# The Punta Gorda Herald

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THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1908.


Mr. Stockton's organs are overstocking preposterous claims as to his strength.

"Between he and the governor," says the Pensacola News. Is there no school teacher or English grammar in Pensacola?

The Gainesville Sun, which is advocating Mr. Stockton, says in its Sunday issue: Albert Gilchrist is undoubtedly gaining votes in the rural districts.

The 'steemed Pensacola News pretends to think that THE HERALD'S pessimistic opinion of the United States senate is caused by an imaginary waning of Gilchrist's popularity. Ha! ha! ha!

Both morally and commercially, I. E. Barwick is a thoroughly honest man. We have known him since 1880 and can personally testify to his integrity. Every body vote for him.

THE HERALD is not supporting any one for United States senator, but its unprejudiced belief is that Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher is a "sure winner." In next Tuesday's primary, he will lead all the rest. And as he is a man of brains, high character and ability, no one should regret his success.

Every citizen who earnestly desires lower taxes and is willing to do something to secure them, should vote for Barwick and Bateman. In this section, we are suffering more from high taxes than from whiskey, and the only chance of getting them reduced is to elect Barwick and Bateman.

The triumph of Mr. Stockton would mean the continuation of Gov. Broward's policies, which include the wholesale pardoning of criminals and $5,000 gifts of the people's money to favored lawyers —"legalized graft," as Claude L'Engle terms it, and yet he is supporting both Broward and Stockton.

The esteemed Jacksonville Metropolis, on the 11th page of its Saturday's issue, credits a clipping to the Punta Gorda Advocate, a newspaper which does not exist and never has existed. Nor should the clipping be credited to THE HERALD, for it never appeared in this paper. Please be very careful about these things, brethren.

Rather than make a bitter partisan and factionalist governor of Florida, every truly patriotic citizen should be willing to postpone State prohibition for a few years. Mr. Stockton's Tallahassee organ has admitted the notorious fact that he is a bitter partisan and the leader of a faction, a fact which cries aloud against his being put into the high office of governor.

Brother Walpole, of the Manatee Record, still prates of "Manatee county's rights" For heaven's sake, man! haven't we conceded you your so called rights? We were given to understand that the only "right" you claimed was the right to name the candidate for senator. Haven't we given you that, and are we not doing all we can to elect your man? And yet you come forward now and claim the "right" to know Gilchrist's attitude on county division, as if that had anything to do with the election of a senator. If you knew Gilchrist's attitude on this question, would it affect your attitude towards him, or towards Barwick or any other candidate that's running? But if Gilchrist's position in this matter is of such prodigious importance to you and to the voters of your county, as you pretend, it must be that you all are anxious for him to give you some excuse for opposing or supporting him, as the case may be. You are welcome, however, to all the votes that he may lose in Manatee or DeSoto by his refusal to take a stand on a purely local issue.

Our esteemed brother of the Arcadia News will please accept THE HERALD'S apology for unintentionally misrepresenting his attitude toward General Gilchrist. He alleges that he "is not opposing General Gilchrist or any of the candidates for governor or United States senator." THE HERALD'S mistake in charging Brother Hare with opposing General Gilchrist arose from observing or thinking that our brother is a very ardent prohibitionist of the type that opposes all candidates who are not openly avowed advocates of State prohibition; also, from remembering something like this in the Bible: "He that is not for me is against me." We think that idea occurs in the Bible, but we will not assert positively that it does, for fear we may be mistaken, and then Brother Hare would charge us with intentionally misrepresenting Christ or whoever it was that expressed the idea.

If Mr. Stockton should by any accident or mistake become governor of Florida, his prohibition supporters may demand of him to urge the legislature to pass a special law prohibiting the sale of whiskey in Lee county, or at any rate, prohibiting liquor from being shipped into DeSoto from Lee county. You see, if Lee votes for Stockton, who is for State prohibition, the vote can be interpreted to mean that the people of Lee want a "dry" county.

Should the improbable happen by Mr. Stockton becoming Governor, he can be relied on to veto any bill for the division of DeSoto county, because his supporters in this county are almost all anti-divisionists, and they could easily prevail upon him to prevent division by showing him that the divisionists opposed him. On the other hand, if a division bill is passed, Governor Gilchrist will approve of it.

It is pretty safe to claim, we think, that every one who intends voting for Gov. Broward next Tuesday will also vote for Mr. Stockton. Their act means the giving of all the highest offices to Jacksonville, but, worse than this and calamitous to the State, it means the perpetuation of the Broward-Barrs-Stockton political combine and the endorsement of factional rule in Florida.

