

THE MORNING SUN

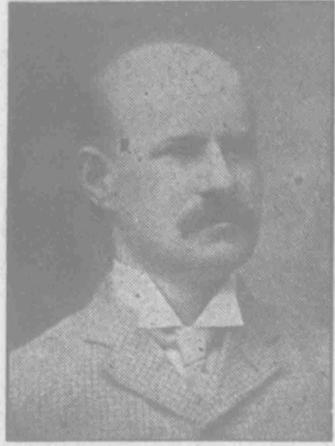
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TEXT BOOK TRUST IS STILL OWNER OF FLORIDA.

When Hon. W. Hunt Harris is a candidate for Congress or other office within the gift of the people, no matter what his other shortcomings may have been, he can say to the public:



"I did not vote to perpetuate a monopoly in Florida, and excuse myself by saying that I wanted the people of the State to have local self-government.

"I voted to free the people of Florida from a trust which through the incompetency or worse of County School Boards has robbed the people of this State for years."

With the appeal for "local self-government" running amuck in the Senate yesterday, the bill providing a State system of uniform text books was stabbed to death by a buncombe knife.

The vote that finished State uniformity was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Senators Cone, Cottrell, Crane, Crews, Girardeau, Hudson, McCreary, Massey, Trammell, Willis, Withers—12.

Nays—Senators Adams, Alford, Baker, Beard, Broome, Buckman, Canova, Crill, Davis, Humphries, Jackson, Johnson, Leggett, Sams, West (4th), Zim—16.

The band began to play when Senator Jackson offered an amendment to the amendment of Senator Crane (Crane's amendment to Senate Bill No. 101 was the State uniformity bill), to exempt counties where text books are furnished free to the pupils.

Senator Crane objected, saying it would weaken the bill, and Senator Adams spoke for the Jackson amendment.

"I believe absolutely in local self-government," declared Senator Adams, "and for that reason I will vote against this bill. Hamilton County, through its representatives in the School Board and the County Superintendent, has declared against State uniformity, and I am here to legislate in accordance with the wishes of the people of my county."

Senator Adams said he would support the amendment of Mr. Jackson, relative to exemption of counties furnishing free text books, if the amendment would include counties that might hereafter have free books.

Senator Crane thought the wishes of a School Board should not weigh against what would be beneficial for the people, and State uniformity had been tested and found successful. Relative to furnishing free books, there was nothing in the bill against it.

"The greatest benefit of State uniformity is the competition it causes that will result in lower prices," said Senator Hudson.

"Let the people form a trust instead of the book companies. Let the people combine to get lower prices," he cried.

Senator Beard asked: "Why do you believe that the State Commission would be less under the influence of book agents than county boards?"

"I did not say a word about anybody being influenced," resorted Senator Hudson.

"You spoke of a trust and its influence in the State," persisted Mr. Beard.

Mr. Hudson stated that he had referred to the monopoly in Florida and the necessity of relieving the people from its effects, but had made no charge against anybody.

The Jackson amendment was then adopted by a vote of 15 for to 14 against.

Senator Henderson spoke of his objection to State uniformity and his belief in "local self-government."

He offered an amendment, in case the bill should pass, providing that the four members of the commission to be chosen from educators of the State should be elected in accordance with democratic principles.

"I am glad to see one opponent of State uniformity come out in the open with his knife unshathed," said Senator

Under Plea of "Local Self-Government" the Majority Crushed the Life Out of State Uniformity Bill That Would Have Saved the People of Florida from 30 to 40 Per Cent of the Cost of Text Books.



Tampa's Roman Senator—Crane—who tried to save the people of the State from the extortion of the Book Trust by passage of his State Uniform Text Book bill.

Alabama has this law. It has been in operation more than three years, and the Governor of that State says that at the end of the fourth year of its enactment it will have saved the people of Alabama a half million dollars.

Florida is deprived of this benefit, because a majority of the Senate, instead of stopping the work in the purse of the poor citizen, insisted that the people should be fed with the empty husks of local self-government.

Democracy, what buncombe is committed in thy name!

Crane. "I do not care how the commission is secured, whether by appointment or election. This amendment, however, is just an attempt to kill the bill."

"That four members who will serve not more than thirty days a year at a salary of \$4 a day should be elected is absurd," said Senator Cone. "The amendment is preposterous, and is simply an attempt to kill the bill."

The amendment was defeated, 14 votes for and 15 against.

"If county uniformity is good, State uniformity is better," declared Senator Trammell. "I can cite examples of a large number of States having uniformity where it is successful."

"Nobody can cite an example of county uniformity that has been successful. State uniformity has been successful in Alabama and a great benefit to the people. According to the statement of the Governor of that State, \$500,000 will have been saved to the people in four years because of uniformity."

"If we use ordinary business judgment we will look at the success attained by the majority of States, and not try to find a State where the plan has failed for some reason or another."

"I believe the people of this State want uniformity," concluded Senator Trammell.

"The adoption of State uniformity would be a perversion of the old Democratic principle of 'local self-government,'" declared Senator Vest of the Fourth.

"Let this matter be attended to by the counties. The County Superintendents unanimously adopted a motion against State uniformity," continued Mr. West.

"Not unanimously, Senator," interrupted Mr. Crane.

"That was a slip," said he Senator from the Fourth.

