

THE UNIVERSITY AT GAINESVILLE

Important Facts Connected With the Important Work.

CHAIRMAN N. P. BRYAN EXPLAINS

No Cause for Alarm Has Been Expressed—Board of Control Says if Plans are Carried Out Florida Will be Proud of Institution.

In the following communication to The Jacksonville Metropolis, Chairman Bryan explains matters in regard to the new University to be erected at Gainesville in a very plain manner:

In your issue of the 17th inst., under the heading, "Will Likely Be a Lively Issue," it is stated in effect that there will be opposition to any appropriation for the University at Gainesville, and that an effort will be made to repeal the Buckman bill at the next session of the Legislature.

You also speak of the "vast amounts of money" necessary to be expended in order to carry out the plans of the Board of Control. You then quote from an article in The Lake City Reporter, in which, among other things, it is said that the plans submitted by Messrs. Edwards & Walter, architects, for the proposed University building at Gainesville, and accepted by the Board of Control, call for an expenditure of \$1,500,000. Then follows this statement: "Although the board has at their disposal only about \$40,000, members state that the construction of the buildings will begin in December."

You also published a few days ago another article, purporting to come from The Miami Record, in which the claim is made that it would be better to return to the system of higher education in force at the time the Buckman bill became a law, and in which were many appeals to prejudice but none to reason.

I cannot believe The Metropolis would knowingly assist in circulating misleading statements concerning the plans and purposes of the Board of Education and the Board of Control in carrying out the provision relating to the higher institutions of learning established by act of the last Legislature, and therefore, as a member of the latter board, I write you this letter.

Work to Begin.

The statement that members of the Board of Control will begin the erection of buildings at Gainesville is correct. At a joint meeting of the State Board of Education and the Board of Control the funds available were apportioned according to the needs of the four institutions. The sum of \$75,000 was appropriated for the construction of buildings for the University at Gainesville. Of this amount public spirited citizens of Gainesville donated \$40,000 in cash and bought the old East Florida Seminary property from the State for \$30,000, which, in the opinion of the joint boards, was 50 per cent more than it was worth, and besides donated a beautiful site containing 512 acres of land. So that of the appropriation made by the Legislature only \$5,000 will be used for University buildings.

Amounts Appropriated.

It is the expressed purpose of the board not to exceed the amounts appropriated by the State Board of Education and Board of Control in joint session in the erection of buildings at Gainesville, and if the article quoted from, as it seems a fair reading of it would lead one to believe, means that the Board of Control will begin the erection of buildings to cost \$1,500,000 before the Legislature of 1907 convenes, or if it means that the Legislature at its next session will be asked to make an appropriation of \$1,500,000, it has an exceedingly small foundation in fact. The Board of Control in August declined to accept a loan of \$100,000 tendered by Mayor Thomas of Gainesville and others.

It is our purpose to stay within the appropriation, and how it could be gathered from anything that was said at the meeting of the board that an expenditure of this amount was contemplated I cannot conceive.

Plans Elaborate.

The plans of the architect were elaborate. The layout of the grounds is intended to be permanent, so that all buildings hereafter constructed as the University grows and they are required, can be placed according to plan adopted in the beginning.

The article from The Lake City Re-

porter is clearly intended to prejudice the tax-payers against an appropriation on the ground of enormous expenses. It is the old appeal to the pocket-book.

The institutions established by the Buckman bill cost much less than the institutions supported by the State prior to its passage.

In 1903 there were appropriated for the maintenance of the institutions abolished by the Buckman bill, \$318,965 for two years, while under the Buckman bill the institutions established thereby are being operated at a cost to the State of \$150,000 for two years, or \$168,965 less. Besides, this appropriation of 1903 was not as much as was asked for by the trustees of the old institutions, and is much less than was appropriated by the Legislature. Gov. Jennings vetoed portions of the appropriations of 1903 because in his opinion expenditures for college buildings were not authorized in a bill providing for the expenses of the State government, and the appropriation of \$318,965 as passed and approved did not specifically authorize the erection of any buildings, but these amounts were "to be used by the trustees for the best interests of said institution." There was a deficit of about \$20,000, unless the unexpended appropriation for the East Florida Seminary can be applied to the payment of deficits of the other institutions, and in that event there will still be a deficit of about \$10,000.

