POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT. POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT.

FLOURNOY'S PLATFORM

(Continued from Page 5.)

AN ABLE DOCUMENT.

"The platform of Col. Wm. W. Flournoy, who is making a clean and vigorous campaign for Congress from this district, will be found in this issue of the Advertiser. It is an able document and should be given serious consideration by every voter in the district."—Bonifay Advertiser.

LIKE HIS BRAND OF POLICIES. FOR CONGRESS.

This paper has been publishing from week to week the letters and platfarm of Hon. Wm. W. Flournoy, of Walton county, who is a candidate for Congress, and we must say that Mr. Flournoy is fearless and above any suspicion as to his ideas and views. He is not trying to straddle any fences, nor is he trying to evade any issues, but is putting it to the voter straight from the shoulder. We like this brand of politics.—Milton Gazette.

THE KIND HE IS.

In the Greenville Times of the 8th inst. appeared "a good letter from a good candidate," as the Times' headline says, from which we extract the following, illustrating the sort of campaign Colonel Flournoy, the writer of the letter, is making:

"In this campaign, as in every other one, I have and shall desire, only to stimulate respect and esteem for truth and principles in the individual voters in paying their part to this government, and their obligation thereto, in the selection of their Congressman. * * * I hope that the voters in this campaign will demand from the candidates an honest, clear expression of his own characteristics and his own ideas and conception of government, so that they can discharge their constitutional duty. * * * I have not got to go to Congress, but I have got to be true, both to myself and to the voters; and if elected I shall be active, fearless, and true to my utmost, to every interest within the scope of a Congressman's duty."

Isn't that the kind of man the people of the Third District destre to serve as their Representative? Do they need any more impressive assurances to convince them that Colonel Flournoy measures up to the full standard of their requirements?—DeFuniak Herald.

SOME ANCESTORS, TOO.

The Pensacola Journal, Mr. Emmett Wilson's chief sponsor, in a "broadside" editorial in his behalf published several days ago, laid much stress upon his excellent family connections. A well known resident of the Third District, referring to the editorial, was heard to remark: "Well our man, Flournoy, is 'some warm' on ancestors, himself, but he isn't trying to get into Congress on his family record. What he has done for himself and for the people of the Third District is good enough campaign material."

Being interested in the remark of Col. Flournoy's friend, we looked the matter up, with his help, and this is what we found:

Col. Flournoy's family and name had its beginning far away in ancient France; the name first appeared in historical records when Laurent Flournoy (from whom the American branch of the family is descended) fled from the district of Champaigne after the massacre of Protestants by the Duke of Guise and his adherents, in 1562. Laurent Flournoy's son, Jean, born November 17, 1665, emigrated to America and settled in Virginia, where he married in 1720 Elizabeth Williams. They had ten children, one of whom, Col. Thomas Flournoy, was a man of unusual prominence and strength of character, holding numerous responsible positions in the government of colony and State. He was sheriff of Prince Edward County, then high sheriff, a member of the House of Delegates, a captain of militia and later commander-in-chief of the militia of Prince Edward County. His descendant, John Flournoy, the father of Wm. W. Flournoy, was just such another, a man of rugged virtue and estimable character, a brave man, of unimpeachable integrity, beloved and respected by all who knew him. From Virginia the family, in the persons of the sons and grandsons of the redoubtable Thomas and collateral kinfolk, emigrated to Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia. That the family was one of prominence as far back as the records show is evidenced by the fact that there existed, in the time of Laurent, a town of Flournoy in Champaigne, as well as a family coat of arms fully described in a genealogy, published by Galiffe, of Geneva, Switzerland, where a branch of the Flournoy family resided, and whence Laurent Flournoy fled to escape persecution on account of his religion. The motto appended to the coat of arms is: "Ex flore fructus—From the flower, fruit;" and the name itself signifies, in its ancient form—"Fleurnoix," the flowery of the walnut.

All of which is quite interesting, but for all of which Col. Flournoy cares very little. His life has been much too full of hardships and labor for him to take into account the question of ancestors, except to rejoice that they were honest and God-fearing, and possessed the hardy stuff of which self-denying pioneers are made. And while it is true that "blood will tell," it is also true that he who works out his own path in life has little need of ancestors, save the everlasting gratitude for his priceless heritage."—DeFuniak Herald, March 21, 1912.

