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LICENSE COURT.

A LARGE ATTENDANCE. NEW LICENSES GRANTED. THE APPLICATION OF FOWLER AND GIRTON CONTINUED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING OF NEXT WEEK. A FULL ACCOUNT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT.

When license court opened Monday morning it presented a scene seldom witnessed. The room was filled with spectators, among which were a large number of ladies who had been attracted there through various reasons, principally among whom was to back up their remonstrance against the granting of a license to J. R. Fowler and J. L. Girton by their presence. The Court stated "that this was the time fixed by the rules of Court for the hearing of applications for license, and that under the said rules it was required that the hearing be held in open Court." "Sec. 14 states that every application for a hotel, inn or restaurant license must be represented by an attorney, and all applicants for new houses must satisfy the Court by evidence, then produced, that the house is necessary for the accommodation of the public, and the entertainment of travelers." "Sec. 15 requires that any remonstrance against the granting of a license duly advertised, must be signed by some responsible person or persons, and filed with the clerk seven days before the first day of the term, setting out the objection to be urged against the granting of the license." The Court stated "that they had received several private letters requesting it not to grant license to certain parties. That he had received one last Saturday which had been mailed at Orangeville asking them to refuse licenses in the said place. That the said paper contained the names of one hundred and eight persons, among whom were several ladies. The Court said "that the applicants for license were entitled to the seven days notice of remonstrances being filed against them. This gave them an opportunity of preparing to meet it. Any other method of procedure would be unfair and contrary to law." The Court before reading over the application notified the Counsel that they should inform the Court when a new one was called. The entire list was called over and it was discovered that the following new applications had been filed. Cole and Brown, Restaurant license at Coles Creek.—To this there was no remonstrance filed. J. R. Fowler, Restaurant license in Bloomsburg, Remonstrance. Samuel Fegley, Hotel license at Kohrsburg, Remonstrance filed this morning. The Court stated that it had been filed too late unless they could show good cause why the same had not been filed at an earlier day. Mr. Miller who represented the remonstrance stated that the only reason he knew why it had not been filed earlier was because the parties did not understand the law and thought that this was early enough.

J. L. Girton Hotel, Bloomsburg.—Remonstrance. Joseph Kalwich—Restaurant in Centralia. No remonstrance. John P. Loughlin—Hotel in the first ward of the Borough of Centralia. No remonstrance, and Daniel Morris, Hotel in Catawissa township to which there was no remonstrance. There had been remonstrances filed against the applications of Benjamin Pennypacker and John R. Rhoades for Hotel licenses in Mifflinville but they were withdrawn. John Petranak withdrew his application for a restaurant license in Centralia. The Court said that it was due to counsel that they should know that they had been in receipt of a large number of private communications. All such communications should be read in open Court. In some counties they are, and we don't know but it is a good practice. It is improper information. We are to act on the evidence given in open Court. It would not be right to allow these private letters to influence our actions. Every one is supposed to be innocent until he is proved guilty. When twelve persons certify that the applicant is a person of good moral character, and the place necessary for the entertainment of travelers, the Supreme Court has said that we must receive that as evidence and act on it, and grant the license on their certificate. When the Court knows nothing about the evidence they must act on the evidence of the twelve men who sign the certificate. It would be dangerous to take private information. It should be discouraged. The Courts are open, and remonstrators can be heard by self or counsel. We will not make public these private communications this time but say that the practice must cease.

A letter was received from Judge Murphy stating that he was sick and unable to be present, and that he was personally acquainted with all the new applicants from Centralia and that they were all highly respectable men. The first case called was that of Joseph Kalwich, who applied for a restaurant license at Centralia. The applicant is a naturalized Pole and the interpreter of the court.

The necessity for the place, and character of the applicant was vouched for by James Haggerty, Mr. Flynn, Freas Yeager and others.

