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AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH SUNDAY

Two very interesting services were held at the Baptist church on Sunday. In the morning, in place of a regular service, the annual Children's Day exercises were held. They were largely attended and the program was an unusually entertaining one.

A faultlessly rendered recitation by Miss Alta Pearson gave a great deal of pleasure, and the recitations of little Misses Ava Lee Edwards, Marie Robertson and Mabel Aiken were splendid and greatly enjoyed. Then there was a scripture reading by the superintendent, a song by the Baracca quartet and a number of very pretty songs by the entire Sunday school, and also by the various separate departments of the school.

Mrs. E. H. Mote sang beautifully a solo, after which the exercises were concluded with a song by the school.

The entire program was well rendered and the exercises greatly enjoyed.

Rev. Harry Shaw preached at the Baptist church Sunday night. He graduated with honors at the Ocala public school about five years ago, and it was then understood that he would enter the ministerial profession, and a brilliant career was predicted for him. He has since graduated from the Mercer University at Macon and has entered upon his ministerial duties. His schoolmates and Ocala friends were anxious to hear him, and the church was crowded. He was at his ease, has a ready flow of language, is self-confident, has a distinct and clear enunciation and a strong physique, all of which are valuable aids in making the forceful orator, and his friends were very well pleased with his effort Sunday night. His sermon was not spoiled by a superabundance of gestures, nor was it too long drawn out. He has adopted the Warren short-style sermon, and if followed up he will become, as Mr. Warren is, immensely popular. As a rule, a great deal can be reinforced into a thirty-minute address. As there are over one hundred sermons to be delivered during the Sundays in every year, besides those delivered on week days, there seems no actual necessity for covering the whole scheme of salvation in every sermon. This paper joins Mr. Shaw's other friends in wishing him a successful and popular career.

THE OCALA BOYS HERE

The Ocala bunch of ball tossers were here three days this week, and they were the finest lot of boys that ever graced the Celery City. Gentlemen every one and good ball players. They did not find life as exciting as it is in the Brick City, but as they were very busy at the lot most of the time they did not have time to notice the change. Following is the personnel of the Ocala athletes: Captain Frank Harris, Jr., Ernest Waller, W. Dodge, D. Dodge, Norton Davis, Raymond Bullock, Carlisle Izlar, LeRoy Galloway, McPhail McIver, Weller Carmichael and Marion Pelot.—Sanford Herald.

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SHOT ON THE WING

It was reported to Deputy Sheriff Hutson that one, Fred Douglass, not appreciating the great name that he bears, had broken and entered the home of Mr. Reece Hunicutt, living a few miles from town, and after helping himself to things on the inside, had swiped three chickens from the hen-house.

Douglass was pointed out to the deputy and he went across the street and told him that he was under arrest, and procuring a vehicle Mr. Hutson told him to get into it. "Not on your life," said Douglass, and went tearing down the street. As he turned the corner the deputy shot at him to frighten him, but he refused to stop, and the next time he shot to hit, and the ball just clipped the fleshy part of the left shoulder near the top, but Douglass kept running on. When he got in the bottom he hid in some tall grass, but was soon in the arms of the law.

The shooting created a great deal of excitement and a big crowd gathered. All sorts of reports were soon on wings. It is said that one of the balls struck a woman some distance off and penetrated one of her big toes.

THE BAPTIST MINISTER AT PALATKA IN TROUBLE

The official board of the Palatka Baptist church recently became suspicious that its pastor, Rev. Edward Stanley, was not all that he ought to be. The board made inquiries and on Saturday had sufficient evidence to warrant them in deposing the minister, pending an investigation.

After being told that he could no longer occupy the pulpit in that city, Mr. Stanley packed his effects and quit the city on the early morning train. There are all sorts of ugly rumors afloat affecting the character of the Rev. Stanley. It will be remembered that he was in Ocala recently and assisted Rev. C. C. Carroll in his last revival service here.

Mr. Stanley's besetting sin is said to be intemperance.

BARTOW WILL CELEBRATE

The following invitation comes to us from Bartow:

"The citizens of Bartow cordially invite you to dine with them and spend the day, June 25th, 1909, which will be observed as a gala day in honor of the completion of Polk county's magnificent new court house. A grand barbecue, a ball game by clubs of the state league and other entertainments will be features of the occasion.

- "W. H. JOHNSON,
- "W. O. STANLEY,
- "E. M. LAW,
- "G. G. MATHEWS,
- "M. M. CRUM,
- "E. C. STUART,
- "C. A. BOSWELL,

"Com. of Invitation."