CLEAN, CLEAR CUT, AND SHOWS FAMILIARITY WITH CONDITIONS AND THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

Col. Flournoy, candidate for Congress from this district, is waging a vigorous campaign for the nomination in the primaries. Col. Flournoy is a believer in progress and shows it by the liberal use of printer's ink. And the matter he is having published for the people to read and consider, is clean, clear cut, and shows much literary ability. His platform, for instance, published last week, shows his mastery of English phraseology, and that he is also familiar with the conditions of our government, and the need of the people.—Chipley Banner.

PATRIOTIC AND DEVOTED TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES.

(DeFuniak Herald.)

"Our Emmett" evidently thought it would be a good vote catcher to advocate in his speech at Milton, the establishment of an "agricultural experiment school" (whatever that may be) in every congressional district. Col. Flournoy contents himself with broad and liberal doctrine of "enlarged facilities at Agricultural Colleges" for the practical education of farmers' and gardeners' sons, and the farmers and gardners themselves, in the principles of modern agriculture, to the end that they may "increase their production and profits."

Recognizing the fact that national banks are forbidden to loan money upon real estate, and also that the regulations and restrictions governing other banks are almost equally prohibitory, Col. Flournoy advocates the passage of "laws that will create land mortgage banks, making the lands and farms of the farmers available as security for necessary loans. He also favors such improvement in the commercial and monetary systems as to insure both adequacy and safety.

Existing restrictions in the laws and regulations governing the civil service system forbid its benefits to large numbers of the population. Col. Flournoy would amend these so as to enable every citizen to "participate in the duties and ranks of citizenship."

As State Senator, Col. Flournoy strongly advocated the passage of his bill providing for the taxation of inheritances by the state, and favored the adoption of the amendment to the United States Constitution authorizing a tax upon incomes that would compel those most able to aid in bearing the burden of the expense of maintaining the general government. For the reason that his inheritance bill was not reached on the House calendar after its passage by the Senate early in the session it did not become a law, and legislative action on the income tax amendment had to be referred to the next legislature to comply with the clear provisions of the state constiution. In his platform Col. Flournoy advocates both of these measures as desirable subjects for legislation by Congress.

The inconsistencies, injustices and abuses which have grown up in the administration of the laws authorizing reservations of portions of the public domain for the avowed purpose of conserving forests and other natural resources, appeal so strongly to Col. Flournoy's sense of justice demanded towards the interests of the inhabitants of States in which such reservations have been or are likely to be ordered by the arbitrary action of the President, that he promises to urge the amendment of the act of congress of 1907 so as to prevent further additions to the area of forest reservations in Florida, the same as it is in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, and the abolishment of the Choctawhatchee reservation as an "unjust tax and limitation on the original pioneer settlers within its boundary," and in order that its territory "may become the homes of liberty-loving citizens, giving them the opportunity to have neighbors and schools," and extending for the state and counties the "basis of taxation."

Col. Flournoy's advocacy of a ship canal across the peninsula of Florida reiterates the frequent declarations of the State Legislature on the subject.

His desire, as expressed in his platform, to so modify the excessive cost bills in the federal courts as to open their doors to the poorest citizens who may be entitled to the benefits of their jurisdictions, his demands for a simplified code of procedure in those courts, and for the amendment of the federal constitution abolishing the life tenure of federal judges, are additional evidences of Col. Flournoy's profound and intelligent interest in the welfare of the people and his earnest desire and intention to do all he can for their relief.

Finally, Col. Flournoy's intense admiration for the unimpeachable excellence ad stability of our time-honored representative system of government, and his unreserved and ardent devotion to the principles underlying its foundations, find eloquent expression in the concluding paragraph of his platform, when he declares it to be "the best of his platform," where he declares it to be "the best product of Christian civilization for the government of man," while reserving to the people the inherent and inalienable right of petition "ofr changes in the organic law, the levying of a special tax or the granting of extraordinary privileges, over which they should have final decision."

Col. Flournoy and his friends have been both surprised and delighted at the numbers of strong, earnest and influential citizens, in different parts of the district who have recently—and particularly since the publication of his platform—voluntarily proffered to him their enthusiastic support; and this, too, in many instances where more or less definite or formal pledges of support had been intimated or half promised to other candidates. With such unselfish, patriotic devotion to Democratic principles, and to our time-tried and indestructible form of true representative government as Col. Flournoy has displayed in his platform and speeches, is it any donrer that hasty and unconsidered committals stand for naught, and that so many of the very best and most representative citizens throughout the district are flocking to his support? —DeFuniak Herald.

