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Good Government; Honesty in Public Office; Equal Justice to All—Special Privileges to None.

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR.

A Strong, Clear, Business-Like and Effective Document.

The first message of Governor Broward to the assembled Legislature was a strong and exceedingly lucid presentation of the existing condition of public affairs, and was distinctly typical of his eminently practical personality. He reviewed briefly the several departmental reports, and spoke encouragingly and enthusiastically of Florida's financial and industrial progress and future prospects.

Governor Broward demonstrated his capacity to realize the needs of the State in many parts of his message, but in none more than in his recommendation for a tax upon all franchises, for a State Board of equalization, and for additional State aid to public education. Concerning the latter he occupied much space in his message, covering the following salient points:

The thorough and systematic reorganization of the State institutions of higher learning, with specific taxes levied for their support, so that they need not come to successive Legislatures "in the attitude of beggars"; the extension of the terms of the rural schools, with increased numbers of teachers and increased compensation to teachers, to be accomplished by a policy of additional State aid to all school communities. He also recommends a reorganization of the public school system whereby more effective work therein may be accomplished, including a more comprehensive system of reports; and he recommends legislation providing for a carefully selected committee to revise the entire body of school laws, rules and regulations, "with special reference to a more exact and accurate system of accounting, and devising a proper check upon all school receipts and expenditures." In addition, he recommends the preparation of a conservative outline or course of study, "with a view to meeting the needs of the rural schools, as well as those more advanced in the larger towns and cities of our State," and a uniform system of text books for all schools.

Governor Broward strongly presents the needs of the State school for the deaf, dumb and blind, the hospital for the insane, and the State reform school. Concerning the last-named, he says: "It is our duty to maintain a reform school in this State, where young offenders may be confined and taught some useful employment, free from the contaminating influences and vicious habits of hardened criminals. It needs no argument to convince any thinking man that a boy of tender years should not be confined in the penitentiary with hardened criminals or subject to the contact with them in the convict camp. Therefore, proper legislation should be enacted providing for the maintaining of a State reform school on such basis as to enable its management to accomplish the results for which it was instituted, the reform and training in some useful industry of juvenile offenders, to the end that they should be made good citizens and an aid and benefit to the State, rather than a tax upon her in the form of hardened criminals."

And he recommends legislation to accomplish these purposes; the commitment of juveniles other than offenders to the school; longer terms of commitment, and that the maintenance of the institution be paid out of the fund arising from the leasing of the State convicts. Other features of the message will be noted later.

Tallahassee-Tampa.

The prospect for the approaching nuptials of these two chief cities of Florida appears to be growing more brilliant every day. Eastern parties controlling capital have undertaken the promotion of the enterprise, and the direct connection of the two cities by a continuous line of rails appears to be almost assured.

Mr. W. F. McCombs, of New York city, General Raphael Whitlock and Mr. R. C. Caples, representing the moneyed interests which are expected to finance the scheme, after receiving much local encouragement at Tampa and intermediate points on the proposed line, are at the Capital, and will doubtless apply for such legislation as may be requisite to the perfection of their plans.

A Hebrew Christian Minister.

Rev. A. Lichtenstein, of St. Louis, Superintendent of the Jewish Christian Mission, is at present in this city, and will preach three times, occupying two adjacent pulpits. On Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, at the Baptist Church; in the afternoon at 3 o'clock, at the Presbyterian church, and in the evening at 7:30 o'clock at the Baptist Church. The subject for the afternoon will be of especial interest, as he will preach on the theme, "The Returning of the Jews to Jerusalem in Connection with the Second Coming of the Messiah." Mr. Lichtenstein was converted fif-

teen years ago while a business man. A few years later he quit his business that he might preach to his people. He spent some time in theological training, and went to New York where he preached seven years as a Missionary among the Jews. He has been eight years Superintendent of the Jewish Mission Work in St. Louis, where his work has been greatly blessed, and heartily endorsed and supported by the leading pastors and churches of that city. Those who fail to hear him while in this city will miss a most interesting opportunity to learn something of their Christian work among the Jews. The subject in the morning will be "The Jew and How he Became a Christian." At night the subject will be "The Prophecy Fulfilled in Jesus; and How He is the Son of God."

Two House Committees.

