

Keeping Cool.

Preceding the visit of the commissioners there had been a great deal of political excitement in Topeka on account of the claims made by rival political parties to the possession of the machinery of government. Thousands of men were congregated from every part of the State. Intense and bitter partisan feeling prevailed. In reference to the condition of affairs at this crisis, Hon. James A. Troutman, member of the house of representatives, made the following statement:

We had in this city for three or four days a very large concourse of people. A great many of them were in an intense state of excitement, and I think it is no exaggeration to say that thousands of them were armed. This street from here to the State House was crowded with people from all over the State, having arms and ammunition in their possession. Meetings were held, and many inflammatory statements were made, and a good many people on both sides were anxious to have some difficulty. But there was a state of sobriety prevailing among the people that was remarkable, and I think that it was that alone which prevented serious difficulty. If open saloons had been in existence here there would have been unquestionably a great many drunken people, and some of them while in that condition might have precipitated a riot, and there is no telling what would have followed.

"Facts, not Opinions."

In May 1892, Sir Joseph Hickson, chairman of the Commission, addressed a letter to Hon. L. D. Lewelling, Governor of Kansas, asking for information regarding state liquor legislation and its effects. In reply he received the following letter:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE,

TOPEKA, 19th April, 1893.

Mr. J. HICKSON, Chairman,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir,—Replying to your letter of the 4th inst., I have the honor to submit the document, "Prohibition in Kansas," which I think covers most of the points required in your letter. Trusting this will be satisfactory, I am yours very truly,

L. D. LEWELLING, Governor.

The full title of the pamphlet accompanying this letter, was "Prohibition in Kansas; Facts, not Opinions." It had attached to it the following certificate:

"TOPEKA, KAN., April 16, 1889.

"We have examined the statement prepared by the president and secretary, and the ex-president and ex-secretary of the Kansas State Temperance Union, upon the subject of prohibition and its results in our state. We find it a fair, honest and true statement of our condition, and we heartily endorse it as such.

(Signed)

"LYMAN U. HUMPHREY, Governor,
"WILLIAM HIGGINS, Sec. of State,
"TIMOTHY MCCARTHY, Auditor of State,
"J. W. HAMILTON, Treasurer of State,
"G. W. WINANS, Supt. Public Instruction,
"L. B. KELLOGG, Attorney General,
"ALBERT H. HORTON, Chief Justice,
"D. M. VALENTINE, Associate Justice,
"W. A. JOHNSON, Associate Justice."