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VALUABLE REPORT

that of Comptroller W. H. Reynolds Just Out

SEVERAL SUGGESTIONS, ETC

and the Rapidly Increasing Prosperity of the State Shown.

The annual report made to the governor January 1st, by Comptroller Reynolds, which has just been received and delivered from the TALLAHASSEEAN job rooms, is an interesting document to the taxpayers of Florida. It shows, first of all, that the last vestige of the \$200,000 indebtedness of the State, created by the Legislatures of 1889 and 1891 to pay running expenses of the government, has been paid, without one cent of extra taxation, besides carrying over into the present year a very comfortable balance.

"This," continues the report, "entirely disposed of all indebtedness of the State, except the bonded debt created under the Acts of 1871 and 1873, of which there are still unpaid bonds amounting to one million and thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,032,500.00), as follows: Bonds of 1871, \$267,700.00; bonds of 1873, \$764,800.00.

"The payment of these bonds will be provided for by the Legislature, and this can be done by the issue of new bonds drawing a low rate of interest to be sold on the open market, or by issuing manuscript, or other bonds, to the Educational funds, drawing such rate of interest as may be decided upon.

"It is true that nearly all of the bonds of 1871 and 1873, which have not been purchased for the Sinking funds, are held by the Educational funds of the State, but they are still outstanding obligations against the State, and the principal must be paid at some time, or the State will be compelled to continue paying interest thereon forever."

Showing an increased mileage in roads from 1,207.71 miles in 1884, valued at \$8,457,479.57, to 3,109.70 miles in 1900, valued at \$19,190,000.00, and remarking upon the difficulties of executing the present law means for examining the condition of the roads the comptroller says, "there should be an appropriation to meet the expenses of examinations, when necessary, in connection with the assessment of such valuable property, and it is hoped that the Legislature will recognize the importance of such provision."

The general banking laws of the State are considered adequate to protect the interests of all concerned except when a bank goes into voluntary liquidation, or is placed in the hands of a receiver. "It would be of great benefit," remarks the comptroller, "if the Legislature would adopt provisions similar to those contained in the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to voluntary liquidation, and to receivers or banks that are forced to suspend." In other words, compel them to continue making reports to the State department after going into liquidation, either voluntary or involuntary.

To facilitate the work of the tax collector and redemption department, operated in conjunction between the Comptroller and Treasurer's offices, (without doing material injury to the State,) the Legislature is recommended to direct the cancellation of a large number of old tax certificates which are really of no value, and for which there is no demand. Such action would place thousands of acres of land on the assessment rolls, and the State and counties would receive the revenue therefrom which they are now deprived of by keeping these worse than worthless certificates.

Referring to the school sub-district law the Comptroller directs attention to a serious oversight of former Legislatures. He says upon this subject: "In 1895 the Legislature passed an act to provide for the division of counties into convenient school sub-districts, and for the election biennially of three school trustees, and for the levying and collection of a district school tax, and providing for the holding of elections for such purposes," but the revenue law was not amended so as to include the tax provided for until 1897. All assessments of railroad and telegraph lines made at this office for school sub-districts have been made under the act of 1895, and the collections

have been made under the revenue act of 1897. The Legislature of 1899 passed an act, Chapter 4678, of the Laws of Florida, which was doubtless designed as a method for the future assessment and collections of the tax first provided for by the acts of 1895 and 1897, but the revenue law was not amended to conform to the act of 1899, and if it is intended that that law shall supersede the act of 1895 it will be necessary to amend the revenue law so as to conform to the act of 1899."

Defects in the State laws directing returns to be made to the department by corporations in this State, which make the enforcement of that provision impossible as pointed out, and remedies suggested.

Coming from one in a position to know so well the financial condition of the people, and written, as it is, by a man who neither attempts to flatter or bolster up a constituency with unfounded hopes, the following is, perhaps, the most inspiring paragraph in the whole report:

"The increase in the assessed valuation of property for the year 1900 indicates a solid growth in prosperity and that the people are realizing a part of the bright future in which our glorious State will rival the brightest star in the sisterhood of States. Our genial climate and productive soil, adapted to so many varied pursuits, yielding such rich returns for the labor expended, affords the surest foundation for the most sanguine hopes. The continued improvement in our manufacturing, mining, fruit-growing and farming interests may be confidently expected."

