

# THE CHAMPION

VOL. 12

ARCADIA, FLORIDA, AUGUST 9, 1906.

No. 32

## BY THE GOVERNOR

### PROCLAMATION REGARDING DRAINAGE.

TO THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA:  
I stated in several public speeches during the primary campaign, to the people assembled, that I was defraying personally, at the expense of sending out certain data on the subject of draining the Everglades, and on the subject of the collection of the drainage tax, under the law enacted by the last legislature, and in furnishing data to the voters, showing the reason why Joint Resolution No. 4, to be voted for or against in the coming fall election, should be adopted. I also stated, in these several public speeches to the public that if the expense became too great for me to bear alone, that I would call upon them to contribute either stamps or money to defray the expense of placing in the hands of the voters specific data upon the subject of Everglades drainage and especially setting forth the reasons for the enactment of the last Legislature of the present Drainage law, and for the submitting to the people of a Joint Resolution, which is almost a copy of the Drainage law, and which, if adopted, would become a part of the Constitution. I have concluded that the attention of the people of the state should be called to the fact that a news bureau has been organized in Jacksonville, from which there is being sent out all kinds of misleading literature, opposing the adoption, by the people, of Joint Resolution No. 4, which is to be voted for them in November. I am aware of the fact that calling upon the people to subscribe to a fund of this kind is an unusual proceeding, but a very unusual condition confronts us. I have no more interest in the adoption of Joint Resolution No. 4 than has any other disinterested, but patriotic citizen of the State of Florida. The business in hand is our business. The defeat of the Joint Resolution and the winning of several law suits, brought by several large syndicates to prevent the collection of the drainage tax, under the present law, would entail upon the rest of the people of Florida a burden out of proportion to what they should be called upon to pay in reclaiming the Florida Everglades. Six of the large land syndicates have sworn, through their agents, that they own three million three hundred thousand acres of land in the Everglades Drainage District, which drainage district is confined to the county of Dade and parts of St. Lucie, Osceola, Lee, Monroe and DeSoto. There are four or five other land corporations owning large tracts of land in the same drainage district. The trustees hold for the people of Florida, in that district, two million eight hundred and sixty-two thousand two hundred and eighty acres; the United States owns about two hundred thousand acres; the State School Fund owns about one hundred thousand acres. The agriculturists and other individual owners collectively, about two hundred thousand acres, and nearly all the individual owners have paid the drainage tax, but the six large land syndicates above have brought injunction proceedings in

the United States Court to prevent the collection of this drainage tax, and have organized the Jacksonville News Bureau, which bureau is sending out the literature that you are now receiving. Their interest is not your interest. In July of 1904, two of the men who are large owners in the Southern States Land and Timber Company, the first company to bring an injunction suit, came to Tallahassee, and made a proposition to the trustees of the I. I. Fund, that they would put up one dollar an acre on three hundred and eighty-eight thousand acres of land that had been deeded to them by the L. & N. Ry., which land had been certified to that railroad by former trustees, under a legislative grant, provided the trustees would give them a deed to the land and put up on behalf of the I. I. Fund a like sum of money, and they, with the trustees, would use the fund so put up to drain the Everglades. These negotiations continued from July, 1904, to May, 1905; after I had become Governor. Strong efforts were made by both the trustees, and Mr. Welch and Mr. Wisner and others to bring in the other owners and claimants, that would be benefitted by the drainage, asking that they also put up a dollar an acre. Finding that one claimant or owner would make one excuse and another another excuse, the two gentlemen above named joined Mr. Coachman and others in purchasing claims and lands owned by other corporations and syndicates that were considered unprogressive and not inclined to take hold; with the express understanding as stated to me by Mr. Coachman, and discussed by Messrs. Welch, Wisner and L'Engle, with all of the trustees, of entering upon the proposed contract with the trustees of putting up money to drain the Everglades and the lands adjoining; but after buying a large acreage, amounting to nearly one million one hundred thousand acres, the above parties changed their minds, and have concluded to do exactly what the other unprogressive were doing, that is, object and hold back. The three above named gentlemen were anxious to have a drainage law enacted that would compel everyone in the district to pay his proportion of the expense of drainage. They prepared a drainage law, and asked finally that only two amendments be made to the present law. The drainage law was enacted without the amendments desired by them, which amendments would have caused indefinite litigation. Under the law enacted by the last legislature, a drainage district was laid out, embracing a proportion of the Kissimmee Valley, the Florida Everglades and a portion of the adjoining lands, all of which would be benefitted by drainage. The proposition that confronts your trustees and yourself are these, the legislature of Florida passed a resolution in 1847, addressed to the Congress of the United States, pledging the state to drain and reclaim the Everglades, provided the United States would grant all the lands south of the Caloosahatchee and, south of the north end of Lake Okechobee and between that and the Atlantic ocean to the state. The Legislature pledging further that after the expense of draining the lands had been paid, that the remainder of the proceeds

