

To Governor Charles N. Haskell, of Oklahoma, belongs the distinction of being the only executive of a sovereign state to necessitate two sessions of the President's cabinet in a single day; to be considered of sufficient force to draw a tirade of personal abuse from the President of the United State in which politics, the real cause of the controversy, was finally turned aside and the President resorted to an attack upon the moral standing of the man who had been given political recognition by an opposition political party.

But Governor Charles N. Haskell is a fighter. He accepted the guage of battle fixed by President Roosevelt, and, if an unprejudiced jury was to pass on the evidence he presented, it would be admitted that for once the fearless governor of the youngest state caused Mr. Roosevelt considerable pain before he sought to terminate the controversy.

A chapter in the Roosevelt-Haskell incident dealt lightly with the unprecedented attitude of the President toward a state where the constitution forbids traffic in liquors. Let it be understood that Governor Haskell is a prohibitionist. He, more than any other man in Oklahoma, is responsible for the new state entering the union free from the entanglements of the open saloon. It was in the constitutional convention, of which Governor Haskell was the guiding hand, that the liquor interests were met and routed. Governor Haskell led the fight against the saloon.

A few weeks after that notable victory Charles N. Haskell announced himself as a candidate for governor. He made the bold, fearless statement on every stump that he stood for prohibition, and if elected would enforce the law regardless of cost.

He won. The people believed him, and do yet. He followed his inaugural address by action. It was to uphold the law. Oklahoma today has what is considered the most stringent

prohibition law of any state in the union. But recently the prohibition candidate for president declared no such law as Oklahoma's was ever before enacted.

It is being enforced. Governor Haskell practices his campaign pledges. He stands as one chief executive who believes a campaign promise is a sacred obligation.

So much for the man Haskell, who drew the fire of the President of the United States and sustained an attack upon his moral character.

In the records of the state of Oklahoma are two letters. One from the governor of the state, anxious to execute the law as written, appealing to the President of the United States for assistance in overcoming the only hindrance to state-wide prohibition -- inter-state shipments of liquor. The other is the careless, almost brutal dismissal of this appeal for humanity, to which appears the signature of Theodore Roosevelt.

The Haskell letter, written months before the dispute between the Governor and the President, was as follows:

Guthrie, April 8th, 1908.

The President,

Honorable Theodore Roosevelt,

Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. President:

Our state constitution adopted state wide prohibition and our legislature has provided detailed legislation of a practical and efficient character, which, I am convinced, will fully demonstrate that prohibition is a common-sense proposition in the interest of the comfort and welfare of our homes and citizens, as well as a promoter of good morals, intelligence and prosperity.

There are a few embarrassing features, which it is beyond the power of the state, or in local option states, be-

yond the power of the counties, to defend itself against, and therefore it becomes necessary for us to appeal to our Chief Magistrate of the Nation, earnestly pray that you request Congress to compel the whiskey trade to respect the will of the people in the county or state where prohibition has been established.

First: Under the liberty of inter-state shipments, whiskey manufactured and sold in non-prohibition localities, is shipped into communities where prohibition is the choice of the people. In our judgment the Federal law should not longer aid the whiskey traffic in avoiding the full force and effect of laws adopted for prohibition in states or counties that have by their own choice cast their lot on the side of morality and protection of its homes and inter-state commerce under federal protection, would not be a means of destroying the will of the people in any locality, particularly objectionable in this line in the express company practice of prompt deliveries in small quantities.

Second: The United States mails are delivering large quantities of printed circulars, letters, etc., as well as newspapers containing advertisements soliciting mail orders and Express Company patronage in prohibition territory? We submit that this is an abuse of the United States mails that should be prohibited by Congressional action.

We therefore appeal to you to recommend that Congress should at least, remove from the laws of our land, any protection, aid or assistance, that is now granted to the destroyers of good morals and happy homes by aiding them to either ship forbidden beverages into prohibition territory or furnish mail facilities for the conduct and exploiting of their business.

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. H. Haskell,
Governor.

To this President Roosevelt replied as follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington,

April 13, 1908.

My dear Governor:

I have received your letter and shall give it careful consideration. The matters, of course, concern Congress primarily, and legislation is now under consideration to decrease the amount of assistance which violaters of local prohibition statutes can obtain from the rules necessarily protecting interstate commerce and the use of the mails.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Hon. C. N. Haskell,
Governor of Oklahoma,
Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Roosevelt in Oklahoma.

But the official records of President Roosevelt and Governor Haskell in this instance, and the administration of Oklahoma's governor and his support of prohibition, both personally and officially, necessitates a review of Roosevelt, the man, and his own moral measurements.