Closing the report, which is dated January 1st, 1901, Mr. Reynolds refers to the close of the official relationship between himself and the retiring governor in this very complimentary language:

"In concluding this report, which marks the close of our official relations, it affords me great pleasure to testify to the uniform courtesy and kindness which has characterized your conduct in every walk in life, and especially in your intercourse with those who were your official associates. The able and impartial manner in which your arduous duties were performed and the earnest devotion to duty which was exemplified in every act should ever be gratefully remembered by your fellow citizens."

Then follows tabulations showing:

Receipts and Disbursements at the State Treasury for the year 1900.

Receipts and Disbursements on account of General Revenue in 1900.

The Bonded Debt of the State.

Warrants issued in 1900.

Estimated Appropriations necessary for the last six months of the year 1901, for the year 1902, and the first six months of the year 1903.

Assessment of Railroad property in detail for the year 1900, as made by the Comptroller, "with the assistance and advice of the Attorney-General and Treasurer."

Assessment in detail of Telegraph Property, which was assessed in the same manner as railroad property.

Consolidated Statement of Railroad Assessments.

Consolidated Statement of Telegraph Assessments.

Statement showing taxes assessed on each Railroad and Telegraph line for the year 1900.

Statement showing valuation of railroad and telegraph lines by counties, and the taxes assessed thereon for the year 1900.

Statement showing valuation of real estate by counties, and the taxes thereon for the year 1900.

Statement showing valuation of personal property by counties, and the taxes thereon for the year 1900.

Statement showing the total valuation of all real, personal, railroad and telegraph property, as assessed by counties for the year 1900.

Statement showing the gross amount of taxes assessed and licenses collected for the year 1900 in each county.

List of disabled soldiers and widows of soldiers receiving pensions from the State.

Statement showing the distribution of the amount of warrants issued for jurors and for witnesses before the grand jury in the year 1900.

List of State banks, with the condition thereof at the close of business on December 31st, 1900, as shown by reports.

These tabulations, compared with those of 1889, will receive attention in a future issue of this paper.

A New Corporation.

Letters patent have been granted

incorporating the Johnson-Cole Company of Tampa, with a capital stock of \$25,000, to buy, sell and manufacture all kinds of lumber, timber, sash, doors and building material; to operate saw mills and novelty works, buy, sell and manufacture brick and tiling; to do a general contracting business for the construction of buildings, roads and highways. The incorporators are: Albert H. Johnson, William V. Cole and Peter O. Knight.

Arbor Day Proclamation.

STATE OF FLORIDA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.—To the People of Florida: In conformity with a beautiful and established custom in this State, now prevailing in nearly every State of the Union, and in cheerful compliance with a regulation of the State Board of Education, I, William S. Jennings, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby designate Friday, the first day of February, A. D. 1901, as Arbor Day, and I earnestly recommend the general observance of the day, in the planting of trees for ornament, protection and shade on public and private grounds and beside public highways. It is especially enjoined upon all in charge of our public schools to beautify their school grounds, and to accompany tree planting with appropriate exercises, instructing the youth in the aesthetic and practical reasons causing the establishment of this anniversary, and in the wisdom and profit in the planting, protecting and cultivating of our trees. Trustees and school officers in charge of the various public institutions of the State are hereby requested to take such action as will encourage the proper observance of the spirit of this proclamation.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed, at Tallahassee, the capital, this 16th day of January, A. D. 1901.

