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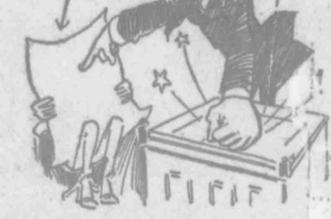
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WILL INVESTIGATE THE INVESTIGATORS

HOUSE APPOINTS COMMITTEE OF FIVE TO MAKE
INQUIRY AS TO STATUS OF INVESTIGATION
AND REASONS FOR PURSUING CLOSED DOOR
POLICY AND REVERSE-END PROBING.

The House yesterday passed a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of five members to inquire into the proceedings of the joint committee appointed to investigate the records of the Internal Improvement Trustees.



Mr. Crawford, in a moment of vigorous excitement.

The resolution provided in effect that the committee should investigate the Investigating Committee. The special report made to the House by the Investigating Committee was the pivot upon which revolved the action of the House.

This report was presented Tuesday afternoon by Representative Carter on behalf of the committee, and was made special order for ten o'clock yesterday morning. The report set forth the fact that the committee had proceeded with the investigation and had covered a period of first of the year 1901, beginning from the present time and working backwards. The committee asked the House for instructions; to proceed with the investigation, as required by the resolution, to cover the period from the time the trust was created in 1855 would require such time that it would be impossible for the committee to report to this session of the Legislature. Therefore, the committee wanted to know—

Whether it should report to the Legislature upon its findings as far as the investigation had proceeded, and close the investigation;

Or if the investigation should be continued without report to the present session.

When the question was called yesterday morning, Mr. Carter, who is a member of the Investigating Committee, delivered himself in unequivocal language upon the methods followed by the committee, stating in the outset that if he should make criticisms he desired it understood that they were leveled at the committee as a whole and at no individual. Mr. Carter began his talk in the low tone natural with him, and there were cries of "louder."

"I would have to get mad to speak louder, Mr. Speaker," said Mr. Carter, and as he proceeded the members found no difficulty in hearing. Yet, it might be unfair to infer that Representative Carter was mad.

"Ever since the early seventies," said Mr. Carter, "I have heard reports of mismanagement and fraud—graft is the modern word—concerning the administration of this trust, and it is time that this subject were taken out of politics.

"The public mind should be set at rest concerning these rumors. I believe the members of this body had that idea when this investigation was ordered, and that nothing short of a full and complete investigation would satisfy them.

"When this investigation was undertaken it occurred to an ordinary individual like me that the place to begin was at the beginning. The resolution provided that the investigation should cover the entire period from the time of the creation of the trust in 1855 to the present time. But in this case the order was reversed, and the investigation began from the reverse end. I didn't understand it then, but I think I see a little more light now. The purpose was to go through the Broward and Jennings administrations, and since that is done the committee comes to this House two weeks before the adjournment of the session and says, 'we haven't time to go any further with the investigation—the fact is, we've done all we want to do, regardless of what you want us to do.'

"I guess there's no harm for me to tell a few things, although I've attended all the star chamber sessions—I have attended them often when I was not well, because I wanted to know what was going on and wanted to see that this investigation should be fair and thorough. One of the witnesses—a newspaper man of this place—was before us one night, and we had the key-holes chinked up too, yet the next day I read a full account of what he had testified to in his own paper—so I guess there's no harm in saying a few things myself.

"But I'll tell you plainly that I haven't much to tell. When the committee employed expert accountants I saw a clean-shaven fellow one night, who was said to be one of them, but I haven't seen a one of them since, and I don't know what they're doing. I suppose they are locked up in the basement every night. As to what their investigation has disclosed I am as innocent as any member of this House.

"But the members of this Legislature wanted this investigation. They wanted the thing done and it seems to me that the committee would have gone on and investigated until the end of the session—that's what the resolution contemplated that they should do, I had hoped that the thing would be cleared up and the matter entirely removed from the politics of this State, but if the investi-

TO INVESTIGATE COMMITTEE

Is Subject of House Resolution—Want to Know What Has Been Done.

