

## JENNINGS GOVERNOR

Was Inducted into Office Tuesday Last.

### RECEPTION AT LEON HOTEL

Many Citizens and Soldiers Present from all Sections of State.

Inauguration Day at the Capital was one of the fairest that ever dawned—blue skies, sparkling sunshine and balmy breezes all contributed to the general feeling of enthusiasm. As early as Sunday the trains arrived filled with visitors and militia, and by Monday night the streets were thronged with handsome soldiery in bright uniforms and lovely women from all sections of fair Florida. On Tuesday at 10 o'clock the parade formed on Monroe street in front of the Capitol, preceded by Grand Marshal R. A. Shine, assisted by Mr. L. A. Perkins, marched down Monroe street, in the following order:

Pensacola Brass Band.  
Col. Lovell commanding, and his staff, consisting of Lieut. C. S. Fleming, Acting Adjutant; Capt. F. J. Howatt, Quartermaster, and First Lieut. E. E. Philbrick, Assistant Surgeon.

First Regiment, Florida State Troops, Lieut. Col. J. W. Sackett commanding.

Second Battalion, commanded by Capt. C. B. Parkhill.

Suwanee Rifles, Captain W. H. Lyle.

Governor's Guard, Capt. E. A. Dickey.

Chimney Light Infantry, Lieut. M. Griffin.

First Battalion, commanded by Maj. Gen. E. Porter and First Lieut. W. L. Ledder, Acting Adjutant.

Jacksonville Light Infantry, Capt. A. D. Hartrill.

Jacksonville Rifles, Lieut. Geo. L. Dancy.

Columbia Light Infantry, Capt. N. W. Cox.

Second Regiment, Col. I. E. Webster commanding, Captain A. H. Blanding, Adjutant, First Lieut. Charles S. Nobles commanding.

First Battalion, Maj. N. Bradshaw, Lieut. C. M. Hilliard, Adjutant.

Leesburg Rifles, Capt. F. C. W. Kramer.

Orlando Rifles, Capt. D. C. Abernathy.

Gem City Guards, Capt. Walt. M. Davis.

Miami Rifles, Capt. James F. Saunders.

Second Battalion, Capt. H. L. Roberts, of Key West.

Oak City Guards, Capt. W. L. Law.

Starke Rifles, Capt. J. R. Davis.

Tampa Light Infantry, Capt. W. L. Jervel.

Island City Guards, Lieut. W. S. Costa.

Battalion of Light Artillery, commanded by Maj. Gumbinger; E. L. Reese, Quartermaster; Lieut. Morina commissary.

Wilson Battery, Capt. C. B. Duffy.

Pensacola Light Artillery, Capt. A. H. D'Alamberte.

Naval Militia, represented by Lieut. J. W. Bland and Lieut. Cromwell Gibbons, of 2d Division.

Governor's Staff—Maj. Gen. P. Houston, Adjutant General; Col. R. Cay, Assistant Adjutant General; Col. Frank Phillips, Quartermaster General; Col. John E. Lambett, Commissary General; Col. Sam T. Shaylor, Judge Advocate General; Col. Thomas B. Kessler and Capt. N. H. Harrison, Aides-de-Camps; First Lieut. T. N. Horn, U. S. A.

Gov. Bloxham and Gov.-elect Jennings; Mrs. Bloxham and Mrs. Jennings, Cabinet Officers and Justices of the Supreme Court, accompanied by the ladies of their families.

R. B. Gorman, Mayor; City Council Confederate Veterans.

Citizens.

About 12 m.—returned by east front of the Capitol, and the troops presented arms as the carriages containing Gov. Bloxham and Gov.-elect Jennings passed through the grounds to the portico of the Capitol, accompanied by Mrs. Bloxham and Mrs. Jennings, and followed by the Cabinet, the Justices of the Supreme Court and the ladies of their families. Here were already assembled many prominent visitors from all parts of the State.

Promptly at 12 m. Governor-elect Jennings was introduced by Governor Bloxham, and was heartily

cheered. The oath of office was then administered by Chief Justice Fenwick R. Taylor, and Gov. Jennings then delivered his inaugural address, which was received with great applause by the large gathering of enthusiastic citizens. He said:

**FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS**—Before entering upon the duties of the first executive of our state, to which I have been elected by the deliberate and tranquil suffrages of the electors of Florida, it is meet that I should avail myself of this occasion to express my gratitude to my fellow citizens for so distinguished a rank of confidence. It is impossible to express this gratitude in mere words, and I can best reflect my sense of the honor and its obligations by pledging to the people of our state my most sincere purpose to perform the duties of the office of governor of Florida with all the abilities that I possess, to the end that the people may enjoy the best possible administration of the laws of the state.