Of course, the amount of money now available will not be sufficient to construct all the buildings needed at the University, and it will not be contended by any fair-minded person, with a knowledge of the facts, that the buildings at Lake City would be sufficient for a University such as the people of Florida, the tax-payers, if you please, are entitled to have for the education of their children. The trustees of the old University of Florida, located at Lake City, applied to the last Legislature for \$70,000 with which to remodel and improve buildings.

Principal Purpose.

The great purpose of the Buckman bill is two-fold: First, to withdraw State aid from so many struggling institutions of learning having insufficient equipment, inferior courses of study and of local benefit and reputations; and, second, to establish instead two splendid institutions of learning, a university for men and a college for women, both thoroughly equipped, with courses of study of the highest and best, efficient facilities, and of widespread reputations.

If this policy is adhered to there can be no question but that all the people will have just cause to be proud of their university and college.

No money will be spent without the approval of the Legislature, so it is unnecessary to become alarmed lest the Board of Control bankrupt the State.

N. P. BRYAN.

DEATH OF GOOD LADY.

Mrs. W. D. Fagan Passed Away Wednesday After a Brief Illness.

Friends were shocked Wednesday to learn of the death of Mrs. Ella Fagan, the devoted wife of W. D. Fagan, which occurred at an early hour Wednesday morning, after a brief illness which resulted unexpectedly in her demise.

Deceased was about forty years of age. She was born in this county, near Windsor, where she spent her girlhood days, and where as a child she was a general favorite with all. Growing into womanhood she became possessed of a most charitable, sweet disposition, which retained the friendship made as a child, and no one who knew her could help but admire her for this Christian disposition. She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Bell.

About seven years ago deceased was married to W. D. Fagan of this city, and has since resided here. She is survived by a husband and one child, a little son, to whom the sympathy of the community is extended.

The remains will be taken to Providence this morning, where the funeral will be held, the interment being in the Providence burying ground.

Some Fine Cans.

The Howard boys, about eight miles west of Gainesville, are good practical farmers, and have the most desirable location in that section, the land being of a rolling character. In one small area, however, there is a fine tract of hammock, and upon this tract they have possibly the finest cane crop in the bounty, the plant growing twelve to fourteen feet high. Three young planters have agreed to furnish a hundred stalks of cane for exhibition in the Alachua county exhibit at the State Fair.

SOUTHERN BELL AGAIN IN CHECK

Seaboard Endeavors to Prevent Them From Crossing Tracks.

CLAIM THAT IT IS HAZARDOUS

To Lives of Passengers, and Also to Traffic—An Interesting Injunction Suit Which Will be Watched by the Florida Bar.

The Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, who for the past few months have been endeavoring to construct a long distance telephone line connecting Gainesville and Jacksonville, and through Jacksonville the outside world, seems to be meeting with a great many disadvantages. At the beginning those entrusted to the duty of securing a right-of-way were slow; the contractors delayed the work for some time on account of failure to deliver poles, and other obstacles have been placed in way of the work, notwithstanding that the Southern Bell Company have been anxious to push the same.

But the latest obstruction comes from Starke, and is in the nature of a bill of injunction prohibiting the crossing of the tracks of the Seaboard Air Line at that place. Starke is the first point at which it has become necessary for the wires of the Southern Bell to cross the tracks of the Seaboard, and that great corporation, through its attorney, has caused to be issued from the judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit a writ of injunction, upon the grounds that the crossing of the wires of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company may interfere with traffic, and may endanger the lives of passengers on said road.

The outcome of this injunction will be awaited with considerable interest by those interested, and the members of the profession throughout the State. Attorneys for the Southern Bell cannot understand the attitude taken by the Seaboard at this particular point, since they declare that no objection has ever been made in similar cases elsewhere.

