

# The Punta Gorda Herald

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA. THURSDAY, SEPT. 21, 1916

## A Political Ruffian

By his disgraceful harangue in Punta Gorda last Thursday night, Rev. Sidney J. Catts lost at least four votes and gained none. Four gentlemen have voluntarily come to this editor and said that they had intended to vote for Mr. Catts, but, after hearing his Thursday night's tirade, they would not vote for him under any circumstances. Six or eight others have told the editor that they emphatically condemned the unseemly language used by Mr. Catts.

Further, the personal abuse which he heaped upon this editor, as well as the fact that his conduct is in flagrant disregard of at least one plank in the Democratic national platform, which plank is printed on this page, absolves both The Herald and its editor from supporting or voting for Mr. Catts even though the supreme court should declare him the legal nominee. It had been the declared intention of the editor to support Mr. Catts, if the supreme court decided in his favor, but now he will not vote for Mr. Catts, even if all the courts in Florida should declare him the legal nominee.

Instead of answering the questions which The Herald asked him, although they were propounded in the most respectful manner, which no one who has read them can deny, Mr. Catts became very mad and poured out the vials of his wrath upon the head of the offending editor and even went so far as to urge the people of Punta Gorda to set up another newspaper here and "run old Jordan out." He said that, if he should be elected governor, he would contribute \$500.00 to help start another paper here and "run old Jordan out." Now, wouldn't that be a lovely, patriotic and highly Christian act for a governor to do, and he a preacher, too?

Now, Mr. Catts is a Guardian of Liberty, and we are told that all members of that organization take a solemn obligation, in fact an oath, to uphold a free press, as well as free speech, free schools and other patriotic propositions. The question, therefore, naturally arises, did Mr. Catts violate this solemn obligation when he urged the people here to take steps to break down The Herald and "run old Jordan out?" Is that the kind of a man to be made governor of this great state?

Other newspapers, two in Jacksonville and one in Orlando and several in other parts of the state, have called Mr. Catts a hypocrite, a liar, a faker and all sorts of bad names, but The Herald has never applied such terms to him. So far as we know, he has never assailed those newspapers, but he comes here, singles out The Herald which has treated him as a gentleman, and like the political ruffian that he is vilifies this editor and urges the people to "run him out," and all because the editor was and is exercising the right guaranteed him by the laws and by the Guardians of Liberty to run a FREE PRESS. He denies the right of this one editor alone to a free expression of opinion.

He did not attempt to answer, nay, he utterly ignored the most important questions which The Herald asked him, viz: what had he done for the state or the Democratic party to justify him in asking for the great honor of being made governor? Wherein are the liberties and welfare of our people threatened by the very small number of Catholics in the State?

Does he really believe that the legislature will enact into law the radical policies which he advocates?

As to the amount of taxes he pays, he said it was "none of old Jordan's business," but he did state that he paid \$22.00 a year. (The Jordan taxes amount to \$250.00 a year).

Incidentally he referred to the money which, in various places he has alleged that Cardinal Gibbons has contributed to defeat him, and this time he twice alluded to the amount as being \$180,000.00. In other places he stated it variously as \$10,000.00, \$20,000.00, \$30,000.00 and \$80,000.00.

He tried to explain the charges made against him that, in divers places and at different times, he had made insulting remarks about the old Confederate soldiers and Florida high school girls; but, in this effort, he contradicted Rev. John H. Caldwell, a Baptist minister of Jasper, and Albert Williamson, the fighting editor of Jacksonville.

Mr. Catts' whole harangue was an insult to the intelligence of our people. He seems to think that they will believe anything he says, no matter how absurd it may be. And his whole manner was that of a blatant bully seeking a fight. This characteristic was shown when he admitted that he had killed a "nigger" in Alabama and said he was "glad of it."

Notwithstanding the many serious objections to Mr. Catts, many good men are supporting him. We have no criticism to make on them. They have a right to do as they please in this matter, and we are sure that their sense of justice and their regard for a FREE PRESS will accord The Herald and its editor the same right.

## This Rules Him Out

"Whoever by arousing prejudices of a racial, religious or other nature, creates discord and strife among our people so as to obstruct the wholesome process of unification, is faithless to the trust which the privileges of citizenship repose in him, and disloyal to his country."

The above is from the national Democratic platform adopted this year in St. Louis. It rules Sidney J. Catts out of the party and absolves all Democrats from voting for him under any circumstances. No man in Florida, during the past forty years, has done more than Mr. Catts to arouse religious prejudices and "create discord and strife among our people." And you know it.

## Paternal Chiding

Col. Stovall of the Tampa Tribune, has no better friend in Florida than Hon. Frank Harris of the Ocala Banner. It is interesting to read the gentle, paternal chiding which Col. Harris administers to his erring friend. The following are specimens:

"We do not believe that the Tampa Tribune is feeling comfortable in its present company."

"The Tampa Tribune shows every indication that it would feel more comfortable if it were in another boat."

"There seems to us no greater political marvel than that of the Tampa Tribune throwing its support for Catts."

We haven't heard, but we'll bet that when Catts got through them, those two-column questions

of Editor Jordan's looked like a bunch of "pi."—Tampa Tribune.