Lack of space prevents the publication this week of the full list of legislative committees, which will appear in our next issue; but we wish now to call special attention to two of the House committees in whose transactions all printers in the State, as well as all good citizens, are particularly interested.

The committee on public printing is composed of the following prominent and patriotic members: Duval, of Wakulla, chairman; Carlton, of Nassau; Rawls, of Leon; Hall, of Suwannee; Harvell, of Santa Rosa; Taylor, of Gadsden, and Roberts, of Monroe. The committee on journal comprises equally excellent material, viz: Smith, of Hamilton, chairman; Taylor, of Gadsden; Peaden, of Santa Rosa; Tillman, of Alachua; Cobb, of Baker, and Hill, of Bradford.

With such men as these to watch one of the most vitally important interests of the people—the expenditure of the public money for printing—it will be strange, indeed, if any loophole of extravagance is left open, or any violation of the specifications or spirit of the contract for the performance of the work, now or in the past, is allowed to escape their attention.

The same applies with equal force to the Senate committee on public printing, which is composed of Senator McCreey, chairman; Senators Humphreys, Jackson, Scott and Alford.

The State Printing.

One neighbor, the Quincy Times, refers to the Bureau of Printing and the Jacksonville Metropolis as being "greatly wrought up" on the subject of the State printing, and as advocating the ownership by the State of its own printing establishment; and the Times remarks on this proposition as follows: "Should this be the case, it would only be a question of time before the taxpayers would set up a howl over the large force it required to do the little work. If the quality of the work and paper is as bad as reported, the State officers for whom the work is done should be the ones to turn it down." True, quite true. That is what some of the State officers have done. State ownership might or might not be a practical solution of the very difficult problem, but the fact remains that the situation is one which the people rightfully expect the Legislature to take hold of without hesitation, hands without gloves, and finally dispose of according to the best interests of the public welfare.

Of the election of Mrs. Yonge as recording secretary of the Senate, the Times-Union gracefully remarks as follows: "Something entirely new in the organization of a Florida Legislature is the election of a woman to an important clerkship—and that by acclamation. Florida is progressing. Woman suffragists will be encouraged to go before this session of the Legislature and ask for recognition. Mrs. Lottie Gamble Yonge, recording secretary of the Senate, is a daughter of Mrs. Robert Howard Gamble of Tallahassee, and widow of J. Ernest Yonge of Pensacola—both grand old family names that have added lustre to the pages of Florida's history. The Senate is to be congratulated."

Among the "Straws from Tallahassee" in the Times-Union was the following: "Dan Wiggins of Leon, doorkeeper of the House, is an honored Confederate veteran and was at one time one of the merchant princes of Tallahassee. His mind is stored with good stories and he has the gift of gab to tell them." Dan Wiggins thousands of old Tallahassee friends join in hearty congratulations to him upon his election.

The first three issues of the True Democrat, edited by John G. Collins, of Tallahassee, and published in that city, have been received and read with great pleasure. We predict universal success for this most excellent paper, which it so richly deserves. Mr. Collins' life work has been journalism, and no able editor can be found in the State. We shall wait for it each week with keen pleasure.—Williston Advocate.

Messrs. W. B. Courtney, J. L. Ferrer and Pig Sutton were among our pleasant visitors Thursday evening. It is always a pleasure to have old Leon's citizens visit us.

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SCRAPS FROM THE RECORD.

Is there a citizen of Florida who would doubt that Dr. John L. Crawford or Governor Henry L. Mitchell would have written as they did in the following letters, if not certain that the Wallace-Beard claim would be a just one, if they succeed in adjusting matters so the claim would be paid?

Office of the Secretary of State, State of Florida, Tallahassee, Fla., Jan. 23, 1898.—S. J. Crawford, Esq.:

Yours of the 12th is received. Believing that no other man under the circuit of the sun could have increased Florida's demand from a way to win hundred thousand dollars, knowing that you acted under authority of Governor Drew, and within the circumference of the statute, I could not realize that the present executive could go back on your good work.

And I ventured to show the Governor your private letter to me—told him that you only did the work—that you did it in good faith, and under contract, and that the sovereignty and good faith of the State was pledged to you. The Governor answered your letter immediately, and brought it right into my office, and I read it and pronounced it O. K. I verily believe that you will pass the claim through the House this session. So mote it be.