BLUFF SPRINGS.

Bluff Springs, April 6.—Mrs. Will Douglas spent last Wednesday and Thursday in Atmore.

Mrs. T. S. Sowell, Jr., of Pine Barren, spent Tuesday here, the guest of Mrs. Maggie McDavid and family.

Miss Dora White and her friend, Miss Pearl Sindorf, of Bagdad, are the guests of Mrs. S. F. Stanton.

Mrs. Brooks Corley, who has been visiting her sister, Mrs. Will Douglas, for the past week, returned to her home in Mobile Wednesday.

D. R. Saunders, of Pensacola, spent Wednesday and Thursday here with his grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Harrison.

Miss Katie White left Monday for Montgomery, where she will enter a business college.

Miss Annie C. McDavid is home again, after teaching school at Pine Barren this winter.

Among the candidates who visited our town Tuesday were: Cromwell Gibbons, Judge E. D. Beggs, Cary Ellis, Kirke Monroe, A. S. Edwards, Scott Loftin and J. Ed. Williams.

Miss Ara McNeil returned home Monday, after teaching at Klondyke.

John Frederick, of Pensacola, visited relatives here Wednesday.

The Danger After Grip

lies often in a run-down system. Weakness, nervousness, lack of appetite, energy and ambition, with disordered liver and kidneys often follow an attack of this wretched disease. The greatest need then is Electric Bitters, the glorious tonic, blood purifier and regulator or stomach, iver and kidneys. Thousands have proved that they wonderfully strengthen the nerves, build up the system and restore to health and good spirits after an attack of Grip. If suffering, try them. Only 50 cents. Sold and perfect satisfaction guaranteed by W. A. D'Alemberte.

UNCALLED FOR LETTERS AT POST OFFICE

LIST OF LETTERS REMAINING AT POSTOFFICE DURING THE PAST WEEK.

Gentlemen.

A—A. A. Ander, A. J. Anderson, Arthur Anderson, P. O. Andrews, C. C. Arbuckle.

B—J. C Barclift, J. C. Berry, R. A. Berry, R. Bicker, Call Birl, Evert Black, Ben Blackman, Arnold Bloodworthy, R. Bonifay, D. B. Brooks, Jno. W. Brown, R. H. Browne, F. E. Browning, Fred M. Buck, A. W. Burger, Herbert Burks, Coleman Burrell, R. M. Butler.

C—J. J. Casey, C. C. Casiberry, L. E. Chaplain, Carl Choran, Willie Cook, J. T. Colvin, Patrick Conlon, Prof. Leahman Creel, Crescent Fish & Oyster Co., Willie Crowford, F. L. Cruise.

D—Jas. M. David, H. P. Davis, J. H. Davis, P. E. Dean, Ed Dennard, E. D. Dickerson, Huckalow Alton Donone, Sam Dorsie.

E—G. C. Elliott, J. H. Epperson.

F—C. L. Fleming, Dallas Franklin.

G—George Garrecht, K. L. Garrett, Samuel D George, H. O. Giles, Richard Gilmore, J. T. Godwin, Jack Graham, Ed Grist, Giles Grover.

H—F. L. Harten, John Henderson, Louis Hogans, John Hunter.

I—J. F. Ingles.

J—K. W. Jainkins, Elwood Johnson, R. L. Johnson, S. A. Jones, Stanley Jones.

K—Eugene Kelly, Leon Kittle, Dude Knight.

L—John Lacy, Rev. A. M. Lang, Jas. Landsdown, James Lee, Jno. R. Lewis, Felix Livordais, C. Lymberis.

M—Marion McArthur, Chas. McCarty, K. C. McClain, Harold McDonough, C. H. McDonals, W. M. Mason, Lucian Miller, R. F. Mitlers.

N—R. N. Nettles, William Night, Don Norris.

O—T. J. O'Connor.

P—Alonzo Parker, John Parker, T. C. Phillips, C. M. Pirrong, Pitman & Jones, Pierce Pharmacy, Wiley Powell, Will Pruey.

R—Jim Rean, Alex Redledge, Elmer Reed, J. H. Reeves, Paul H. Reaumont, Chas. Roberts, E. H. Robinson, J. D. Robinson, Josh Rogers, Arthur Russ, Davis ussell, Joe Russell.

