

# THE MORNING SUN.

Volume 1.  
Number 20

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1907.

Five Cents a copy  
\$1 for the season

## WOULD PROVIDE PURE ELECTIONS

**CORRUPT PRACTICES PRECEDING AND DURING ELECTIONS WOULD BE PREVENTED BY BILL OF SENATOR TRAMMELL—HEAVY PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION—INFORMER TO GET PART OF FINE.**

Prevention of corrupt practices both preceding and during an election is the purpose of a bill introduced by Senator Trammell yesterday.

While it is sweeping in its scope and iron-clad in its prohibitions against bribery of all kinds, yet its author has overlooked one point that should be added through amendment. Such amendment should provide for the punishment of those persons, societies or organizations, who directly or indirectly ask or intimate to a candidate any desire for money, gift or other thing.

Every candidate for office is harassed by requests, both verbal and written, which, if he will grant, will secure him political support from those who are trying a hold-up game.

The principal sections of the bill are:

"Section 1. That any person who, directly or indirectly, by himself, or through any other person in connection with or in respect of any election or primary for the election or nomination of candidates for the various county and State offices of this State, the office of Representative in the Congress of the United States, the office of Presidential Elector, or Senator of the United States, gives, offers, or promises to give, or procures any other person to give, offer, or promise to give to any elector or other person any gift or reward in money, goods, or any other valuable thing, or any office, emolument, or employment on condition, express or implied, that such elector or other person shall cast, give or withhold his vote at any such election or primary election, or that such elector or other person will use his influence in the interest of the candidacy of any particular candidate, or against the interest of any particular candidate, or offers or promises to pay, lend or contribute any money or other valuable consideration in connection with any such election or primary election, or the campaign preceding the same; for any other purpose than the following matters and services at their reasonable, bona fide and customary value, shall be deemed guilty of the felony of bribery, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than five years or by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars nor less than one thousand dollars, and any person who accepts such bribe shall also be guilty of a felony and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or less than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding two years. In such cases the informant, whose testimony leads to conviction, shall receive one-fourth of the fine, together with full immunity. Such matters and services for which expenditures shall be lawful are the following, to wit:

"Rent of halls and actual traveling and hotel expenses of speakers; music for public meetings and expenses incident thereto; preparation, printing and publication of posters, lithographs, banners, notices and literary material; compensation of agents to supervise and prepare advertisements, pictures, reading matter and additional circulation, at a rate in no case to exceed the legal rate allowed by law for legal publications; preparation and circulation of letters, pamphlets and literature bearing on the election; rent of offices; compensation of such clerks as shall be directly required to manage the necessary and reasonable business of the campaign preceding the day of the election or primary election; compensation of attorneys-at-law for actual legal services rendered directly in connection with the election or the primary election; preparation of list of voters; payment of necessary personal expenses of a candidate for traveling and purposes incidental to traveling; the reasonable traveling expenses of agents, clerks and speakers; postage, express, telegrams and telephones; expense of preparing, circulating and filing petitions for nomination; compensation not to exceed three dollars a day each for two watchers at each polling place, and food for the same.

"Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize the employment or payment of workers or agents of any person or persons, either before the election or on the day of the election, otherwise than herein provided.

"Sec. 2. That it shall be unlawful for any corporation to make directly or indirectly any contribution, payment, loan, advance, deposit or promise of money or its equivalent for the purpose of furthering the election or defeat of any candidate for any political office or in connection with any political office or the nomination for such office.

"It shall also be unlawful for any corporation to make directly or indirectly any payment, loan, advance, deposit, or promise of money or its equivalent for use in the campaign preceding or in connection with any election or primary election at which any State or county officer, or a Representative in the United States Congress or a Presidential elector, or United States Senator, is to be elected or nominated. That any corporation which shall willfully violate the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of an offense against the State of Florida, and shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than two thousand dollars or more than ten thousand dollars, one-fourth of which fine, together with full immunity, shall be received by the informant whose

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## CARTER NOW ASKS TO EMPLOY COUNSEL

**RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE COUNSEL FOR I. I. INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE STIRS UP DEBATE IN THE HOUSE—FEELING THAT LAWYERS IN LEGISLATURE SHOULD DO WORK INSTEAD OF OUTSIDE ATTORNEY.**

At the opening of the session a communication was read that the joint committee, appointed to investigate the acts and doing of the Internal Improvement Trustees, had, after careful consideration, concluded to ask the



Captain Hendry will get that dam across Lake Hippochee Canal.

Legislature at once for an appropriation of \$1,000 to be placed at the credit of the committee to defray incidental expenses in connection with the investigation! the committee also said it needed counsel, and concluded with the statement that the committee is of the opinion that it has not authority to engage counsel under the resolution which created the committee. It recommended that a bill be introduced to authorize the appropriation of \$1,000 or so much thereof as will be needed to meet the expenses of the investigation.

On motion of Mr. Carter, the communication was ordered spread on the Journal.

When Mr. Carter's House Concurrent Resolution No. 21 had been discussed and amendments proposed thereto, it was not rushed through the House, but allowed to go over until to-day.

The resolution, which came up on its first reading, came up for the relief of the joint committee investigating the Internal Improvement Trustees, which has announced, through its members, that it has reached a stage in its investigations where it is expedient to employ the services of such an attorney as they may agree upon at as low a compensation as is practicable. The rules were waived to put the resolution on its second reading and placed on its passage.

Mr. Wilson of Hernando wished to know if any agreement had been reached, to which Mr. Carter replied that none as yet as far as he knew.

