

— THE —  
**Suwannee Democrat**

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Referring to a recent paragraph in these columns that fell short, the Times-Union says that it is dangerous to be funny. Hard to be funny is the way it happens in our case.

Mr. Bryan has again expressed himself, this time in answer to a Denver reporter, to the effect that he remains, as of yore, in a receptive, not a seeking, attitude in the matter of another presidential nomination. Could a party leader with propriety say less—or more?

The battleship fleet is home again after its unparalleled cruise around the world, without a mishap of any character, and although Teddy wasn't with the fleet, the trip was his suggestion and made possible by his action, and the great achievement is a big feather in his cap. Render unto Teddy the things that are Teddy's.

Editor Griffis, of the White Springs Herald, made a hit with his write-up of "Great Floridians," but he omitted so many of us from the list that we may yet take up the matter with Hetherington, of the Lakeland News, and call a convention of the disappointed to see that we get justice in the premises. But there may be some trouble in hiring a hall large enough to hold the delegates.

Up in Roanoke, Va., the other day a negro rape criminal was caught and legally tried, convicted and sentenced to death within twenty-four hours after he had committed the crime. If our clumsy, slow-moving legal machinery all over the country could get a move on it like that and produce results equally satisfactory, the strongest motive for lynching would be removed and the reign of the mob would end.

Hon. Frank Clark has eliminated himself from the list of possible candidates to succeed Senator Taliaferro by writing to Editor Griffis that he is "not in any sense a candidate to succeed Senator Taliaferro," and that in all human probability he will never be a candidate for the senate. Mr. Clark has made so much reputation in the lower house of congress and been of so much practical service to his constituents there that they would be reluctant to give him up even to take a higher place. But he's of senatorial size, all the same.

Is it an iridescent dream, a fairy tale, a pipe vision, or the wild, beautiful delirium of overwrought hopes resulting in ecstatic madness, or is it sober truth and reality? We mean that blessed story in our news columns that Live Oak is at last to get that new union depot. The story itself is all right—no dream about it, but will it come true?—that's the question. Our people have been put off so long with castles in Spain in this matter that until they see the walls of the new depot going up they will continue to reside in Missouri and request with one voice to be shown.

A dispatch from Wesson, Miss., says that a hen seventeen years old which had laid 3,650 eggs during its useful life, died there the other day, and its bereaved mistress gave it a formal funeral at which all the family were mourners and the deceased hen was committed to the earth in a rosewood coffin. There are men of our acquaintance who have not done nearly so much for the good of the human race, nor even for their own families as this humble Mississippi hen, and if they can get funerals that will stint their widows to pay for, it would seem in equity and good taste that the much more useful hen, beloved and respected by all who knew her, should be entitled to obsequies equally as formal and impressive. The loss of the family hen or the family cow is sometimes a more serious matter for the living from an economic point of view than the loss of the family husband and father. Hence, all hail the hen, and universal homage to the cow! The former may get in the garden, and the latter in the pound, but neither ever gets in jail nor comes home drunk and makes a rough house, and both are shining examples in the community of individual initiative and useful, productive industry.

**PROTECTION THAT DESTROYS.**

A Chicago correspondent of the Ocala Banner who formerly lived in Florida, thinks highly of the State and its people and is an orthodox democrat, has written a letter to that paper which is noteworthy in more ways than one and contains food for very serious thought on the part of the citizens of Florida. He protests against the protective tariff on lumber not only as being contrary to a fundamental democratic doctrine, but as resulting in a policy of rapid and ruinous waste of our resources and destruction of our forests for which there can be no adequate compensation and which this and succeeding generations will bitterly and vainly regret. Saw-milling is one of our leading industries in Florida, and it is not popular to say anything that would seem to discourage it, but twenty or thirty years hence when the saw-mills have been dismantled because the forests have vanished, we will see more wisdom in the following from the Chicago man's letter in the Ocala Banner than most of us do now:

"A protective tariff is robbery at best, but on lumber it is worse. It not only makes it harder for a poor man to obtain a home or improve his farm, but denudes our forests and impoverishes the country for the immediate benefit of a few saw-mill owners. Florida's wealth as a health resort depends largely on its pine forests, and aside from that, every pine, cypress, oak, hickory, ash, elm and every other tree now growing in Florida will be needed for the development of the State. With a reasonable conservation of the natural advantages of Florida it is only a question of a few years when its population will be increased many fold. The eyes of the world are being turned to its many advantages, and soon a stream of immigration will be pouring in upon you that will make a home demand for every available tree.