I recognize with pride the presence of the Florida state troops, who have so generously enlisted and stand ready to defend the state and its citizenship and enforce the law, and I bespeak a liberal policy to this organization as well as to the Florida naval militia during my administration. This great and growing state spreads over a territory greater than that of any other state east of the Mississippi river.

For more than 250 years the territory was in the grasp of a power far away; of a monarch despotic and cruel, hence we find that the early history of Florida was not one of rapid and encouraging development.

In 1822 congress established a territorial government, which continued until 1845 when Florida was admitted to statehood. The census of 1840 shows a population of 54,467; that of 1870 a population of 189,995, at which time our beloved state was just emerging from the effects of a terrible war, without funds, and its people reduced to poverty, which condition was aggravated and made more desperate by the reckless bonding of the state, and the extravagant and wasteful expenditures of the people's money extorted by Republican administrations, which condition was ended in 1878 by the election of a Democratic chief magistrate of Florida. Since then our state has grown and prospered in population and in wealth.

During the past three decades our population has increased from 189,995 to 528,542; our assessed valuations have increased from less than \$30,000,000 to upward of \$85,000,000 on the tax books, besides more than \$200,000,000 not on the tax books, with exports from fields, gardens, mines, manufactures, forests, lakes and rivers, amounting to millions of dollars annually.

**Railroads and Ports.**

Three thousand miles of railroads and great ports have been constructed as monuments of our progress.

Our educational facilities have grown during this period to accommodate the enrolled scholarship of more than 100,000 students. Churches have been erected in every city and hamlet as monuments of the people's generosity and of the high civilization attained.

**Honor to Predecessors.**

Much credit is due to my immediate predecessors, and it is proper that I should express the well nigh universal sentiment of appreciation of their faithful performance of duty. We congratulate ourselves that Providence has given us wise, able and judicious governors, and to Governor Bloxham I express the sincere hope that after his retirement from the office of chief executive of Florida that he may live long to enjoy the delightful memories that cluster thickly around his public life.

**The New Century.**

With assumption of high responsibilities on this occasion it might become me better to be silent. Yet, standing as we do on the threshold of a new century, closing the door of the old with the historian reveling in its wonderful achievements; opening the door of the new the imagination can see a century whose possibilities are as yet unparalleled in history, and we appreciate and realize that there are "other steps to climb;" we see the steps leading upward, but the topmost one is far beyond our view. We can but look up and press onward, striving as we go to do our whole duty to God and to our fellow man.

As some expression of purpose is expected of me on this occasion I venture to express some views based on observation of a general character, with the hope that I shall be enabled to more specifically set forth my views in messages to the legislature. In contemplating the exercise of duties, it is proper you should understand what I deem essential principles of our state government, and, consequently, those which ought to shape its administration for you; retain the sovereign power and guard your rights with a jealous care. Our declaration of rights, our fundamental law declare that "all men are equal before the law, and have certain inalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing happiness and obtaining safety; that all political power is inherent in the people; that the right of trial by jury shall be secured to all and remain inviolate forever; that all courts in this state shall be open, so that every person for any injury done him in his lands, goods, person or reputation, shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice shall be administered without sale, denial or delay." These I deem essential principles of our state government.

**Judiciary.**

The judiciary is a subject I consider of first importance. The platform adopted by the dominant party, assembled in state convention, declares "the present condition of the supreme court docket to be intolerable, the long delays in get-

ting decisions amounting to practical denial of justice." The supreme court was established by the constitution of 1845, no change was made in the constitution of 1868 nor in the constitution of 1885. The supreme court, as first constituted, is the supreme court of today. From 1845 to 1891, 46 years, the court issued 26 volumes of reports, at which time, 1891, the court was six and one-half years behind with its work. During the past nine years the court has issued 16 volumes of reports containing more matter than the former 36 volumes; and yet the court is five years behind with its work.

