[*Published by Anti-Saloon League of Maryland*]

# THE TRUTH ABOUT WILLIS AND LOCAL OPTION

**Mr. Harry Willis, Democratic Legislative Candidate, Not Only Violated His Pledge To Support The Local Option Bill, But Denied That He Had Promised Until Confronted With His Own Letter.**

**MR. HARRIS, THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE, VOTED RIGHT AND THE ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE URGES EVERY REPUBLICAN TEMPERANCE MAN TO VOTE FOR HIM.**

One of the Kent county members of the last House of Delegates voted for the local option bill and the other one voted against it.

The Anti-Saloon League is supporting Mr. Harris, the man who voted right, and even urging Republicans to vote for him to offset the liquor votes he will lose. And the League is opposing the man who voted wrong. *What else could it do?*

The statement that Mr. Willis is "sound on the temperance question" and merits the vote of every voter who believes in local option is not true. Mr. Willis two years ago agreed in writing to support the local option bill. He broke that pledge and lined up with the saloon interests of Baltimore against the bill. He then denied that he had made any pledge. But the League had kept his letter, and when he was confronted with the letter was obliged to admit he had signed it, thus confessing that he not only broke his word, but that he had made an untruthful statement about it later. We submit that in the face of these facts Mr. Willis' temperance promises are worthless, and no temperance Democrat can afford to be fooled by them.

### OFFERED MR. WILLIS ANOTHER CHANCE.

Notwithstanding this treatment, the League offered Mr. Willis one more chance before opposing him, believing, that if he made a *public* pledge to his constituents, he would not violate it. He refused to do it and insisted that his renomination was a vindication of his course, and denied ever having made any promise until the League representative showed him his letter in the presence of a witness. ***And if Mr. Willis will publish over his signature in both Democratic papers a square statement that he will vote for the Anti-Saloon League Bill and do his best to help it pass, the League will even now withdraw its opposition to him.***

When it became apparent that nothing could be done with Mr. Willis, and not till then, the League set out to find a candidate against him and induced Mr. A. W. Kendall, a strong temperance man, to accept the Republican nomination. The other Republican nominee is satisfactory, but, to be fair, the temperance Republicans should support Mr. Harris who voted right, so it is necessary for those who vote against Mr. Willis to center on one man to vote *for* in his place. Without any reflection upon the other Republican, Mr. Kendall's experience and acquaintance make him the stronger candidate. Therefore the League advises all temperance Democrats and Republicans and all Prohibitionists to vote for Mr. Harris (Democrat) and Mr. Kendall (Republican).

### THE LEAGUE SUPERINTENDENT'S POLITICS.

An attempt is being made to befog the real issue by the statement that the Anti-Saloon League Superintendent is a Republican and necessarily, therefore, working for the Republican party. This has nothing to do with the case and is a cheap effort to arouse prejudice, but as it is the best argument which can be found we cannot resist the temptation to explode it. It is utterly false. The Superintendent is not a Republican. He was raised a Democrat, of Kentucky and Virginia ancestry. He was a Democratic election official in Illinois for years. His father is still in Democratic politics in that State. He has never attended anything but Democratic primaries and he votes the Democratic ticket today whenever its candidates are at least as good as the others, but he refuses utterly to allow any political organization to bind him hand and foot and deliver him over to the liquor traffic. The League Superintendent is an American citizen and a Christian man before he is a Democrat.

### WHAT A VOTE FOR MR. WILLIS MEANS.

A vote for Mr. Willis means to indorse him in lining up with the saloons of Baltimore and every man who votes for him becomes morally responsible for the defeat of the Local Option Bill.

Mr. Willis says Kent county doesn't care for the State Bill, but surely the people of Kent country are not so selfish as to refuse to give the people of the rest of the State a chance to vote. Besides, the State Bill while protecting the Kent County law contains the enforcement features which Kent County needs.

Mr. Willis says he is not in favor of forcing Prohibition on Baltimore, but anybody who has read the bill knows that it does not force anything on Baltimore, but simply unties the hands of the people so they can decide for themselves.

### A DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE INVOLVED.

The Democratic party stands fundamentally for majority rule and self government. It says "Let the people rule." The Southern States are Democratic and all have state-wide local option.

No Democrat is bound to support any Democratic candidate who brings the party into disrepute by turning his back on this Democratic principle in order to protect the special interests of the liquor traffic and whisky trust. Every true Democrat who has to choose between a Democratic principle and a Democratic candidate must choose the principle for the general good of the party. Mr. Willis has betrayed this Democratic principle and no Democrat is under any obligations to vote for him.