The application of Cole and Brown for Restaurant license at Coles Creek was supported by John Herrington, W. C. Babb, Albert Cole, W. M. Hartman, E. J. Albertson and F. P. Hartman. The evidence substantially was that the house was necessary because there was no public house between Benton and Jamison City. That they were men of good moral character. The applicants who have also filed a petition for a distillers license stated that if they secured this, they would withdraw the distillers application and agreed neither to keep, nor sell liquor at the distillery during the coming year.

In the case of Samuel Fegley who applied for a hotel license at Kohrsburg the necessity for the house was testified to by William Stackhouse, Augustus Stadder, David Force, Harman Bright, and the good character of the applicant by Charles E. Randall, George Reifensnyder, O. D. L. Kostenbauder and Adam Truckenmiller who testified that they had known him many years. That he had been in the hotel business at Catawissa and had conducted a good house.

The testimony on the applications of John P. Loughlin and Daniel Morris was substantially the same as given in the former cases and they together with all the other applicants excepting J. R. Fowler, J. L. Girton and Harvey Deiterich which were continued until Monday, were granted a license. The Court stated that these two applications would have to be heard by a full bench and the consideration of them was postponed until Monday January 27th 1896 at 9 o'clock A. M. at which time it was to be hoped that Judge Murphy would be present.

The application of William Kline for a hotel license at Benton was continued until Saturday, February 15th, owing to the hotel being burned.

DESTROYED BY FIRE.

Three Buildings Burned at Benton Early Friday Morning. It Looked As Though the Town Was Doomed.

The citizens residing at Benton in the Northern part of this County were awakened from their sleep about 4:45 o'clock last Friday morning by hearing the cry of Fire! Fire! Fire! and investigation proved that the McHenry house, a large two story frame building was in flames. The fire which is supposed to be of an incendiary origin, started at the back of the building and burned on the outside to the roof, before it broke through to the inside and was discovered. At this time the flames enveloped the building from the top to the bottom and it was apparent that it could not be saved, and the efforts of those present were directed toward saving the adjoining property and their contents. For nearly two hours they worked as only men can work when their whole town is threatened with destruction and only ceased their arduous labors when the fire was under control. A view of the burned district showed that in addition to the hotel and all its contents the two story frame house of Mrs. Olive Hess, a large three story building belonging to the estate of T. C. McHenry deceased, and occupied by Max Mamelin as a clothing store, and O. E. Sutton as a confectioner, was burned, and the house of William Appleman badly damaged by fire and water. The entire stock of clothing of Mr. Mamelin was destroyed, as was also a pocket book containing sixty dollars. Some of the furniture of O. E. Sutton, and William Kline who leased the McHenry house, was saved, but badly damaged. The McHenry house cost \$7000 and was owned by J. B. McHenry, Sheriff, and the estate of T. C. McHenry upon which there was an insurance of only \$2000. The loss on the furniture which the Sheriff sold about one year ago will also fall upon him. The fire was so intense that the windows in the store of J. J. McHenry on the opposite side of the street were broken, and his goods damaged by water. Fortunately there was no wind blowing, and this saved the town from entire destruction.

If you want to read all the news read the COLUMBIAN.

BAPTIST CHURCH NOTES.

Extracts From the Sermon of Rev. G. E. Weeks Last Sunday Evening.