S—Wiley Sanderson, P. J. Scheehan, H. L. Scott, H. G. Seelvar, F. Segree, J. B. Seim, T. T. Simmons, Wm. T. Smith, Harry D. Sowers, Beace Spiles, L. D. Spragle, T. P. Stellakis, R. A. Stribling, John Stricklam.

T—Cal Thompson, Homer Thompson, J. Thompson, Uniash Trash.

V—R. L. Vamer.

W—Charley Ward, Johnnie Ward, Mr. Whiting (C. N. S. Co.), Jessie Wilkerson, F. L. Wilkinson, J. A. Williams, J. L. Williams, Master Willie Williams, Edgar Wilson, J. F. Windham.

Ladies.

A—Mrs. Arkie Allen.

B—Fannie Bellmon, Mrs. W. F. Binzer, Sadie Brewton, Mrs. Ida Z. Brown, Gracie Brown, Mrs. A. Browning, Lottie Burns, Ulandan Burns, Lula Butler.

C—Mrs. E. Cahn, Mrs. Annie Carter, Mrs. M. Cardenas, Mrs. J. R. Carroll, Ethel Clarke, Mrs. Katherine Clarke, Lizzie Coleman, Catherine Coe, Mrs. Jennie Crooke, Caline Curtis.

D—Celia Daniels, Hannah Davis, Mrs. Laura Dewberry, Rosa Dobby, Nora Dowlington, Jane Dunham.

E—Florida Eagan, Ella Fleming, Mrs. George M. Foote, Mrs. A. P. Fournier, Lottie Franklin, Mrs. Mattie Franklin.

G—Callie George, Miss Larin George, Hester Glover, Mary Gorle, Mrs. Berdie Graves, Mrs. W. A. Gray.

H—Roberta Halbark, Phelan Harrington, Hannah Harrison, Miss Sadie C. ill, Annie Hipps.

J—Mrs. Dora Jefferson, Mrs. Lucile Jackson, Mrs. Manlay Johnson, Ethel Jones.

K—Mrs. R. W. Kelly, Marie Kilforen, Anna King.

L—Mrs. Larfeal, Isabel Lee, Miss Jessie Lee.

M—Mrs. Martha McKee, Mrs. Mamie McCoy, May J. Marshall, Nan Maness, Jane Marlette, Myrtle Mason, Emily B. Mullen Emily B. Mullen, Minnie Myise.

N—Addie Nelson, Mrs. Hattie Neusemant.

O—Lou O'Neil.

P—Mrs. Jennie Palmer, Mrs. Phillis Parker, Mrs. Callie Pittman Mrs. Manevia Preyer, Mattie Preyer.

Q—Mina Quarrier.

R—Mrs. E. J. Raliegh Mattie Roderbach, Mrs. D. Royal.

S—Lizzie Sanders, Mrs. W. W. Sanderson, Ida Seldon, Miss Percy Singleton, Ruby Sirak, Carrie B. Skinner, Maldie Snell, Nellie Sommers, Mrs. Bessie Stacks, Mrs. Lottie Stokes, Callie Streety, Flora Sules.

T—Mrs. N. D. Thamar, Mary P. Thawpran, Mrs. O. C. Thompson, Miss Willie Mae Thurston.

T—Mrs. Mary Tyler.

V—Miss R. H. Van Alst, Mrs. Grace Voat.

W—Mrs. J. S. Waterman, Mrs. Henry Watts, Mrs. Carrie White, Mrs. Etta White, Mary Bell Williams, Mrs. Kate Wilson.

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POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT. POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT. POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT. POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT.

FLORIDA VOTERS MUST DECIDE THESE ISSUES

Col. Cromwell Gibbons, Candidate for Governor of Florida.

PLATFORM:

The voters of Florida are called upon to decide many grave issues at the spring primaries. Recognizing that it will be impossible for me to meet each man personally, and realizing also that advance consideration will enable those who hear my discussions on the stump to better understand my position, I have prepared and publish below a synopsis of the sixteen cardinal reforms and principles advocated in my platform.

It is the patriotic duty of all citizens to study the issues before them, in order that their suffrage shall contribute to the progress and prosperity of their commonwealth, the welfare of their communities and the advancement of the public interests of our social organizations. Almost every declaration of my platform strikes directly home to loyal and true Floridians, and each should be earnestly and intelligently considered. I am asking the people of Florida to make me their governor as the measure of their full approval of my attitude on these questions.