W. S. JENNINGS,
Governor of Florida.
By the Governor, Attest:
JOHN L. CRAWFORD,
Secretary of State.

A Thousand Tongues

Could not express the rapture of Annie E. Springer, of 1185 Howard St., Philadelphia, Pa., when she found that Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption had completely cured her of a hacking cough that for many years had made life a burden. All other remedies and doctors could give her no help, but she says of this Royal Cure—"it soon removed the pain in my chest and I can now sleep soundly, something I can scarcely remember doing before. I feel like sounding its praise throughout the Universe." So will every one who tries Dr. King's New Discovery for any trouble of the Throat, Chest or Lungs. Price 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at any drug store; every bottle guaranteed.

Arbor Day.

Florida Teachers and School Officers: Dear Friends—The swelling buds and springlike air warns us that the days are drawing near when the woods will be robed in all their spring glories, that the growing days are coming. What more fitting expression of these days afford us than a day set apart for beautifying our surroundings with plants and trees, and for getting closer to the "Great heart of Nature?"

His Excellency, Governor Jennings, has proclaimed Friday, the 1st day of February, as Arbor Day, and has enjoined its observance upon the people of the State, particularly the schools.

Let every school in the State catch the spirit of the day. Let every official and teacher make it his personal duty to see that the ground or grounds in the vicinity of the school or schools under his control are permanently beautified by the planting of trees and hardy shrubbery.

Not only should there be provided abundant shade to secure the health and comfort of the little ones of succeeding school generations, but every school yard should have a little shrubbery to relieve its stiffness; and a little touch of sweetness should be given by a bed of violets or other other small flowers. These are to teach lessons of love and purity. Such are God's object lessons through which to teach His eternal truths.

The more "destructive boys" in the school, the more urgent the necessity for these things of beauty. Let such boys, under careful guidance, conceive, plan and bring into existence the flower bed or the group of trees, and they will be as zealous to protect and nurture it as they have ever been to destroy. Thus is the

spirit of true manliness—care for the weak—taught them.

Let this be a day for planting ideas. Let the exercises be planned with reference to the children rather than visitors. Make it a helpful, happy day. Make it a day which will stand out as one of the brightest of school memories. Let there be no jealousies, disappointments or heartaches from public exhibitions. Plan the exercises to arouse interest, but not for show. This is a time for cautious planting rather than showy blooming. Heart to heart talks with the children under the trees will be dearer to them than formal exercises.

WM. N. SHEATS,
State Supt. Pub. Inst.
Tallahassee, Fla., Jan. 16, 1901.

Tried Five Doctors.

Mrs. Frances L. Sales of Missouri Valley, Mo., writes: "I had severe kidney trouble for years, had tried five doctors without benefit, but three bottles of Foley's Kidney Cure cured me." Wight & Bro.

When threatened by pneumonia or any other lung trouble, prompt relief is necessary, as it is dangerous to delay. We would suggest that One Minute Cough Cure be taken as soon as indications of having taken cold are noticed. It cures quickly and its early use prevents consumption. All dealers.

CONTEST FOR FLEMING MEDAL.

And Other News Notes of the West Florida Seminary.

The first of the series of contests for the medal offered by Mrs. Governor Fleming, of Jacksonville, to the student attaining the greatest proficiency in oratory, will be held in the Seminary chapel next Friday at 12:30 p. m.

The public is always invited to these monthly contests, and it is expected that a great many patrons and friends of the seminary will be present. Following is the program:

Home and Its Memories..... Miss Lela Jackson
The Elizabethan Era in English Literature..... Mr. E. G. Johnston
The Art of Life..... Miss Mary Shuman
Progress Through Struggle..... Mr. Gaston Day
Imperialism..... Mr. A. B. Clark
Important Landmarks in Human Government..... Mr. F. A. Hathaway
Passion Play of 1000..... Miss Bessie Saxon

It might not be out of place to say that Miss Saxon will describe the great Passion Play as she saw it last summer. Music will be furnished between the orations.

Many new students have been enrolled since the holidays, including representatives from four or five Florida counties and three States. There are now nearly 150 pupils enrolled, including both regular and special students.

The schedule for the intermediate examinations has been made out and posted on the bulletin board. These examinations begin next Monday, and continue through the week.

