

THE OCALA BANNER

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FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1907

The committee appointed to visit and investigate the university at Gainesville made a most favorable report.

A South Floridian says that "little drops of water on the grains of sand make a mighty difference on products of the land."

Masked men held up a train at Butte, Montana, in regular Jesse James style on May 7th, murdered the engineer and robbed the train.

President Roosevelt has done another big stunt. He opened the Charleston Schutzenfest by wire and hit the bull's eye at a distance of 515 miles.

The house has reported favorably on the bill to abolish the municipality of Estero. According to the area this is the largest municipality on earth.

Mr. West has introduced a bill in the senate authorizing the state board of health to acquire and maintain a sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Trammell's express bill is for the shipment of 5-pound packages for 25 cents. The bill has passed the senate by a large majority and will become a law.

The members of the school board have drawn a prize package from the legislative lottery. A bill unanimously passed the senate increasing their pay from two to five dollars per diem.

The Tallahassee Sun is getting more tolerant. In its issue of May 8th it had no legislator caricatured and was a "knocker" only to the tune of about four double columns.

William Ellis Corey and Maybelle Gilman have been married in New York. Corey gave his mother \$250,000 as a reconciling offering. Corey's first wife is living in Florida.

The Topeka (Kan.) State Journal, in answer to the New York World's inquiry as to what is a democrat, says that a democrat is an optimist—he is always going to win next time.

John Temple Graves claims that the Georgian has saved Atlanta \$125,000, perhaps as much as \$150,000, as a result of its fight for municipal ownership. The influence of a good newspaper is hard to measure.

Mr. Charles S. Fairchild, a former member of the cabinet, has been arraigned in the criminal courts in New York charged with forgery as a life insurance official. His bail is fixed at \$10,000.

Senator Hudson's bill creating Palm Beach county has passed the senate by a vote of 29 to 11. This new county will be composed of the northern part of what is now Dade county.

Senator Board has introduced a bill directing that a statue of Gen. B. Kirby Smith be placed in the national statutory hall in the capitol of the United States as Florida's most illustrious military chief.

The vote to indefinitely postpone the bill to prohibit the shipment of liquor into dry counties was lost in the house by a vote of 45 to 41. It looks to a man up a tree that this bill will pass.

Every legislator ought to read the article by Dr. Arthur H. Burr, of Chicago, printed in Florida Health Notes for April, and reprinted from the Iowa Health Bulletin. These legislators ought not only to read this article, but they ought to act on the information it gives and the suggestions it throws out.

Messrs. Alfred St. Clair Abrams, editor of the Tavares Herald, and A. K. Taylor, cartoonist for said paper, in the case brought against them by ex-Governor Jennings, entered a plea of nolo contendere, which in plain English means "guilty." It will be remembered that the Tavares Herald had a cartoon of the ex-governor in which he was represented as a tramp but when he got to the capitol and was installed in office he soon began rolling in wealth, the cartoon intimating by methods not altogether lawful. Abrams was fined \$250 and Taylor, \$150.

GEN. EDMUND KIRBY SMITH

The old house of representatives at the capitol at Washington is now used as a statutory gallery where the martial and civic heroes of the states are apotheosized. In 1864 a bill was passed by congress inviting each state of the Union to erect in this hall the statues of two of its most illustrious citizens. In response to this invitation many of the states have long since placed in this hall statues of the most historic figures of the republic. The first to respond was little Rhode Island. Her first contribution was a life-size marble statue of Major General Nathaniel Greene. General Greene was General Washington's strong right arm. He died in Georgia and was buried at Dungeness, near Fernandina.

Clay, Webster and Calhoun, Lincoln and Grant, Jonathan Trumbull, George Clinton, Robert R. Livingston, Roger Sherman and Ethan Allen and a great many more, whose names are illustrious grace the statutory hall.

Florida is the last to respond to the invitation to send her contributions to this hall of fame.

We think that in the selection care should be taken to choose typical Floridians.

Senator Board, a few days ago, introduced in the senate a resolution proposing the name of General Edmund Kirby Smith as the first of Florida's contributions to this statutory gallery of illustrious Americans, and the resolution was unanimously passed by that body.

According to our judgment General Smith is not a typical Floridian, and except for the accident of birth was never a Floridian at all.

He was born at St. Augustine in 1824 and when he entered West Point he was accredited to Florida and so far as we can find this is the extent of his citizenship. He never had a home nor a habitation in Florida. He never cast a vote here. He never shared with our people in their trials, privations nor triumphs and his dust does not mingle with our soil. No one, so far as we have been able to discover, can point to his ancestral home and since his graduation from West Point, before the Mexican war, he never participated in the affairs of Florida, political or otherwise, and after the end of the civil war he took up his residence in Tennessee and until his death remained a citizen of that state.

