

IN THE POLITICAL ARENA

Sheriff Lennard Contradicts Reports.

To the Voters of St. Lucie county:
As the time for the primary election draws nearer those who would compass my defeat for election to the office of sheriff of St. Lucie county seem to be using every means to spread untruthful reports concerning my administration of the office since the formation of the county.

I have had no desire to appear in public print to refute these charges, believing that our people were too well informed as to the truth of such accusations to place any confidence whatever in such reports, but having received several letters from friends in various parts of the county asking that I make a denial of them, I have deemed it necessary, and shall take up each report.

One of these reports state that I received \$50 for delivering the registration books to the Fort Drum and Tantie precincts. This is manufactured out of the whole cloth, and is circulated to deceive the voters. I was paid only \$11 for this service and was at an expense of \$10 for buggy hire in making the trip, leaving me one dollar for my four days time. Brevard county has regularly paid \$15 for delivering the registration books from Fort Pierce to these precincts. I received only \$22.60 for delivering these books to all the precincts of the county—less than half what my traducers are telling that I received for two outlying precincts.

Another report states that I receive \$30 a month for jailor, while we have no jail and seldom a prisoner. The falsity of this report is apparent to any one who will investigate. It is true the county has no jail, but is allowed the use of the town lock-up, and has never been without prisoners.

Another report states that I drew \$425 for feeding prisoners during the month of January and that I made an error of \$136 in my accounts for that month. During the month of January we had about sixty prisoners—hobos from the extension work. As soon as these men were convicted they were taken out of my hands and turned over to E. G. Gustafsen, convict guard, who worked them on the public roads. He kept the account of the feed bills, and while the warrant was made out in my name, I simply endorsed the same and turned it over to him. The error was found by Mr. Gustafsen and the commissioners and the money returned to the county treasury before any of the wise guys who are now blaming me for the error knew anything of it. I presented this matter to the last grand jury and asked them to recommend that all accounts for feeding prisoners in the hands of the convict guard should not be made out in my name.

Before the creation of St. Lucie county, when I was marshal of Fort Pierce, I had information that a certain negro was carrying concealed weapons. While I could have arrested him for a violation of the town ordinance and secured a fine of a few dollars, still the offense was one against the State. I informed the deputy sheriff and went with him to make the arrest. Now my traducers are telling that this occurred since I have been sheriff and that I had to get another party to make the arrest. It was the duty of the deputy sheriff to make the arrest, and not my duty as marshal.

The report that I have appointed rowdy and drunken men as deputy sheriffs shows to what extent these mischief makers will go. I have made no appointment of deputies outside of Fort Pierce and Jensen, and do not intend to appoint any unless compelled to do so by law for special occasions.

Several months ago the conductor of a midnight freight train asked me to arrest three negroes who had beaten their way on his train coming into Fort Pierce. While the train was in the yard here I made an inspection of it, but could not find the culprits; whereupon the conductor asked me to go up upon the road on the train, as the men had probably gone up the track and would board later. This I did, and while passing Quay found a negro between two box cars and arrested him, making him come up on top of the car. As the train was reached, I remained on top of the box car till the train stopped at Sebastian, where I boarded the passenger train, with my prisoner, for Fort Pierce. These busy-bodies are telling that I arrested the negro in Fort Pierce and remained aboard the train until Sebastian was reached in order to collect additional mileage.

If the voters of St. Lucie county see fit to elect me as sheriff I shall give the duties of the office my personal attention, and will not, nor have I in the

past delegated any duty to another to perform for me. I am not controlled by any man, set of men or faction, and if elected will not owe any favors to anyone, but shall strive to administer the duties of the office in the interest of the people, without fear or favor.

I wish to warn my friends against the campaign lies that may be circulated against me between now and the primary, when too late to be contradicted. You have known me too long to place any confidence in such silly talk.

R. W. LENNARD.

Duties of School Officials Explained.

To the voters of St. Lucie County:
The political atmosphere of the county is so filled with statements and promises from candidates for public office in our school government that one is minded that some of these gentlemen—notably the "outs"—are sadly in ignorance of the school laws of their State and arrogate to these positions powers and scopes of influence that are in no wise their province.