The great number of inquiries and requests for catalogues received every day give evidence that many Florida teachers are contemplating entering the Normal Department of the Seminary in March. It is believed that there will be not less than seventy-five teachers here during the spring.

Besides the unusual advantages offered in the Normal School, the session of the Legislature will be an additional inducement for many to come.

Tallahassecans are proud of the West Florida Seminary, and are always glad to welcome the teachers and new students to their city, and make them feel at home.

Society of Self Culture.

A society for the purpose of self culture was organized at the residence of Mrs. George Lewis Monday afternoon. The name of the society will be "Query."

Let not the idle reader, in male attire, imagine that this name (which may be so written for short) is one for social intercourse, interspersed with afternoon tea and town gossip.

If such be the impious thought of any married man, he will speedily have his mind enlightened—when his wife demands of him a true, accurate and complete exposition of the—Monroe doctrine, of England's present colonies and their relation to the mother country, of the Nicaragua canal, of the solution of the Chinese problem or some equally complicated subject that is now exercising the brains of all the diplomats of the world. For such is the scope of "Query."

Deputy U. S. Marshal Arrests Two.

Deputy United States Marshal J. M. Forbes has brought in two violators of the United States statutes. The first one was Silas Scott, a negro, who was caught in the woods three miles from Tallahassee, where he had a quantity of tobacco and was making and selling cigars. He had a hearing before Commissioner Hodges on Wednesday of last week,

and was held in a bond of \$100. Scott's tobacco and cigars were seized. He said that he had bought the tobacco, but could not tell from whom. John Thomas, of Spring Hill, was the next prisoner. He was charged with selling liquor without license, and committed to jail.

John Marshall Day Oration.

A meeting of the Tallahassee Bar was held Monday afternoon at three o'clock, for the purpose of selecting an orator for John Marshall Day and appointing a committee to draft resolutions, etc., for that occasion. Judge Geo. P. Raney, ex-Chief-Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, presided.

W. C. Hodges, Esq., was selected to deliver the oration, and consented to do so.

The following committee was appointed by the chair to draft suitable resolutions to be spread upon the Supreme Court minutes on that day: Hon. Jas. B. Whitfield, State Treasurer; Hon. Geo. W. Walker, State Attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit, and Hon. Fred. T. Myers, State Senator.

Col. R. W. Williams, Hon. E. M. Hopkins and Wm. C. Hodges, Esq., were appointed by the chair to wait upon the Justice of the Supreme Court, to inform them of the proceedings of the meeting.

The Secretary was then instructed to request the Times-Union to publish an announcement of the ceremonies in the Supreme Court on the 4th of February, and an invitation to the bench and bar of Florida to attend on that day.

Col. R. W. Williams moved that Judge Kaney and Hon. F. T. Myers be requested to make remarks appropriate to the occasion. Carried. The meeting then adjourned.

Trammell-Jenkins.

Chattahoochee, Fla., Jan. 21st.—Married—9 o'clock Monday morning, at the residence of the bride's father, Miss Wilma E. Trammell to Mr. Walter S. Jenkins, of Valdosta, Ga. The bride is the beautiful and accomplished daughter of Hon. John W. Trammell, Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, and whose name is so widely known throughout Florida as one of the oldest, most prominent and best families of the State. Miss Trammell has long reigned as one of Florida's fairest belles and Valdosta may well be proud of her gain.

The groom belongs to one of Georgia's old, aristocratic families, and is also a rising young business man who has many enviable qualities, and enjoys the highest confidence of those to whom he is known.

The wedding was a very quiet one. No cards.

The Mayoralty.

Mr. Editor: Having noticed in recent issues of your paper the names of two gentlemen suggested for the office of Mayor at the approaching election soon to be held, the friends of our present Mayor, Mr. R. B. Gorman, desire to present his name for re-election to that office. He has made a good and efficient officer, has given most of his time to the affairs of the city, and his administration has met with general approbation.

Mr. Gorman has stated that he is a candidate for re-election, and we feel that the voters of the city could do no better than to re-elect him as Mayor.

