THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY TRIBUNE.

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CONTROVERSY IS CONTINUED

Superintendent Nesbitt Answers Mr. Andrews' Letter

FIGHT TO THE FINISH

Appeals to Patrons to Stand by the Administration, or at Least Protest in the Right Manner.

EDITOR TRIBUNE:

Unlike Judge Andrews I believe the columns of the press are the people's forum, where they can best express their views and exhibit in matters of public importance. I certainly prefer candor and openness to his plan of buttonholing individuals with a petition to accomplish his narrow ends, playing on the prejudices and foibles of each to find them to serve his purpose. I therefore have no apology to offer for once more appearing in your columns in order to complete the story partially told in Mr. Andrews' last letter.

If there is anything he can add to his own credit in the matter after I am through, I will be glad to hear it. I have certainly said or done nothing in the matter which will not bear the utmost publicity. Mr. Andrews accuses me of having treated him discourteously and in a way he had never been treated before; but in his partially told tale does not give the cause. Let me see what it was and the public can judge what they would have done under like circumstances. Because I did not at once accede to his demand for a reversion to the former noon period, he got very angry and on my endeavor to reason the matter with him and my suggestion that his children could bring a lunch, he stated that he would not have his children for 45 minutes in contact with the other noon hour children, stating that they would hear improper language and be exposed to improper practice during that time, which he would not tolerate and finished his remarks by asserting that he had seen immoral practices among the children from the court room windows, "with my own eyes" and that the school grounds, the space under the school and in the bushes on the river bank were all bad and afforded opportunities in this way which he would not have his children exposed to. This grade of assertion and what I knew to be unwaranted abuse of our teachers and children, was, I will admit, too much for me and I have no apology to make to Mr. Andrews for what I then said to him. It was strenuous, I will admit, and may have been discourteous. I will not take calmly from any one an unwarranted attack on the characters of our school children and in this I am sure I have the support and approval of the patrons. After assuring him that an investigation of the charges he had made would be at once commenced and pushed to a finish, I left him, and went to my office, where he followed me within fifteen minutes and took back his assertion that he had seen these practices "with his own eyes," qualifying his statement by stating that he had seen the opportunities for such practice, which the teacher in charge could not prevent.

Now patrons and signers of the petition, what do you think of the gentleman whose fertile imagination has pictured your children as addicted to these practices and who for that reason will not allow his children to associate with them for even 45 minutes for fear of contamination? Do you blame me for being discourteous to him?

I have felt all along that Mr. Andrews' management of this protest has been planned to put a distinct slight upon the school faculty and myself and the remarks in his recent published letters clearly prove it. My request that he first go to the teachers with his complaint was a reasonable one and was in the proper sequence of authority in this matter or any school trouble. Failing there his reference would have been to the supervisor of the school, R. B. Gladwin. Failing there the superintendent comes in as an arbiter in all disputes. Any other course than this was irregular and discourteous to all concerned and no one knows this better than Mr. Andrews.

Passing the matter over the heads of all the officials was intended and has been felt to be a slight to which I regret to say unthinking patrons have signed their approval—being make the tool of this gentleman, who wishes to avoid publicity to accomplish his ends. Mr. Andrews' remark that he did not wish to refer to "paid servants of the people" is childish in the extreme. I would like to know what he considers the president of the United States and from him down are we not all "paid servants of the people?" I trust serving their best interests in a way and along broad lines, which are beyond his narrow comprehension. The fact is Mr. Andrews was one of the doubting ones in the matter of my choice of a lady principal for Fort Pierce school and feels sore because we are having such a successful term and this matter of the noon hour was his opportunity to kick and he has kicked.

I trust the people will not allow this petition to go to the board in its present form. I care not for the reflection upon myself (our minds are made out before the heading was published) but I do deprecate and protest against the indignity which has been put upon our hard working and conscientious staff of teachers by ignoring them entirely. After all the abuse they have received through the town distortions of a few it is surely due them that the appreciation of their efforts by patrons in general should be put on record and that the public express their confidence at least in our good intentions in this matter. Arrange the noon hour as you will, we will bow to the decision of the board, the responsibility will be with the petitioners, but I ask that the indignity intended be counteracted by the presence at the board meeting of those who recognize and uphold the broader issues which we suppose should govern in our care for the welfare and safety of your children. I will not further trespass on your space except to remark that if in Mr. Andrews' comparison of myself to the Irishman's flea he had used the word under your 'thumb' the simiitude would have been better. I am certainly not under the digit of him or any other individual in my conduct of the school affairs of the county. I will execute my trust from the people for the best interests of the children of their school under the guidance of the law and my board and certainly not at the dictates of any one who considers their children liable to be contaminated by association with others while under the supervision of a teacher.

