

The Punta Gorda Herald

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, AUG. 24, 1916

To Beautify the Highways

Don't plant oak trees. They are as common and plebeian as fleas in Georgia and political frauds in Alabama.

Plant something pretty and tropical,—mango trees, wild figs, sea grapes, tamarinds, mimosas, magnolias and even bamboos. The bamboos look stately and graceful, but they are a nuisance on any ground on which you wish to grow anything else. They are worse than Japanese cane or cane grass or mole crickets.

The mango, which is a fruit tree, is beautiful and should be liberally used, but not to the extent of making our highway scenery monotonous. We endorse the views of the Palm Beach Post, which are as follows:

"If it could be so arranged that the pine which seems to be admitted would be one of the trees to be set, could be alternated with coconuts and mangoes, there would be a peculiar value attached to the thoroughfare. The mango is slow-growing—but that they will continue to grow and thrive in the sands of Florida without fertilizer or any care has been proven by the growth to be noted in several of the additions about this city.

"The planting of these mangoes would give at certain seasons of the year a high value. The fruit would be free to the passers-by—and perhaps the opportunity to acquire the taste for the fruit would be encouraged by the ease with which they could be obtained. The tree forms an excellent shade giver. Its blossoms would furnish honey for vast numbers of apiaries which would spring up over the county. Its blossom is attractive. Its fruit is ever in demand. It grows to a size which would add to the beauty of the roadway for miles and miles. And, with such a highway-border, no other street or avenue in the world would be more attractive."

The Florida Times-Union is certainly "toting fair" in this Knott-Catts controversy. It is publishing all the statements of both of the contestants, and, for this reason, it should be read by every voter in Florida who is sincerely desirous of arriving at a correct conclusion in this gubernatorial imbroglio. We would submit, however, that the statement of the Catts League published in the Times-Union of the 16th inst. should have appeared in Sunday's comic supplement of that paper, for it is the most foolish political document that we have ever read.

Editor Carter of the Arcadia Enterprise, says, "there are more ways than one to choke a dog, or convince a wife." We agree to the dog part of the argument, but still insist that a kiss embroidered, so to speak, with a velvety mustache can do more towards convincing a wife than half the words in an unabridged dictionary. But does Brother Carter mean words or bludgeons?

We have not yet got the Danish West Indies, as some newspapers allege; but, in case of war, we could take possession of them, as Roosevelt did of the canal zone and Germany did of Belgium. Denmark could not help herself. Why, therefore, pay \$25,000,000 for three islands that do not appear to be worth three cents?

Viva voce voting will solve the problem.

The secret ballot promotes lying, hypocrisy and moral cowardice amongst voters. Away with it and give us viva voce voting.

We will not print the State University bulletin recommending Indian runner ducks for eggs. Their eggs are horrible, but the ducks themselves are good eating.

There seems to be in Ocala a Harris family that spell their surname with a double s. That is not good French, it ought to be spelled Harryce. Frank Harris doesn't belong to it; he is too plebeian.

Require every man to stand up in the polling place and in the presence of the public announce his vote, and there will be no more errors in counting, no more frauds, no more suspicions of frauds.

Query: If a man whom we know to be dishonest or otherwise corrupt embarks in the newspaper business, sets up a cigar factory or opens a ten-pin alley, do newspaper ethics require that he be "puffed"? Is it reprehensible to omit mention of such a man?

Sunday's Ocala Banner has a head-line reading, "Adopting stern measures to check plague's spread." Now, we shall expect Thorn, the inquisitive and incorrigible wag of the Palm Beach Post, to ask why they don't adopt bow measures, which would seem better than those taken at the stern.

The Herald Advises Parents

The editor of The Herald has raised four sons and one daughter. He, therefore, imagines that he is competent to advise people who are now raising children. He begs to advise them to consider this question:

Is it your intention that your children shall live permanently in Florida? Do you wish them to spend their lives in this state? If yes, then give them every opportunity possible to win all the influence that may contribute to their success in life. The more friends they have in Florida, the better it will be for them in their efforts to achieve success in Florida.

Every one knows that early friendships are the most lasting. Boyhood and girlhood friends are loyal when all others fail. Such friends are acquired before the children reach the age of maturity.

If they are to spend their lives in this state, of what advantage to them are friends in Virginia, Connecticut or Michigan? Why then send them to school or college in other states where they will contract friendships that will be of no advantage to them in after years?

Perhaps that bright son of yours may, in coming years, become a candidate for governor. If he has been a student at the University of Florida, he will have one or more ardent friends in every county of the state to help him in his race. If at college he proved himself a shirker or untrustworthy, there will be those in every county to rise up and testify against him and protect the people from being imposed upon by an undesirable official.

And so the girl who attends the Florida State College for Women will have friends, loyal friend

all over the state, to aid her in any ambitious career she may undertake, but the girl who goes to Vassar or Agnes Scott or Wesleyan will have no such devoted friends in Florida, and her friends in New York or Georgia will be of little benefit to her in this state.

Moral: Don't send your children to school or college outside of Florida. Read Commissioner McRae's article in this paper and send your children only to Florida educational institutions, which are fully as good as those of any other state.

Solution of Our Election Problem

The sentiment against our present election system is general throughout the state. The system has utterly failed to give satisfaction and it should therefore, be abolished.