CITIZEN.
Tallahassee, Jan. 23d, 1901.

Going to Pensacola.

The Governor's Guards are contemplating a trip to Pensacola to take part in the carnival to be held in that city February 18-19. The boys are drilling twice a week now so as to get in trim for the event. There will be a competitive drill, with a prize of \$100 offered, which the boys will try for. Although their ranks have recently been largely filled with new recruits, we are sure the Guards will give a good account of themselves, and will uphold the splendid record of their organization for true soldierly bearing and gentlemanly conduct.

New Officers Elected.

At a meeting of the Anna Jackson Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy held on January the 19th, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mrs. T. H. Randolph, President; Mrs. C. A. Bryan, Vice-President; Mrs. J. W. Collins, Secretary; Miss Jennie Brevard, Treasurer.

Malaria is Endorsed by the best Physician and guaranteed to cure Chills, Fever and Ague. All druggists or from Moffitt West Drug Co., St. Louis.

SHALL WE REMODEL?

Hon. T. L. Clarke on Necessities of the Capitol

FAVORS SEPARATE BUILDING

Cites Cases of North Carolina and Virginia Where this was Done.

By the action of the Democratic State Convention and the vote at the recent State primary, the Legislature is instructed to provide means for making such improvements for a State Capitol at Tallahassee as the needs of the State may require.

The Legislature must determine what extensions, repairs or improvements are necessary to afford proper facilities for the transaction of the State's business, and what reasonable amount should be so expended in the present condition of the States finances. It is not a question of how much money could be raised for this purpose, or how much would be necessary or appropriate to be raised if we had no Capitol, and were now beginning for the first time to erect a Capitol and other buildings for the State, but, what is necessary and appropriate under existing conditions to furnish such additional facilities as are needed.

It is self-evident that much of the vote for Tallahassee was based on the theory that far less would be required to furnish proper facilities at Tallahassee than to erect new capitol buildings in any one of the other competing cities. Therefore, there is neither authority nor justification for the expenditure of such an amount as would have been necessary if some other place had been selected by the people for a new State capital. From the arguments used during the campaign, and the vote polled, it is further evident that these facilities can, and should be, furnished from our present resources without an increase of State taxes. The question presented is simply, "What is best to be done, with the money we can afford, without increasing the State levy?"

An enlargement and extension of the old Capitol building has been suggested and urged by many, but no estimate of the necessary cost is given. To this there are many serious objections.

The old Capitol building is a substantial structure, and a completed architectural design. To add to it and preserve anything like symmetry, the entire ground plan must be changed and enlarged, the height of the building increased, and necessarily the interior must be revised.

While these changes and additions are being made the occupants and the contents of the building must necessarily be removed. Where in Tallahassee can suitable quarters for temporary occupancy be found? How much, if really any, of the old building would form a necessary part of the reconstructed building? To the cost of this reconstruction add the expense of packing up and moving out, the rent and equipment of temporary quarters for State officials, and the loss incident to the disorganization in the meantime of the Supreme Court and other departments of the State government, and could we expect to get out with much less than the expenditure necessary to construct and furnish a new modern State Capitol? And then, at best, we should have only a piece of "patchwork," showing cracks and rents wherever the new work joined the old walls, and a mass of inferior architecture disproportionate to the area of the Capitol square. Will it pay us to "put new wine in old bottles," or "new cloth in old garments?"

And, then, is it necessary or expedient that we keep "all our eggs in the basket?" The "basket" is good and all right, except as to capacity. Is it the part of wisdom or economy to take out the eggs, tear up the "old basket" to enlarge it, and replace them? Why not build an additional "basket" to accommodate our "increase of eggs?" Why not erect a new, substantial building of modern design, on a suitable lot adjoining the Capitol square of sufficient capacity for the Supreme Court, the Railroad Commission and the Superintendent of Public Instruction? There is a very creditable postoffice building in Tallahassee, which is said to have cost about \$75,000. The capacity of such a building is ample for the purposes named, and can be erected without

(Continued on Eighth Page).