Mr. Knight of Columbia asked if it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that an attorney was needed at this time. It seemed to Mr. Knight—and he so stated—that the House ought to have some indication as to what this expense will be and who was to be the attorney.

Mr. Wilson of Hernando moved that the further consideration of the resolution be postponed.

With every indication to circumvent this, Mr. Watson of Dade arose and said that he was a member of the committee. He said that one of the first propositions the committee ran up against was that it was a legal one and that it was up to the House whether or no it wanted an investigation that shall be thorough and legally correct. Certainly the people wanted and demanded it.

"How can an examination go on with a committee that is handicapped?" queried Mr. Watson. "If thus confronted I say that the committee had better stop its work right now."

"Haven't we two or three good lawyers on that committee?" was asked by Mr. Richbourg of Walton.

"Yes, there are," said Mr. Watson, "and the committee needs the money, for there are different witnesses in different parts of the State whose expenses to Tallahassee must be paid. The fact is, if this committee is not properly aided it had better drop its work and do something else."

Mr. Calkins of Nassau had something to say, which was like this:

"This investigation," said he, "should be made by the Legislature and not by some employed counsel. There are lawyers on the Committee. What do lawyers want with a lawyer? We are now right back to the same position we were a week ago last Wednesday. Why should we change now? Personally, I am satisfied with the Internal Improvement reports. Counsel for the committee would be at extra heavy cost. I stand opposed to it. I believe the investigation should be conducted by the Legislature and not by some lawyer who is not responsible to anyone."

Mr. Carter, who said he had pronounced views on this subject, called the attention of the House to the fact that it had not only created this committee, but had assigned a duty to it, and from all this results were expected before the close of the session.

"You say to the committee, 'Do it,'" said Mr. Carter, "and then throw obstacles in the way. I cannot believe that. This committee should not be handicapped by any cavilling about counsel. You had your chance to say they should not have counsel."

"I concede the right that this House should know who is employed as counsel and how much is to be paid for his service."

"I say you have no moral right to say now that the committee shall not have counsel."

Mr. Knight of Columbia said: "I understood when the resolution was adopted that

## TWO PER CENT TAX ON GROSS RECEIPTS

**WILL PUBLIC SERVICE UTILITIES HAVE TO PAY IF SENATOR TRAMMELL'S BILL BECOMES A LAW—PROVISIONS OF NEW FRANCHISE BILL.**

Senator Trammell introduced a bill yesterday relating to the payment of license or privilege taxes by corporations rendering service to the public in Florida that covers the matter of a franchise tax in a thorough manner.

The second day of the session Senator Trammell introduced Senate Bill No. 8, providing for a franchise tax on public service utilities, but which will be withdrawn in favor of the bill introduced yesterday, as the latter is drawn, to cover the taxation desired, in a more direct and complete manner.

Following are the sections of the bill:

"Section 1. That from and after the passage and approval of this act, each and every corporation exercising within this State the right or privilege of a railroad, street railway, express, sleeping car, chair car, dining car, parlor car, refrigerator car, ferry, terminal, transfer telegraph, telephone, water, gas or electricity company in rendering service to the public shall annually pay to the State a license or privilege tax equal to 2 per cent of the gross receipts of such company from intra-state business done under such right or privilege wholly within this State, during the year preceding the 1st day of July then last past. Such payments shall be made to the State Treasurer within thirty days from the 1st day of July of each year, and a statement under oath of the amount of such gross receipts shall at the same time be filed with the Comptroller. Payment of such taxes may be enforced under warrants issued by the State Comptroller, in like manner as the payment of taxes by railroad companies are enforced. If any such company fails to file the statement of gross receipts as herein provided, the Comptroller shall ascertain from any available sources the approximate amount thereof, and in case he cannot ascertain approximately the amount of such gross receipts, he shall then issue his warrant against the property of the delinquent company for the collection of a license or privilege tax equal to 2 per cent of the assessed value of the property of such company in this State.

Sec. 2. That this act shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Governor.

the committee would have the right to incur all expenses and ought to have that right, but I think we ought to know who this counsel is, and the committee ought to furnish the name and how much is to be paid. I believe this is our duty," with emphasis on the DUTY. "The counsel," continued Mr. Knight, "is, it looks to me now, going to do the examination and investigation instead of the committee."

Mr. Griggs took the floor and said: "As a member of that committee I do not know. It is the intention of the committee to—"

"I believe, Mr. Speaker," said Mr. Knight, "that I have the floor."

The Speaker so ruled. "Then," said Mr. Knight, "if the committee cannot give us this information now, why can we not lay it over until 10 o'clock to-morrow?"

Mr. Wilson of Hernando proposed to defer the matter until the committee can give this information, which was accepted by Mr. Knight, and as a vote was called for on the resolution, Mr. Carter brought the subject to its end, for the afternoon, by agreeing to let the resolution go over.

Two sessions a day are not desired by the members of the House of Representatives, as was evidenced by the two-thirds rising vote in favor of one session, 21 yeas and 14 nays.

Two separate resolutions were introduced to make busier days for the members, the first to offer the topic being Mr. Crawford of Orange. His resolution was, that beginning with Wednesday, April 23, two sessions be held, the first from 9 a. m. until noon, and the second from 3 to 5 o'clock p. m.

After its defeat, Mr. Long of Clay presented a resolution that after Monday, April 22, the House meet at 10 a. m. and close at 1 p. m. and 3 to 5 o'clock p. m. This resolution was lost by a strong "No" vote.

Mr. Wilson of Hernando introduced House Concurrent Resolution No. 22, that the Committee on Finance and Taxation of the House and Senate hold a joint meeting

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