This should convince all reasonable men that it is impossible for three judges to perform the work devolving upon this court under the existing circumstances and our complex system of practice. A comparison of the conditions, the wealth and population of Florida, when this court was created with that of the population, development and wealth of today, should appeal to the lawmaking power for its best thought and action which, I beg to urge, to the end that a temporary commission may be created to adjudicate and dispose of certain cases to be allotted by the justices, to enable the court to dispose of accumulated cases and clear the docket speedily, and to provide by constitutional amendment for the establishment of another division of the supreme court.

**Circuit Courts.**

The circuit judges are likewise unable to perform the duties devolving upon their courts in several of the circuits. These courts were established by the constitution of 1868, and although our population has more than quadrupled and the business of these courts more than six times as great, we have the same number of judges that we had in 1868.

The criminal dockets in several of the counties require all the term period, thus depriving litigants on the civil side of their rights and leaving them without a remedy. These conditions demand correction, and must appeal to every patriotic legislator to provide a constitutional amendment creating additional circuits or judgeships. There is a great necessity for a provision for additional circuits and circuit judges.

**State's Attorneys.**

From the great increase in homicides and other cases of felony appearing on the dockets of our circuit courts, the time of the state's attorney being required in court work, it appears impossible for a state's attorney to acquaint himself with all the cases in a circuit and prepare for the prosecution as the interest of the state demands. The lawmakers having the power to bring about a correction of these evils I suggest that the subject be investigated by them, with a view of providing by constitutional amendment for a state's attorney for each senatorial district, to be paid out of fees to be prescribed by law.

**Taxation.**

Section 1, article 9, of the constitution reads: "The legislature shall provide for a uniform and equal rate of taxation, and shall present such regulations as shall secure a just valuation of all property, both real and personal," exempted property excepted. This is a subject that has perplexed the most experienced minds from time immemorial, and will continue to do so while the subject lasts. It has been ascertained that under our present system of valuations, property in some counties is assessed at 90 per cent. of its value, while in others it is as low as 20 per cent. In 1871 the legislature created a state board of equalization to determine the relative value of the real estate in the different counties. This board made its report to the legislature in 1872, which report was confidential.

Since that time, nearly 30 years, there has been no power or board of equalization to determine the relative value of the real estate in the different counties resulting in a policy of local depression of valuations, which has placed our state in the awkward position of maintaining an uneven burden of government, and a higher rate of taxation than would have otherwise been required. That a remedy should be provided to relieve those who are bearing an unjust burden, and to provide for a uniform and equal rate of taxation, must be apparent.

**Board of Health.**

I heartily approve the state board of health as constituted, and believe that our only safety lies in our retaining supreme sanitary control. Since the enactment of the law establishing our state board of health, the employment of a competent state health officer ten years ago and the enforcement of the law our state has been immune from yellow fever epidemics, save during the year 1899, when our state control was practically suspended by federal authority. Our state being immune during the entire period of the operation of our state control, enabling our port cities to increase in population and in wealth during this period over 50 per cent and our state to increase, under adverse circumstances, more in population in the past decade than any other state in the union convinces me that we should sustain our health laws.

**Education.**

I am in favor of the most liberal support and development of the public school system, and contemplate with pride the record made in our state, and hope to see an advance commensurate with the necessities before us, extending, if necessary, to the establishment of night schools in such places as are found advisable to meet a growing demand, and the adoption of the free school book system in each of the counties of the state.

These and other important matters that I shall not undertake to further discuss on this occasion are submitted to the people for consideration, discussion and action.

**Responsibility and Purpose.**

When I contemplate the magnitude of the duties that I am about to enter

upon I shrink from the undertaking. Indeed I should despair if, unaided, I should be forced to assume all the great responsibilities that are part and parcel of the position, but by the will and the wisdom of the people who have placed me here, I am surrounded by some of the ablest and most experienced statesmen of Florida, in whose good judgment I have an abiding faith, and in addition to these the presence of many whom I see here reminds me that in other high authorities provided by our constitution I shall find sources of wisdom, of virtue and of zeal on which to rely in all vicissitudes. To you, gentlemen, who are charged with the sovereign functions of legislation, and the other state and county officers, I look with confidence for that guidance and support necessary to maintain as Jefferson says, "a wise and frugal government which shall restrain men from injuring one another; shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuit of industry and improvement; and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government, and this is necessary to close the circle of our felicities."