In Ex-Governor Fleming's "Biographical Memoirs of Florida," Gen. Kirby Smith is not given a mention. Fairbanks in his history, merely mentions that he was a full general and in Caroline Brevard's history of Florida he barely has a mention, and his initials are not even given.

In Gen. Dick Taylor's book entitled "Destruction and Reconstruction" he is severe in his criticisms of Gen. Smith's military operations. For instance, on page 189 he says:

"From first to last Gen. Kirby Smith seemed determined to throw a protecting shield around the federal army and fleet."

"In all the ages since the establishment of the Assyrian monarchy no commander has possessed equal power to destroy a cause."

"The commander of the Trans-Mississippi department had the power to destroy the last hope of the Confederate cause and exercised it with all the success of Bazaine at Metz."

President Jefferson Davis, in his "The Fall of the Confederate Government," in referring to Generals John B. Magruder and E. Kirby Smith, says that they involved the troops and the people of Texas not to be dependent and isolated on the military in the interior of that vast state to carry on the war indefinitely.

President Davis makes an extract from the order issued by General Smith to the soldiers of the "Trans-Mississippi army." This address was issued on the 21st of April, 1862, at the General Lee and General Johnston had surrendered and President Davis had been captured and was a prisoner of war. The extract is as follows:

"Soldiers, I have overruled you. The army of Northern Virginia and our general-in-chief are prisoners of war. With you rests the hope of our nation and upon you depends the fate of our people. * * * Prove to the world that your hearts have not failed in the hour of disaster. * * * Stand by your colors and maintain your discipline. The great resources of this department, its vast extent, the numbers, the discipline, and the efficiency of the army, will secure to our country terms that a proud people can with honor accept."

Viewing the situation from this distance it does not occur to us how a great military chieftain could have thought it possible to continue the war with the president of the Confederacy and its two main armies already prisoners of war.

As Gen. Kirby Smith's military record is the subject of criticism by his contemporary officers, and as he

was only a Floridian by the accident of birth, we think a more typical selection could be made, and we hope that other names will be chosen.

WHAT JOHN D. ROBERTSON IS DOING

Mr. Macaulay, in his history of England, does not deal entirely with the doings of kings and the movements of armies, but gives a description of rural life and rural scenes, and persons reading his history must be particularly struck with the bad condition of the highways at the time of the commencement of his history.

The public diligences were very frequently stuck in the mud and sometimes days were consumed in traveling short distances, but in the process of time a public sentiment arose for the building of good roads, and today no nation in the world has better highways than England.

It is said, too, that the first good roads builder of England was a blind man, and the roads that he built are a monument to his memory.

A good roads sentiment is, we are glad to note, taking possession of the people of Florida and several bills for the building of highways across the state are pending before the legislature now in session.

Senator Mann, in an article printed in the Sunday edition of the Ocala Banner, which was illustrated, showed how Florida would look if his scheme of building good roads thro' the state were to prevail.

It is with considerable pride that we state that this sentiment for the building of good roads had its birth in this county, and the good roads built here, although not as good as those built in England or even in some of the other counties of this state, are very popular and the people would not abandon them and go back to the old sand roads for any amount of money.

We hope the board of county commissioners will continue the good work until Marion county becomes a network of good roads.

The sentiment of the county is not only for good roads, but a public sentiment for good pavements and good streets is being formed in this city, and too much praise cannot be given to Mr. John D. Robertson for his efforts in creating this sentiment and giving practical illustrations of it.

Mr. Robertson has completed more than a thousand feet of cement sidewalks on Oklawaha avenue and Wadala street. These sidewalks are the best ever constructed in this city. Besides these sidewalks he has built cement gutters for carrying off the surplus water, and these gutters are there to last, if not forever, at least for an indefinite period, and the city will not be put to the expense of having them cleaned out after every rainfall.

Mr. Robertson has not only put down these handsome pavements along the streets named, but he has materially improved Oklawaha avenue as well.

Unfortunately, Mr. Robertson's cement sidewalks are confined to one side of the avenue, but he is anxious to put down the same kind of pavements on the opposite side of the avenue if the council will hold up his hands in his efforts to do so. Of the thirty-nine property holders along the south side of the avenue he has thirty-six signatures to a petition requesting him to proceed with the work.

Mr. Robertson also wants to pave asphalt pavements around the court house, and the people are behind him in this movement, and we hope that the city council will give him the authority to do so.

Of course in the improvements he is accomplishing Mr. Robertson is receiving some adverse criticism, and it is claimed that he has made mistakes in the construction of the work, which may be true, but President Roosevelt says "the man who does not make mistakes is the man who does not do things."