My record as a public servant should be sufficient to guarantee the justice and safe conservatism of my attitude toward any other important questions which may arise at a later period. I have always and consistently been on the side of the whole people as against any cabal, clique, special or predatory interests—as my record in the legislature will demonstrate. I advocate and stand for a conservative, business administration of the affairs of the state of Florida. If elected, I shall undertake to perform my part of a great work as thoroughly and patiently as if engaged in the management of a vast business enterprise of my own. Under such an administration, Florida should move rapidly forward in all lines of progress, and the full measure of prosperity which our diversified resources promise should be realized.

My platform is as follows:

First—Railroad Commission.

Extended and increased powers to the railroad commission, which will insure the utmost rights for the shippers and which will guarantee proper and equitable rates.

The time is at hand when, in justice to the people of Florida, the railroad commission shall be given the increased powers necessary to enable it to perform effectively the duties for which it should rightly be held responsible. The disparity between the palatial tourist trains and those which regularly serve the people of this state as locals is entirely too great, and the railroads should be forced by law to do in intrastate business what competition forces them to do in interstate passenger traffic. There are many matters of schedules and other features of service, both by the railroads and the telephones and telegraphs, in which the people of the state are flagrantly and repeatedly imposed upon. Hardly a single citizen of Florida will fail to recognize one or more such instances in his experience with common carriers. The railroad commission is at all times composed of just and reasonable men who will not abuse or misuse the power conferred upon them.

Second—Convict Lease System.

The convict lease system of Florida is a brutalizing one. I am in favor of its abolishment and the placing of the convicts on the public highways of the state. Florida needs more good roads, and I believe that they can be best secured by working our convicts thereon. Also, the state has no right to profit by the misfortunes of its citizens. The actual labor to maintain the support of the convict is all the state is entitled to. Any profit should be set aside for the benefit of the family of the convict. Because we should punish the criminal is no reason why his family should suffer. On the contrary, they should be protected and supported by the convict.

The state convicts wrong-doers at the expense of the people who pay taxes to maintain our police systems, pay our judiciary and provide the machinery of our courts. The whole people are entitled to the benefits which accrue from the labor of these prisoners, and their efforts should go toward the permanent enrichment of all members of our social organization. To give the whole people the benefit of the convict's labor, he should be worked in the construction of highways of permanent value to the present and future generations. Surrounded by clean environments and conscious of just and humane treatment, the convict may be turned back to society chastened and resolved to better conduct.

Third—Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

To re-establish the rule of the people and to meet conditions that confront us today, I am in favor of the initiative, referendum and recall. The initiative means that the people shall, by petition or otherwise, make their desires known to their lawmaking bodies. The referendum means that all laws passed by lawmaking bodies shall be referred direct to the people before they become operative. At an election called for that purpose, the people can vote for or against laws passed by their representatives, and a majority vote for or against a law adopts it or rejects it. The recall means that at any election, special or regular, the people may by ballot determine whether or not a public servant whose term has not expired is still acceptable to them; and a majority vote for or against him determines whether or not that servant shall stay in office or be recalled.

The correct and corrective principles embodied in the initiative, referendum and recall are coming to be recognized and required under present conditions. The operation of the principle has been tested in municipal systems with gratifying results. The affairs of great cities are administered in an effective and economical manner. If the plan works well in cities, then it would also be good for states where greater issues and larger responsibilities pend.

Fourth—Trusts.

I favor additional laws for the control of trusts.

A corporation cannot be jailed, but its officers can if the laws are so formulated as to place private responsibility for corporate crimes. This should be possible where wise laws for the protection of the people and independent interests are persistently and flagrantly violated. The inadequacy of the national anti-trust law has been fully demonstrated. The state may have recourse in the passage of its own laws to meet and correct local abuses indulged in by powerful corporations.

Fifth—Corporation Regulation.

There should be stringent laws governing all corporations authorized to do business in Florida, thus protecting purchasers of securities offered by such corporations.

There should be created a board of examiners under whose closest scrutiny all new corporations, and those of other states entering Florida, should pass before they are permitted to offer a dollar's worth of stock for sale. If found satisfactory, a license setting this forth should be issued; if not, the sale of such stocks should be prohibited by law. But the state should not stop with passing its approval upon a new corporation as meritorious. It should regularly go into and inspect the affairs of the corporation which it charters in just the manner in which it watches and inspects state banks. When two or three men are banded together for the purpose of doing business as partners they are held, under our laws, as individually and jointly responsible for their obligations. When they are incorporated, individual responsibility ceases. Therefore, in granting this privilege the state should have full control over the actions and conduct of corporations and especially those offering securities on the market.