Ever since the unsatisfactory, not to say ridiculous results of the June primary became known, the newspapers have been criticizing the law under which it was held. Some want it abolished, some want its defects remedied by amendment, while a very few suggest a return to the convention system. There seems to be a unanimous demand for a change, but no one as yet has suggested any improvement in the system that would remove all objections and prove fully satisfactory. These things cannot be accomplished by any conceivable change in the present law nor by a return to the convention system. But there is a system that is simple and easy of operating and eliminating all possibility of errors or frauds.

It is viva voce voting. Abolish the secret ballot, which simply encourages sneaking and moral cowardice, and require every voter to stand up in the polling place and read aloud from his ticket the names of those for whom he votes. Have two good men to keep tally of the votes as they are called out, and at the close, sign the tally sheets, while a third man acts as clerk and joins the other two in certifying to the results.

Friends of the various candidates would be present and keep tally of the votes for their own information and satisfaction. It would not be necessary to limit the voting to one day, but it could and, if necessary should be continued through several days. The managers could close the polls at dark, take their tally sheets with them, go home and spend the night and resume work next morning.

It will readily be seen that this system would eliminate lying, deceit, fraud and, to a considerable extent, the moral cowardice and the sneaking which are protected and fostered by the secret ballot.

Of course a few men will sell their votes under any system, but, under this viva voce plan, they would hesitate long before selling. The only objection to this system is that it would prove embarrassing to all men who do not wish it known how or for whom they vote.

Although R. B. Sturkie of Dade City, famous as the introducer of the celebrated Resolutions 4 and 5, declares that he is for Knott, has been for Knott since the beginning of the race for governor and will continue to support Knott till the end, Oscar M. Johnson, who writes political foolishness for the Jacksonville Metropolis, alleges in the issue of that paper of the 19th inst. that "Mr. Sturkie is now supporting Catts. He made a statement to the writer July 15, admitting his change of position"—from Knott to Catts, an allegation which Mr. Sturkie emphatically denies. Question—has either gentleman told a lie, and, if so, which one?

It is understood that this government "of the people, by the people and for the people." To settle disputes among themselves, the people have established courts and, in so doing, have virtually agreed to abide by their decisions. But the Catts partisans tell us that the people are superior to the courts and have a right to disregard their decisions. If this be a correct contention, then the people have a right to ignore any law that they themselves have enacted, even to commit murder in order to carry out their wishes.

All politicians are grafters, and there is no difference between democratic and republican politicians. They are all out to make a easy living off the public.—Ocala Star.—Gracious goodness, Brothe

Benjamin! What a pessimist you are! But maybe with you the word politician has a special meaning and may apply solely to those who are forever seeking office.

Now the state pardoning board is getting a lot of deserved criticism for the lavish and inexcusable abuse of the pardoning power. By their indefensible conduct, the members of the board are nullifying the verdicts of juries and the judgments of courts and thus encouraging lynch law. The press cannot be too severe in denouncing the wholesale and reckless abuse of the pardoning power, of which the board is guilty.

STATE PRESS COMMENT

Palatka Times-Herald:—Goode Guerry, the brilliant advocate of racing, saloons and "wide-open towns," has taken charge of the publicity end of Mr. Catts' campaign.

Lakeland Telegram:—We can not work up much grief because a negro murder at Gainesville, who also writes poetry, is about to be hanged. It is only now and then that the poets get their just deserts.

Winter Haven Chief:—Probably the reason the tropical hurricanes do not come this way is that the weather man considers Florida has political storms bad enough right now.

Lakeland Telegram:—We do not claim that this is an original discovery, but we have observed that some people seem to have money with which to do everything except pay their debts.

Panama City Pilot:—Catts says that West Florida will give him 10,000 votes in November. Holmes county with its 1,584 votes for governor in the primary, and its reputation, ought to be able to give him at least 4,000 of the 10,000.

Tampa Tribune:—Editor Jordan has been accused of "heterodox syllabication." If this had been brought out before the primary, Brother Jordan probably would have been eliminated from the race for violating the corrupt practice act.

Ocala Star:—Editor Jordan of the Punta Gorda Herald, has as sharply a pointed pencil as any writer in the state, and tho he prefers to write kind and complimentary words with it, he can make it as effective as a bayonet toward things he does not approve of.

Florida Times-Union:—Why not let Knott select precincts for a recount and Catts make selections as well? When both candidates have the same rights, is it not a bit unreasonable to say the second count has been unsatisfactory because one candidate refuses to play the game?

Tampa Tribune:—"Not one person in ten holds an umbrella in correct position to protect his back from the rain," is the important discovery made by the Punta Gorda Herald. Permit us to add, not one person in ten who holds an umbrella is the original and rightful owner of the said umbrella.

The high cost of paper and the increased difficulty in obtaining a supply have made it necessary for many Florida papers to reduce in size. Orlando Reporter-Star has gone down from 8 to 4 pages, St. Augustine Record has reduced from 8 to 6 pages and the Pensacola papers and other large dailies in the state are becoming smaller as time progresses.—DeLand News.

Ocala Star:—The Tampa Tribune says the supreme court is setting a bad precedent by allowing a recount of votes. The Tribune is making a large gray mule of itself. The supreme court has not set a precedent. The courts of this country have ordered recounts made in disputed election cases for years and years, probably before Florida was a state. The supreme court would indeed be setting a bad precedent if it ruled that a man who believed that votes cast for him had not been counted should not have a recount. Such a decision would mean an election for any bunch of rascals who were able to control the appointment of inspectors and clerks.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

The young business man measures the importance of his enterprise by the vision which he has of its ultimate growth.

The Officers of this institution in like manner, measure the importance of his bank account, not by the size of its initial deposit but by its possibilities for development.

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