"The exportation of lumber should at once cease. It might seem a hardship to those who have large investments in saw-mill property, but every tree is worth double as much standing as it is cut into lumber. It is not very many years since northern Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota were covered with a dense growth of Norway and white pine, mostly the latter. It is practically all gone, though much of it would cut 20,000 feet to the acre. Florida pine will not average more than 4,000 feet, and one half, at least, is cut off, and Florida is an unsettled State. Were all the pine and cypress standing that has been cut in Florida it would sell today for more than double the money realized for the lumber. I believe there is not a mill owner in your State that will dispute that assertion. Better for Florida could there be placed a heavy tax on every foot of lumber exported; better still could the exportation be prohibited.

"Congress is framing laws for the conservation of the forests, and you are asking your representatives to enact or retain a law which aids the destruction of your most valuable timber."

The Perry Herald says that there is very little foundation in fact for the story of inhuman treatment to the convict Dudley in the Taylor county camps, as recently published in the DeFuniak Breeze, and that the inspectors had thoroughly investigated the case and found that Dudley had concocted the yarn to win sympathy for himself. Maybe so, and for the sake of decent human nature and our convict system we hope the fellow was lying from start to finish in the fearful tale of cruelty he told; but how is this theory consistent with the statement of the DeFuniak Herald that when Dudley got back to DeFuniak from the convict camp his mind was a wreck and he had lost the use of his lower limbs? The humane treatment to which convicts are entitled does not usually result in imbecility and paralysis.

The slayers of Carmack up in Tennessee are likely to be acquitted because of the reasonable doubt as to who fired first which the evidence is pretty sure to create in the minds of the jurors. Young Cooper's testimony is positive that Carmack was the first to shoot, but as his neck is at stake, perhaps he isn't telling the truth. The State made out a strong case of conspiracy to murder, with the inference almost irresistible that Carmack did not fire first, and there you are. Guilt must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, but young Cooper's straight story, unshaken by cross-examination, may have created just that kind of a doubt. Even an unreasonable doubt might serve the purpose, for the men on that jury, is reports be true, are hardly of the acumen to discover the

fine line that divides the reasonable from the unreasonable hesitation of the mind to reach a conclusion. It takes a sound, well-trained mind to keep that line clear, and on more than one occasion we have heard a bright lawyer devote himself with fervid enthusiasm for half an hour or more in laborious explanation to a jury of the fine distinctions on the subject, and finally lose himself in such a metaphysical haze that he didn't know where the line was himself. The jury, of course, was hopelessly befogged, and in that luminous state of mind brought in a verdict of not guilty, regardless of the facts.

The veteran argument that if you drive the saloons out of the town you cripple the business interests of that town, has long ago had the life knocked out of it by the logic of prohibition communities bettered in every way by the enforced departure of the saloons—a rule without an exception. But Governor Hoch, of Kansas, gets in behind this threadbare argument with such force and cleverness that what he says cannot be too widely read:

"The devil never invented a bigger lie than that the saloon is essential to the financial success of the community. The business world is now a great temperance society. No railroad company wants a drinking employe; no merchant a drinking clerk; no one interested in a bank a drinking official; and the saloon keeper himself would not ride comfortably on a railroad train if he knew that the engineer had a bottle of whiskey in his pocket."

**OBJECTIONS TO UNIFORMITY**

As a System for Books in Our Florida Public Schools.

