

OPPOSING PROHIBITION.

GRAND MASS MEETING AT COURT-HOUSE LAST NIGHT.

Some Solid Shot Fired Into the Prohibition Camp by Gentlemen Who Believe That Extreme Prohibition Legislation is Wrong and That it Would Injure the City.

The mass meeting of citizens at the court-house last night was largely attended.

Notwithstanding the heavy rain, fully 1,100 people had congregated by half-past seven o'clock, the advertised time of meeting.

Among those present in the vast audience the reporter noted:

Tyler Cooper, John Bishop, W. R. Phillips, Colonel Bateman, A. H. Cox, John M. Hill, A. M. Shomo, Mr. Selig, R. H. Knapp, Governor Bullock, John Berkele, Park Woodward, Howard Ellis, John Stephens, John Trotti, Louis Gohlstin, Brock Beckwith, A. C. Wylie, Theodore Schumann, Major Cook, Major Kelly, J. A. Anderson, W. M. Mickelberry, Henry Beermann, H. Wolf, Thomas Finley, E. A. Angier, Frank Myers, M. Hirsch, Crandall Poole, M. Shehan, Henry B. Tompkins, Henry G. Kuhn, Louis Gohlstin, Henry Boylston, R. D. Spalding, M. Hirsch, J. J. Knott, C. H. Barnes, John A. Colvin, John C. Reid, Jack W. Johnson, J. J. Griffin, H. H. Knowles, George E. Hoppie, Samuel Weil, R. D. Mann, Jerry Lynch, M. F. Amorous, Isaac May, Julius Dreyfus, M. Adler, William Erskine, William H. Venable, M. Rich, Alex E. King, J. J. Spalding, W. J. Tanner, Aaron Haas, H. C. Stockdell, George C. Drummond, Clarence Knowles, J. B. Thompson, Thomas L. Johnson, John A. Fitten, A. P. Thompson, J. M. Couper, L. Mims, Grant Wilkins, A. E. Thornton, H. M. McKeldin, D. N. Speer, James Bridge, jr., T. G. Healey, William G. Herndon, Jos. Jacobs, T. R. Egleston, A. McD. Wilson, C. T. Brockett, J. Rosenthal, John Ryan, W. H. Scott, A. L. Green, D. C. Jones, W. A. Russell, W. H. Clarke, F. W. Hart, E. T. Allen, L. Pelligrini, G. Regenstein, M. N. Blount, Frank N. Bliley, A. Rosenthal, Jacob Elsas, Thomas Scrutchins, W. H. Clayton, C. Treadwell, Robert Caldwell, Norwood Ellis, J. Regenstein, and many other well known citizens.

Mr. Clark Howell opened the meeting by stating that it was a meeting of citizens of Atlanta and Fulton county, and that the meeting was called for the purpose of entering a protest against the adoption of the

EXTREME PROHIBITION LEGISLATION, as enacted by the last general assembly, by citizens who are opposed to extreme prohibition laws, and who believe that it will not diminish intemperance, and that such a law would prove damaging to the best interests of Atlanta. The meeting was for the purpose of the calm and dispassionate consideration of the question, a most serious one to the business and laboring men of the city. The meeting was not a liquor men's meeting, but of business men. Mr. Howell asked for nominations for permanent chairman, and Mr. R. H. Knapp placed in nomination Mr. A. C. Wylie, who was chosen without a dissenting voice, and took the chair amid deafening applause and calls for Colonel Wylie. He said:

"I am not Colonel Wylie nor Captain Wylie but simply A. C. Wylie. I am always for the best interests of Atlanta—wet or dry. I will serve to the best of my ability in the position with which you have honored me."

Mr. Frank Myers was nominated and elected permanent secretary.

Upon motion, Major John Fitten, J. J. Spalding and John Stephens were appointed a committee to draft resolutions.

These gentlemen retired, and Governor Bullock was called upon to address the meeting. He said that he had not come prepared to make an address, but that he fully concurred in every word that both the temporary and permanent chairmen had said.

INTEMPERANCE OR DEBAUCHERY, but he was opposed to the prohibitory measures which the Georgia legislature was endeavoring to force upon the people. It was puritanical in the extreme. He had spent years in other sections of the country where prohibition was adopted, and there was a better state of morals in Georgia than there. Prohibition would not prohibit. If a person wanted liquor they would get it. Closing bar-rooms would not stop people from getting drunk. The speaker only spoke a few moments, but made several strong points against prohibition.