Mr. Calkins of Nassau offered the following resolution in the House, and it was adopted yesterday:

Whereas, Some of the members appointed from this house as members of the Joint Committee to investigate certain charges against the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, and to investigate the actions and proceedings of the said Trustees, are not informed as to the result of said investigation, or as to whether or not there have been any results; and

Whereas, It has come to the knowledge of this House that the expert accountants employed by said committee are preparing tabulated statements of what they deem to have been legal and illegal acts of said Trustees; and

Whereas, It is the sense of this house that all members of said Investigating Committee should be constantly and fully advised as to the progress and results of said investigation, so as to be ready at all times to make report of such progress; therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Florida, That a committee of five be appointed from this House to make investigation as to what progress has been made by said Investigating Committee; to ascertain what method of investigation has been followed by said committee, whether said investigation has been general or along special lines, and if along special lines at whose suggestion or under whose advise or counsel it was so conducted; to ascertain whether said committee has had the advice of services of an attorney outside of the membership of said committee, and if so, by whom such attorneys was employed; to ascertain what expense has been so far incurred by said Investigating Committee, and for what purposes, by items, such expense has been incurred; to summon witnesses, including the members of said Investigating Committee and the said expert accountants, and to do all other acts necessary to the carrying into effect the provisions of this resolution.

UP IN THE OZONE WENT CRAWFORD OF ORANGE

Mr. Crawford from Orange went up in the ozone yesterday afternoon when he discovered that the resolution he had offered, proposing an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the sale of whisky in the State, had been altered in engrossing.

The resolution was on third reading when the member from Orange discovered the discrepancy.

"Nothing in my resolution like that," he ejaculated, while Col. Nat Walker galloped through the document.

Colonel Nat paused and glanced over his spectacles at the elongated member from Orange.

"Here it is, Mr. Speaker," said Col. Nat, as he handed the paper up to the Speaker for inspection.

Mr. Crawford had to be shown. When he saw that a change had indeed been made he became excited and gave an imitation of a flutter mill at high speed, and the resolution was sent back to the Engrossing Committee for correction.

While the mill was in action, Mr. DuPont remained discreetly silent behind his newspaper. The member from St. Johns had "got his" the day he broke in on one of Mr. Crawford's prohibition measures. So, no more for him.

COMMENCEMENT LEON HIGH SCHOOL

At the opera house tonight the Kindergarten and Primary Grades will present: The Bird Carnival, A Fairy Drill and the Japanese Operetta Aladdin. The public is cordially invited to attend and encourage the children.

In order to cover the expenses, there will be an admission fee of 25 cents.

The children of the Grammar Grades will, tomorrow night, present the play "Hiawatha."

gation is to end now it leaves confusion worse confounded.

"If you accept a partial report, the public mind will be just as much unsettled, if not more unsettled, than it was before. The purpose of this investigation was to satisfy the public mind, and no fair and honest man will be satisfied with such an investigation, and the money spent will have been spent for nothing. I want the investigation to go on. I don't believe there is a single man here who believes there has been any fraud or dishonesty, but the people of the State do not know this, for one reason because they are not here and they are guided by what they read in the papers, and they are continually receiving the idea from the papers that causes them to question the honesty and integrity of the officials who have the administration of this trust. And they have a right to know if their officials are honest or if they should be in the penitentiary, but if they are to find out they will have to seek information from some member of the committee better acquainted with the inside workings of this investigation than I am."

Mr. Wells: "I agree heartily with the gentleman from Alachua. I voted for the resolution thinking that the investigation would be thorough and complete."

Mr. Knight of Columbia: "Does the gentleman from Alachua mean to say that he is not acquainted with the inside workings of the investigation?"

Mr. Carter: "I am not, sir."

Mr. Knight: "Who has the data collected in the investigation?"

Mr. Carter: "Ask somebody else, for I don't know."

