

The Punta Gorda Herald

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1916

Editors for Office

It is very unusual for a newspaper editor to become a candidate for a public office. Of some two hundred of them in Florida, in days gone by not five per cent of them have been candidates for elective offices.

Now, however, an unusual number of them are candidates for nomination in the June primaries. The Herald is especially pleased to note that most of them are candidates for the legislature and it sincerely hopes that all of them will be nominated and elected, for they are needed in the legislature not only for promoting legislation for the general good of Florida, but for relieving the press of the unreasonable restrictions and burdens imposed upon it by legislatures of the past.

Amongst those who are candidates for the legislature are the following:

R. W. Storrs, editor of the Breeze, DeFuniak Springs, candidate for senator from Walton county—an excellent man, friend of the farmers, belonging to the radical wing of the Democratic party, but a man whom both of the wings and the people in general can safely trust;

Wm. H. Mapoles, editor of the Laurel Hill News, candidate for the legislature from Okaloosa county, who has served two terms in the legislature and is noted as a fighter for the right;

Rube Allyn, editor of the Sarasota Sun, candidate for representative from Manatee county,—an original genius, but fully competent and worthy of the honor;

Robert J. Holly, editor of the Sanford Herald, candidate for representative from Seminole county, a "safe and sane" man who can be depended upon to work for the best interests of Florida and of the state press;

Wm. A. Russell, editor of the Palatka News, and H. S. McKenzie, editor of the Palatka Times-Herald, both of whom are candidates for representative from Putnam county, both experienced in legislation and both capable of rendering excellent service for the state and the press. As Putnam is entitled to two representatives, both should be chosen.

Other editors aspiring to office are Senator L. W. Zim, editor of the St. Augustine Meteor, who wishes to be chosen as superintendent of public instruction of St. Johns county, and C. C. Woodward of the Plant City Courier, who aspires to the tax assessorship of Hillsborough county, both loyal Democrats and thoroughly worthy of the recognition which they seek.

W. L. Straub, editor of the St. Petersburg Times, candidate for the postmastership of his city, a man well qualified and highly deserving.

The Herald is emphatically in favor of giving each one of these editors the office to which he aspires, as it is convinced that each and every one of them is worthy, competent, honest and patriotic. They have spent years in serving the people and the Democratic party and in boosting the state, and now they should receive a more substantial recognition than self-consciousness of duty performed and laudatory resolutions of boards of trade and complimentary remarks of appreciative subscribers.

That alleged oil gusher near Apalachicola that enthused some of the newspapers last week, was found to be spouting water, not oil.

The Tallahassee Record last week issued a great political edition of twenty-eight pages. A large part of its space was taken up with the pictures, platforms and announcements of various candidates, conspicuous amongst which were the honest faces of The Herald's favorite candidates, Albert W. Gilchrist for United States senator, Wm. V. Knott for governor, and John C. Luning for state treasurer. The Record had in the same issue an editorial denouncing the Guardians of Liberty, from which it may be inferred that it favors Senator Bryan for re-nomination, as he seems to be the only candidate fighting that organization.

A society even in Ocala on the 15th inst. was the marriage of Thomas Henry Harris, son of the revered editor of the Banner, and Miss Sara Elizabeth Gross, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. J. M. Gross. If the groom inherits the characteristics of his beloved father, as is very probable, he will be an admirable husband as well as a valuable citizen; and we are quite sure that his discrimination has enabled him to win a bride who will prove a model wife. The Herald extends congratulations and best wishes, but regrets to note that the happy couple are not to live in Florida, but at Proctor, Minnesota.

The Punta Gorda Herald objects to the Times-Union's sea-serpent; perhaps Brother Jordan thinks he has a monopoly of such creatures.—Florida Times-Union.—Objection was not intended; merely suggested a subject in the present in preference to one in the past. And Jordan doesn't claim a monopoly of any kind of serpent, not even of fish stories. Next time he comments on the Times-Union's sea-serpent, he will label his remark, as he should have done in the first place, "This is a joke."

The Key West Journal changed hands last week. The new owners are: Leonard B. Gillon, general manager; Gabriel L. Lowe, business manager, and Edward A. Mathews, circulation manager. They are good and capable gentlemen and The Herald wishes them unbounded success.

The gay and festive German who edits the Mulberry Herald, celebrated St. Patrick's Day by printing his paper on green paper. And the Irish fighting Germany! What do you think of that Brother Hanna, you scintillant scribe of Auburndale?

Gilchrist on Pensions

The Pension Board, consisting of the Governor (Gilchrist), Comptroller and Treasurer, reported to the legislature that it would take six mills to pay the Confederate pensions under the Act of 1907, proving the same by figures and other data. "Men who enlisted as boys in organization of Home Guards," as soon as they became sixty years of age, would be pensioned. There were no limitations as to income or property.

A widow lady said to Governor Gilchrist, "I have to pay one to two dollars taxes to support Mr. Blank, who is worth \$100,000 or more." Among some people, such was bringing into disrepute the Confederate pensioners who were justly entitled to aid.

No legislature has ever exceeded

ed the levy of 4 mills. It then became necessary to change the pension law. Gilchrist recommended: "If the cut-down process prevails, it should not apply to the pensions of those who are needy and infirm." If left to him, he would have largely increased the pensions of the needy and infirm and would have cut down the others.

Some Governors have not the backbone to touch the pocket-books of any voters in the state.—QUI VIVE?