Sixth—Land Companies.

Florida has suffered greatly through the operation of irresponsible land companies. I, therefore, favor strict laws governing land and colonization companies in order to protect alike the investors, settlers and reliable dealers.

People in other states and at great distances have bought Florida lands under glib misrepresentations of agents whose knowledge of the state is even less than limited. Laws must be enacted which will protect the legitimate real estate dealer and colonization operators against unscrupulous speculators. The men and women of other states who invest money in Florida lands should be protected. Confidence in Florida lands is being destroyed, and the process must be arrested now.

Seventh—Drainage of Everglades.

The drainage of the lands known as the Everglades by the state on a scientific and business basis that will insure drainage and reclamation; and that the same shall be drained and saved for its people, and not permitted to go into the hands of speculators. If the state is to be responsible for the drainage and reclamation of the swamp and overflowed lands, purchasers of unreclaimed lands should be fully advised at the time of purchase definitely when these properties will be drained and reclaimed, and lands should not be sold to prospective settlers until the same have been made permanently habitable and tillable.

I want it understood that I am not opposed to the drainage and reclamation of the Everglades. I take the position that this great work will never be accomplished so long as the present methods are followed. The original purpose of drainage advocates was to conserve the vast acreage involved or our own people, and no one expected that these lands were to fall into the hands of speculators to be sold without true conditions being explained. If the state's name is to be coupled with Everglades lands, I contend that it is then the duty of the state to insist that purchasers be definitely informed when complete reclamation will be accomplished. They should also be warned that they must expect to spend money for treating these lands and laterals providing for irrigation before they will be productive. In plain language, if the state is to be even remotely responsible for these lands it should see that there is no misrepresentation on the part of those who have acquired the right to deal in them.

The state should stop frittering away its public lands in drainage failures and should show some attention to the enormous acreage of lands in the other sections of the state that do not need either drainage or irrigation.

Eighth—Immigration Bureau.

The establishment of an Immigration Bureau for the purpose of developing impartially all sections of the state. Florida possesses a vast territory of inhabitable and tillable lands distributed throughout the state and I believe it should establish and determine to have an immigration bureau that will aid and assist all sections for the development and colonization of these properties. We should lend our efforts impartially to all sections, and protect every honest investor and settler by providing that he receives what is represented when sold to him.

The last official report states that only three per cent of the 30,000,000 acres of land in the state of Florida is under cultivation. Added to the number of desirable citizens who are leaving other states for better fields will be the splendid opportunity to get the cream of Europeans coming to this country through the opening of Baltimore as a port of entry for immigrants. The state of Florida merely has to reach out to people its enormous acreage which is now unproductive. The publicity bureau could advertise the entire state and its vast acreage of productive lands and the immigration bureau could devote itself to the impartial distribution of newcomers to all sections of Florida alike. It would be a part of the work of the latter department to see that investors in Florida lands get exactly what they pay for, and are not in any way victimized by unscrupulous real estate operators and land sharks.

Ninth—State Tax Equalization.

The organization of a State Tax Equalization Board by which taxes of the people shall be uniformly regulated and the state shall receive justly its proper returns from all property holders.

Tax assessments under the present system now vary from 80 to 50 per cent, in different localities, of actual values. In many communities the basis of assessments have not been changed for years, though the enhancement of values in all parts of the state has been enormous. The work is at present carried on by county assessors, while the comptroller assesses railroad properties.

There should be a State Equalization Board whose duties it would be to hold sittings in each county for the purpose of equalizing and unifying properties assessed for taxation. This body should see that some counties, which are standing an excessive pro rata of the tax burden, are relieved, and that others that are not sharing their part be required to so readjust the basis of valuation as to pay their part. This plan of equalization will result in a lower rate and will yet increase the revenue derived by the state. This board should have full authority to meet in each county during the year, and the county tax assessors should be members ex-officio when the body is sitting in their counties.

Tenth—Primary Law.

Amendment of the primary election laws of the state. We should provide for a more thorough publicity of campaign contributions and expenditures, and regulate and limit the amount that legally shall be expended by candidates for office—state and county—and for what purpose said expenditures shall be authorized.