Let a recent Oklahoma example suffice:

President Roosevelt came to Oklahoma Territory, just prior to statehood, to enjoy a hunt on an Indian reservation. He knew the laws of the Nation forbid the introduction of liquors on Indian lands; he knew that violation of this law was subject to jail sentence; that thousands of men who had been discovered with less amount of intoxicants about them, had been sent off to prison after being arraigned before United States courts; yet the great preacher on moral perfection, the crusader against the law breaker, great and small,

forgot the big stick, forgot the square deal, and not only permitted the introduction of a large stock of intoxicants by his party, but imbibed himself most heartily, leaving behind them at the camp fire a trail of bottles to mock the law and minimize the efforts of the officers who were employed by the same Federal government to prevent that which the President seemed delighted to tolerate?

In Oklahoma there are many people who well remember the Roosevelt visit, the wolf hunt, the crowd that accompanied the President and the unusual hilarity that marked their stay, remote as it was from the gaze of the public, and free from the inquisitiveness of press reporters.

These affidavits tell the story of Mr. Roosevelt's right to impeach the moral standing of him who is responsible for Oklahoma being rated as the most perfect prohibition state in the union:

Mountain Park, Okla. Oct. 13, 1908.

Statement of A. L. Floyd.

I, A. L. Floyd, now a resident of Mountain Park, Oklahoma, was a resident of Frederick, Oklahoma, in April 1905 at the time President Roosevelt came to that place for his hunt in the Big Pasture, and I saw him and his party arrive in that town.

After they had gone I visited the deserted camp and there saw approximately a wagon load of empty beer, whiskey and champagne bottles on the camp ground.

(Signed) A. L. Floyd.

Frederick, Okla. Oct. 15, 1908.

Hon. C. N. Haskell,
Governor of Oklahoma,
Guthrie, Okla.

Your Excellency:

On Saturday evening, Apr. 8, 1905, President

Theodore Roosevelt in company with approximately a dozen of his guests went to Frederick, Okla. by rail and from there went 18 miles east into the Big Pasture to hunt for five days. They remained at this camp until and including Thursday, Apr. 13, 1905, hunting all five days, the first of which was Sunday, Apr. 9.

The Big Pasture was then an Indian reservation and under strict federal prohibition law. The penalty for introducing intoxicating liquors into that reservation being the penitentiary, and although the camp of the President's hunting party was about 14 miles inside of the reservation large quantities of beer, whiskey, and champagne were by them taken into the reservation and to their camp.

These liquors were largely bought from two saloon keepers (which were then licensed in Frederick), namely: Bill Lasater and Lem Gosney. The beer was largely carried to camp on government pack mules, four cases to each mule. One liveryman hauled a barrel of beer and some champagne; the whiskey was taken by army wagons. A large number of the empty bottles were buried in the camp before they left but some were left on the ground.

Respectfully,

(Signed) J. J. Thomson.

Statement of Edison Carter.

I, Edison Carter, have lived in Frederick for a number of years. I was here when President Roosevelt, and his party came here to hunt in the Big Pasture in 1905. I saw at that time a number of government pack mules, loaded with cases of beer in front of a saloon in Frederick, evidently to be taken to the President's camp. That evening, Saturday, I went out to the camp, and while there I saw several of the cases of beer in one of the tents in the camp. I returned to Fred-

erick, the next morning, and did not see any of the liquors used.

(Signed) Edison Carter.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,
 SS.
COUNTY OF TILLMAN.

George Nichols being first duly sworn, deposes and says: On Saturday, April 8, 1905, I went to the camp where President Theodore Roosevelt and his party hunted in the Big Pasture on April 9, to 13 inclusive. I was in the camp and with the hunting party practically all of the five days. I saw beer there in large quantities and whiskey and champagne. Whiskey was on the table at every meal; the beer was kept in a large hole in the ground, being arranged with alternate layers of ice. Empty beer, wine and whiskey bottles were thrown into the hole when the camp was broken and covered there before the President left the camp. The most of the beer was taken out from Frederick to the camp on Government mules.

I saw the whole party, including the President, drinking toasts in champagne.

(Signed) Geo. B. Nichols.

(SEAL)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th day of October, 1905.

(Signed) Georgie Cole,
County Stenographer & Ex-Officio
Clerk of the County Court.

Accepting Mr. Roosevelt at his own definition of greatness: "the man who does things", Oklahoma is ready to weigh Charles N. Haskell in the scales with Theodore Roosevelt, with the personal life of the men to be the weights, and their official acts to be computed as an additional badge of merit

for him who can emerge from the trial with the approval of
Christian people who can not depart from the good old adage:
"By thy acts ye shall be known."