Regretting that this controversy should have to be carried on at this joyous time of peace and good will, I remain. Yours truly,

W. J. NESBITT, County School Supt.

BIG LOCOMOTIVES FOR THE EAST COAST

Rolling stock to the value of over $200,000 for the Florida East Coast Railway is en route here from the works where it was built, says the St. Augustine Record. This enormous sum does not cover a general equipment, but is confined exclusively to locomotives which will be in commission this season.

Ten giant locomotives of the Pacific type and two switch engines compose this single order. The former each weigh 189,000 pounds and each tender weighs 120,000 pounds. The locomotives each have a coal carrying capacity of ten tons and a water capacity of 6,000 gallons. They are eight wheelers and powerful machines. The switch engines while not so large are not babies by any means. Each weigh 146,000 pounds and the tenders weigh 86,000 pounds each. They have a coal capacity of 8 tons and a water capacity of 4,000 gallons. These are six wheel engines. They are all expected to be on the road by the first of the year.

The new locomotives will be placed in commission immediately upon their arrival and will greatly facilitate the moving of heavy trains on the road. They will be used to great advatage in hauling the heavy through tourist trains during the winter and will materially lower the time of these trains.

The rolling stock of the Florida East Coast Railway, as indeed is the case with the other equipment and road bed is maintained on a par with the best trunk roads in the country. The additional locomotives are substantial evidence of the wonderful growth of this railroad.

DIVERSITY OF CROPS IN SUNNY FLORIDA

Florida is becoming more and more schooled in the art of putting to good account her advantages. Where years ago Florida looked to the West for her forage supplies, today she has forage to sell. St. John's county farmers have corn and hay to sell, and this, too from land that yielded a handsome money crop in the spring from Irish potatoes. Other sections of the state which are paying attention to the growing of cotton are now getting 15 cents for short staple and 25 cents for Sea Island, while those who make tobacco a specialty are reaping a harvest on sun grown at 25 cents and on the shaded product at $1 per pound. Lands that are now being cleared of crops are being prepared for planting to the various kinds of vegetables. The guava, banana and other tropical fruits are moving from the southern extremity of the state, while the orange which abounds throughout the peninsula of Florida, is on the eve of its exodus. And so the work goes on from January to January.—St. Augustine Meteor.

Wedding at Basringer.

No lovlier girl, nor sweeter bride ever entered the mysterious realm of wifehood, than Miss Cuthbert Underhill, when Sunday, December 15, at 11 o'clock, Notary J. H. Walker married her to Mr. Willie Walker, of Delray.

The young man is well and favorably known, having lived at Bassinger and is the son of James Walker. Their friends, and they are all who know them, with one accord wish them long life and happiness.—Kissimmee Gazette.

SPEED KINGS AT ORMOND

Automobile Meet in March to Eclipse all Former Events.

WORLD'S TOURNAMENT

Renowned Motorists to Compete for Fame on the Fastest Track in the World. Entries Pouring in.

Speed kings battling for two hours over a field 250 miles long; ten laps to the contest and the giant steel racers whirling twenty times by the spectators; positions changing, time lost, regained and lost again, and the flags of America, England, France and Germany fighting for the first place on the finish line; that is what is in store for Ormond-Daytona Beach this season.

With the definite announcement, flashed over the wire from New York that the famous tournament would begin on March 3, came also the news that the 250 miles event, open to racing cars only, would be the feature of the tournament.

The mere announcement did more to stir enthusiasm than anything that has been made public yet, and the most exacting spectator will find at Ormond-Daytona this year a contest that will stir the most sluggish blood.

Loops, as announced heretofore, will be built at the Ormond end of the beach and at the Daytona end. These will be built at a sharp angle to the beach, so that the great cars, whiring madly along over the hard, smooth sands, can make the turns without slowing down in the least.

The Vanderbilt system of starting the cars will be used, the contestants drawing for place and then being started just one small minute apart. The sight of the great racers warily pushing their way up to the starting line, the goggled driver and booded mechanics putting the last touches here and there to the engines spitting out the long, blue flames from the cylinders, the shaking and trembling of the cars with the power held in check, and then that first wild leap when the starting gun is given, all combine to bring back memories of the tales of the Martians, and furnishes more excitement in the very starting of the race than most contests furnish in their entirety.

The so-called freak cars are to be eliminated this year, and though the mile contest for the Dewar shield will be run, and the two-mile-a-minute event dashed off again and the effort made to capture the fame of Demogeot and his Darracq, yet these events will be open only to cars that have been driven at least twenty miles at a rate of speed close to 100 miles an hour.