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## COUNTY BOARDS

### MINUTES OF COMMISSIONERS AND SCHOOL BOARD.

The Board of County Commissioners for DeSoto County, Florida, met in their office in Arcadia, Florida, on Monday, August 6th, 1906, the following members were present: William King, chairman; N. C. Larsen, E. F. Bottick and D. W. Brown.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

Tax Collector reported the following licenses collected: \$22.50 for State taxes and \$12.50 for County.

County Judge filed his report as follows:

To the Honorable Board County Commissioners DeSoto County, Florida:

I beg leave to report the criminal business disposed of in the County Judge's Court for the month of July, 1906, and report as follows:

State vs D. R. Roberson, petit larceny Fined \$10 and costs. Costs paid.

State vs Tom Furguson, assault with intent to kill and murder. Required to give bond in the \$150 for appearance at circuit court. In default of such bond committed to jail until discharged by law.

State vs Joseph Rhodes, Petit Larceny Fined \$50 and costs, in default of paying said amounts, sentenced to 6 months at hard labor.

State vs J. F. Waldron, doing business without license. Dismissed after defendant procured license and paid all costs.

State vs G. Hamesworth, carrying pistol unlawfully. Fined \$25 and costs, in default of paying said amounts sentenced to 60 days at hard labor. Costs paid.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct report of the criminal business in the County Judge's Court in July, 1906. J. B. COCHRAN, County Judge.

Tax Collector W. C. Langford, filed his report as follows:

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of DeSoto county, Fla.

GENTLEMEN:

General Revenue.....	\$ 264 36
School .....	616 84
Road.....	704 96
Fine and Forfeiture.....	176 24
	\$1762 40

Polls for 1905.....	23 00
Licenses.....	12 50
	\$ 35 50

Punta Gorda sub-school dist....	12 24
Arcadia sub-school dist.....	21 38
Popash sub-school dist.....	9 99
Wauchula, sub-school dist.....	8 07
Avon Park sub-school dist.....	1 50
Nocatee sub-school dist.....	1 11
Owens sub-school dist.....	06
Lemon Grove sub-school dist....	09
Bowling Green sub-school dist..	2 94
Ft. Green sub-school dist.....	4 05
Ft. Bassinger sub-school dist....	6 78
	\$ 62 21

Grand total.....	1856 11
Total amount State Tax.....	528 72
Total amount State Licenses....	22 50

Respectfully submitted this the 6th day of August, 1906.

W. C. LANGFORD, Tax Collector.

G. W. McLane, Justice of the Peace for district No. 7, filed his report as follows:

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners:

I have the honor to report the following for July:

State vs E. C. Jackson, aiding and abetting in larceny, dismissed

State vs John Pecan, getting money under false promises, dismissed

State vs Henry Morgan, larceny, transferred to Dist. No. 8

State vs John B. Driggers, selling whiskey, bound over

State vs Percy Roberts, selling whiskey, bound over

State vs Albert LaBuck, selling whiskey, bound over

State vs Hettie Whidden, selling whiskey, bound over.

State vs John Carr, getting money under false promise, bound over

State vs George Smith, selling whiskey bound over to court

State vs Rita Hays, assault and battery fine \$250 and cost of this suit or in default of payment, 6 months in DeSoto jail at hard labor.

Respectfully submitted, this the 1st day of August, 1906.

GEO. W. McLANE, J. P.

S. M. High, Justice of the Peace for district No. 11 filed his report as follows:

I have to report that my regular term of court assembles on the 1st Monday of each month. Rule made the 17th day each month. The business transacted:

State vs J. E. McKee, drunk and profane, fine collected \$10

S. M. HIGH, J. P.

Firearm bond of L. C. Masters was submitted. Same was approved and permit issued.

Firearm bond of W. C. Stalls was submitted. Same was approved and permit issued.

Firearm bond of P. D. Sauls was submitted. Same was approved and permit issued.

Firearm bond of E. S. Sauls was submitted. Same was not filled out properly and ordered returned to Mr. Sauls for correction.

Petition asking to put Mrs. Sam Shepherd on the pauper list read and it was agreed to allow her \$5 a month.