Over in Columbia county they have boycotted Tom Appleyard's Index because he was a local optionist in the recent wet and dry campaign. Appleyard is one of the few men who refrain from drinking intoxicants of any kind. Now, to be consistent, why not boycott some of the prohibitionists who drink, and even a printer or two might be found in this class in Lake City.—White Springs Herald.

The press of the state is practically a unit for convention of the democratic party to adopt a platform and let us know where we are at.—Lake City Index.

TROOPS NOT TO BLAME

The unfortunate shooting of the poor negro over at the camp grounds may be a bad thing for our state militia. But we want to say now that we have made a thorough investigation of the case and find that the troops were in no sense to blame.

It was reported that a member of the Starke company was playing with a gun and "making the negro dance," when the mortal wounds were inflicted.

We have since learned, however, that the young man—a son of Judge Wills of Bradford county—was not even a member of that company nor any other company of the militia, and only happened to be over at the encampment on a visit to his brother when the accident, all of us deeply regret, occurred.

We are glad to make this statement because of the fact that a great deal has recently been said in disparagement of our militia and such acts of lawlessness and reckless disregard for the rights of others inevitably bring the perpetrators of these crimes—no matter who they may be—into the commiseration and contempt of all law-abiding citizens of Florida.

And we say again that we gladly exonerate the soldiers of any blame or censure in this occurrence.—Jacksonville Floridian.

A MONSTER ALLIGATOR

One of the largest alligators ever seen in Florida is now in captivity in a tank at the establishment of Mr. Arnold Armistead, the taxidermist, near the city light and water plant.

The monster saurian measures fully fourteen feet in length, and is unusually large in girth for its length. For years the 'gator his disported himself in Bonnet Lake, just west of town, and many a hunter has laid plans for his capture, but the old warrior was always too wary for them. The fame of the great reptile has spread far, and many basing their estimate from the size of its head, as they saw it floating above the water, have placed his length at from 16 to 20 feet.

Mr. Armistead has been among those who have been watching this particular 'gator, and finally located him in a cave a few hundred feet from the lake. He was captured by means of ropes, and hauled to town. He will weigh probably 800 pounds.—Lakeland News.

NO "TAGS" NEEDED

It did not take Governor Gilchrist long to find out how the newspaper men of Florida stood regarding the act requiring them to tag as "advertisement" all articles published as news matter which had been or was to be paid for. If the measure had referred solely to political matter there might possibly have been some merit in it, but in the shape in which it passed the legislature it was the memest of all the freak legislation proposed at the recent session, and emanated from the meanest man in Florida. Please bear in mind that when we say "emanated" we have no reference to the introducer of the bill, for we well know who was the real author of the iniquitous measure.—Gainesville Sun.

The Merchants' and Miners' steamship line of Baltimore will now make regular runs to Jacksonville. The business men of Florida's metropolis are celebrating the affair in a becoming manner.

WHO BEARS THE BURDEN?

Discussing the question of who bears the burdens of taxation, Editor Eugene Mathews of the Starke Telegraph says: "We are told that State Senator Flournoy of DeFuniak Springs, after giving the subject of taxation considerable study, has arrived at the conclusion that the poorer class of citizens and the corporations are bearing more than their share of the burden of taxation, while the middle class escapes much of the burden that they ought to bear. The plain, unvarnished truth of the matter is that pretty much all of us dodge every cent of taxation that we can. The very poor man, having little to cover up, and the capitalization of the corporation being a matter of public record, they may come in for more than their share of the burden, as Senator

Flournoy concludes, but the fact remains that we are a generation of tax dodgers and few of us, indeed, are without sin. If the real and personal property in this state were returned for taxation at 65 per cent. of the actual value, the footing would not reach less than three hundred million dollars."

Push and Smile Powell, late of the St. Petersburg Independent, pushed a little too hard when he landed himself in California. He stopped smiling over there, too, to judge from his letters. But now he has been gladly welcomed back to the Pinellas metropolis, and it is reported that his face is again wreathed with happy wrinkles, while he is giving indications of once more pushing the interests of South Florida with a firm stand on its compact, sandy soil.—Lake City Index.

Governor Gilchrist vetoed the act creating a board of assessors for corporation properties, and by doing so makes it possible to get some taxes out of these people again next year. Under the new law passed by the legislature, and to which he declined his signature, it failed to provide any method for return of assessments, and no means of collecting, which would practically have let the corporation go free for a year, unless an extra session of the legislature had been called.—Lake City Index.

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