

CARTER TURNED UP

That a man who wears a 6% hat and who gets out a daily-except-Sunday publication which takes the form of a newspaper, but which has none of the attributes of a newspaper except that it is printed upon newspaper; runs this publication strictly in accordance with the ideas that develop beneath a 6% hat, has long been known to the people of this State. The proprietors of the Metropolis are engaged in a merchandise business. Beyond printing a few telegraphic dispatches which it gets from the Associated Press it makes no attempt to print the news in its columns.

Whenever an item of news comes in conflict with an item OF INTEREST TO SOMEBODY WHO IS WILLING TO PAY FOR IT, the item of news is always made to give way. Most of the stuff that is printed in its columns is PAID FOR STUFF which it is to the interest of some one to have published and for which he is willing to pay.

The proprietors of this sheet have been accused by THE SUN of blackmail and have been convicted of it by proof published in the columns of THE SUN. Occasionally, when business is dull, and nobody has any pay news to offer, the columns of this sheet are used for the purpose of venting the personal ill will of its editor and its business manager upon those who have blocked some of the nefarious schemes of this pair. A distortion of fact and the publication of willful untruths is the favorite method used by the proprietors of this publication to "get even" with some one for some fancied wrong.

A thing of this kind printed is bound to do some harm, because there are some people left in the State who have not yet found out the character, or, rather, the ABSOLUTE WANT OF CHARACTER, of these men who prostitute the business which they claim to be engaged in—newspaper making, for the purpose of money making.—Their gross misrepresentation and willful lying about the Governor of the State is well known. A newer instance of this nefarious practice is afforded in a recent attack made upon Prof.

Tom F. McBeath of Gainesville, Fla.

At a meeting of the Press Association Mr. Carter, editor of this piece of merchandise, which is for sale to any one who has the price, attempted to fool the members of the State Press Association into adopting a resolution condemning the State administration for letting the State printing to a person who was incompetent. Mr. McBeath drew from Carter the cause of his resolution when he made him admit that the editor of this journal was the man to whom he referred. This resolution was truly Carteresque in spirit and in letter. The animus was bad and the letter was wrong, because there was no change in the State printing contract as declared in the Carter resolution, but merely a change in the management of the company which had the State printing.

Carter did not forget this interference of Mr. McBeath with his schemes, and when an opportunity occurred he did not fail to lie about him.

The Metropolis of a recent issue contained a scarehead story, "McBeath Turned Down," and followed it with a false account of the election of a principal of the West Palm Beach High School, attempting to show that Prof. McBeath had applied for this position and had been turned down by the board. THE SUN wired Prof. McBeath asking him to give his side of the story. The reply of Mr. McBeath follows:

Carter Turned Up.
Agricultural College, Miss.
July 6, 1906.

Editor THE SUN:

A few days before leaving home for my work here, the following article appeared in the Jacksonville Metropolis, under the caption "McBeath Turned Down":

"Tom McBeath, formerly a school instructor in Jacksonville, but now of Gainesville, and generally known throughout the State as 'Prof School-fellow' owing to his weakness for writing doggerel, made application last Thursday for the position of principal of West Palm Beach school, but the Board of Public Instruction

of Dade county preferred Prof. John H. Bowers of Waukon, Ia., and the latter was unanimously chosen for the place."

Knowing that the people of Florida very generally recognized the fact that the publication of an unsigned statement in the Metropolis was tantamount to branding it as a fake or a falsehood, I was more amused than vexed; and partly because I did not consider the matter deserving of notice, and partly in deference to the wisdom of a homely old Scotch proverb that warns us against wrestling with a certain unmentionable thing the contact with which would necessitate a warm bath and a change of clothing, I decided to pay no attention to that fair sample of the only kind of journalism with which that paper is acquainted.

A day or two afterward, I received the following unsolicited generous and manly letter from Hon. Guy I. Metcalf, secretary of the Board of Trustees of the West Palm Beach School, which is here published by his permission:

"Hon. Tom F. McBeath,
Gainesville, Fla.
"My Dear Sir:—I deem it but fair to you to say that the article which recently appeared in the Jacksonville Metropolis, stating that you had been turned down by our county school board was not only untrue but unjust to yourself, as your name had not been considered by them, and the application that was turned down was that of another person, not a resident of the state.

"They voted to employ Prof. John H. Bowers as principal of the West Palm Beach school after having considered the application only of the person above referred to.

"It occurs to me that it is barely possible that your very apt and truthful pleasantry, embodied in the poem you prepared and read before the State Press Association recently, must have touched to the quick the distinguished quill driver who holds sway on the Metropolis tripod.

