

And Tightness of the Hat Band

Its tone was sane and in entire accord with the ultimate good, the present and future greatness of Jacksonville.

It conveyed no information THAT THE PEOPLE WERE NOT ENTITLED TO HAVE.

There was nothing in it but what conferred a benefit to the masses of the people, in that, the better the people are informed the better off they are.

Yet, THIS PUBLICATION OF FACTS has been called an attack on Jacksonville.

It has been PASSIONATELY PROCLAIMED a blow at this city.

Let us not be hysterical. Come, let us throw the light of reason on this subject and search for the kernel of truth amid the husks of emotional blindness.

The only persons whose interests COULD HAVE BEEN AFFECTED by the publication of this true story are the persons DIRECTLY CONNECTED with the Naval Stores Export Company.

Do these few persons make up Jacksonville?

Remember the three little Cheapside tailors who exclaimed, "We, the British people."

The naval stores industry is THIRD ON THE LIST of Florida's sources of wealth, and is therefore of great importance.

Do the persons who direct the affairs of the Naval Stores Export Company make up the naval stores industry?

WE THE BRITISH PEOPLE!



T. J. King

They are only officers in A HANDLING COMPANY, and in no sense does their success or failure to add more dollars to their goodly store affect the nine million dollars of naval stores produced by the men in the woods.

Again remember the bombastic "WE" of the three little tailors.

Besides, what did the story we printed contain but an explanation of the causes of a failure to accomplish an end they desired, that HAD ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED by the officers of the Export Company.

Did WE do anything to hurt Jacksonville or the naval stores industry when we gave causes for a failure that HAD BEEN FREELY CONFESSED by the people who made that failure?

Let any one recall the announcement that Jacksonville WOULD BE MADE AN OPEN PORT, which was printed THE WEEK BEFORE our story appeared, and then let that person recall the announcement made in the press last Monday, that the (Coachman) Export Company had sold its holdings to the OLD LINE EXPORTERS (meaning the Savannah companies) and he will need no further proof of who hurt Jacksonville, if Jacksonville was hurt.

All we did was to inform the people what was meant by "open port," what caused the failure, and what would be the result.

Does it hurt Jacksonville when WE SAY that "open port" means that this port cannot be a great naval stores port until deep water is secured, and is Jacksonville not hurt when Mr. Coachman and his business associates say IDENTICALLY THE SAME THING?

We do not have to go further than to the officers of the (Coachman) Export

Company to find CONCLUSIVE PROOF of the correctness of our statement.

In a statement given to the press last Monday, these men say that the OLD EXPORTERS will handle the naval stores exports.

The OLD EXPORTERS are doing business in Savannah.

No, friends, WE HAVE NOT HURT JACKSONVILLE by printing the truth about Jacksonville.

Jacksonville is too great a city to be afraid of the truth.

If CONCEALMENT OF FACTS has to be resorted to in order that Jacksonville may not be hurt, God help Jacksonville!

If an industry relies for success on the ability of those managing it to keep the truth from being known, there's something wrong with it.

Now for a secret—

Our story of last week stripped off a few royal robes, and showed the mere man beneath; our story X-rayed a sprinkling of puffed-out pocketbooks, and exposed their real contents; our story knocked off a few halos, kicked over an idol or two, pricked a small bunch of vanity balloons, and scratched off a few layers of conceit.

THESE ARE THE SPOTS WHERE THE SHOE PINCHES.

All this "halloo-ba-loo" about hurting Jacksonville is what the partridge hen does when she makes a noise in that spot where her nest is NOT to attract attention away from it.

Jacksonville will continue on its career of greatness undisturbed by the exclamations of people who adopt the style of the tailors of Tooley Street, and say—"We are Jacksonville."

As soon as there is twenty-four feet of water from this city to the sea, Jacksonville will add the jewel of naval stores supremacy to her crown of success. AND NEXT YEAR WILL BRING TWENTY-FOUR FEET.

Troubles of an Editor

Reader, bear with us.
Do not accuse us of too much writing about ourselves.
We are fighting for our lives.
We must fight HARD RIGHT NOW or we will not live to fight long.
What you now see on this page is all we will have to say. If this wins the fight, well and good.
If it does not we will rest quiet in our grave, and not come forth to haunt you.

I wish you to take a little journey with me along the path which I trod last week, in order that you may know what it means to assume the responsibility of journalism, and knowing it give me your sympathy if you think I deserve it.

Last Thursday week I was visited by my brother, who told me that another blood relative was much perturbed about information that had reached him that this journal would print in its next issue a story about the naval stores situation; that he had been asked to see me and induce me not to print the story.

My answer was that I conceived it to be my duty to print the story, because a statement of facts in my possession was due my readers, who relied on me to keep them informed about all things that concerned them; that a suppression of these facts might work an injury to the people who were interested in the naval stores industry.

My brother asked to see the story, and I showed it to him. After he had read the story he said that he did not see how its publication could hurt Jacksonville's interests.

At my brother's request I went with him to the office of our relative. He was shown the story, and at once said that its publication would damage him and others in this city.

"Convince me of that," said I, "and I will not print it."

He then asked me if I was prepared to stand the charge that would be made by evil-minded persons, that I had been paid to publish the story by Shotter.

I told him that I was prepared to stand the consequences of the bringing of this charge against me.

He asked me if I was not trying to get even with the naval stores crowd for wrongs, real or imaginary, inflicted on me.

I told him that I always tried to remember those who had wronged me.

"Is this not the only reason why you are going to print this story?" said he.

I told him that the first and principal reason was, that it was a story that the public should know, and which it was my obligation as a newspaper man to give it; the second reason was that it would make the paper widely and favorably known, which was the great desideratum of all papers; that the third reason was that I, personally, and those who had suffered with me, liked to handle the medicine spoon once in awhile.

Every argument was used by this relative except the one that it was wrong, and after telling him that I would not print the story if I were convinced that he or Jacksonville would be hurt by it, I left with my brother.

My brother then proposed that we should seek the advice of some level-headed business man who did not have any naval stores notes.

We did see two of the most important business men in the city—men of great responsibility and large interests. The question was asked these men—

"Will, in your judgment, the publication of this story hurt Jacksonville?"

Each man answered "No. It may interfere with the plans of some people, but it will not hurt Jacksonville."

With these answers I was satisfied, and my brother expressed himself the same way.

But this was not the end of it by any means. Friends called at the office until late Thursday night, and all day Friday.

To each one in turn I said:

"Show me how the story will hurt Jacksonville, and I will not print it."

Not one could make a satisfactory showing.

I then said to these friends:

"Are you trying to protect Jacksonville, or certain men who have assumed to be Jacksonville?"

I told them that an industry that was in so critical condition that the publication of the truth about it would destroy it was built on wrong lines, and would soon topple of its own weight.

I then reminded them that these very men whose acts they were trying to save from publicity were then trying to make a treaty SECRETLY with Shotter, the enemy of Jacksonville, in order to save themselves.

I reminded them that they did not know the truth, and were entitled to know it, in order to decide intelligently and in a business way whether or not to invest in the new stock of the Export Company.

It was my duty to let the public know ALL THE FACTS, and then the people could decide what to do with their money.

But this was not all. These men who so greatly desired to keep the public in the dark made an appeal to my affections.

And, lastly, they twisted the tail of the golden calf to let me know that he was there.

A carefully guarded and delicately veiled hint, don't yer know.