There has not been a gubernatorial or senatorial election since the organization of the primaries that has not cost from $30,000 to $100,000. This expense has gone for advertising, field workers and staff organizations covering a long period of time before the holding of elections.

The United States government has seen fit to have passed, with the advice and assistance of the National Publicity Organization, an act limiting the campaign expenditures of candidates for congress and United States senate to $5,000. This is a great stride in the right direction, and a similar law should be passed by the Florida legislature limiting the expenses of candidates for governor and other state offices, as well as for county and municipal offices, to a sum not greater than $5,000. The measure should be so constructed that the limits would be fixed according to the standing of the office sought and so as to specify how campaign money shall be expended. Candidates should be required to file vouchers with each item of expense plainly set forth. Violation of any of the publicity provisions or exceeding the specified allowance should disqualify the violator for holding the office to which he was elected.

Eleventh—Public Schools.

Legislation that will improve and extend our free public school system, providing every opportunity throughout the state for the education of our children.

Authority should be given municipalities to levy within limits fixed by local government taxes for the enlargement of municipal school systems. The same privilege should be accorded in county school systems. Our laws should be so remedied as to give these communities unlimited privileges and rights in this direction. The state should promulgate legislation which will insure that every country child shall have facilities for attending the most modern and effective schools for his instruction. We should have more schools and better school buildings that conform to the best in sanitation and hygiene and more and better paid instructors.

Twelfth—Local Option.

Continuation of local option and a strict enforcement in every county of the local option laws of the state.

Local option is an important principle of local self-government. It is closely related to the initiative and referendum. If a county desires to pass on the question an election is initiated by petition. The subject is referred to the people, and by them decided. Understanding their local conditions they are best prepared to judge. I realize the necessity of reducing the use of intoxicating drinks and limiting its abuses. Some believe that this can be best accomplished by state-wide prohibition—which means the passage of a general law without regard to the sentiment of the people of the various units of the state government. I believe the more Democratic way is to permit the people of each locality to decide for themselves how they are to regulate the traffic. If a county is voted dry, it should be dry. If another is voted wet, it should be strictly regulated. For these reasons, I have always favored, and shall continue to favor, the maintenance in our constitution of local option, and as long as local option is our law I shall always favor its strict enforcement.

Thirteenth—National Guard.

The increased efficiency of the National Guard and Naval Militia of Florida by State and Municipal Aid.

The Militia is the police system of the state. It is, therefore, absolutely essential that we shall be liberal toward the maintenance of our National Guard. We must bear in mind that the members of this organization are loyal and patriotic citizens rendering their services without pay and always ready to respond to calls for service that is frequently dangerous. All the state is required to do is to provide for their instruction and maintenance—and that should be done on a scale commensurate with the importance of the service and the nature of the sacrifice the members make. We also should not be too dependent on the National government to support. State pride should prevail in every instance.

Fourteenth—Home Government.

Legislation extending and increasing the powers of municipal and county governments, thus giving the people absolute home government.

County Commissioners should be given increased powers to conduct county governments in accordance with local condition and the willingness of its people to bear the burdens necessary to provide an administration in keeping with the progress of each community.

Municipalities should be given full power to make and change their own charters by vote of the people, and their rights should not be so restricted as to render it a prohibition to accomplish a change in their charters. I am absolutely in favor of every city making its own charter so that it may be governed in accordance with the direct wishes of its people without legislation or other control by the state or county.

Fifteenth—Conservation.

The conservation of our natural resources under the control of the state.

The potential wealth of the state of Florida in timber, phosphate, peat, water for power and irrigation and other natural resources should be carefully husbanded by the government. There should be a State Forestry Department in charge of a competent expert who will act on his own responsibility and co-operate with the Federal Bureau against the enormously wasteful processes of the day.

Unless some such step is taken it may not be long before our timber resources are exhausted. The state department should conduct a campaign of education among the timber operators. They realize the value of practical forestry and stand ready to do their part when taught what is necessary. Great care should be taken in the replanting of cut-over lands and the state should hove some definite polity and procedure toward the establishment of forest reserves.

Sixteenth—Business Administration.

A conservative and progressive business administration of the state, giving complete publicity at all times of its affairs.

Publicity is the best protection of the people and the government. No harm can come from full and detailed reports of the public acts of our officials and the expenditures of the government. Frequent publicity increases public confidence. An abiding confidence in officials and the administration means complete satisfaction and good service. There should be semi-annual reports of every department of the state government, and these should be published to the people without waiting on submission to the legislature.