"With personal regard, believe me
"Yours very sincerely,

"GUY I. METCALF, Secretary."
During the past two weeks, from clippings sent me by friends at home,

I note that some of the brethren of the press, also, have very kindly come to my defense—for which I am very grateful. However, as from one of the clippings I see that the Metropolis has broken out again, I wish to state the whole facts in the case, which are as follows:

I wrote Mr. Metcalf asking if the position of principal was vacant, as I had learned they were searching for a first class school man, and would pay a handsome salary. Mr. Metcalf replied that the position was vacant, and asked what was the lowest salary I would accept if elected to the position. I replied by wire naming a salary that I would accept. The telegram was sent Saturday before the meeting, called for Monday. I believe, to decide on who should be recommended for principal. I hardly expected the salary I named would permit my name to be considered among the possible applicants; and so was not surprised that I heard nothing more of the matter until I saw the above quoted "beauty" in the Metropolis. Now whether the district board did consider me an applicant and "turn me down" because they found somebody they would rather have, or whether my price put me outside the pale of consideration, I have no means of knowing; but knowing the Board of Trustees to be courteous gentlemen, I do believe that had they considered me as an applicant for nomination, and, considering me, have preferred another before me, they would have notified me of their action. The Metropolis is welcome to believe what it pleases, and say what it pleases so far as I am concerned. Very fortunately for me, both the Metropolis and myself are very well known in Florida.

I resist, for the time being, the temptation to take the matter up with the Metropolis.

In disposition, I'm good natured, not easily provoked; but with the statement that if Bro. Carter wants what's coming to him he can get it good and plenty by just one more hint, I leave him and his littleness to the judgment of a fair-minded public.

Yours truly,
TOM F. McBEATH.

Thinks BY THE Brethren

Florida's Car Famine.

When the railroads of Florida can furnish cars and transport the business offered them in Florida to the markets, prosperity will have reached us. Saw mills, crate factories and concerns are compelled to close down at times for want of cars in which to ship their products. More cars, better rolling stock and more of it, and safer and better roads are needed badly by the trunk lines in Florida. This is not a secret—the Florida Railroad Commission knows all about it. Live Oak Democrat.

Jacksonville's Ice Trust.

Jacksonville is moving in a criminal prosecution against an ice trust alleged to exist in that city. The solicitor says it sells ice at \$10 and \$12 a ton, while small consumers pay much more. It would seem that there is occasion for prosecution, and possibly a justification for the talk that the city will go into the ice business. Criminal information has been lodged against the five local dealers who are alleged to have formed the trust which boosted the prices.—Tampa Times.

Pistol Toters to Be Labeled.

A bill has been introduced in the Louisiana Legislature providing that

those who desire to go about armed with pistols shall procure a license and wear a badge. If every man in Florida, white and black, who now "toats" a pistol had on a badge nearly the whole population of our fair State would be "labeled pistol-toters." My, what an army we would make! In all seriousness such a law is badly needed in Florida. The "pistol toating" habit is a bad one, and the man who makes a practice of carrying a pistol should be "labeled."—Live Oak Democrat.

Work of "The Interests."

We noticed last week that the Gainesville Sun, Arcadia News, and Clay County Times contained three editorials apiece that appeared in all three papers the same week, upon the same subject, with identically the same wording, and at the same time. It is strange how "great men's minds will run together," but it is stranger still when they express their thoughts in the same wording.—Tropical Breeze.

"Tis very great. An examination of our waste basket would find those interesting (?) editorials gently reposing amid the rest of the rubbish. That's their place of interment, with others that regularly turn up their toes in this office.—Orlando Reporter.

Miami Is All Right.

The Rockledge News still strenu-

ously insists that Miami has been "abandoned" by what it calls "the great developer."

To any one who will come to this city and observe the large amount of improvements going on, then go to the country surrounding the city and see what is being done there in the way of opening new farms; will observe the indomitable pluck and perseverance of the people, he will be compelled to believe that the great developer of this country is the united action of the enterprising and industrious citizens who are building up a rich and prosperous community.

This is the only developer that Miami depends on or ever has depended on, for its progress.

Of course it is plain to be seen that what the News is driving at is to convince people that the improvements inaugurated by Mr. Flagler have been abandoned and that in consequence Miami is to become a forgotten village.

In the light of actual events the charge, or insinuation, is absurd.

The Evening Record has already shown that work on the ship canal is being pushed as fast as the government can do it, and it might add, for the information of the News, that the East Coast railroad has done more up to this time than its contract with the government calls for. There is not the slightest reason to entertain any such fantastic and absurd idea as has been expressed by the News.

The people of this section are developing this country and Miami is prosperous because it has a great country back of it. The contrary may

be the reason why the towns mentioned by the News have not held to their anticipations.

As far as the extension to Key West is concerned, he is a wise man, indeed who can point out how that is to injure this city.

It cannot be done.—Miami Record.

A Critic Criticised.

The following article from the Lakeland News is found reproduced by the St. Augustine Record, and as it is a fair sample of the sort of stuff that is now being passed around among some of our State contemporaries by a number of ill-informed people, we give it publicity here:

"Of the untold inhumanity and barbarity that is practiced in the convict camps of this State only the faintest echo ever reaches the public ear. These camps are located in isolated districts, where the check of public opinion does not interfere with the inhuman methods pursued. They are as a rule presided over by men selected with an eye single to brutality of disposition and their qualification as slave drivers. Only God and the unfortunate victims of an abominable system know the suffering inflicted under the sanction, or at least the tolerance, of the State. But enough has leaked out here and there to arouse the righteous indignation of the good people of this State, and it is morally certain that the next legislature will be called upon to abolish this infamous system and substitute a plan for the employment of the convicts on the public roads, or some other just and (Continued on Page Thirteen.)