The Newspaper's Work

Few persons outside the office of a newspaper have the slightest conception of how much work that newspaper does for the town and community in which it is published and for which it does not receive a cent of pay, says the Columbus Enquirer-Sun. Does not even ask for it.

The columns of the newspaper are always open for the publication of matter that is for the good of the community. It may be that frequently the publisher is unable to publish all that is sent to him, but it is due to inability to do so rather than a desire not to do so.

Thousands of words, hundreds of columns and page after page of his paper is devoted every year to upbuilding the community and the advancement of its interests.

And every page, every column, every word, every letter in every word, cost money. The writer in the news department must be paid for writing or putting it in shape for publication; the compositor who puts it in type must be paid for his work; the man who places the matter in the forms must be paid; the stereotyper, the pressman and their helpers must be paid; the white paper upon which the matter is printed costs money; the ink with which it is printed costs money, and there are many other items incident to the publication of an article all of which cost money that the publisher of the paper must go down into his pocket and dig up.

There is no other institution in a community that does more for it than the newspaper; we believe we should be safe in saying that there is no other that does as much; we are sure that there is no other that does as much without pay.

The newspaper, therefore, deserves the support of every one who wants to see his city and community grow. This support should not come as a "charity" proposition, but as support of the city and community. Directly, it is true, it goes to the publisher, but indirectly it goes to the community as a whole benefits all the people.

Therefore the support of the public is due the newspaper, not merely because it is an institution of the community, but because it is one that is doing something for the general good. The newspaper publisher should not be expected to bear all the burden.

He expects nothing without giving value received for it. His space in his paper is his stock in trade. He sells it or he doesn't. If he does his business prosper, if he does not, as a matter of course, it cannot prosper.

If the merchant sells his goods he prospers, but if he does not sell them his business drops off.

It is so with any other business. But no other business contributes as much without pay to the general good of a community as the newspaper.

Poll Taxes Must be Paid by May 13th

In order that an elector may take part in the state and county primary June 6, poll taxes must be paid on or before Saturday, May 13. Any voter who fails to pay his poll tax by that date will not be permitted to vote in the primary.

The requirement regarding poll taxes is that all persons liable must have paid their poll taxes for the two years next preceding the election on or before the second Saturday in the month preceding the election. This makes the last date for paying the poll tax, for participation in the nomination for candidates for state and county offices, May 13.

Poll taxes may be paid at any time prior to that date at the office of the tax collector.—Plant City Courier.

However, there are reasons why the intrepid Turk would rather than be driven into sea.

T. R. calls for "sound Americanism," and it must be said that his brand is sound—all sound.

STATE PRESS COMMENT

Macclenny Standard.—J. M. Barrs is taking a fling out of Gilchrist, thereby helping him in his candidacy.

Ocala Banner.—The fight between Bryan and Trammell is making votes for Gilchrist and Wall.

Sumter County Times.—Ex-Governor Gilchrist has so far seemed to steer clear of the abuse method of seeking votes. This is to his credit.

Ocala Banner.—The business end of a town or city is judged by its newspapers. If there is nothing doing in the advertising line, as a rule there's nothing doing over the counters.

Daytona Journal.—Bryan and Trammell are still joint debating and the opinion is growing that they are convincing the state that neither of them should go to the senate.

Wauchula Advocate.—The Sunday Jacksonville Metropolis published excellent pictures of the four candidates for United States Senator, and our friend Albert was the noblest looking Roman of them all.

Auburndale News.—General A. W. Gilchrist, of Punta Gorda, candidate for the Senate was in town Monday, grabbing votes right and left with both hands. His many friends here appreciated his visit. He has been dropping into Auburndale ever since 1884.

Jasper News.—J. S. Gringer of Bradford county, who was a candidate for state treasurer four years ago and was defeated, is again a candidate for the same office. We think that when the votes are counted, J. C. Luning, the present treasurer, will be found doing business at the same old stand.

Ocala Banner.—We believe that all the people of Florida will assent to the statement of the Gulf Coast Breeze, printed at Crawfordville, Wakulla county, that Albert W. Gilchrist made a fine governor. They will also unanimously concur in the statement that he is scrupulously honest, and came out of office as he went into it—with clean hands.

Lakeland Telegram.—We gather from our reading that a secretary of war is expected to know nothing about war, but that he may have assistants who are posted on military matters. This being the case, the suggestion of Adjutant General Foster for the position of assistant secretary of war is an excellent one. Then if Baker wants to know anything about war, he can "ask Mr. Foster."

Palatka News.—Gov Trammell and Senator Bryan have been having joint debates in several parts of the State, and there has been some feeling displayed on the part of each. No good can come to either by these platform displays. The people hear and apparently take an interest; but when the debate gets to a certain point, they bolt and vote for the other fellow—the one who keeps out of the scrap.

Thorn, in Palm Beach Post.—Punta Gorda Herald is the authority for the assertion that Albert W. Gilchrist is now possessed of one hundred thousand dollars. The Punta Gorda Herald ought to know; and if that is the case, there is no doubt that when the hat now thrown into the ring by the candidate for United States senate shall have become sorter dusty and frayed, Albert will still be able to buy another without making a requisition upon the state. If I had one hundred thousand dollars, I wouldn't care even whether there was such a thing as a senate—to say nothing about running for it. Nossir, I wouldn't even saunter towards it.

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