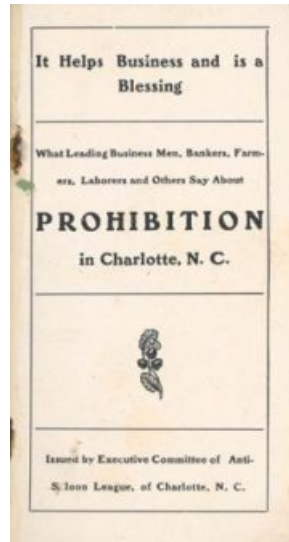


## Anti-Saloon League <sup>[1]</sup>

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**Anti-Saloon League DocSouth, UNC.** <sup>[2]</sup>

by Ginny Orvedahl, 2006

The North Carolina Anti-Saloon League <sup>[3]</sup> was organized in 1902, with J. W. Bailey as chairman of its executive committee. Bailey, a native of Warrenton, was also a U.S. senator. Those involved in the temperance forces in the state had successfully eliminated the legal sale of liquor in many towns by using local option elections, a campaign led by Bailey.

Many rural communities also eliminated the sale of liquor by obtaining acts of incorporation by the General Assembly <sup>[4]</sup>. The Democratic-controlled legislature, at the urging of the Anti-Saloon League, passed the Watts Act in 1903 <sup>[5]</sup>. This law prohibited the manufacture and sale of liquor except in incorporated towns. In 1907 the Anti-Saloon League launched a successful campaign for statewide prohibition: in May 1908 voters approved a measure that made North Carolina the first state in the nation to enact a total ban on the manufacture and sale of alcohol. In January 1919 the Eighteenth Amendment <sup>[6]</sup> of the Constitution was ratified by Congress, making Prohibition a national policy.

### References:

Hugh T. Lefler, *North Carolina History Told by Contemporaries* (1948).

William S. Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries* (1989).

### Additional Resources:

Anti-Saloon League, DocSouth: <https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/utterance/menu.html> <sup>[3]</sup>

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[3] <https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/utterance/menu.html>

[4] <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/>

[5] <http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=1665&dat=19820510&id=F2AaAAAAIBAJ&sjid=zSQEAAAAIBAJ&pg=5703,954912>

[6] <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/18thamendment.html>

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