This is especially true of the aspirants to the office of superintendent of schools. The voters are told by some of them that they will bring to bear on the duties of the office and expenditure of the public school funds the marked ability with which they have expended their own money and managed their private business. Another of them makes the singular statement that he is in favor of "economical administration," giving to them untold benefits from the school funds in the shape of extended school terms, of which the present reckless expenditures of the school authorities (presumably the superintendent) deprives them!! This gentleman states that the "major part" of the school fund is expended in the "erection and equipment of school houses, which stand closed for a large part of the year for lack of money to pay teachers." Reckless work of the present superintendent! Horrible mismanagement!! I wonder how the patient and hard working ratepayers have stood it so long. Why has this bright illuminator and reconstructor so long hidden his light under a bushel measure at Sebastian? It were almost an insult to the common sense of the voters of the county to suppose that any refutation of such vaporings was needed, and the object of my present article is not to deal with them at length. What I wish to do as a member of your school board, and honored with its chairmanship, is for the information of the voters—and incidentally for the information of these bombastic gentlemen of the "outs" who wish to magnify the office they seek first, to define the duties and powers of the county board of public instruction, as laid down by the school laws of the State, and second, to define the duties and very modest powers of these would-be "reconstructors" of the public school system of the county, as laid down by the same authority.

The board, being the supreme power, is first defined in the law, which states that to be eligible to any school office a person must be "of good moral character, temperate, upright, responsible, competent and in full sympathy with the public educational system of the State." Their duties are: first, the fixing of the superintendent's salary! This is humiliating, is it not? These gentlemen in a fit of economy—patented after our board of county commissioners in another case—might fix the salary at \$1 per month! Of course, this would make no difference to the gentleman from Sebastian! He merely wants the honor of the nomination! intends to devote his whole time to the office! This economy business should always begin at home; therefore, it is to be presumed the new board will bear this in mind. The board, and the board only, weighs the qualifications of and appoints the teachers and every other school officer down to the janitors!!

In the matter of teacher's appointments the law is very definite—the power "cannot be delegated," the authority and responsibility must lie with them. There are wise provisions recommending the consideration of suggestions from the patrons in these matters, but the superintendent, unless by the grace of the board, is not considered. The popular belief is that all this is done by him, but nothing can be farther from the fact. The board and the board alone are responsible for the entire school machinery of the county. Every dollar of the expenditure for any school purpose, however remote, has to have the authorization of the board and their approval, whether it be by the county superintendent or the remotest

(continued on page 8)

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PROPOSALS FOR SEALED BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of St. Lucie county, at Fort Pierce, Florida, on Monday, May 7th, 1906, for the labor and completion of a jail to be erected in St. Lucie county, Florida, to be situated in the town of Jensen, according to plans and specifications on file at the county clerk's office in Fort Pierce, Florida, to be paid for as follows: \$2,000 for completion of building, balance in two equal installments, without interest, one and two years, certified checks or draft for 8 per cent of the amount of the bid must accompany each proposal. A guarantee that the successful bidder will execute a good and solvent bond in the sum of \$5,000 for the faithful performance of his contract. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids, or to accept any bid which may be deemed advantageous to the county.

W. R. HARDEE,
Chairman Board County Commissioners,
J. E. FULTZ, clerk, Fort Pierce, Fla.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR TAX DEED
Under sec. 8 of chap. 488, Laws of Fla.
Notice is hereby given that J. T. Jenkins purchaser of Tax Certificate No. 774, dated the 3rd day of July, A. D. 1898, has filed said certificate in the office of the clerk of the circuit court for tax deed purposes in accordance with law. Said certificate embraces the following described property situated in St. Lucie county, Florida, to-wit:
Lot 2 section 19 township 32 south, range 40 east
The said land being assessed at the date of issuance of such certificate in the name of unknown parties.
This said certificate shall be redeemed according to law, tax deed will issue thereon on the 15th day of May, A. D. 1906.
Witness my official signature and seal this the 15th day of April, A. D. 1906.
J. E. FULTZ,
Clerk Circuit Court St. Lucie county Fla.

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