Petition asking to put J. B. O'Donohue on the pauper list read and it was agreed that he be allowed \$5 a month.

Petition for change in public road Wauchula to Ft Green read and approved and the following blazers were appointed: G. H. Gill G. V. Dixon and George Moye.

Board signed petition of Eliza Cochran, widow of Stephen C. Cochran.

Report of Sheriff filed and approved by board and is as follows:

SHERIFF'S OFFICE.

ARCADIA, FLA., July 31, 1906.

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA.

GENTLEMEN: I hereby render my report for the month of July, 1906:

The following prisoners were confined in the county jail during said month:

I. E. Cooper, Chas. Daniels, Dave Smith, Geo. Peterson, Sidney Lovett, Orlando Silcox, Manie Youmans, Phil Harward, Aldolph Bacoche, Joe Nicholson, Sam McCaskill, Jim Beckum, Tom Campbell, Joseph Rhodes, Tom Ferguson, Hettie Whidden, Percy Roberts, John Driggers, John Carr, Henry Morgan, George Smith and M. R. Gill.

The following amount for hire of convicts was turned over to County Treasurer F. E. Parker:

Hire for Kate Driggers for July....	\$ 5 00
Hire for Kate Hunter for July....	5 00
	\$10 00

Respectfully submitted,

A. C. FREEMAN, Sheriff.

C. C. Morgan, Justice Peace district No. 8 filed his report as follows:

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners:

DDAR SIRS: Since making my last report of criminal business I have had before me the following criminal cases:

State vs Ashly Holmes, peace bond, not guilty.

State vs John Hix, profane language fine \$2.50 and costs

State vs Jos. H. Edwards, killing a hog, fine \$1 and costs, fine afterwards remitted.

State vs Henry Morgan, petit larceny, transferred from Dist. No. 7, not disposed of.

State vs Henry Rhen, profane language, fine \$5 and costs or 20 days in jail, fine and costs paid

State vs Henry Rhen and Tis Mulbroth, larceny of hogs, not guilty.

Respectfully submitted,

C. C. MORGAN, J. P.

On petition R. C. Williams was placed on the pauper list.

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## OUR NEIGHBORS

### INTERESTING NEWS OF NEARBY COMMUNITIES.

#### Bowling Green.

Mrs. C. H. Mitchell and charming daughter, Miss Mathilde, of Arcadia, are the guests of relatives here this week.

Mr. S. B. Hogan has returned from an extended visit with his brother at Hartsell, Ala.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Browning and interesting family have returned home after one month pleasantly spent in Kentucky and Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Jones contemplate spending September in New York City.

Miss Anna Pexa, of Charlotte Harbor, who has been the guest of the Misses Vaughn for several days returned home Wednesday.

Misses Annie and Neetie McCartney, of Abbeville, Ga., who have been visiting the family of Mr. L. Peebles, near here, returned home last Monday.

Miss Dottie Vaughn is visiting friends at Charlotte Harbor this week.

There are a number of visitors in town this week whose names we have not learned.

Mrs. S. A. White is here in the interest of the Woodmen circle.

Mr. Cyrus Jones has returned from a visit to Morganfield, Ky., and St. Louis, Mo.

Mrs. Cyrus Jones, who has been visiting friends at Chattanooga is now with relatives at Oxford, Miss.

Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Buck left this week for a visit with relatives in Iowa.

Mrs. W. H. Blackburn has returned from a visit to her old home at Bloomingdale, Ga.

Mr. H. F. Douglass, of Orlando, is here this week visiting friends and relatives.

Mr. W. H. Blackburn, jr., is home again after spending several weeks in Georgia and Tennessee.

Mr. L. P. Seward has had his residence moved and is building an addition to his store.

Miss Viola Durrance, who has been visiting her aunt, Mrs. G. D. Rhodes, of Punta Gorda, returned home Tuesday.

Mr. J. B. Williams has sold his interest in the firm of Giles and Williams to Dr. D. H. Vaughn.

Mr. N. M. Bryan can give you the name of the latest arrival.

D. Y. Brinker, representing I. Epstein & Bro., of Savannah, Ga., is in town today.

Publicity creates public sentiment and generally the people when informed can be depended upon to oppose wrong doing altho in so doing they go back on something they have done while ignorant. A case in point is the Graham expose by the Tallahassee Sun. A meeting of Manatee's Democratic Executive Committee was called this week to investigate the charges against Graham who is their primary choice for representative. It is a hopeful sign when the people demand honesty from the men they elect to office.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Fulford are rejoicing over the arrival of a new daughter. She came on Tuesday.