I am writing against wind and tide and must come right straight along to a conclusion. Success to you and the Indian War Claim. I am yours to command.

Yours as ever,
J. L. CRAWFORD.
Tallahassee, Fla., Jan. 14, 1898.

Hon. Robert Bullock,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.:

My Dear General:
Governor Blount gave me the report of your communication at Mason, regarding Florida's Indian War Claim. I feel a deep interest in seeing this long deferred, and just claim, settled, and the State reimbursed for the expenditures made to protect her people from the depredations of savages, and that you are in full accord with these feelings, your vigor in the prosecution of the claim, and your most admirable speech before the House in support of the same, have convinced me that you are the agency of the Legislature that Mr. S. L. Wallace should know my attitude upon the question of compensation should the claim be paid. Furthermore, I can see no reason why I should hesitate in expressing my views regarding the same. Gov. Drew, in the exercise of his prerogative as Governor of the State, made a contract with Mr. Wallace binding the State to pay a certain per cent, as compensation to Mr. Wallace for his services in adjusting and securing the claim. The contract is in writing, duly signed by the then Governor and attested by the great seal of the State, and I shall feel it my duty to carry out that contract in its full and legitimate scope, just as Governor Drew had done had the claim been settled during his administration. I feel that his official acts in the premises are in good faith, binding upon the State, and I shall feel no hesitancy in giving them the approval of my action.

It is not a question of the advisability of employing Mr. Wallace, or the terms of employment, but simply executing in good faith, the contract of my predecessor in the executive office. I can see no room to question my duty of seeing the contract executed as soon as the bill becomes a law.

You are at liberty to show this letter to Mr. Wallace. With consideration of the highest esteem, I have the honor to remain, General,

Yours very truly,
HENRY L. MITCHELL.
"State of Florida,
Executive Department.

"Know all men by these presents, that I, George F. Drew, Governor of the State of Florida, reposing especial trust and confidence in the ability, fidelity and prudence of Sidney L. Wallace, do hereby constitute and appoint the said Sidney L. Wallace agent for the State of Florida to represent the said State before the departments of the General Government at Washington City, and to ask, demand and receive of the Government of the United States of America, any and all sums of money due to the State of Florida for expenses incurred by said State on account of Indian hostilities in said State from the year A. D. 1849 to the year 1855, inclusive.

"The said Wallace to receive as compensation for performing the above mentioned work 15 per cent of all sums collected from the General Government upon such Indian War Claims and defray all expenses incurred in the prosecution of the same.

"In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State of Florida to be affixed this 7th day of July, in the year of our Lord, 1879.

Geo. F. Drew,
Governor.

"By the Governor—Attest:
W. D. Blount,
Secretary of State.

Next work, artistically executed, at Collins' Job Printing Office.

The attention of our readers is particularly called to an article appearing elsewhere in this issue containing letters from ex-Governor Mitchell and the late lamented Secretary of State Dr. John Crawford, referring to the Wallace-Beard contract, and also a copy of the original contract made with Col. Wallace by Governor Drew, on which the "Wallace-Beard claim" is based. These documents are convincing and conclusive.

The venerable and distinguished Judge P. W. White, of Quincy, was in the city this week. He is attorney for the Florida East Coast Canal Company, and, with Managing Director John G. St. Augustine, is looking after the interests of that institution.

Call and see us when you come to town and let us know what is going on in your neighborhood and thus help us to make you a good county newspaper.

PANACEA SPRINGS LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

Panacea Springs, Apr. 5.—Those who contemplate coming to Panacea Springs this summer, and those who have friends coming, will be glad to learn that the post-office has been reestablished and that hereafter daily mails will depart and arrive from the hotel. To make the inconvenience as light as possible, the management of the hotel has all along sent a private pouch out to Seepohpy, but that was not like having an office right here. Registered mail could not be sent or received in this pouch, nor was it always certain that mail would be properly handled. But there will be no more of this trouble. The office was formally opened today, with the manager of the hotel as postmaster.

Mr. A. L. Townsend and family, of Bainbridge, Ga., after spending a week very pleasantly here, left for home early Monday morning. They came through the country in their automobile, and occupied their private cottage, taking meals at the hotel. Mr. Townsend will bring his family down for the season as soon as the schools close, the first week in June.