On its face a uniformity book measure is a very seductive proposition, but it is like the voice of a siren that leads one to ruin. Its advocates, of course, have arguments to use in its favor, but when the fallacies are removed there remains nothing tenable or of value. State after State in the North and West, listening to the seductive argument, have adopted this system in turn to repudiate it as dangerous and impracticable. The States of Missouri, Washington, Michigan and West Virginia have just recently overthrown State uniformity into which they were unwittingly led. Indiana is the only Northern State east of the Rocky mountains that supports such a system, and an effort is now being made to repeal the law there. The system was adopted in Alabama, the State from which the present editor of the True Democrat came, a few years ago and foisted upon the people a set of books objectionable in their contents and of very inferior quality. It established a monopoly hurtful to the business interests of the State and became a constant source of annoyance to the people. It was found absolutely necessary to amend the bill at the succeeding session of the legislature. The patrons of the school are still decrying it, and we believe will demand the repeal of the entire measure at the next session of the legislature.

A State that is as great geographically and as varied in its interests as Florida could not well afford to adopt a uniform system of books. A system that would suit the people of Leon might be altogether objectionable to the people of Dade, DeSoto, Lee and Monroe counties. And what would be satisfactory in the rural districts would very likely be exceedingly objectionable in the cities.

The leading educators of the country are antagonistic to uniformity, declaring that it tends to despotism, corruption and intellectual death.

But the system now in vogue in Florida is not without its defects. To remedy them was the purpose of the Humphreys bill introduced at the last session of the legislature, and which failed of passage only on account of the imminence of business on the calendars ahead of it. The State convention of county superintendents of education and other school officers, held in this city in 1907, endorsed the bill of Senator Humphreys—only three members voting against it out of the 108 delegates in attendance. Of the three opposing it, one has left the State, one who did so for selfish considerations is now an advocate of the bill, and the third was defeated by his people in the election of last year.

Hon. W. N. Sheats, who was State superintendent of public instruction just prior to the election of Mr. Holloway, was a strong declaimer against State uniformity. His annual reports show some absolutely unanswerable arguments against the system.

Mr. Holloway, the present able superintendent, is just as antagonistic in his views, believing that the adoption of State uniformity would work irrepar-

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arable harm to the educational interests of the State.

The Humphreys bill, intended to correct every possible objectionable feature of the present law, will be again introduced at the next session of the legislature, and the real friends of educational progress in Florida are hopeful of its passage.—Tallahassee True Democrat.

**All Serene.**

A county correspondent for a Kentucky newspaper once found himself in the mountains of that state looking for items of interest to his journal, says Harper's Weekly.

"There ain't a bit of news," said one farmer. "All down this way are too busy with their crops to think of anything else."

"Fine crops, this year, en?" asked the correspondent.

"Couldn't be better," asserted the farmer. "I oughter be in my field right now, an' I would only I come to town to see the coroner."

"The coroner?"

"Yes, he's wanted to hold an inquest on a couple of fellows in our place."

"Accident?"

"I reckon not! Ran Morgan ain't doin' nuthin' like that by accident! He got Jim Jeffords an' his brother Tom with two shots. Got to have an inquest, though."

"What led to the fight?"

"There want no fight. Ran never give the other fellows any chance to make it a fight. Jes' hid behind a tree

an' give it to 'em as they come along."

"Has Ran been arrested?"  
"No. What's the use? Some of the Jeffords people come along, tore down Ran's house, shot him an' his wife, an' set fire to his barn. He ain't been arrested. But, I ain't got time to stand here talkin' to you, got to git back to my harvestin'. There ain't any news down our way, anything happens I'll let you know."

**Mr. Jordan's Money Talked**

Expended \$8.35 for L. & M. Paint to fix up his house. If for sale it will fetch a good price. The pattern on it was the 3 gallons of oil they used with 4 gallons a L. & M. that did the job at 1-3 less cost than ever before. Its coloring is bright, beautiful and lasting. It won't have to be painted again for 12 to 15 years, because the L. & M. Paint is Metal Zinc Oxide combined with White Lead and wax and covers like gold. Sold by The Brown-Thomason Drug Co., Live Oak.

Stops itching instantly. Cures pimples, eczema, salt rheum, tetter, hives, herpes, scabies—Doan's Ointment. At any drug store.

For health and happiness—DeWitt's Little Early Risers—pleasant little blue pills, the best made. Sold by Live Oak Drug Co. Just

A Soap adapted to the city water—Suwannee Witch Hazel. Try it. Suwannee Drug Co.

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