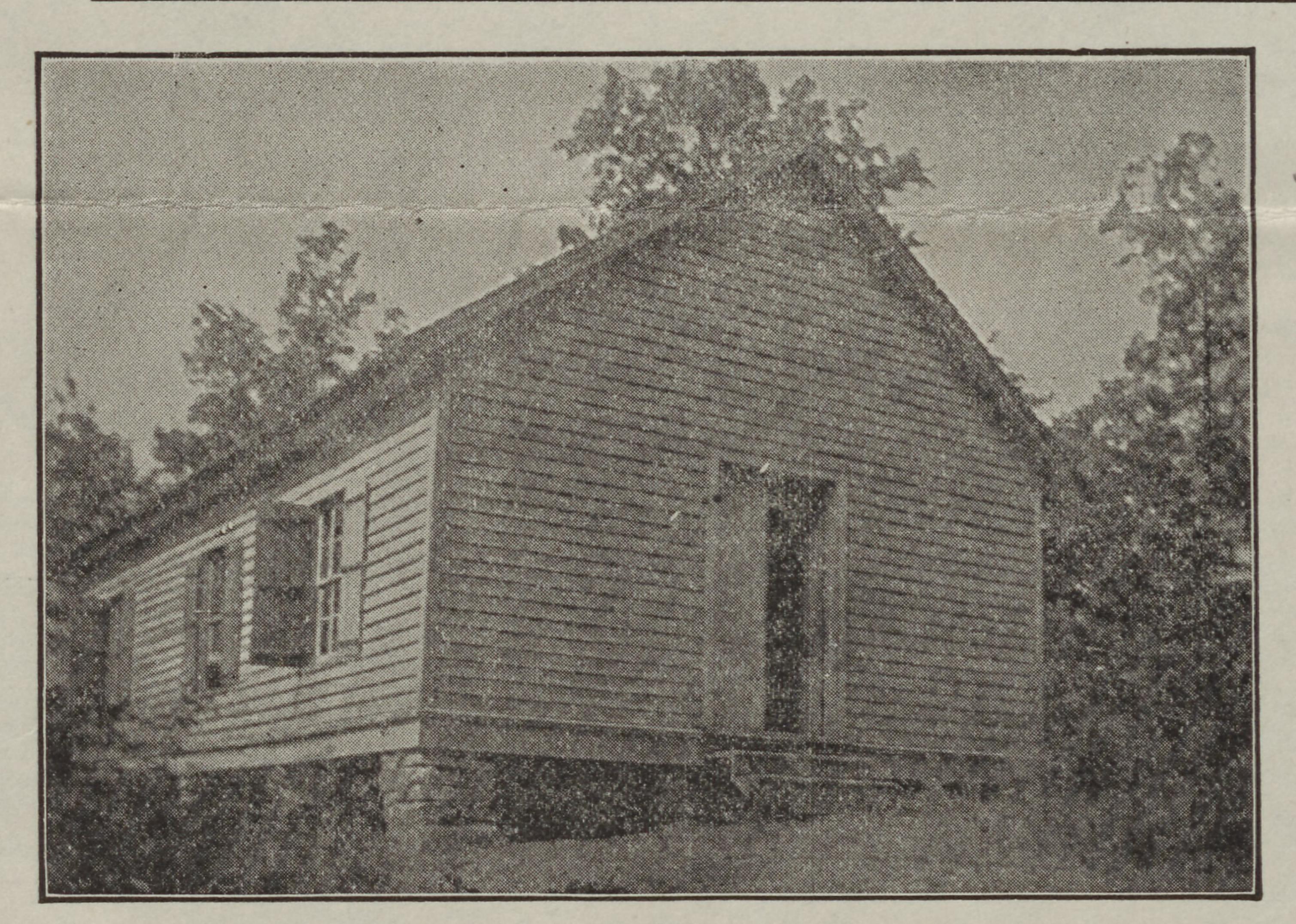
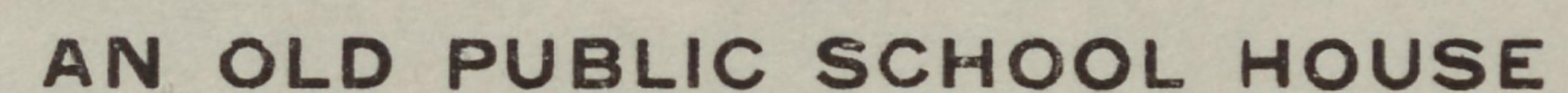