Assuring myself that under every difficulty the determined spirit and united councils of the state will be safeguards to its honor and essential interests, I repair to the post assigned me with no other discouragement than that which springs from my own inadequacy to its high demands. If an attachment to the constitution and a conscientious determination to support it; if an equal and impartial regard for the rights, interests, honor and happiness of the whole people of Florida; if a love for knowledge and a wish to encourage schools, colleges, universities, and every institution for its attainment; if a veneration for religion among all classes of the people, not only for their own good and the happiness of life in all its stages, and of society in all its forms, as a means of sustaining a better state government, if a love of equal rights to all and special privileges to none; a love of justice and humanity in its enforcement; if a desire to improve agriculture, commerce and manufacture; if an inflexible determination to maintain peace and to take care that our laws are faithfully executed; if an earnest endeavor to investigate every just cause and remove every colorable pretense of complaint; if a regard for a well disciplined militia under competent officers and the control of civil authority; strict economy in public expenditures; the diffusion of information and arrangement of all abuses at the bar of public reason; freedom of thought; freedom of the press; a liberal provision for our disabled soldiers and sailors; if an energetic support of the state and its institutions; if an unshaken confidence in the honor, spirit and resources of the people of Florida; if a perfect realization of the terrible losses that have fallen to the lot of those of our fellow citizens that have sustained severe losses by freezes, storms, fires and failures; if a continuing sympathy with them in their brave and self-reliant efforts, many of whom were thrown from the coaches of luxury into the lap of poverty, and yet have sustained themselves; if elevated ideas of the high destinies of this state and of my own duties towards it; if an humble reverence to that infinite power which rules the destinies of states can enable me to comply with your wishes, it shall be my strenuous endeavor to perform the duties before me as directed by your will, and may that Being who is supreme over all, the fountain of justice, the protector of liberty and dispenser of right, continue his blessing upon this state and give it all possible success consistent with the ends of his providence.

**The New Governor.**

The New Governor, William S. Jennings, was born March 24, 1863, in Marion County, Illinois. He received the rudiments of his education in the public schools of his native county, attended the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and the Union College of Law of Chicago, Ill. He moved to Brooksville, Fla., in 1885, and was admitted to practice law at Brooksville, May 1886. He was appointed Circuit Court Commissioner, May, 1887, and County Judge, May, 1888. He was elected to the House of Representatives, and served in the sessions of 1893 and 1895. He was Speaker of the House in the session of 1895. In 1896 he was elected Presidential Elector. He was chairman of the Democratic State Convention at Orlando, in 1898. He was a member of the Town Council of Brooksville, and President of the Town Council from 1898 to 1900. He was elected Governor, November 6, 1900.

Governor Jennings was married to Miss May Mann, May 12, 1891, in this city. They have one child, Sherman Bryan Jennings, seven years of age. The Governor is a Baptist, and vice-president of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

**Working Night and Day.**

The busiest and mightiest little thing that ever was made is Dr. King's New Life Pills. Every pill is a sugar-coated globe of health, that changes weakness into strength, listlessness into energy, brain-fog into mental power. They're wonderful in building up the health. Only 25 cents per box. Sold by all druggists.

**Installation Services.**

On next Sabbath morning the service installing Rev. S. L. McCarty into the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church will be held at 11 o'clock. The sermon on this occasion will be preached by Rev. Dr. S. P. Mickel, of Madison, Fla.; the charge to the people will be delivered by Rev. N. P. Quarterman, and the charge to the pastor by Rev. B. S. Baker. The regular quarterly communion of the Lord's Supper will also be observed at this time.

**Red Hot from The Gun**

Was the ball that hit G. B. Steadman of Newark, Mich., in the Civil War. It caused horrible Ulcers that no treatment helped for 20 years. Then Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured him. Cures Cuts, Bruises, Burns, Boils, Felons, Corns, Skin Eruptions. Best Pile cure on earth. 25 cts a box. Cure guaranteed. Sold by all druggists.

**Walker Discharged.**

At a preliminary trial at Crawfordville on Monday of last week, held before County Judge Giles, Frank Walker was held justifiable for the killing of Edgar Nims and discharged from the custody of the sheriff.

Self-defense was the plea set up and the court considered the evidence before him conclusive, rendering judgment in accordance therewith.

**Scrofula the Cause.**

Eczema, catarrh, hip diseases, white swellings, and even consumption have their origin in scrofula conditions. With the slightest taint of scrofula in the blood, there is no safety. The remedy for this disease in all its forms is Hood's Sarsaparilla, which goes to the root of the trouble and expels all impurities and disease germs from the blood.

