St. Lucie county is thoroughly aroused, and our people will see to it that the law is enforced.

Let no voter be deceived by the "blind tiger" argument of the saloon men. The blind tiger question will be taken care of the same as the saloon problem now is. The St. Lucie County Anti-Saloon League will become the St. Lucie County Anti-Blind Tiger League as soon as the county is declared dry, and this organization will see to it that our officers do their duty in suppressing the blind tiger or they will be removed from office. The moral sentiment of our people is thoroughly aroused against the sale of liquor and no blind tiger will be able to live in this county.

That great and good man who holds the respect and confidence of every citizen of St. Lucie county, Judge Minor S. Jones, judge of the seventh judicial circuit which includes St. Lucie, has an article in favor of prohibition in this issue of THE TRIBUNE. Hearing that the judge had expressed a hope that the good people of St. Lucie county would rid themselves of the saloon nuisance, THE TRIBUNE requested a written expression from him for publication. Read what he says in our first paper.

Witness to the most worthy of 1906-7. The saloon men who are blind to the interests of the people and paid for news articles and newspaper writers of the county. The saloon men of the county, the tax-payers of the county, and the law-abiding citizens of the county. Whose opinion is it that?

Thinking of a few men in St. Lucie county who have said that they will vote the wet ticket, most people are ashamed to acknowledge it for the simple reason that they like to have beer manly when they want it. Do these men consider the amount of sorrow and misery and tear tubes that they would vote the family of some unfortunate brother?

"A newspaper should not sell its freedom of speech for a mess of pottage."

SPECIAL ELECTION

Unofficial ballot for Special Election, August 14, 1906, Precinct No. St. Lucie County. (Make a cross mark (X) before your choice.)

Vote for one FOR SELLING X AGAINST SELLING

Be sure to place the X before the words "Against Selling" as indicated above.

BRADFORD COUNTY'S YEAR OF PROHIBITION

The TRIBUNE has secured the following affidavits from the business men of Starke, showing the effect of one year of prohibition in Bradford county:

Starke, Fla., July 13, 1906. To Whom it May Concern: I have been a citizen of Bradford county since 1873, and have been clerk of the circuit court for eighteen years, and can truthfully say that since the law was here enacted out by the people a little over a year ago, every part of the county has gone forward, and business of every character has increased, in my opinion at least fifty per cent. And I know in the town of Starke, the county seat, where the only our rooms were located, that property has advanced in price at least seventy-five per cent., and many of our merchants, some of whom advertised whiskey from a business standpoint, now say they were mistaken, as their business has increased and done more satisfactorily. We have had better attendance at our schools, and more improvements have been made in the last year than we have had in five years previous. I know from the records of my office that more transfers of real estate and business transactions have been made than ever before during my time in office. For the year 1905 there were filed in my office 1249 instruments; and from Jan. 1, 1906, to July 13, 1906, (six months) there have been 950 instruments filed.

(Signed) W. T. WEEKS, Clerk of Circuit Court Bradford Co.

Starke, Fla., July 13, 1906. To Whom it May Concern:

As postmaster of Starke, I will say that since our town has been dry there has been a better condition of things in general. There is very little of that strong smell of liquor at the general delivery window so common before. There is almost a total absence of the rude hooligan in the lobby. As a merchant I would say collections are easier. I have collected old accounts that were considered no good (the liquor men got it all before). I submit my monthly sales for past three years (in totals), showing wonderful increase in business the past year over the year before and the dry did it.

Totals for 1903-4 \$4,711.00 Totals for 1904-5 \$5,596.00 Totals for 1905-6 \$7,808.00 Showing increase in wet years, \$805.00 Showing increase in dry year, \$2,292.00 Respectfully submitted.

(Signed) NEWELL B. HULL.

Starke, Fla., July 26, 1906. To Whom it May Concern:

On the 22nd day of June, 1906, the day the county commissioners closed the saloons, we made a statement of our business, and on the 22nd of June, 1906, we made another statement, doing this for our own satisfaction. The latter statement showed an increase over the former one as follows: Increase in number of depositors, 20 per cent.; increase in the amount of deposits, 35 per cent. The people of Starke are better off financially, the moral sentiment has improved, and real estate values have advanced 50 per cent., and more in the past year. In my opinion if another wet and dry election were held now the town would go dry by a larger majority than in 1905.

(Signed) E. P. DUNCAN, Cashier Bradford County Bank.

Starke, Fla., July 13, 1906. To Whom it May Concern:

The writer has been in Starke since 1873, and expects to remain here. From close observation of conditions as a wet town and a dry town, he is convinced that the general prosperity is far better without the saloon than with it. All talk of voting a town dry killing its business, has not proved to be argument in case of Starke. Since the saloons closed our community has never been more prosperous and progressive for the given length of time. In fact, since our town has been voted dry there has been greater demand for land, homes and dwellings, by outside parties than ever before; and our home people have made and are making more substantial improvements than ever before.

Signed, C. L. PEEK, Real Estate Dealer and Chairman Board of County Commissioners.

AND now the whiskey people say no man who opposes the opening of bar-rooms will ever be elected to office again in this county. That kind of talk in itself should be a knockout blow to carrying Leon county wet again. We will surely be in a predicament if the whiskey element is to fill our public offices.—Tallahassee True Democrat.

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P. P. COBB

Fort Pierce - - - Florida

Everything you want to eat, wear and use is found in this Store.

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In the Hills of North Georgia; beautiful waterfalls and grand mountain scenery. A delightfully cool and restful place to spend your Summer Vacation. House newly furnished and painted. Best table board the country affords. Lots of fruit and berries. No mosquitoes. Reference, Dr. C. P. Platts, White City, Fla. Address, J. FRED ELLIS Turnerville, Georgia

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Bank of Fort Pierce

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