Last Sunday evening as previously advertised the sermon of the pastor Rev. G. E. Weeks had reference to the license agitation there is in our midst. He commenced his discourse by saying "that he did not enjoy departing from his custom of preaching a regular sermon and treating of this question, and he supposed that there were many in his membership, that did not approve of it, which accounted for their absence. Sometimes talks of this kind are necessary and that this was one of the times. He then proceeded to give some statistics in relation to the saloon showing how many murders are traceable directly to them. He spoke of saloon fights. How common the term saloon-fight had become. We never hear of a dry goods store fight, or a grocery store fight, or a shoemaker shop fight, but the term saloon fight we see every day in the newspapers. These places make men brutal and murderous. An instance was cited in this town of a woman who maintained the family by scrubbing while the husband laid around drunk. Respectable drinker as you call yourself, it will do the same thing for you. Will make your wife a scrub woman. The saloon business is as merciless as the grave, and as cruel as a hyena. It will do it for you. The saloon proprietors are defiant of the law. It is a matter of rumor that they violate the law. They simply keep it when they are obliged to do so. We are paying Constables to see that the law is obeyed, but it is violated under their noses and they are quiet about it. The saloon is regarded as a nuisance even by those who support it. It is discriminated against by business men on business principles. Insurance Companies discriminate against it, as do also railroad companies.

He paid considerable attention to the article which appeared in the COLUMBIAN of last week saying among other things that the object of the present movement was not general or aimless but particular. Two years ago it was against one place, last year, against a new place and against a man who had been a violator of the law, and this year it is against the addition of two saloons. In regard to the effort being spasmodic, and that all the rest of the year we remained quiet I have this to say. The movement is spasmodic because the licenses are granted spasmodically. This is the only time of the year that licenses are granted, and hence it is the only time the question can be agitated. We agree with the COLUMBIAN that there should be an organization to punish offenders. We say amen to that suggestion. It is just what I want. The merchants and doctors and lawyers should organize. If I was only sure that they were sincere in their article, that they mean what they say, that it is not another method of criticism. I wish I felt sure that they believe in organization." In referring to the publication of the names of the signers to the applications and the bondsmen he said "It is not a new thing. It has been done in other places. It was not done to influence the Court or injure any one in their business. Will it injure their business? If it will, why did they sign them? They never would have signed them if they thought it would injure them. It was not done to cast reflections on their personal character. So far as that goes they acted for themselves. The community has a right to know who is responsible for the saloons. The Court and lawyers are not responsible for them. Two men worth \$2,000 must sign a bond and twelve reputable citizens must sign the application. They are a part of the business and the work. It is not right that the Court should bear all the responsibility. The community has a right to see that men do not lead double lives. The community should not be deceived. Some men have done what they would not like the community to know. The publication of these names will make it more difficult for saloon men to procure signers. The commotion over this thing shows that a wrong was being done. Even if we don't succeed it is doing something, and it is better to do something even if it is a mistake than to do nothing. The saloons are growing, and the churches are standing still. It was done to save the church and draw a sharper line of distinction between the church and the world. We must have a regenerate and pure church. There are six preachers in this town who believe in this movement. I am glad that none of my members signed these papers. The present work is to remonstrate against these two new places. Men

will swear that they are necessary. They certainly don't know what an oath means when they do it. The remonstrance is not as large as it should be. Many refrain from signing on account of injuring their business. We ought not to be afraid of injuring our business. This matter is overestimated." At the close of his discourse he requested that the members assist him in paying the portion which had been assessed to him, for the purpose of defraying the expenses incident to the movement.

We publish in this issue a synopsis of the discourse delivered by Rev. G. E. Weeks in the Baptist church last Sunday evening, giving him the full benefit of his comments on our article of last week on the license question.

We have no controversy with Mr. Weeks, nor any other gentlemen connected with the movement against licenses. We were not informed of the names of those who caused the publication of signers in the Daily, and had no knowledge of the fact that the clergymen had caused it to be done. Our only information was that it was procured by somebody, and that it was paid for as an advertisement. In our opinion, and we presume we may be permitted to have an opinion, even though Mr. Weeks questions its sincerity, and honesty—the publication of these names, after all the harm had been done, accomplished no good results. If public notice had been given before any petitions had been signed, that the names of all petitioners and bondsmen would be published, no one could have complained when they saw their names in print, and the results expected could have been reached this year, instead of waiting for them a year longer. If that opinion is erroneous, we have not yet been convinced of it. In all reform movements the pulpit and the press should join hands. They are the two most powerful influences in moulding public sentiment. But if the pulpit desires the co-operation of the press, it ought not to question its sincerity, even though they may differ as to methods.