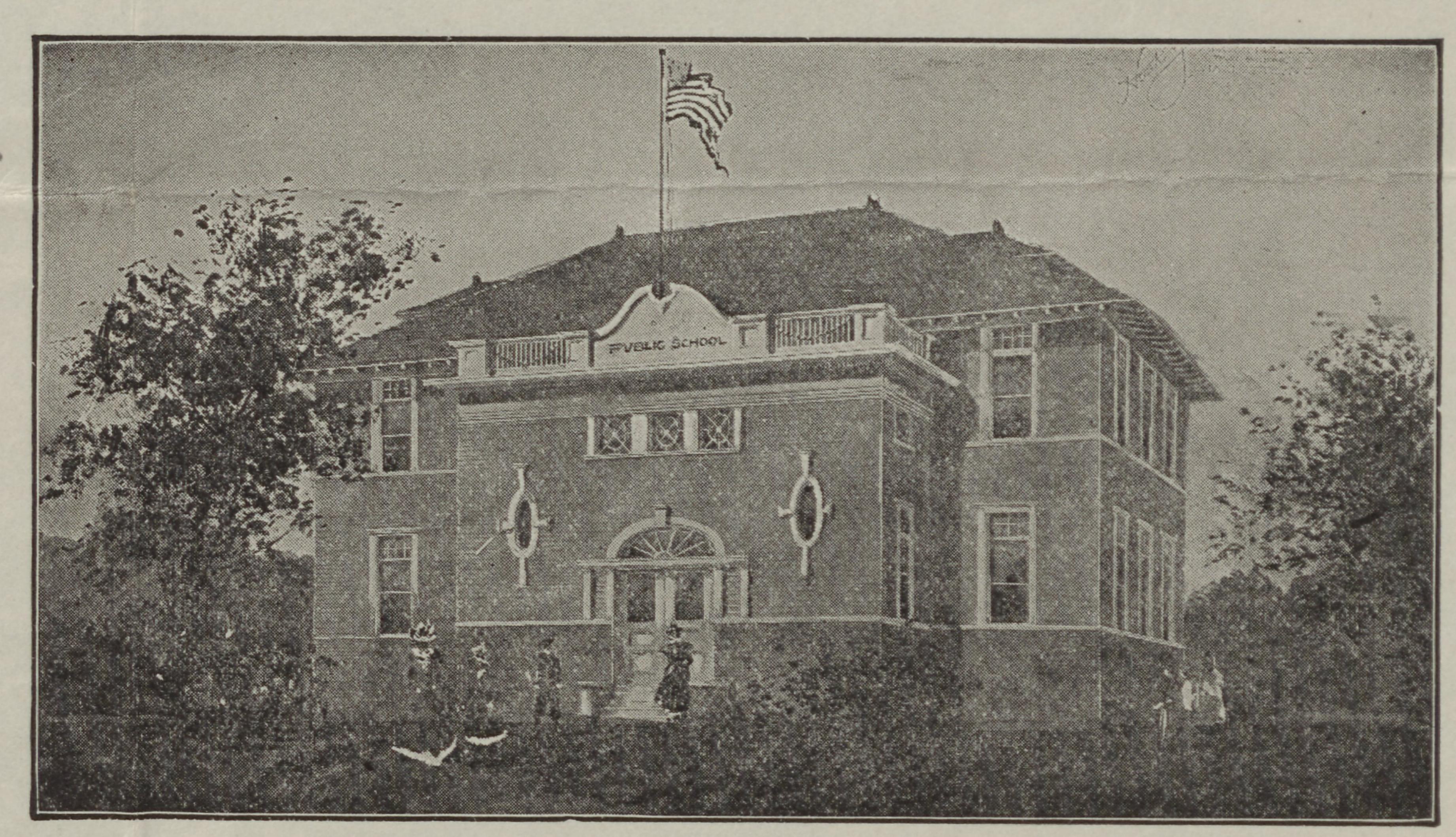
THE SCHOOL ROOM AGAINST THE BAR ROOM