— put Catts "in a hole," which made him mad and, instead of trying to answer them, he made a fool of himself. Now, will the Tribune come to Catts' rescue and answer those questions in the same gentlemanly language which they were asked? Being devoted to him, the Tribune ought to help him this much.

State Chemist Rose will please advise his stenographer that Sumter is not spelled with a p. The Herald has a holy horror of Floridians mis-spelling Florida names. That's why, a short while ago, it made an ad about the spelling of Suwannee—and it was sustained in its contention for a double n.

## Will Receive Campaign Contributions

In compliance with the request of the Democratic National Committee, The Herald will receive any contributions which may be made to the party's national campaign fund. All persons, therefore, who wish to contribute to his cause will please do so as quickly as possible, as the time is very short.

## Our Supreme Court

That element which at first displayed such a readiness to criticize Florida courts before any verdict was given and howled so prematurely about a "court nominee," is showing evidence of returning sanity. Most reasonable men have the utmost confidence in the integrity of the men who compose the Florida Supreme Court, and it will be an evil day when their decisions are flouted by ignorance and prejudice.—Plant City Courier.

The Star does not believe the members of the supreme court are immaculate or infallible. But it does believe they are better men and lawyers than Sidney J. Catts, and it thinks they would be strictly within their rights if they sent to jail some of the men who are making incendiary utterances about them. We do not believe in "the divinity that doth hedge about a king," and hold that even a supreme court judge is the lawful subject of criticism. But when a citizen declares that a judge is a crook, he should be made to prove his words or suffer for the failure to do so. The people of Florida choose their judges, and wanton disrespect shown the courts insults every citizen.—Ocala Star.

## Peace

Peace is not for cowards. It calls for the highest form of courage. It demands moral stamina, which is more rare than physical bravery.

It calls for the courage of a man, not that of a wolf. It means putting national justice above national pride. It means the exaltation of self-restraint above the passion of vengeance.

It scorns race-hate, and proclaims, "Above all nations is humanity." Its patriotism is a ministry to the world, and not a menace.

It means the higher manliness of the gentleman, and not the cheaper manliness of the bully. It often leads to abuse, contempt, martyrdom. It led the Prince of Peace there.

Peace is the ally of wisdom, generous patience, far-sight, human consideration for human lives. War is the ally of egotism, anger, cruelty, vain-glory.

Peace is the unshakable courage of sanity; war is the red, blind courage of madness.

The kings of the earth are men of war; the King of Kings, when He sent His consort of angels to earth, gave them no war-ery but "Peace on earth, good-will toward men!"—Dr. Frank Crane in Pictorial Review.

## Won't Say So Here

In a speech at Sanford recently, Rev. S. J. Catts, independent candidate for Governor, said that "he never made such an assertion about the school girls, and any man who so states was a liar."

Now, just imagine the Rev. Sid. J. calling Albert Williamson a liar. If he will do this, he will not be on the ticket this fall. But the funeral ceremonies might be interesting.

... a dose to eminent citizen... who heard the... make the... about the high school girls, and he will not call either of them a liar and get away with it.—Tallahassee Record, Sep. 14.

## RANDOM RAPS (Kanned)

This improvident human race has not yet put shark meat on the market.

It begins to appear that Greece's bread was not buttered on either side.

Evidently the sun also is beginning to tire of getting up an hour before day.

St. Louis has a milk strike, but the humble kine still continue to chew the placid cud.

Any power that rules the waves should be careful what it does with other people's mails.

Abundant crops of peanuts are promised, as is appropriate in a quadrennial election season.

It appears that we might just as well give up the idea that Denmark will offer trading stamps.

The photographs of the Russians arriving in Saloniki show a fine looking set of stalwart men.

Despite the doings in Europe strangers continue to visit the slaughter houses at the stockyards.

There may be a serious bread shortage in Austria, but the populace can always fall back on those Vienna rolls.

Germany is to have butter three days in the week. Some oleomargarine families in this country do not have it once a year.

If either Charlie Hughes or Charlie Fairbanks, should enlist now to fight for France, he would have to shave 'em off.

In Germany the fifth war loan, which will be issued September 4, is being described by canvassers as "the last war loan." Draw your own conclusions.

**People of the United States Are Almost Universally Patriotic**

By CHAMP CLARK, Speaker of the House of Representatives

THE Monroe doctrine said we would take the South American republics under our wing that they may be free and that we may be free, and that doctrine is still in force. We told European nations that if they lay hands on these republics they would suffer, and they have respected our declaration. History shows numerous instances where they have respected it. When Great Britain was trying to get a hold on Venezuela Grover Cleveland shook his pudgy fist in the face of the British lion, and he stopped, and we had no ships then, either.

JOHNNY BULL LET US ALONE, AND NOBODY HAS TRIED TO BOTHER US ABOUT THE MONROE DOCTRINE SINCE.

When Colonel Roosevelt spoke about the Monroe doctrine in Chile he caused a riot—probably what he was after.

There are few unpatriotic citizens of America. The people in this country who are not patriotic don't constitute one-tenth of 1 per cent.

## The Substitute.

"I never saw such people as you are for being afraid of ventilation! I simply must have a little fresh air!"

"All right, Miss Grouch. Son, put that new tune on the phonograph."—Baltimore American.

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