REV. WEEKS ON THE "LICENSE AGITATION."

This communication was received after our report of his sermon in this type.

EDITOR COLUMBIAN:

Will you kindly permit me two remarks concerning last week's article on "The License Agitation."

First—I claim that the present efforts are eminently right and wise, and that it is the moral duty of all good citizens to support them. The writer says concerning the question whether there is a necessity for any more licensed houses in Bloomsburg, that "the duty of informing the court upon the question is with the citizens." Exactly. And that is just what the citizens are now doing concerning the two new licensed houses asked for in this town. Yet in the very next paragraph of the article, these same citizens are chided for doing this. It is said that these efforts have been "over and over again, spasmodic." Certainly, has not the court been "over and over again, spasmodic?" Have not the petitions for license been "over and over again, spasmodic?" The law certainly teaches, and common sense suggests that the time to agitate against new licenses, is when they are asked for and the court is in session. Does the writer want us to sign remonstrances next summer, and lay them on the court house steps when nobody is looking?

The Judge distinctly said in court on Monday concerning new applications, that where necessity and good character is declared, and nothing is presented on the other side, he has no discretion and the license must issue. He looks to us for information and if we are silent, he concludes that we are all agreed. He concludes, he says he does, that if we do not speak we want more whiskey. That is the reason why we speak. That is the reason why there ought to be a far more intense agitation, and why all good citizens ought to be in it. The law clearly invites it, our own judge has this week clearly invited it, and the writer of last week is plainly wrong in trying to soothe us into silence.

Second—I am delighted with the suggestion that there should be organized effort for "the enforcement of the law as it stands." Just what is wanted. Let it come at once. I think I can promise our critic the co-operation of the "spasmodic" workers for fifty-two weeks in every year. I know I can promise the support of at least six pastors in town from the

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SPECIAL COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Court met last Monday at 10 o'clock A. M., with President Judge Ikeler and Associate Millard on the bench.

Upon petition, L. B. Koons and J. B. Blank were permitted to withdraw their names from the petition of Joel Morton, for a hotel license at Berwick. To this application Mr. Morton consented.

William A. Mauey was appointed guardian of Mattie A. Westbrook. Bond filed and approved.

Sarah Cooper vs William H. Cooper. Libel in divorce. Subpoena awarded.

Sheriff McHenry presented the following deeds which were acknowledged in open Court. To Ellis Reece, for property of Rachael, Elizabeth and Anna Houck, in Hemlock township, consideration \$100.

B. D. Freas was appointed Trustee of the Northern Columbia and Southern Luzerne County Agricultural Association.

Upon petition, the Locust Mountain Coal and Iron Company were permitted to make roads in Conyngnam township.

Commonwealth of Penn'a. to the use of C. G. Murphy vs C. H. Campbell et al. Upon motion of Fred Ikeler Esq., atty. for the plaintiff, the praecipe and summons were allowed to be amended.

Brewing Company vs Giger et al. The order permitting the defendant to take further testimony was continued thirty days.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Brass & Copper Works last week the following directors and officers were re-elected to serve for the ensuing year: Directors—L. S. Wintersteen, W. H. Brooke, M. I. Low, H. A. M'Killip, E. B. Brower, W. D. Beckley and W. B. Allen. President—W. D. Beckley; General Manager and Treasurer—W. H. Brooke; Secretary—H. A. M'Killip.

The following letters are advertised Jan. 21, 1896.

Ida C. Deaver, Mr. M. A. Girton, Mr. Nelson Hubbs, Mr. Wesley Hollenshead, J. E. Miller, Miss Susan Martin, Miss Anna Spettigue, Mr. Jas. A. Shaw, Rev. M. J. McBride.

Will be sent to the dead letter office February 4, 1896.