Mr. Knight: "Mr. Speaker, this seems to be a rather

STATE UNIFORMITY PENDING IN SENATE

HUMPHRIES' COUNTY UNIFORMITY BILL WAS READ, AND SENATOR CRANE OFFERED AS AMENDMENT A REVISION OF HIS STATE UNIFORMITY BILL—MCCREARY SAYS AMERICAN BOOK COMPANY HAS 90 PER CENT OF STATE'S BUSINESS—HUMPHRIES SAYS IT SHOULD BE "COMPLIMENTED FOR ITS ENTERPRISE."

Juggling with text book uniformity was the principal performance of the Senate yesterday, the greater portion of the afternoon session being devoted to this subject.

The county uniformity bill introduced by Senator Humphries was read and amended and Senator Crane offered an amendment for the whole, excepting the enacting clause.

The amendment was a revision of Senate Bill No. 16, by Mr. Crane, providing for State uniformity.

In explanation, Mr. Crane said that it differed from Bill No. 16 by elimination of the sub-commission, and some slight changes.

"The subject of State uniformity will not be down," said Mr. Crane. "It has been knocking at our doors for many years, and demands admission. Cheaper school books are wanted by the people, and they are 30 to 40 per cent cheaper in States where uniformity prevails."

Mr. Crane remarked of the Humphries bill that it would simply perpetuate the present system, and would afford no relief. Now the school boards ignore the law, do not advertise for bids, and select books as they see fit.

Mr. Crane spoke of the American Book Company and its monopoly of business in this State.

"It says that it is not a trust," declared Senator Crane, "and I don't care what it is or what it calls itself, but the fact remains that it is a big concern—the consolidation of fifteen or twenty publishing houses. It has a philanthropist, who travels about the country telling you not to pass laws that will not please him."

"If the Senate feels, as it has expressed itself, that it wants to do something for the poor people of the State, then give them this relief."

Senator Beard asked why County Superintendents and teachers oppose State uniformity, and Senator Crane replied that he would rather not say, because if he did he "might have to say things that would not sound well."

"If the Senator will permit," said Mr. Harris (Mr. Adams in the chair), "I will reply for him." Whereupon he read a letter from the Superintendent of Monroe County, indorsing State uniformity and saying if it was adopted the graft in school books would be one-fourth-fifth of what it was now.

Senator Crane read a letter from the Superintendent of Manatee County indorsing his bill and saying that the Humphries bill was no better than the present system.

Mr. Crane made an extended explanation of the merits of State uniformity, the cheaper books that would be secured and just as good as those now used, and showed the absurdness of the assertion made by the agent of the American Book Company that there was great difference in the cost of manufacture.

He spoke of his experience as a school teacher, and indicated that much of his knowledge of the subject had not been gained at second-hand.

Among other points on which he dwelt was that the people would not assume a great burden with State uniformity. He said the people of this State were now paying in round numbers about \$85,000 a year for text books, and under State uniformity there would be a saving of at least one-third of that amount. In coming under the State system matters would be so arranged that the cost of adoption would be but little greater than what is now paid out in a single year.

Mr. Crane spoke of the people living in the border counties of Florida buying books in Georgia, where State uniformity prevails. The cost of such books was 30 to 40 per cent less than the same books would have cost in Florida.

The Tarr & McMurray geographies, that have been the cause of dissatisfaction in Tampa because of their partisan portrayal of the South, were mentioned by Mr. Crane, who said that no one in charge of school matters there seemed to know how the books were adopted, but if a State Commission had charge of the selection of books such a mistake could not have happened.

In reply to Mr. Beard, who wanted to know if State uniformity had not been tried in some States and abandoned, Mr. Crane said he did not know. He knew that the near neighbors of Florida were satisfied with the system and there was plenty of evidence to show that the people had saved much money.

Mr. Humphries, in defense of his bill and opposition of the Crane amendment, said that he deemed it useless to



Senator Johnson in his role of as Objector-in-Chief of the ill Harry Buckman's shoes Cinderella's sister, trying to Senate.

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