This means that the cars built to go one mile, or even two, in marvelous time, but useless after that, will not be seen on the beach this year, and the records made will tell of what can be done by cars built along the generally accepted lines, but with higher power and less extras to carry than have the stock cars.

All the cars intended for use in the Vanderbilt cups, which went by the boards, will be at Ormond-Daytona and Europe will send its best drivers here for the contests on the beach that now holds every record from the kilometer to 200 miles.

The selection of the first week in March for the races has met with universal approval.

Tidal conditions will be almost perfect during that week. March is one of the best months of the year, so far as climate is concerned, in Florida. Unexpected cold spells will not have to be worried about, for their season will have passed.

The other events along the East Coast of Florida, the famous winter playground of the world, will be timed so as to avoid any conflict, and to make it possible for contestants and spectators

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POPULAR COUPLES WED IN FORT PIERCE

December has supplanted June as the bridal month in Fort Pierce. Three weddings have marked the closing days of the old year and there is no telling how many more will take place before the end.

One of the prettiest weddings of the year was that of Miss Elizabeth Sydnor Davenport to Mr. Fredrick Leith Hemmings, at St. Andrew's Episcopal church Christmas eve, at 5 o'clock, in the presence of nearly a score of the closest friends of the contracting parties. The church was beautifully decorated in honor of the occasion. The ceremony was performed by Rev. George Moore, D. D., rector of St. Andrews, Mrs. Edith Hunter giving the bride away. Miss Davenport has been assistant principal of the Fort Pierce school for two years, which position she held at the time of her marriage. She has a host of friends here that are delighted to know that she will reside here permanently.

Mr. Hemmings is a young lawyer of great ability, high in the esteem of the people of St. Lucie county and recognized as a rising attorney of the State bar.

The happy couple left for their Christmas and honeymoon trip Tuesday evening and will visit Palm Beach, Miami, Key West and probably Havana before returning to Fort Pierce, where they will reside.

Miss Mattie Wilhelmina Saxon and Mr. Paul Eugene Watkins were quietly married at the home of the bride's mother in the northern part of town at 5:30 p. m., on Christmas Day, Rev. A. D. Penney performing the ceremony, which was witnessed by a few of the most intimate friends of the bride and groom.

The bride was charmingly attired in a costume of white suesine silk, made in princess style, trimmed in lace, while the groom looked his best in the conventional black.

The parlor, in which the wedding took place, was tastefully decorated. Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the ceremony after which the happy pair boarded the southbound train for Palm Beach and other points south.

The bride is a daughter of Mrs. M. A. Saxon and granddaughter of Rev. George S. Scammell and is a charming young lady, high in the esteem of the people here. THE TRIBUNE, on whose staff Miss Saxon was a most efficient employe, feels much interest in her marriage.

Mr. Watkins has been a resident of Fort Pierce for several years and is a young man of sterling worth, high in the esteem of all our people.

THE TRIBUNE joins a host of friends in wishing these young people—both couples—all happiness and success.

SENATOR MALLORY DIED ON MONDAY

Senator Stephen Russell Mallory died at 12:45 o'clock Monday morning at the home of his nephew, Dr. Mallory Kennedy in Pensacola.

Senator Mallory was stricken on November 20 with paralysis of the left side. He rallied somewhat, but early Saturday began sinking rapidly and was in an unconscious condition all during the afternoon and night.

Senator Mallory was born November 2, 1848. He entered the Confederate army in Virginia in the fall of 1864, and in the spring of 1865 was appointed a midshipman in the Confederate navy. He entered Georgetown college, District of Columbia, in November, 1865, and was graduated in 1869.

He taught a class at Georgetown college until July, 1871. He was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of Louisiana at New Orleans, in 1873.

In 1874 he removed to Pensacola and began practicing law. In 1876 he was elected a member of the lower house of the Florida legislature. In 1880 he was elected to the Florida state senate, and was re-elected to the same position in 1884. He was elected to the Fifty-second and Fifty third congresses from the First district of Florida and was elected to the United States senate by the legislature of Florida for the term beginning March 4, 1897, to which position he was re-elected in 1903, without opposition. In June, 1904 he received the degree of doctor of laws from the Georgetown university.

Senator Mallory was a member of many of the most important senatorsal committees.

