

**EDITORIAL**

THERE WERE ENOUGH VOTES IN THE SENATE TO PASS IT.

This was made so manifest that the opposi- were forced to resort to a parliamentary trick to beat it.

Led by Senator Harris, the enemies of State life insurance were able to postpone it until the last day of the session, when a filibuster, agreed on the night before, was executed, which in turn executed the bill.

Senator Harris simply got the floor and gave evidence of his determination to talk until the constitutional limit to the life of the Legislature of 1905 was reached.

Seeing that he was in position to do this, Senator Adams, who had the bill in charge, and who knew that the appropriation bill had not been passed, threw up the sponge and relieved Senator Harris of his executioner's ax, by acknowledging defeat, agreeing to let the bill die on the calendar so as to get time to pass the appropriation bill.

All this goes to show that the representatives of the people in the Legislative Assembly HAVE PASSED FAVORABLY on this project of State life insurance.

There are now in the Senate twenty Senators who were in the Senate of 1905. A majority of these, no doubt, favored the passage of the bill, and these eleven or twelve or thirteen Senators have an opportunity to present the merits of this proposition in so convincing a way as to win to it enough of the new Senators to pass it.

This is a proposition that directly concerns MORE THAN ONE-SIXTH OF THE ENTIRE population of Florida.

It concerns every man who is the head of a family or who has reached his majority.

I am told that some Senators have expressed their opposition to it because it would interfere with two private institutions of like character, one with headquarters in Jacksonville and the other with headquarters in Tampa.

It is a good thing to encourage and foster Florida institutions, but this reason IS NOT SUFFICIENT to cause the representatives of the people to neglect an opportunity of benefiting a hundred thousand at the possible inconvenience of a score or more citizens of Florida who are engaged in the life insurance business.

State life insurance means CHEAP LIFE INSURANCE, and different from all other propositions where cheapness might mean sacrifice of quality; State life insurance also means THE BEST LIFE INSURANCE because the State of Florida would be behind every policy, and there would be no possible chance for the beneficiary to fail to receive the amount which the policy called for.

By State life insurance, hundreds of thousands of dollars would be kept in Florida that now go out of it, and thousands of dollars would remain in the pockets of the citizens of Florida, owing to the reduction in premiums.

I believe that the question of State Life Insurance is UP TO THE SENATE, because I have reason to believe that the House is ready to pass the bill.

**COUNTY TREASURERS ARE NOT NECESSARY.**

No one would ever know it by looking at its title, but the bill of Mr. Mathews of Marion, which is set for special order in the House, to amend Section 6 of Article 8 of the Constitution of Florida, is a very important matter.

It abolishes the office of County Treasurer. If there has been any function that the County Treasurers have performed which can not be conveniently done away with no one has been able to discover it.

The Tax Collectors collect the money from the tax payers and turn it over to the County Treasurers by check.

The Comptroller does the same. The County Treasurers deposit these checks in banks and all that the County Treasurers do is to make report each month to the County Commissioners of the amount received and the amount paid out, and pocket a warrant for one per cent "a-comin' an' g'win" for spending money.

The average fees of the County Treasurers in the forty-six counties of this State are estimated at \$2,000 each per annum—a very material saving which could be made without impairing the public service.

There is no reason why the Tax Collectors and the Comptroller cannot handle the county funds, instead of having them pass through the hands of the Treasurer.

It is, of course, necessary that some officer should be responsible, and the Tax Collector himself could act as Treasurer.

In fact, in most cities the positions of Tax Collector and Treasurer are combined into one.

All that would be necessary would be to increase the bond of the Tax Collector.

Patriotic gentlemen could be found who would be willing to take this increased burden on their shoulders and give the increased bond, for the privilege of earning the compensation now paid to the Tax Collectors.

In explaining things like County Treasurers, customs some declare, has made it so, and this is why it SHOULD BE SO, but this should not apply when common sense does not run along with custom.

If we blindly follow custom, there would be no improvement in the public service or in any other service.

When we find that we can do without something and get along just as well and save the expenditure of public money for public purposes instead of devoting it to private uses. IT IS A GOOD THING TO DO.

It would, therefore, be a good thing to pass House Resolution No. 52, by Mr. Mathews of Marion.

**DIFFER AS TO SITE OF OLUSTEE MONUMENT.**

Difference of opinion concerning the location of the Olustee monument was expressed in the Senate yesterday.

Senator Broome presented a petition from the United Daughters of the Confederacy of Lake City asking that the monument be located in the city park of that town, and in accordance with the petition the Senator from the Sixth introduced a bill to put it there.

Senator Canova dissented, saying that he had all respect possible for the Daughters of the Confederacy, but in his opinion, the proper site for the monument was on the battlefield.

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