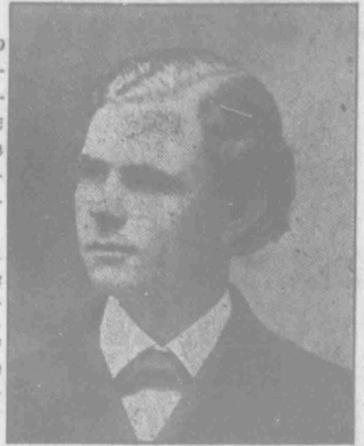
"but it was by a majority vote."

"The State Superintendent is in a position to know

When Hon. Park Trammell is a candidate for United States Senator or other office within the gift of the people, he can say to his fellow citizens:

"I did not vote to perpetuate a monopoly in Florida, and excuse my vote by the hypocritical assertion that I wanted the people to have local self-government."

"I voted to free the people of the State from a trust, which—through the incompetency or worse of County School Boards—has robbed the people of Florida for years."



about this matter, and he is opposed to it. We should take his advice.

"My County Superintendent has asked me to vote against this bill, and I shall do as he requests," said Mr. West.

Senator Crane here remarked that "when the State Superintendent was elected the principal plank in his platform was State uniformity, and if he opposes it now it shows a change of mind since getting into office."

"Only two reasons are offered for State uniformity that I can see," said Senator Beard; "cheaper books and freedom from the influence of the American Book Company."

"County uniformity will give us as cheap books," he declared. He did not say how this would be possible, and everybody seemed too tired to ask.

As for the other reason, Mr. Beard said that it would be easier to influence one board than to influence forty-five boards.

"I will vote for county uniformity," he cried, "not because it is advocated by the American Book Company, but because I believe it to be for the best interest of the people."

"It keeps the management of local affairs within reach of the people and they can say what they want done," he added.

Some sparring occurred between Mr. Beard and Mr. Harris relative to the Ferrell booklet, and then Mr. Harris defended State uniformity with vigor, undergoing a cross-fire of questioning by Mr. Adams and Mr. Beard, from which he emerged in good condition.

Senator Humphries then took the floor for a final word in opposition to the Crane amendment, the gist of his argument consisting of the statement that he was for "local self-government," and that the people of his district knew what they wanted in the matter of text books.

He also defended the American Book Company and praised its great enterprise in getting control of nearly the entire business of Florida.

"Why don't these other concerns come in here and get the business?" he asked. "They complain that they don't have any show in this State. Why don't they work for it like the American Book Company does?"

"The question, though, is not of book companies, but of the people. I claim that my bill is just as beneficial to the people and at the same time they will be able to direct their affairs at home, instead of having a board at Tallahassee to select books for them whether they approve of them or not."

Senator Cone took up the final defense of the amendment, saying "that some system whereby the poor people of this State will get books cheaper is needed. State uniformity will do this."

"I don't care what the Superintendent or the School Board of my county says in opposition to State uniformity, I am going to vote for this bill, because the people I have talked to demand cheaper books and under this system they will get them."

After the defeat of the amendment Senator Willis moved that Senate Bill No. 101 be printed, as amended, and put on the table subject to call, so that it could be further amended, and this was agreed to.

PURE FOOD BILL PASSES SENATE.

It is now up to the House to do its share of the work of insuring pure food for this State, the bill providing such legislation passing the Senate yesterday by a vote of 24 in favor of the bill and 5 against it.

Senator Broome strenuously objected, not to pure food, but because two offices would be created to carry out the provisions of the bill.

Senator Crill, introducer of the measure, answered the objection by saying: "I did not think, at this day, in view of the action taken by the Federal Government and our sister States, that it would be necessary to say anything on this subject."

In a few brief remarks, Mr. Crill stated that to secure pure food the citizen would not object to the expenditure necessary to protection of the health of his family, and pointed out how Florida was fast becoming the dumping ground for adulterated foods, because of the steps other States were taking to keep out such products.

AN EXPLANATION.

An unintentional injustice was done Mr. A. S. York, engrossing clerk of the House, in the yesterday's issue of THE SUN.

The statement was made that Representative Crawford's resolution was altered in engrossing. It was not intended that this should reflect on the engrossing clerk; in fact, there was no intention behind the statement at all. When the resolution was read Mr. Crawford declared that it was not the same that he had introduced, and he asked temporary postponement until the matter was straightened out. Mr. Crawford did not charge anybody with doing any wrong thing, and such a thought was foreign to the writer of the item in question. Mr. York has been engrossing clerk six years, and everybody who knows him knows that he is not capable of doing anything not on the level. This statement is made in justice to Mr. York, because a wrong construction might be placed on the incident as recorded in THE SUN of yesterday.

DISCUSSION ON IMMIGRATION BILLS.

Immigration bills consumed most of the time in the House yesterday.

Mr. Knight of Citrus, who presented a bill providing for the establishment of an immigration bureau, with an appropriation of \$15,000 a year for conducting the work, spoke at some length in advocating the passage of the measure, making a strong presentation of the subject, showing the needs for it and the certain benefits to follow from the operation of a properly conducted department for the inducement of desirable immigration. Mr. Abernethy of Orange urged the passage of the measure in a well-directed speech.

Mr. Reese and Mr. Register opposed the measure. By a vote of 29 to 28 it was passed for engrossing. So also was Mr. DuPont's bill on the same subject, providing for an appropriation of \$2,500 a year to be used by the Commissioner of Agriculture for advertising the resources of the State for the purpose of bringing settlers.