ORANGE INDUSTRY IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY

West of the city of Fort Pierce is a broad expanse of land that the average Floridian believed to be almost worthless, either for growing citrus fruits or vegetables. A few years ago a few trees were planted there and their rapid growth, beautiful glossy green foliage and healthfulness attracted the attention of others. Now there are about 600 acres planted in citrus trees, and many of them are in bearing, while others are holding their first crop. The fruit is exceedingly fine in appearance and in quality equal to the best. While in many portions of the citrus growing belt the crop of fruit is very light, there many of the trees are loaded so that the branches require many props to keep them from breaking. Lands in that region are being sold, cleared and planted in citrus trees. Now, while land is comparatively cheap, is a good time to purchase, plant a grove and "grow up with the country." With hard-surface roads, which St. Lucie county is building, there will be greater developments than in the years past.—Homeseeker.

An Appreciated Compliment.

THE ST. LUCIE COUNTY TRIBUNE, published at Fort Pierce, was truly a "thing of beauty" in its handsome Christmas cover. It was not an especially appropriate design representing Christmas in Florida, but it was the most elegantly printed and attractive of all the Christmas editions of Florida newspapers we have seen this season.—Gainesville Sun.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. T. J. O'Brien, on Christmas day, a fine boy.

CHRISTMAS IN HISTORY

Notable Events that Have Happened on Christmas Day.

THE DATE IS UNCERTAIN

Hippolytus, in 225, Announced that He Had Discovered the Exact Date of the Birth of Christ.

In 225 A. D. Hippolytus, a theologian, announced that he had discovered that Jesus was born on a Wednesday, December 25th. It has long been believed that the world was created at the beginning of spring, and it is probable that Hippolytus selected this period as the time of the Annunciation, and December 25th as the actual birthday for Christ.

Christmas Day, 303, witnessed the massacre of 20,000 Christians in Bithynia, by soldiers of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who set fire to the town.

On Christmas day, 800, Charlemange was crowned emperor of the Romans, a title which German emperors held for 1000 years.

On December 25th, 878, the English soldiers while celebrating their wassail, were surprised by the Danes and routed with great slaughter.

Christmas of 1066 witnessed the crowning of William the Conquerer, as king of England. He defeated Harold at the battle of Hastings.

On Christmas day, 1156, Henry II., of England took off his crown during divine service and placing it on the alter, vowed never to wear it again. He never did.

At Christmastide, 1179, Thomas A'Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, preached a sermon in which he excommunicated certain bishops who were friends of the king. The king was so incensed that he asked if he had no loyal knights who would "rid him of of this pestilent priest." Four knights who heard him immediately hastened to the cathedral, and dragging A'-Becket down the steps of the high alter, slew him with their swords.

On Christmas day, 1214, the barons of England surrounded King John and demanded that he sign the paper which founded English liberty—Magna Charter or the Great Charter.

Christmas of 1265 saw the first English parliament summoned.

Christmas, of 1251, was the coldest ever known in England. The Thames was frozen over and when the ice broke up, London bridge was carried away. Birds and fish died from cold, and thousands of people perished.

On Christmas morning, 1286, Edward provided a grim entertainment for London by having the Lord Mayor publicly hanged.

In 1326 Edward II., while riotously celebrating the Christmas holiday was seized by his subjects and thrown into the dungeons of Kenilworth Castle.

Another hanging occurred at Christmas, 1440. Giles de Retz, of France, the original "Bluebeard," was executed for murdering his six wives.

Christmas day, 1460, saw two English armies measure their strength in the sanguine battle of Wakefield.

In 1494 Columbus landed at Natividad in Cuba on Christmas day.

Christmas, 1526, was gloomy. The Black Plague was ravaging Europe, and the festive day was called "the Still Christmas."

1642 ushered in the Puritans' Christmas. It was then considered a crime "to roast a sirloin of beef, to lay a block the more on the fire, or put a plum in the pot."

On Christmas day, 1688, James II., who had been chased out of England for trying to re-establish the Roman Catholic religion, landed in France.

Christmas of 1775 saw Washington effect his immortal "crossing of the Delaware."

At Christmastide, 1868, President Johnson announced the amnesty which helped to heal the scars of the late Civil war.

In Poland there is a procession of the Christmas "Star" to welcome the festive season. Boys go round the villages with a huge star symbolizing the star of Bethlehem. Three boys impersonate the kings of the East, Caspar, Melchoir and Balthazar and go from house to house singing carols for money. They carry a little puppet show also, in which the Nativity and other Scriptural plays are performed.—The Star Monthly.

Amateur Vaudeville Show.

The Baseball Club is making good progress on the unique show to be given at the Improvement Club hall in the near future, and as announced in THE TRIBUNE last week they are anxious for all new talent to show itself, and compete for the handsome prize to be given for the best number of the evening. The list required is fast filling up and the club is desirous of having the ladies join them and increase the interest as much as possible. This is given for a good cause and it is hoped all those who can, will come forward and participate. Date will be announced next week.