

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1917.

A Clean Newspaper for Southern Homes

Drastic Soft Drink Amendment Killed

In an effort to force the "bone-dry" majority of the House to the greatest extreme, Representative Stark, of Jackson, Friday offered an amendment which would have barred all substitutes for liquor, all patent medicines, and soft drinks containing caffeine.

It brought one of the most spirited debates of the session. It split the two factions, and failed to carry by a vote of 96 to 59. Some of the staunch advocates of bone-dry prohibition strongly advocated including all soft drinks.

Representatives Beazley and Davis supported the amendment. Representative Atkinson, of Fulton, while aligned with the minority, opposed the amendment as an effort to strangle an infant industry. He concluded by asserting he had no fear of "the most important of these industries suffering at the hands of the Georgia Legislature."

Four hours' debate found the House still working on the first section of the temperance committee's bill. At that hour adjournment was taken until 9 o'clock Saturday morning, after the House had accepted the invitation to attend in a body the lecture by former President Taft during the afternoon.

The first section was laboring under eleven amendments. On nearly every one the minority succeeded in mustering sufficient strength to put the members on record by roll call. Progress was slow, but the "dry" members had a clear majority of five or six of the whole House.

The hardest fight was made by the minority on the right to have whisky and wine in the home for personal or medicinal purposes. This developed the first real test vote of the extra session. The question came before the House in an amendment by Representative Stewart, of Coffee, providing that nothing in the act should prohibit an individual from keeping one quart in his home.

Representative Fullbright, of Burke, floor leader of the majority, declared this amendment would open the flood-gates. It was attached to the section

Soft Drink Amendment

regulating carriers and would permit carriers to transport liquors in one-quart quantities, he asserted.

Over the protest of those members who insisted upon the Legislature not robbing citizens of the "constitutional right" and "personal privileges," the proposed amendment was killed by a vote of 103 to 54.

Amendment Fails.

Another sharp clash followed the introduction of an amendment by Representative Walker, of Ben Hill, to allow all persons who had purchased liquors under the present law to retain them in the event the "bone-dry" measure becomes effective. Representative Wohlwender lead the fight on this proposal, declaring nothing would prevent anyone from retaining two quarts on hand permanently, under the excuse it had been purchased prior to the passage of the "bone-dry" bill. The amendment was defended by its author as a means of protecting those who now have liquors on hand from becoming "criminals" upon the passage of the act. It lost by a vote of 74 to 56.

Representative Blackburn, of Fulton, followed this with a resolution for all members having any on hand to divide it with "those less fortunate," or at a "bone-dry" banquet. The resolution offered jokingly received a large vote, but Speaker Burwell announced in the decision in favor of its opponents.

The House debated for an hour an amendment by Representative Yeomans, of Terrell, reported favorably by the committee, to strike the words "at home or elsewhere" from the first section of the bill. The author of the resolution admitted it would not give anyone the authority to have any quantity at home, but would remove a "bold, bare statement" directed at the home. Opponents of the proposed amendment strongly advocated "making it plain." They declared it offered an opportunity for evasion of the law. The amendment carried, however, by 100 to 56, the "bone-dry" majority voting nearly unanimously for it.