Attorney J. E. Fatch of Starke is pressing the case for the Seaboard, while Attorney Evans Haile of this city represents the Southern Bell.

REYNOLDS-GIDDINGS.

Marriage of Two Former Young Gainesville People in Rome, Ga.

The Rome Tribune of recent date bears information of the marriage of Miss Elizabeth Reynolds of Los Angeles, California, and Horace Giddings of Atlanta, which happy event occurred in St. Peter's Episcopal Church on the afternoon of October 14.

The contracting parties are well known here, where they spent their youth. Mr. Giddings is the son of the late Dr. and Mrs. Giddings, and for the past two or three years has held a responsible position with the Armour Packing Company. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roth Reynolds, who also resided here for some time, Mr. Reynolds holding a clerical position with the United States land office.

The Tribune states that Mr. and Mrs. Giddings will make their future home in Atlanta. Their numerous friends here wish them much happiness in the married state.

THE YELLOW FEVER.

Pensacola Sees the End—New Orleans Continues to Gain.

Pensacola, Oct. 25.—Four new cases and 50 deaths today, which makes the total number of cases 500 and the total number of deaths 68. There are now under treatment 60 cases.

The record yesterday was nine new cases and one death. The authorities continue cheerful, and insist that the end is in sight.

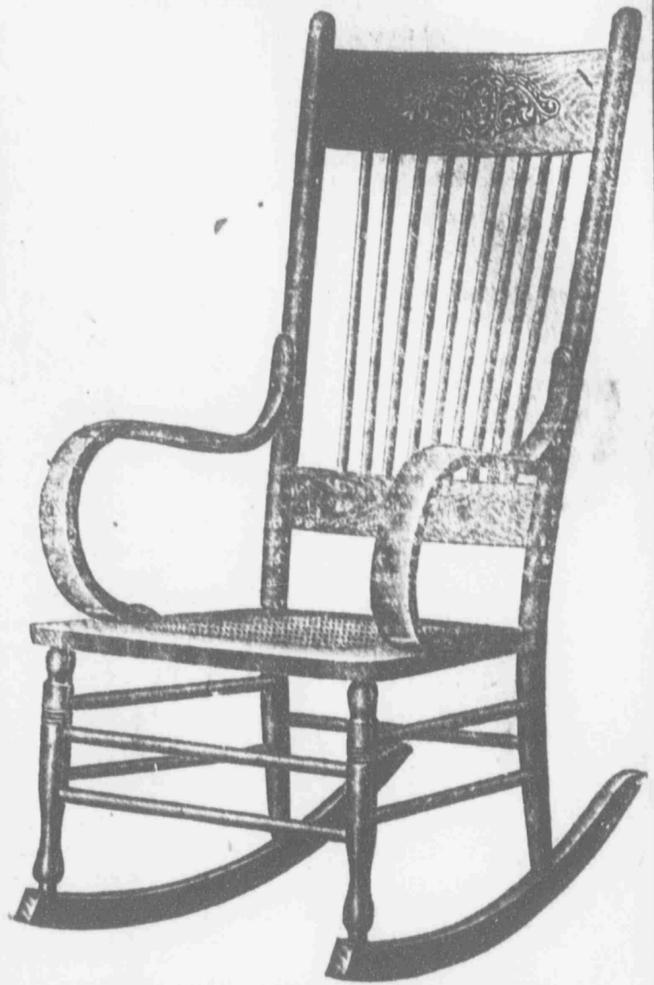
At New Orleans.

New Orleans, Oct. 25.—One new case and no deaths was the record up to noon today. Yesterday there were four new cases and two deaths. Total deaths to date, 445.

Suicided on Son's Coffin.

New York, Oct. 25.—Crazed with grief over the death of his son, who committed suicide with illuminating gas last week, Herman Schultz shot himself through the head today while the funeral service was being read over the body of his son, and fell prostrate across the coffin, dead. Mrs. Schultz and her three daughters faint, and the funeral of the son was postponed that both the father and son might be buried together.

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