We remember Mr. Robertson in his efforts to improve the city.

The Ministry Times is the name of a new paper just started at Mulberry, an industrial town in Polk county. Mr. John B. Hays is the editor and manager of the new publication. In his introduction the editor says: "Mulberry has been the object of many a searching eye and keenly-attuned ear. People have been and are interested in us and our resourceful country, yet we have turned upon them the icy smile. Therefore, it is time for us to break the ice, slip our shell and show them we are here, alive, active, and some pumpkins, too."

The act to legalize and validate all warrants issued by the board of county commissioners of Marion county for work and materials on the construction of the new court house in said county has been presented to the governor for his signature, and as soon as he signs the same it will become a law.

GOVERNOR BROWARD STANDS BY EDITOR L'ENGLE

A Times-Union special from Tallahassee says Mr. Robert McNamee arrived in that city with Deputy Sheriff Young of Bradenton, the officer having a capias for the arrest of Editor Claude L'Engle, editor of the Tallahassee Sun, indicted by the Manatee county grand jury for criminal libel against John A. Graham, the defeated democratic candidate for representative from that county.

Mr. McNamee, who is attorney for Mr. L'Engle, made an affidavit that the county judge of Manatee had broken agreement to listen to argument for change of venue, and Gov. Broward wired Judge Stewart, insisting that the case should not be called at present, as Mr. L'Engle's duties as state printer make it imperative for him to be there for the remainder of the legislative session.

Mr. McNamee is supported by affidavits of Manatee county officials, who charge prejudice against the defendant there and state in the affidavit that he presented to Judge Stewart statements of the state comptroller, president of the senate, speaker of the house and the senator and representative from Manatee as to the necessity of Mr. L'Engle's presence at Tallahassee. The affidavit severely arraigns Judge Stewart for estreating the bond and ordering the arrest of the defendant.

The bill cutting down the salary of county treasurers was passed by only one dissenting vote. The members of the legislature stated that these officials do very little if any work. That most frequently the banks do the work for them and the only duty of the county treasurer is to draw his salary. That when a county school board borrows money, which is frequently done, although not authorized to do so lawfully, the county treasurer receives a commission on this money and also a commission for paying it out, adding to his salary twenty percent on every dollar borrowed. We can say for the treasurer of this county that so far as our knowledge extends he has charged no commission on anything borrowed, either by the school board or the board of county commissioners.

The committee appointed to investigate the Everglades drainage operations have returned from Fort Lauderdale, submitted their report, and practically endorse the work of the governor and the members of the internal improvement board. The committee were delighted with the progress of the work and the nature of the same. The Everglades will be drained and will add immense importance and wealth to the state. It is not a fantasmagoria of the brain. It is not a figment of the imagination. It is not a will o' the wisp. It is not an idle dream. It is not an Abaddon scheme. But its realities will be so great that it will resemble the dreams of this fictitious personage.

Wouldn't you like to be the public printer?

The house fly is a far greater disease carrier than the mosquito and he distributes diseases that are much more in evidence. The sanitary inspector should see that every stable is thoroughly cleaned and thoroughly lined every day. The health authorities cannot be too vigilant. No breeding places for flies should be allowed.

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A son was born to King Alfonso and Queen Victoria at one o'clock Friday at the royal palace in Madrid, and there was great rejoicing throughout the kingdom. When the booming of twenty-one cannon shots proclaimed that an heir was born the rejoicing of the populace knew no bounds. A national holiday was proclaimed for Saturday, Sunday and Monday. President Roosevelt wired congratulations to the king and queen.

Whenever Senator Mallory speaks he always commands attention.

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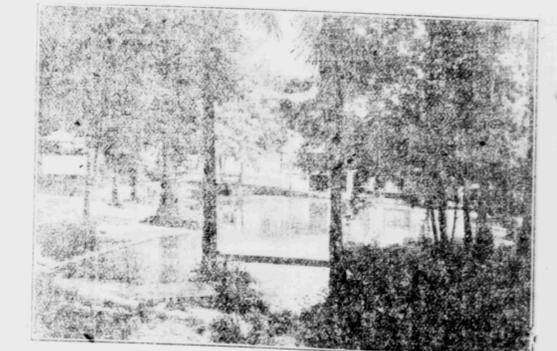
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New hotel and new furniture. Elegant beds and table fare. Rooms with 12 foot ceiling, well ventilated and lighted with gas. Ten foot porch around the house. The scenery is unsurpassed in Florida. Large bath house and large bath rooms, plenty of suits, toboggan slide, spring boards or walks at any depth, games of all kinds, pool rooms for ladies and gentlemen, dancing pavilion, boating and fishing. Situated four miles from the Springs.

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