

THE MORNING SUN.

Volume 1.
Number 29

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1907.

Five Cents a copy
\$1 for the season

CHARGES BUFFONERY FRANCHISE TAX TO FELLOW MEMBER BILL SUBSTITUTE

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE WILLIS FROM LEVY UNWORTHY OF NOTICE, SAYS MEMBER FROM ALACHUA, IN DEBATE OVER BILL TO REGULATE ADMISSION TO BAR.

Legislative anxiety as to the whereabouts of the high moral plane which was said to have been brought to Tallahassee at the beginning of the session for service against the passage of the uniform book measure was relieved yesterday.



Mr. Farris has the floor.

when the bill was reached on second reading. There was an amendment by Mr. Willis of Levy to except from the operation of the measure the graduates of the law department of the John B. Stetson University. Mr. Carter joined issue on this proposition. He did not see why the graduates of any university or college should be exempt. The purpose of the bill was to elevate the standard of the profession. Mr. Carter admitted that he was a member of the profession and that it was not all that it should be. He did not specify to what height it was desired to raise the profession, and the degree of elevation subsequently suggested by the gentleman from Marion failed to elicit any expression of approval from the author of the measure.

Mr. Carter proceeded to say further that he failed to see any hardship to anybody through the operation of the measure; that all were placed on the same basis; he had talked to the president of Stetson and that gentleman had failed to show him why the graduates from that institution should be exempt.

Mr. Calkins arose to a point of order; the question, he said, was not upon the merits of the bill. This objection to the line of talk which had been started by the gentleman from Alachua produced a galvanic action on his gesticulative members, and he announced with fire that if he had to confine himself to the words "John B. Stetson," that he would have nothing more to say: "I have never had any reputation as a parliamentarian, have not now, and hope to God I never will have," stormed he, as the Speaker exercised the gavel.

"There can be no objection to the operation of this measure on all applicants for admission to the bar unless it comes from some little fellow like my friend Willis over there, who studied two or three weeks at Stetson. I have seen several of the graduates from that institution, and if they are fair samples of what is produced there, I am doubly sure that this institution should not be exempted by the bill."

Mr. Carter said that under the present method of admitting applicants to practice that "any fellow that had a bottle of wine and a box of cigars could qualify."

Mr. Willis explained that he was not an example of what Stetson was capable of turning out; his course at the university had been for the purpose of getting familiar with the laws of Florida after he was elected to the Legislature. He did not hesitate to assert that the faculty and equipment at Stetson were equal to any institution of the kind in the country, and the State of Florida owed it some recognition. The law department, he said, was maintained at a loss, and it was done for the convenience and good of the young men of the State.

Mr. Calkins saw objections to the bill because it would force all applicants to come to Tallahassee to take the examination. This would shut out poor boys. He estimated that it would cost some students several hundred dollars to take the examination. Mr. Calkins didn't think that the profession in Florida needed any elevation; it was as high as any. The Legislature had nothing to do with the matter, he said.

The measure was inspired by lawyers, he said, to make admissions more difficult; it sought to throw impediments in the way of the poor and in this respect it was class legislation. Mr. Calkins stood for indefinite postponement.

Mr. Farris of Duval took a shy at the gentleman from Nassau, whom he denominated the "Napoleon of parliamentary tactics." The gentleman from Duval charged that the attitude of the little corporal was unfair. He had attempted to array the lay members of the House against the lawyers. It was true, he said, that the lawyers approved the measure. "But does that count anything against it?"

"If I were going to introduce a measure here providing for the correct scaling of a shad would it not be proper for me to consult my distinguished colleague from

THE VICTIM OF FILIBUSTERING, BUT IT LIVED TO BE SPECIAL ORDER FOR TO-DAY, WHEN IT WILL BE ON TRIAL FOR EXISTENCE.

After Senate Bill No. 8, providing for the payment of a tax on franchises, was read yesterday, Senator Trammell moved the adoption of a substitute, which was agreed to.

The substitute is practically the same as Senate Bill No. 226, which provides for a tax on the gross receipts of public service utilities.

The substitute, however, fixes the rate of taxation at one-half of one per cent, instead of two per cent, as in No. 226, and exempts the objects of taxation for the first five years of operation.

Senator Adams then got the range and moved to postpone the bill.

Sending out the smart little filibustering tug, "I Don't Understand," the Senator from Hamilton soon had the substitute bill scudding to port for safety.

The substitute was a new proposition, he declared, and he wanted to know all about it.

Senator Beard "wanted to know," also Senator Cone, ditto Senator Broome.

Senator Trammell patiently explained wherein the substitute differed from No. 226, and yet the denseness prevailed.

Senator Adams still wanted to know, saying, "It is evident I am not the only Senator on the floor not understanding the bill."

This led Senator Trammell to impatiently declare that he could see no reason for such a statement.

Both bills had been thoroughly overhauled during the committee hearing, four hours being given to argument concerning all their provisions and if they could not be understood after that action there was little likelihood of ever understanding them.

The substitute bill, he said, possessed such simple character that the assertion of being unable to understand what it was forced obtuseness.

Senator Adams meanwhile considered his motion for indefinite postponement and withdrew it, suggesting that the substitute bill "ought to be printed," and making a motion to that effect.

Senator Trammell objected to the delay, and thought that matter should be put to rest to every member of the Senate in view of the fact that since the bills had been introduced, the publicity given them and the one-sided debate in committee, at which many Senators were present.

In order, though, that everybody might be satisfied, he acceded to the demand of Senator Adams, and moved that 300 copies of the bill be printed and the special order continued until to-day at 3:30, and the motion was adopted.

