

## PROHIBITION IN THE SOUTH.

By Booker T. Washington.

**T**HE prison system of Alabama, as of other southern States, has been a very profitable investment. To a large extent it has paid the expenses of the school system of the State. The labor which the prison provides is cheap, and southerners have not the same prejudice as northerners against that kind of labor.

"But the Atlanta riot, in calling attention to the enormous amount of crime which existed in that and other southern cities, aroused the better people of the city to a sense of moral responsibility for its existence. It was only too clear that among the negro as well as the white population, this crime was very closely associated with the so-called 'dives' that had been allowed to exist in the city. It needed only a little investigation to show that these places were pouring a moral poison into the veins of the lower strata of the population, white and black, and that in the end this poison must infect the whole people. These breeding places of crime produced the conditions which made the Atlanta riot possible. But it was this Atlanta riot which resulted in clearing Atlanta of its saloons, and it was, to a large extent, the example of Atlanta which Birmingham followed.

"I am convinced that if we look far enough into this movement we will find that there is a deep-rooted feeling in the masses of the law-abiding citizens in the South that some thorough-going measures must be taken to reduce the enormous amount of crime that exists in the southern States." -Southern Workman.