The best family cathartic is Hood's Pills.

This closed the exercises for the day, and was followed in the evening by a public reception and ball at the Leon.

The hotel was elaborately decorated with palms and our graceful native bamboo.

At 8 o'clock Governor and Mrs. Jennings and ex-Governor and Mrs. Bloxham, standing in the east parlor, commenced receiving the hundreds of citizens who soon began to crowd around them. And for several hours guests entered through the north door, passed on into the lobby and then to the ball room. The reception lasted until half-past 10 o'clock, when the ball opened.

While the ball was going on those in the parlors listened to beautiful vocal and instrumental music by Miss Hansbrough, Mrs. Mottes and Miss Webber, of Leesburg, and Miss Providence, of this city. Delicious refreshments, consisting of chicken salad, turkey, Maryland biscuit, coffee and chocolate, were served from half-past 10 until 2 a. m., and were much appreciated by the dancers and the public generally.

The ball continued until the early hours of Wednesday morning, and was greatly enjoyed by all the participants. It was one of the most magnificent balls Tallahassee has ever witnessed, and will not soon be forgotten.

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## POLITICS CROP OUT

President and Congress Both Playing Them

### THE PRESIDENT REFUSES

Information About Cuban Scandals which the Senate had Asked For.

Washington, Jan. 5.—"Politics" came to the surface three times during the three days that Congress was in session this week, and held sway in both Senate and House. This was the more striking because the pre-holiday sessions were marked by the entire absence of anything of the kind. The game was inaugurated in the House promptly on reassembling by a resolution called up by Representative Olmsted, of Pennsylvania, providing for an investigation by the Census Committee as to whether the franchise was restricted in the South, in such a way as to call for a reduction of representation under the 14th amendment to the Constitution. The resolution stirred the Southern members, who have been aroused before by the steps taken by Representative Crumacker, of Indiana, in the same direction. It directs the Census Committee to ascertain where the vote has been restricted and to make full and complete reports to the House. This involved to a certain extent the consideration of the apportionment bill. The whole subject was gone over thoroughly in the ninth census. The committee could, of course, bring the information down to date, and perhaps it would be a good thing to have that done. It would satisfy the public and show something of what the situation really is. The language of the fourteenth amendment applies to all male inhabitants. It would affect Illinois, for that State has a law requiring residence for a certain period before one can vote. Probably there are 30,000 males over 21 years of age in Chicago who are unable to vote because of this State law. Massachusetts has an educational qualification and Rhode Island has a poll tax. Other States of the North also have suffrage qualifications which would bring them within the scope of the constitutional amendment. Even the inmates of the insane asylums and similar institutions would have to be counted in reckoning the restriction of suffrage. So there is likely to be strong opposition to anything definite being accomplished under Mr. Olmsted's resolution, which was finally referred to the Committee on Census.

In the Senate politics was played by no less a personage than the President himself, who sent to that body a refusal by the Secretary of War to transmit the report of A. L. Lawshe, who investigated the Cuban postoffice frauds, demanded from the Secretary of War by resolution of the Senate. The President declared curtly that he did not deem it compatible with the public interest to make public the report. The truth of the matter seems to be that the report shows gross negligence and possibly corruption on the part of high officers of the Government, whom the President and Secretary of War hope to be able to shield. The refusal is a direct defiance of the Senate's right to inquire into Government matters. To say that an executive officer can refuse to furnish information to the legislative branch when that information concerns the challenged conduct of an administration, is a monstrosity. In this case, especially, it is believed a festering mass of corruption exists in Cuba, and if the administration deliberately withholds official reports it is a matter for the whole country to know. The determination of the President to cut off all information is shown by the fact that Mr. Lawshe, whose report the Secretary declines to make public, has been suddenly hurried to the Philippines to fill a \$6,900 position as auditor. If he had remained in Washington, he could have been summoned before the Congressional Committee to describe the situation he discovered in Cuba; and which makes the publication of his report incompatible with the public interests or with the well-being of the Republican party.

The army reorganization bill, which was taken up in the Senate on Thursday, displacing the subsidy bill from its favored position, also gave rise to a semi-political debate; the Democrats expressing their willingness to give the President a special

(Continued on Eighth Page.)