Mr. Thos. H. Hall is making arrangements also to bring his family down early this year. He is having an elegant little automobile built by Capt. W. H. McCallister, who will accompany him and drive in the most comfortable manner, and will also be added to his outfit.

Capt. Tip Warren, the commander for the port of Apalachicola, was among the recent visitors to the springs. He said he had heard fabulous stories about the waters for many years, and, suffering greatly, he decided to try them. At the end of six days he declared the bath had not been told. He would have remained longer, but was called home by the sudden and dangerous illness of his wife. He says he will bring her over as soon as he can.

Mrs. M. C. Butler, who has been housekeeper at the hotel since last fall, left on Sunday, having resigned some time ago, to take effect April 1. She was succeeded by Miss Gene Davis, of Tallahassee. Miss Davis is a very efficient young lady in the position, filling it to the entire satisfaction of the guests and the management.

Among the recent arrivals are Mrs. L. W. Boatwick, Mrs. F. L. Lewis, little Miss Helen Lewis, Canine, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Williams, Bainbridge, Ga.; Mrs. Gordon Howell, Jr., Miss Cassie McCallister, Orange, N. Y., Mrs. Hewitt and companion (the last named) came here purposely to try the water for Bright's, or rather what has been diagnosed as Bright's disease, and she is so well pleased that she will spend next winter here.

A Challenge Accepted.

Well authenticated rumor has brought to our attention the profound interest taken by certain parties reputed to be interested in the State Printing of the fact of our publication of the Railroad Commissioners' Report. It seems a good time, therefore, for us to state that the work was awarded to the proprietor of The True Democrat in a perfectly legitimate and legal manner, and that it has been performed to the entire satisfaction of the Commission.

That we have never made a contract for Public Printing which we did not faithfully perform, is a fact well known to all, and particularly to very many of the old members of the present Legislature who are familiar with our operations as former State Printer.

Resolutions were passed and ordered spread upon the Journal commending us for faithful performance of duty, neatness and promptness when we did legislative work.

The attitude and actions of the parties referred to will be regarded as a challenge to bring to the attention of Legislators some of the many peculiarities of the existing State Printing Contract.

Hon. W. K. Zewadski, of Ocala, a former member of the House of Representatives, is in the city.

Mr. J. A. Woodward, of Ocala, dropped in today and added his name to our growing subscription list.

The True Democrat continues to improve. Bro. Collins is expounding true Democracy according to Hoyle—Blount town Democrat.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS

Opening Scenes in the Senate and House of Representatives.

Both houses of the Florida Legislature met on Tuesday, according to law, and the oath of office was administered to the members of the House by Chief Justice Whitfield, and of the Senate by Mr. Justice Taylor, of the Supreme Court.

The personnel of the officers having been decided upon in the respective caucuses, the two bodies proceeded to the formal election, with the following result:

SENATE.

President—Hon. Park M. Trammell, of Polk, Senator from the 7th district.
President pro tem.—Hon. Thos. F. West, of Santa Rosa.
Secretary—Thos. J. Appleyard, of Columbia.
Assistant Secretary—J. O. Culpepper, of Taylor.
Bill Secretary—Fred L. Robertson, of Suwannee.
Reading Secretary—Nat W. Marion, of Hamilton.
Assistant Reading Secretary—John K. Willis, of Levy.
Engrossing Secretary—C. O. Andrews, of Jackson.
Enrolling Secretary—I. H. Haven, of Madison.
Recording Secretary—Mrs. L. B. Yonge, of Leon.
Sergeant-at-Arms—S. A. Ogilvie, of Nassau.
Messenger—J. W. Smith, of Jefferson.
Doorkeeper—F. J. Parry, of Gadsden.
Chaplain—Rev. E. H. Reynolds, of Duval.
Junior—Otto R. Kirchoff, of Volusia.
Pages—Wm. J. Johnston, of Hillsborough; Leo Julian, of Columbia; Elmer McCreary, of Alachua.

HOUSE.

Speaker—Hon. Albert W. Gilchrist, of DeSoto.
Chief Clerk—J. G. Kellum, of Alachua.
Assistant Clerk—A. C. Stephens, of Hamilton.
Bill Clerk—Geo. E. