THE DE SOTO COUNTY NEWS

(Incorporated.)
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THE SHAKESPEARE-BACON CONTROVERSY.

The courts have undertaken to decide many things in the past, but a recent decision made by a Chicago circuit judge, Richard S. Tuthall has almost reached the limit. In dissolving an injunction issued on the petition of William N. Selig, motion picture manufacturer, to restrain George Fabyan, publisher, and others from completing publication of books supporting the Baconian theory, the court decided that Francis Bacon "is the author of the works of Shakespeare, and the facts and circumstances in the vast bibliography of the controversy over the question of proofs submitted herein convinces the court that Francis Bacon is the author."

Thus a quetsion about which scholars have written for years, some taking one side and some the other; their works aggregating some 20,000 volumes, has been settled by an unknown Chicago judge, making no pretensions of scholarship, as far as we are able to ascertain. While this decision is good as far as that case is concerned, unless reversed on appeal, we have our doubts about its stopping the future generations of scholars from burning their midnight oil in their effort to learn whether the credit we give William Shakespeare for writing his wonderful books belongs to another, Francis Bacon.

THE GLAD HAND TO OUR VISITORS.

As we go to press our little city is over filled with delegates who have met here to attend the 29th annual session of the State Horticultural Society, which convenes in the large auditorium of the DeSoto County High School building tonight at 7:45.

No people who have ever honored us with a visit or who will visit us in the future can be more welcome than those who meet here today in behalf of the great horticultural interests of the state. Florida is peculiarly a horticultural state. Probably there is no other state in the Union that would be considered her competitor in this the greatest of all work towards which human energy is inclined. A horticultural people are usually a happy people; there is something in this work, the work of constant communing with nature, that causes their hearts to be lifted in gratitude and praise to nature's God in a way that only those who are deeply interested in its development and are horticulturists at heart can fully appreciate.

Yours is indeed a noble work, and those who are trying to foster and advance this great cause are engaged in a noble business.

But the duty of speaking words of welcome is not ours specifically; this obligation has been placed upon two of Arcadia's distinguished and much loved citizens, and we cordially invite every member of the society and every visitor in the city to be present tonight promptly at 7:45 to hear words of most earnest welcome from the lips of the Hon. C. H. Mitchell and Judge A. F. Odlin.

We sincerely trust that your stay in our little city may be pleasant and profitable to each of you, and we know that your coming will be a benediction to us.

WHAT A PROGRESSIVE CITIZEN THINKS.

In talking with one of Arcadia's most progressive citizens recently, one who is loved by everybody and one who has his whole soul enlisted in the civic and moral development of the city, he asked this question: "What would it mean to Arcadia if the men who turned out to the mass meeting recently would meet once a month to discuss public matters generally" He further suggested that every man can spare one evening in each month, if he only thinks so, to go to a meeting ready and willing to take part in the intelligent discussion of the vital interests of the community. He thinks we are not now so widely apart upon any issue, that we are all after the best interests of the town, and hence the necessity for us to get the same viewpoint, a thing almost a certainty if we will meet and dispassionately discuss our differences.

Using his exact language again, he said: "Can we not so impress this upon the people who gathered in that mass meeting to the end that they may lend themselves to a movement to banish hate and suspicion, and enthrone love and confidence in the hearts of our people?"

Friends, we have never been so impressed as we have by the burning words of this splendid citizen. We should do what he has suggested. Time is too short that any of it should be worse than wasted through misunderstandings, differences that are often trivial, and would dissipate if the questions were properly discussed as suggested by this gentleman.

This gentleman further suggested that the Commercial Club should be the clearing house for these discussions, and thinks the president of the Commercial Club will subserve the best interests by calling the body to order promptly at the appointed hour and speed the routine business through in an hour's time, and certainly not less than one and one-half hours's. This would give at least from thirty to sixty minutes each evening for the discussion of the general topics suggested by the gentleman.

The spirit of this brother is right. Let us all catch it. It is one of unselfish love for men as men, and for the uplift of the community he loves. We love such men, men with such altruistic ideals. May their tribe increase!

TROOPS NOT TO LEAVE MEXICO

It has been plainly intimated by the president that the American troops will not be withdrawn from Mexico until Carranza can give positive assurances of his ability to handle the situation there. Now we will be given the opportunity to see whether the clouds gathering on the Mexican horizon were merely wind clouds or real rain clouds. From the reports we have gathered from the field there it would seem that there might be some concerted action on the part of the Mexicans with the co-operation of even the Carranzaists, against the American invaders.

We can not but read this with some degree of satisfaction, in spite of the misgivings we have as to the future there. To withdraw from Mexico now would be to leave Mexico in a worse condition than before, only emboldened by the plight of the Yankees, as she would no doubt think, due to her ignorance, that we had withdrawn through fear. We would be compelled to patrol our border of some 2,000 miles as long as the present condition of affairs existed, while the carnage went on below. If the Mexicans could in time settle their own troubles, we would be glad to leave it to them entirely, even though it took a much longer time than by intervention. But we have no hopes of their being able to do so at all.

We must thank the European war for one thing, at least, if the hands of Europe were free, since the property and lives of citizens of those countries are at stake as well as those of ours, we could not expect to have been free to let Mexico do as she pleased. Europe would have already interfered, or have forced us to do so. She was on the point of interfering when the great war burdened her. We can expect her to do so as soon as her hands are free. Experience has shown that after great wars a country does not hesitate to enter into another. Europe will not be too exhausted after the present war to attempt one in Mexico, if by so doing she sees rich fields for exploitation before her. Our unprepared condition will be a temptation to her.

While we have a horror of what intervention in Mexico may mean to us, it may be the lesser of two evils.

NEGLECTING THE FOUNDATION OF ALL EDUCATION.

Every father and mother is interested in education. They wish to see their children grow up to take an intelligent part in the work of the world. They want their children as well educated as possible. It is more than a personal interest, it is an interest concerning the happiness of the coming genration and the welfare of the republic.

Since parents are so vitally concerned in education they have a right to discuss its problems, they have a right to make suggestions to educators, they have a right to protest against tendencies in education which appear to them as fundamentally wrong. The community takes vital interest in the coming generation.

Education, on the other hand, has become a science, a realm of thought far beyond the layman's comprehension. Men study many years in college and university, at home and abroad, in order to equip themselves to be first class educators. They take courses at Harvard University on "educational psychology" or "educational theory in the early nineteenth century." They become very learned upon their specialty in life.

Between the community and the super-educated educator there is perhaps too little in common. Knowledge often disdains ignorance. Our schools reflect this condition. Many educators have not only become out of touch with the common demands of life, but they have also got out of touch with common learning. Like the Pied Piper of Hemelin, they have led the children away from the foundation stones of all education by pleasant strains of cultural amusements. The pupils must be kept interested!

It does not take an educator long to see that when a pupil from one of our grammar, or even high schools, cannot spell correctly, cannot write legibly cannot solve easy problems in arithmetic—to say nothing of fractions—can not answer simple questions in geography and can not even read with comprehension, that there must be something wrong in his elementary schooling.—Boston Globe.

REGISTER IF YOU WOULD VOTE.

If you wish to vote in the primary June 6th, you must register before the first day of May. We are told that there are a large number of voters who are not yet qualified. The books positively close the 30th day of this month, and if you do not qualify prior to the time these books are closed there is no power in the state to permit you to vote. Do it right now.

Should we get nothing from the convention except the good news some of the delegates brought, and the inspiration and enthusiasm this news gave us, we would be amply repaid already for having these splendid boosters in our midst. Probably no one in attendance brought a more encouraging report than did Mr. L. G. Biggers, managing secretary of the West Palm Beach Board of Trade. Mr. Biggers says his county is expending this year $1,000,000 on good roads; this in addition to the regular $86,000 annual road tax fund which is used for upkeep. He says by January, 1917, his people will be able to drive on a hard surfaced road from West Palm Beach to the northern point of Lake Okeechobee, and those of you who are familiar with the geography of the country must know that this is a challenge to DeSoto county to build our contemplated Dixie Highway so as to connect with this road, and thus have a hard road from Arcadia to the Atlantic Ocean. He mentioned various other roads that would be completed within the same period of time, saying the money was already in the bank for this purpose. If there are many enthusiastic boosters like Secretary Biggers at West Palm Beach, we are not at all surprised to see the marvelous work they are doing.

Mr. L. B. Skinner, first vice-president of the society, responded to Judge Odlin's address of welcome in an interesting vein of humor. Among other things, he likened Judge Odlin's splendid reference to the attractions of Arcadia to the three men, one of whom was a Swede, who were discussing the question of whether the New Testament should be read in the public schools. The Swede would not commit himself on a book that he had never read, so he was allowed one week in which to read the Testament through. The Swede lived in Minneapolis, and when at the end of the week the board met to vote on the question, he voted against the book's being read, giving as his reason that he found it said everything about St. Paul, but not a word concerning Minneapolis.

If the splendid opening of the State Horticultural Society last night is in any esnse an index to the success of the meeting, it should be one of the best in the history of the association. No speaker could ask for a finer body of men and women before whom to make an address of welcome.

We chronicle with much pleasure the news just received that the contract has been let for asphalt paving on Taylor street and Marian avenne, in our neighboring little city, Punta Gorda. The contractor is the Cornwell Construction Company.

The Punta Gorda Herald in commenting upon our recent Myakka trout fishing expedition, closes with the following: "But then an editor always catches big fish and many of them—not much editor, if he can't do that." The tone of this remark does not indicate that we are strictly "Washingtonian," and it may cost Brother Jordan several votes—that is, unless he can demonstrate to us that he is not still dealing in some of that highly "figurative" language of his.

Judge Odlin and the Hon. C. H. Mitchell in their welcome speeches, Judge Odlin on behalf of the city, and Mr. Mitchell on behalf of the Arcadia Commercial Club, both maintained the reputation of our city for having able speakers. We are not giving this as our opinion only, for we overheard a number of delegates say so after retiring from the building, and they did not know that an Arcadian overheard them either. What better evidence do you wish that they were O. K.?

Prof. Lynch, principal of the DeSoto County High School, announced to the delegates that the Commercial League of the high school desired to serve, and that the members of this school league would consider it a privilege to have their services called for by the visiting delegates. It is hoped that the delegates will avail themselves of this offer, and thus contribute towards the greater happiness of these young people.

Mrs. R. E. Herndon played a cornet solo, and Miss Ella M. Polk rendered a vocal solo at the opening session, both of whom were heartily encored. Miss Evelyn Odlin delightfully accompanied each of the performers on the piano. These musical selections always add greatly to the attractiveness of a program and will be interspersed throughout the entire session.

The Punta Gorda Herald comes out this week just about as good as ever, notwithstanding the fact that Editor Jordan is spending all his time in the field "politickin." We have been a little suspicious of the fact that Jordan, Junior, has been writing some of those fine editorials any way, and it is beginning to look as if this conclusion will be verified.

Broward county held its first fair during the last week in March. The idea of holding a fair occurred about six weeks before, G. L. Herrington, boys' club agent for the University of Florida extension division, reports that the agricultural exhibits were small but good. There was a good display of winter vegetables. Some good Jersey and Holstein cattle were shown.

A farmer by the name of John Rule, residing near Drayton, North Dakota, concluding from certain erratic weather conditions that there will be another flood, has built an "ark," and hitched it to his front porch ready for any emergency. There may be indications of having a flood up in Dakota, but certainly southern Florida has nothing in the past few months to indicate any great danger of a deluge.

How is this? An old citizen suggests that all laws be repealed, and then that all such laws as will be enforced be re-enacted. His reason for making this suggestion is that the having of laws which are not enforced teaches a dangerous lesson in lawlessness, and ruins the moral sense of the people.

The Question Box should be made an important factor in the value of the convention. At the close of the evening's program Mrs. Marian McAdow told the delegates hold this box could be used to great advantage, and requested all to use it freely.

The annual address of the president of the society and the response to the address of welcome in behalf of the society by Mr. D. C. Gillett were listened to with profound attention. Excerpts from these will be found in another column of this paper.

An editorial writer well suggests that we are becoming rapidly surfeited with articles on social hygiene and sex hygiene, and asks why some one does not give us something on mental hygiene. He is right, for certainly brain culture is badly needed.

The doctor asked the colonel, "How do you feel, Colonel, when you kill a man?" The Colonel replied, "Oh, not so bad. How do you?" We left before hearing the Doctor's reply.

Some writer asked, "How can the United States recognize Carranza?" The Houston Post very aptly answered, "We can recognize the old grouch by his whiskers."

"Compulsory education in Georgia should be no half-way measure," says the Augusta Chronicle. Nor should it be in Florida. The counties of Florida that need compulsory education most are the ones that will never take advantage of the present "local option" plan.—Miami Metropolis.

GARDNER

Our little town was saddened by the death of Mrs. F. S. Heath, which occurred Tuesday. She had been in failing health for several months. Her family brought her south last fall, thinking the change would prove beneficial, but death came as an relief. Mrs. Heath was a sweet, Christian character, and by her sunny disposition and patience, won many friends, who will sadly miss her. The funeral services were conducted from the home by Rev. E. M. Morse. Appropriate songs were sung by a choir, composed of Rev. Morse, C. L. Boggess, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Vass. The body was laid to rest in the Gardner cemetery. Mrs. Heath leaves a devoted husband and seven children to mourn her death. The Heath family have many friends in Gardner, who sympathize with them in their loss.

Easter was appropriately observed in both of our churches. Rev. Barber preached at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. in the Baptist church. Rev. Cole preached at 3 p. m. in the Methodist Episcopal church. Both of the Sunday schools enjoyed egg hunts on the lawns near the churches.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. McRae delightfully entertained the Library Association Saturday night. There were about fifty present. Twelve applications for membership were sent in. One of the most interesting features was the splendid address by Ray Farwell, who told his hearers how to grow citrus fruit in Florida. This address was beneficial to all, as it had been well prepared. Mrs. McRae, assisted by her sisters, served delicious refreshments at the close of the meeting. The next meeting will be at the home of L. A. Stillwell on May 13th.

Dr. Baker is enjoying a visit from his son, who makes his home in Chicago.

Miss Nell Boggess spent last week with her sister in Lily.

Mrs. Olivette Vass and little daughter, of Atlanta, Ga., are spending several weeks with Captain Boggess and family.

W. M. Middlebrooks was a business visitor to Arcadia Friday.

. D. Moore and R. L. Saxon, of Brownville, attended to business here on Tuesday night.

Mrs. John Dowd, of Fort Ogden, was the guest of her sister, Mrs. J. S. Coker, last week.

J. R. Robinson was a business visitor to Tampa Tuesday.

Mrs. A. S. Waldron and daughters, of Brownville, visited friends here Friday.

Miss Violet Hervey, of Murdock, is the guest of Miss Beulah Stillwell this week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Pearce spent Tuesday with their son, A. W. Pearce and wife.

P. D. Moore assisted at Saxon & Company's store several days last week.

Miss Beanie Coker, of Ona, is visiting her parents here.

Mr. Mark Heath and brother, of Detroit, returned to their home Monday, having been called here by the death of their mother.

Miss Eva Stillwell of Nocatee, spent the Easter holidays with her parents here.

J. L. Brandon has installed a 500-gallon tank, which adds much to the convenience and comfort of his pretty home.

The W. M. U. Society held an interesting meeting at the home of Mrs. Wilson Tuesday afternoon.

Will Bandes and C. E. Phillips visited Limestone Monday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Luke Coker, of Wauchula, are visiting in Gardner this week.

Beans and cukes are being daily shipped from this point.

OWENS.

The Owens Literary Society meets Friday night, May 5th, at 7 o'clock. The following is the program:

Song: By Society.
Recitation: Leola Lanier.
Recitation: Theo. Blackburn.
Reading: Leila Simmons.
Essay: Flora Hadley.
Recitations Viola Langford.
Song: Hazel Garner.
Duet: Erma Bullock and Maude Brewer.
Debate, Resolved, That Water is More Destructive Than Fire. Affirmative: Leonard Simmons and Mabelle Blackburn. Negative: Lovel Land and Elanor Thigpen.
Resolved, That the United States Should Not Withdraw Their Troops From Mexico. Affirmative: J. G. Johnson and A. C. Willingham. Negative, F. M. Blackburn and Will Bullock.

Mrs. A. D. Brewer entertained a jolly crowd of young folks Saturday night in honor of Miss Clara Nolan of Fort Ogden.

Mr. Herman Nolan and Charley Martin, of Fort Ogden, attended the party Saturday night at Mrs. Brewer's.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Newsome, of Arcadia, spent the day Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Thigpen.

The Owens Packing Company is putting up several car loads of grapefruit from the grove of Mr. W. J. Willingham.

Miss Pearl Bullock has returned from Venus, where her school closed Friday.

Mr. Carl Hayman spent the day in Owens Sunday.

The Western Union Telegraph Company has introduced a new department in its money transfer service. In addition to its regular money transfer service as heretofore established, the company will now by this new service act as purchasing agent for the local merchant, or individuals for emergency or general merchandise purchases, purchase and delivery to be made by this new service if desired, or purchase and delivery made by parcel post or express. This new service will be fully explained by Mr. W. G. Powell, the local manager, on application.

It is unfortunate that for the office of state superintendent of public instruction, which should be above all others removed from the atmosphere of corrupt politics, there is always an unseemly wrangle. We are not taking sides as between the two aspirants because we do not know enough of the merits of the case, but we repeat it is unfortunate.—Lakeland Telegram.

It is unfortunate, and especially so since every one who knows either Mr. Sheets or Mr. Kelly is fully aware that neither is guilty of any book trust deals. Oh ye politics!