Colonel A. H. Cox was loudly called for, and made a most excellent address. Among other things he said, as he advanced to the stage and shook hands with the chairman:

"This meeting is for the business men of Atlanta and of Fulton county. If prohibition goes into effect the county will suffer little. Atlanta is the point to suffer. The question is one mainly affecting this city. The question is to be argued as an Atlanta question. We are here not to talk upon the basis of temperance or intemperance. That is not the question. It is to see if the people are ready to accept the legislation of a certain prohibitory bill. It is a meeting of

BUSINESS MEN OF ATLANTA to see if they are ready for that. I say they are not. It is hard to be conservative on all sides of a question, and it is the duty of every voter to do what he thinks is honestly right, and that which is for the best interest for Atlanta." The speaker said it was not right, upon such short notice, to close the business of the liquor men of the city, who had worked years to build up a business—men who had spent money, energy and years of toil to build it up. He was in favor of temperance, but was opposed to taking away the business of men without warning. Sufficient notice should be given to allow them

TO HOLD THEIR TENTS and seek other channels for industry. It was not timely, because our city has monuments of wrecked industries. Receivers had their hands full. Man after man had gone down during the business crisis. Atlanta had stood the crisis better than any city in the south, but she could not afford now to risk this great revolution. The city has many necessities forcing themselves upon her. Her streets needs an outlay of money, her waterworks needs an outlay, and hundreds of other improvements must be made. Atlanta can stand still or go backward. Is it the time for prohibition? Will it ever do? Is it a free government? Men are placed on their own manhood and are not expected to assume the guardianship of a

FEW WEAK BROTHEREN. Is the government our daddy? No; it is our creature. It belongs to us, and we do not belong to it. I am opposed to anything, to all laws by which the government enters the private domain and dictates to us what we

SHALL WEAR AND EAT. If we choose to wear pig-tails like the Chinaman, has the government a right to object? If we eat fresh pork and it gives us the colic, is it right for the government to say that it will give you the colic? The government has no right to make my bill of fare. As Christ died to make men holy, let us die to make men free. In the first question do what is consistent with the best interests and welfare of all. The thing to do is to declare drunkenness a crime and punish the drunkard. Providence placed sin here. We needn't sin because it is here. The great evil is in the drunkard. Punish him. Make it a crime for him to get drunk. The evils of intemperance are not overstated, but don't charge it all to the liquor seller. He is not as much to blame as he who drinks it. Atlanta is a great city. She must not take a backward step." Mr. Cox spoke at some length and was frequently interrupted with loud and prolonged applause.

When Mr. Cox had concluded Mr. J. J. Spalding, chairman of the resolution committee, advanced and said:

"We have no long preambles. Just the simple, plain resolutions." He then read: Resolved, First—That it is the sense of this meeting that all excesses and intemperance, as

well in passing laws as in drinking, should be avoided.

2. That, entertaining this view, we protest against the adoption of the prohibition legislation now attempted to be put upon this county, and appeal to all temperate and thoughtful voters to aid in the defeat thereof, as being best for the moral, commercial and financial interests of our county and city.

3. That the chairman of this meeting, within three days, appoint an executive committee of twenty five, whose duties shall be the proper conduct of the canvass, in behalf of the best interests of this county and city, against such proposed legislation.

"I think," said Mr. Spalding, "that these resolutions ought to be adopted, because the legislation is

WRONG IN PRINCIPLE.

It is not a question to come into politics, but ought to go into the home, church and Sunday-school. If a man raises his child aright and that child goes astray, all the laws ever passed won't save him. It is no use to fool with him.

It is wrong for the legislature to prescribe morals for the people. The history of this question teaches us that this question is a child of the north. The law is impracticable."

The speaker then proceeded to show how prohibition prohibited in Kansas, showing by statistics that the number of barrooms had increased from year to year. The people simply got out United States licenses and went ahead with their business.

After Mr. Spalding had concluded the resolutions, as presented by the committee, were adopted.

Colonel E. S. Gay was called for. He stated that he felt surprised at being asked to address the meeting, but he would not refuse to say what he believed upon the question. He came to the meeting to hear what might be said. He was not yet prepared to say which way his vote would be cast. The legislation looked extreme, and the men engaged in the liquor business have vast interests at stake. On both sides of the question many strong points could be made, and he was not ready to commit himself.

Mr. Rosenthal, a gentleman who has recently located in this city, was next called for. He made a square out speech against prohibition. There was no

MILK AND WATER

about it. He declared himself an enemy to prohibition and sumptuary laws. He was opposed to anything to restrain the rights of any man. Anything which looks like prohibition is an enemy to Atlanta. Prohibition is pernicious in its consequences. He declared it dishonest to take away any man's property without compensation. The speaker cited the case of Cox, Hill & Thompson, whose large distillery, in DeKalb county, worth several thousand dollars, had been killed by the prohibition law in that county. It was nothing but

LEGALIZED ROBERTY.

If prohibition becomes a law Atlanta will retrograde more within the next two years than she has advanced in the past ten years. You can't legislate for the human stomach. When man is put under restraint he wants it worse than ever. Mr. Rosenthal said he represented a race of people proverbial for temperate habits, and yet he would wager that not a Hebrew in the city was without whisky in his home. The Hebrew people are reared up with it, and moral restraints are brought to bear on them in the home circle. He said he had never known a drunken Hebrew in a city with over thirty thousand of them. A son should be trained under the parental roof. It is wrong to make a law for a few who can't restrain their appetites, while there are hundreds who can. Make a license sufficiently high to abolish barrooms in back streets on the suburbs. Don't pass laws to drive capital off, but make such laws as will invite capital. Atlanta is not ready for prohibition; the serious, thinking people are not ready for it.

Mr. Rosenthal made a most entertaining address and spoke against prohibition in no uncertain tones.

At half-past nine the meeting adjourned.