## Gilchrist Sure to Win.

Mr. Stockton's organs are "claiming the earth." Two or three of them have even had the audacity to claim that he would carry DeSoto county. If their claims as to other counties are no better founded, then Mr Stockton will be worse beaten than Mr. Mays was four years ago. This policy of claiming everything in sight has been tried so often that it can deceive no longer.

THE HERALD, in its estimates and forecasts, has tried to be very conservative, as its files will show. It stated, for example, that DeSoto county would cast 1500 votes next Tuesday and that Gilchrist would get 1,200 of them. Since this claim was made, gentlemen who have been all over the county on political errands allege that the vote will reach 2,000 and that Gilchrist will get 90 per cent. of it. This tallies with the claim of the Wauchula Telegram, whose editor keeps in close touch with every thing political in this county.

Now, there is Duval, which is Mr. Stockton's home county. The best informed politicians there admit that Gilchrist will carry it. This, as is well known, is one of the most populous counties of the State. Of the other populous counties, it is conceded by all with any pretence of knowledge of the conditions that Gilchrist will carry Hillsborough and Orange.

We concede Escambia to Mr. Stockton, but we do not concede either Alachua or Marion. Up to last week, we believed that the McCreary influence would carry Alachua for Stockton, but later and better information assures us that that county will give a majority for Gilchrist. A similar condition prevails in Marion, and we have the best of reasons for believing that it will also give Gilchrist a majority.

These larger counties will give Gilchrist such a vote as will overcome whatever majorities Mr. Stockton may get in the few small ones which he will carry. Amongst the small counties with a vote of 1,000 to 2,000 which may be conceded to Stockton, are Lee, Hernando, Baker, Hamilton, Madison and a few in West Florida. But offsetting these, Gilchrist is certain of Lake, Levy, Bradford, Volusia, Clay, St. Johns and some counties in West Florida and elsewhere.

The trio of upper west coast counties, Levy, Taylor, and Lafaette, which four years ago were for Stockton, are now reported on good authority as being for Gilchrist.

But perhaps the very best evidence we have that Gilchrist will win is the reports of the "drummers," the commercial tourists who travel the State over. With only one known exception, they, to a man, say that the talk everywhere is for Gilchrist, and, so confident are they that he will win that many of them have "big money" wagered on his success. They claim that he will carry all of the East Coast counties, in which we have been taught to believe that Mr. Stockton was particularly strong.

Finally, we commend to all "doubting Thomases" the many expressions from the State newspapers, which have been reprinted in these columns since the campaign begun and a few of which appear in this issue.

A careful survey of the field from every view-point indicates that, on Tuesday next, Gilchrist will beat both Brown, and Stockton and be nominated for governor in the first primary. If however this prognostication fails, Gilchrist's lead will be so great that it will be absurd for Mr. Stockton to contest with him in a second primary.

It is quite evident that a large majority of the people are weary of "machine" politics as exemplified by the Broward-Barrs-Stockton combination. The three are "birds of a feather" and all from Jacksonville. They rule Jacksonville, they rule the State, and in this campaign they are but seeking to tighten and perpetuate their grasp that they may continue to donate $5,000 fees of the school money to favorite lawyers, give "fat jobs" to their "heelers and strikers" regardless of primaries and executive committees, nullify the judgments of courts by the wholesale release of criminals, and, in short, secure the prestige of high office that they may dictate, if the opportunity comes, who shall hold all the federal offices in this State from fourth-class postmasters up to collectors of the ports of Tampa and Jacksonville.

The election of General Gilchrist will defeat this great scheme.

Hon. A. J. Knight, one of Tampa's best and most popular business men, is a candidate for delegate from this district to the Democratic national convention. He will be hard to beat, for he is well known and highly esteemed throughout this section, and Tampa alone is likely to start him off with 5,000 or 7,000 votes next Tuesday. As he favors Bryan for president, it would be all right to send him to Denver.

The Ocala Banner last Saturday declared for Hon. John S. Beard for United States senator. Well. Beard's all right, because Frank Mayes in particular and many other reliable people in general say so; and if he goes to the senate, there will be no weeping and wailing in this office. 'Rah for Beard!—also for Fletcher and Lamar! All good men.

The Gainesville Sun has been repeatedly quoted as saying that Alachua county is for Stockton, but the Gainesville Elevator of last week has this to say on the subject: "Alachua county taxpayers and voters talk Gilchrist for Governor, Beard and Lamar for the Senate, but you seldom hear Broward's name spoken of favorably."


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