### NOT ASKING DEMOCRATS TO LEAVE THEIR PARTY.

No man is asked to leave his party. The candidates for Comptroller the head of the ticket are all satisfactory. The League is not bothering the rest of the county ticket. We have been told that Christian men in Kent county will vote for a whisky man rather than vote against a Democratic candidate. We don't believe it. We believe there is as much patriotism and true manhood and righteous citizenship in Kent county as anywhere in the State, and speaking for temperance people of the whole State we appeal to you to help other communities not so fortunate as yourselves to get a vote on this issue by sending down to the Legislature two men who are right on this question and will give Baltimore a chance to vote to throw off the saloon domination of her politics.

WILL YOU VOTE FOR A MAN WHO STANDS FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND, OR FOR ONE WHO STANDS FOR THE SALOONS OF MARYLAND?

*THE ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE OF MARYLAND,*
By William H. Anderson, Superintendent.

(*Continued From Last Week.*)

# IN KENT COUNTY

**CONDITION OF LAWLESSNESS WHEN THE REPUBLICANS RULED HERE.**

**Effects of the Negro Vote—High Taxes and Inefficient Government — Riotous Blacks in Chestertown — Negroes on the Roads.**

From Staff Correspondent Baltimore Sun.

**High Tax Rates.**

"Now take the economical side. When the Republicans came in power by virtue of tho negro vote, in 1895, they found a tax rate here of 94 cents. This was jumped by leaps and bounds until, in 1903, when they lost power, the rate had advanced to $1.35. The results were not commensurate with this increase. The county affairs were in a state of chaos. It was difficult to tell what had become of much of the annual levy. Wastefulness and extravagance were so open and flagrant that the grand jury ordered an examination of the County Commissioners' books. Mr. Frank L. Blacklock, of Baltimore, was employed for this work. It is not known that even he succeeded in unearthing all the charges in the levy and the expenditures.

"It was openly charged in the papers here and has never been denied that one of the books of record in the Commissioners' office suddenly disappeared and has never been found. It was also charged, without denial, that a leaf from another book had been cut out and was never brought to light.

"Whether or not those contained evidence of culpability by the Republicans is not known, for there has been no chance for an examination. Many of our people have their own views on this point and it is not favorable to the Republicans, nor is it held desirable that these shall return to power by means of the black vote.

**Road Mending.**

"One thing known and often commented on is the wastefulness in road mending during the seven years of Republican incumbency. We have about 350 miles of public road in the county, and it is said that the negro force employed was so numerous that they could talk to each other while mending roads throughout the length and breadth of the county.

"What was expended here will perhaps never be fully known. What is apparent to our taxpayers is the debt legacy of $60,000 left by this rule.

"The manner of repairing the roads was crude and ineffectual. One horse—usually a bony animal—was attached to a sulky. Beneath this was an ordinary tub. This would be filled with dirt from one part of the road and would be dumped into a hole at another. It is the current belief that too many negroes were employed in a work which required no labor or exertion as a reward for political work or to hold them in line for service at the succeeding county convention, which made nominations, and in the election following.

"This is another reason why we oppose the right of the negro to dominate our local affairs and why we want to see the amendment adopted. No right-thinking man who has an interest in his own community can blame us. We appeal to the outside for aid in proper self-government—something which will be permanent and not dependent on a Wilson Ballot law, which is liable to repeal at any time."

**Return of the Democrats.**

When the Democrats came into power they immediately commenced to retrench so far as was consistent with public convenience. The tax rate was brought to $1.15, and later to $1.12, where it was in 1907 and 1908. This year it was increased to $1.20 on account of extraordinary expenditures in bridge building and repairing and in an increased appropriation of $18,000 for the public schools.

An auditing committee recently went over the books of the county and verified the accounts. Among these was Mr. Wilbur Eliason, one of the substantial Republicans. He not only commended Commissioners for their administration, but he especially complimented Mr. Charles L. Dodd, the clerk, for the excellent way in which the accounts were kept and the clearness with which every item was accounted for.

Kent has two factions within the Democratic party, and while they fight each other in the primaries, both sides say they stand solidly for the amendment for economical reasons. Mr. Hope H. Harroll, the recognized leader of one faction, says that he does not know of a friend of his who will vote against it. Mr. Lewin W. Wickes, speaking for the other faction, said they were earnestly for the amendment. He expressed a fear that the vote for this might run behind the candidates because of the failure of some Democrats to mark for the amendment. This, it was urged by him, should not occur, as the importance of this vote should be impressed on everyone favorable to it when he entered the booth.

**"The suffrage amendment will not disfranchise any white voter in the State, native or foreign born"**


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