

EDITORIAL

paper, the statement that courtesies of the floor were extended to Mr. Knight was used in a way that seemed to disparage him as a man.

This was not the inference intended nor the impression sought to be made.

I did intend to create the impression that the granting of this courtesy to Mr. Knight, in his role of lobbyist, was an improper use of it.

For this reason—  
The Senate of the State of Florida is organized for the purpose of achieving, by the enactment of general laws, the greatest good to the greatest number.

When Mr. Knight comes to Tallahassee while the Legislature is in session he is organized to prevent the enactment of laws that will confer the greatest benefits to the greatest number, if the special interests he is paid to represent happen to be opposed to this principle.

Mr. Knight does not appear before the Legislature as a private citizen working for the accomplishment of the general good.

He would, doubtless, prefer this role, but he does not assume it. He is engaged in the business of looking out for the interests of those who pay him for this service.

It so happens that the interests that Mr. Knight represents are not in line with the interest of the greatest number.

He is openly and avowedly opposed to the principle on which the Legislature is founded, and in the furtherance of which the Legislature is engaged.

By reason of his employment, Mr. Knight is against the interests of the people.

The Senate is composed of representatives of the people chosen to do their will.

Mr. Knight, in his representative capacity, is, therefore, against the Senate.

He exerts his influence to induce the Senate to do what it should not do—protect his employers at the expense of the people.

Mr. Knight should not be helped in his efforts to defeat the object for which the Senate is organized by being given the courtesies of the floor.

And he wants them for no other purpose—  
For—  
That is why he is here.

That is why he is here.

BY THE WAY

Somehow the enthusiasm for investigating the Internal Improvement Trustees has dwindled, and instead of hints and insinuations that everything connected therewith is rotten, remarks to the effect: "I am sure the records of the Trustees are all right," are becoming so frequent that they pass unnoticed.

Perhaps key-hole information from the executive sessions of the committee have given this assurance, and after all it may develop that enmity to former Governor Jennings was the real reason for the investigation, and the people of Florida will have to pay \$100 a day, more or less, to gratify this political hatred.

Peter O. Knight did not avail himself of the "courtesy of the Senate floor" yesterday. Really, it was not worth while, as there was only a measly little express bill up for action.

The two and one-half cent fare bill may arouse Peter's desire to mingle with the statesmen on the floor of the Senate, and he will permit himself one of those smiles (that do come off) when he hears the bill denounced as "unfair, unjust and not applicable to this State at the present time."

Somebody said that Peter had not thrown away the knife he carried for the Pinellas bill and that he would flash it in the Senate. If he does the vote on the bill will be interesting and instructive.

Editor John Collins was observed to be walking lopsided yesterday, and inspection revealed that a subpoena to appear before the smelling out—beg pardon—Investigation Committee—was the cause of his broken gait. This souvenir of muck-raking was tendered by the Sheriff's office.

The tender solicitude for the Railroad Commission, shown by the Legislature, and especially in the Senate, is a matter of amusement to those who remember when the subject of a Railroad Commission was not so regarded, and it was lambasted on all sides with the same zeal with which it is now given the semblance of protection.

The real value of the Commission to the Legislature is that pretense to strengthen its sly way of evading corporation legislation that the people demand and the corporations do not want.

Is it possible that the Long bill for two and one-half cent rates is to be smothered. It is a week now since the House passed it, and it is about time somebody got busy toward its resurrection. If it is to be killed in the Senate, get it out and do it so that everybody can go on record. Don't dodge the vote by letting it die in committee or on calendar.

A pure food bill was introduced in the Senate the third day of the session. Is this, too, to be another dead one? It has never been reported from committee, and people who want legislation of this kind are beginning to ask, "Why?"

Some hope is expressed in the House for the passage of the child labor bill. The alligators in the Ocklawaha River are to be saved, and the humane purpose of the House is

indicated toward fish and game, so that it is not improbable that the children of the State will have a chance of preservation.

After Mr. Carroll, representing THE SUN and the Monticello News, had been refused admittance to the inquisition chamber, where the smelling out—beg pardon—Investigating Committee play euchre with the public funds, he discovered Editor Collins patiently waiting the time when he could appear before the mighty and tell what he did not know. Mr. Collins had been in the room once, had been driven out, and was then waiting the pleasure of the Little Corporal, as to when he would be readmitted, in spite of the fact that the House had declared that the executive sessions should cease.

The corporation Bible did not give instructions which way to vote on the express bill.

At the rate of \$100 a day, more or less, how long will it take to exhaust the appropriation of \$1,000 given the Investigating Committee April 23—fifteen days ago.

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