THE NEW ONE THAT TOOK ITS PLACE

STATE PROHIBITION IS FOR THE GENERAL GOOD OF NORTH CAROLINA

By J. Y. JOYNER, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

In a Newspaper Interview given out on March 4th, Hon. J. Y. Joyner said:

"You have asked for my views on prohibition. I shall vote for it and support it most heartily. I consider temperance a moral and civic question rather than a political one. The chief end of the business in which I have been engaged during all the years of my manhood and the chief end of the office I now fill is the elevation of humanity to a higher plane of civil and moral life through the development of childhood by education, the promotion of all forces that tend to such elevation, the protection of childhood from all forces that tend to degradation. The experience of the world and my own observation have forced me to the conclusion that temperance tends to the elevation of humanity and liquor tends to the degradation of humanity. Nor can I escape the conclusion that prohibition, properly enforced, removes, or at least, decreases, the temptation to intemperance and promotes temperance.

"While, therefore, I have no quarrel with those who conscientiously hold a different view upon this question, and shall indulge in no abuse of them, recognizing the right of every man in a free country to form his own opinions and shape his own actions in accordance with those opinions, having formed for myself the opinions expressed above on this question, after mature deliberation and careful consideration and observation, I can not conscientiously nor consistently do otherwise than support prohibition and use such personal influence as I may possess for its success; nor can I easily understand how any other man engaged in this great work for the education and elevation of childhood can conscientiously do otherwise.

"I believe that the cause of education will be promoted by the promotion of temperance, and that the cause of temperance will be promoted by the promotion of education. These are significant facts: in all the history of this State, there have never been so many bar-rooms voted out and so many schools voted in as during the past five years; during this period, the proceeds from liquor license to the public schools have been steadily decreasing and the funds for the support of the public schools have been steadily increasing, as will appear from the reports of my office; liquor has been driven out of all the rural districts, and there has never been such improvement in the rural schools; the people have been building new and commodious rural public school houses at the progress in education and in temperance as during the past five years.

"In the face of these facts, who will dare assert that there is not some strange relation of cause and effect between education and temperance? May it not be true that when men waste less money for liquor they have more money for schools; when men waste less time in drinking and drunkenness they have more time for work and wages? When you vote liquor out, you vote bread into some child's mouth, a coat upon some child's back, a book into some child's hand, an ambition and an aspiration into some child's heart, and make it possible for many another child to be put regularly into the school; when you vote liquor out of the home, you vote thrift into it; you take the burden of family support off the little shoulders of many a little child in factory and shop and put it again where it belongs on the big shoulders of a working man, and put that child into the school again where he belongs.

"I believe it to be true that drinking and drunkenness, because of their deadening influence upon ambition and aspiration, pride and hope and conscience, and because of their inevitable tendency to thriftlessness, shiftlessness, idleness and poverty, are among the chief causes of child-labor and indifference to the education of children, and among the chief obstacles to attendance upon the public schools. Believing this, for the protection of childhood and the premotion of education, I can but cry aloud against liquor and stand for prohibition, which I honestly believe will decrease drinking and drunkenness by removing temptation further from men and making liquor harder to get.

"I have no fear that the public schools will be permanently injured by the temporary decrease in the funds for their support in certain counties and communities by cutting off the funds heretofore derived from liquor licenses and dispensaries. The people of North Carolina have riven to the proper recognition of the public school as a public necessity and a public duty, and they will not shirk and public burden in the way of reasonable taxation that it may be necessary to assume for the proper support of their public schools. The proof of this proposition is to be found in the example of those communities that have voted bar-rooms and dispensaries out, like Greensboro, Asheville, Goldsboro, and many rural districts.