Dival (Melton) and the gentleman from Franklin? Or, if I should frame a bill touching the custody of arms and ammunition, would it not be better to confer with the gentleman from Baker (Cobb) and submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is unfair to attempt an amendment such as the gentleman from Nassau seeks?"

Mr. Farris stated that the estimate of expense by Mr. Calkins was very extravagant.

It was here that Mr. Farris brought in the high moral plane. He didn't think that an applicant to the bar needed to have so much money. What he needed was honesty and intellectuality. This would do more than anything to put the profession on a high moral plane.

Mr. Willis of Levy then introduced an amendment that all lawyers having been licensed since 1895 should be required to qualify under the new law. "If we do that," he said, "maybe then we will not have no many lawyers in the body to impede legislation, and we can come to here and make the good old glorious laws like our grandfathers made to make."

Mr. Carter did not think such an important measure should be made the subject of such buffoonery as the member from Levy had sought to make it. For this reason he did not propose to rise up any time in replying to him.

The motion to indefinitely postpone was defeated by a vote of 33 to 17. The amendments offered by Mr. Willis were lost. The bill went to committee for engrossing.

KIRKLAND KNEW IT DIDN'T TELL

And what is a limpkin? That is the question that was asked yesterday, and the member who didn't know conspired together with the Mr. Kirkland of Lake, who had offered a bill for the protection of the alligator and the limpkin to public knowledge known his knowledge of the limpkin.

But they reckoned without the Senator from Hamilton, who proposed to offer an amendment to the measure eliminating the limpkin from terms of protection. Mr. Willis was proficient at offering amendments that are not adopted.

It was strategically arranged that Mr. Willis would offer the amendment and the land would object, and would explain what a limpkin is.

But for once the amendment offered by Mr. Willis was adopted.

Mr. Kirkland offered no amendment, and nobody knows yet what a limpkin is.

DID NOT CRUSH WESTERN UNION

SENATOR BUCKMAN BEGGED THE SENATE TO REFRAIN, AND IT DID—PASSED ONE TELEGRAPH BILL IN ORDER TO DODGE ONE THAT WAS STRONGER—SENATOR CREWS SAYS "EASIER TO KEEP BOOKS THAN BLECKT HONEST MAN."

Senate Bill No. 15, which provided for a uniform charge of 25 cents for ten-word telegrams in this State, was put to the torture yesterday morning, and was sent to the Legislative boneyard by a vote of 5 yeas to 25 nays.

Senator Willis led the poor victim to the stake with an amendment to except cable companies.

This brought Senator Harris, who had called Senator Hudson to the chair, to his feet, and he began to beat the bill on vital parts with the club of "the development of our great State."

His denunciation of the bill sounded like chopped-up fragments of a Times-Union editorial.

Mr. Harris began by saying that he thought the bill was unjust, but if the Legislature intended to pass it the people of Monroe County should not be expected, as they would be if the Willis amendment was adopted.

Then he said: "It is unfortunate that there should be a feeling against corporations, when the development and progress of our great State is to be considered."

"Let us not legislate about things we know nothing about," declared Senator Harris. "If it is possible for telegraph companies to make fair returns upon their investments I would not object to a 25-cent rate. Let us consider this matter calmly and impartially. Let us not be afraid of public opinion. We are satisfied that we are doing right."

Much more in similar vein did Senator Harris say, and he called attention to the provision in the bill for repeating messages, which would be an injustice to the companies.

Senator Trammell, who introduced the bill, said that he had no great interest in the measure, aside from the discrimination practiced by corporations. The telegraph rate was unfair in that discrimination prevailed, and he wanted that feature adjusted. He did not think that the bill would force the telegraph companies to repeat messages.

Senator Harris again broke into the debate, saying that "the spirit pervading this land is to hit corporations. Show me a demand from the people that this bill is necessary; why it should be passed." He mentioned the generosity of the companies in reducing the telegraph rates, and urged fairness.

Senator Buckman then assisted in piling up the fuel to burn the bill.

"I am opposed to this bill," he said. "Nobody was astonished."

Opposition fits Senator Buckman like a glove, and when he started to talk a large number of Senators who expected nothing new, improved the time in using up part of the product of the cigar trust.

Senator Buckman said: "It is not just to fix arbitrary rates in an attempt to crush the Western Union, without justice and without mercy."

Senator Buckman, too, talked of the agitation against corporations, and the desire to harass them. He urged fair treatment for the telegraph companies, and this bill was unfair. These companies had received nothing from the people in the way of land grants or franchises and were entitled to fair return from their investment.

Senator Cone offered an amendment to remove objection to the repeating of messages, but Senator Harris said it did not cover the ground.

This amendment was lost and Senator Beard then took up the fight against the bill, against the repeating provision alone.

That was the obnoxious part of the bill in his opinion, and he could not support it on that account.

"I dissent to the statement of Senator Buckman," said Senator Beard, "and say that the present upheaval and unrest of the people against corporations is caused by oppression and dishonesty of corporate powers, and I also dissent from the Senator of the Eighteenth that the State has not granted franchises to these companies. They were granted franchises, and very valuable they were."

"I tried to perfect the bill, but friends of the telegraph companies wanted to leave the bill as obnoxious as possible so that the bill would be killed."

And killed it was.

Senate Bill No. 116 was then brought to the rack, but

Continued on Page Four.

ABOUT THAT FRANCHISE TAX BILL



A Little Talk Between Peter Knight and Senator Sams on the Morning Senator Trammell Tried to Get the Franchise Bills Back From Committee, and Was Met With the Cry of "Be Fair, Let Us Keep Our Pledge."