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The Morning Sun

Published in Tallahassee while the Legislature is in session
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The Times-Union says that a report by an agent of the Governor relative to the conditions on the East Coast Extension was made January 12 and not published until April 23.

It accuses the Governor of suppressing this report. It was printed in THE SUN of January 26.

Why did the Times-Union make this false statement: Because the Times-Union is owned by the Atlantic Coast Line, Florida East Coast and Seaboard Air Line Railway Companies.

The Times-Union is not a newspaper—it is a chattel.

**MR. KNIGHT OF CITRUS PROPOSES
THE CORRECT IMMIGRATION LAW.**

Florida needs settlers.

It occurs to me that this has been said before. I say it again for the purpose of introducing the subject of immigration, which should receive attention at this session of the Legislature.

In this connection it seems fitting and proper to add that Florida needs an immigration law. It does not need an elaborately constructed law; it needs a simple law, easily understood and easily carried out.

There have been some propositions made looking to the establishment of an Immigration Bureau. I was not in much sympathy with these suggestions.

They sounded a little TOO BIG.

The Constitution-makers who worked in 1885, although they did some sad things, and a fair sprinkling of bad things, had a considerable amount of foresight after all.

They provided for a facile inauguration of the immigration movement by placing in the Constitution a clause, which, among other duties placed upon the Commissioner of Agriculture, directed him to keep the Bureau of Immigration.

All that is necessary, therefore, is to have an appropriation, and men to use it wisely.

Representative Knight of Citrus has a bill that covers the ground so completely and so thoroughly, and so well that I can unhesitatingly pronounce it a bill that should pass.

It has been printed, and I commend it to the thoughtful consideration of the members.

I find nothing to object to in it, except that I think that the bill might be improved if there were inserted a clause DIRECTING the Immigration Agent, with the consent and approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture, to use a part of the appropriation to pay for options on lands.

In discussing this bill with him, Mr. Knight stated that this authority was contained in the bill.

It may be, but it does not appear in POSITIVE TERMS.

Experience has proven that the difficulty in properly administering public affairs, is not so much that officers will do wrong, but that they will not do ALL THAT THEY SHOULD DO.

Laws creating an office, or extending and enlarging the powers of officers, should be MANDATORY and not directory.

In this connection it would be well to insert the words: "The Immigration Agent SHALL secure options on lands suitable for settlement by immigrants, who would be attracted to the State by his efforts or the efforts of others."

This, in my opinion, is a very important part of the immigration movement.

It is all very well for the agent to tell men in other States and other countries that land is cheap in Florida, and he no doubt believes it when he tells it, but let fifty or more immigrants come into any given town or county, and LAND WILL GO UP THE VERY DAY OF THEIR ARRIVAL.

Then the Immigration Agent will find it exceedingly difficult to purchase land at anything like a reasonable price.

If the options were secured BEFORE HAND, an agent could carry, in addition to the description of the soil and resources of the different counties, maps showing the location of the land and the PRICE AT WHICH IT COULD BE BOUGHT.

Mr. Knight's bill has been introduced late in the session; it is necessary that all members SHOULD GET BEHIND IT.

It is a very important bill.

The need for it is manifest to all. It should be taken up for consideration at an early date, and after its merits are demonstrated to the satisfaction of the members of the Legislature, it SHOULD BE PASSED without delay.

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT—STUDY IT.

Twenty-eight days of the present session have come and gone.

How many of the members of the Legislature have read and digested the contents of the Governor's message?

It matters not whether members agree with the Governor in his political policies or not.

He is the Governor, and his position qualifies him to inform the Legislature as to the needs of the State and to ADVISE THEM WISELY on matters of legislation.

In a body composed of 100 members there are many

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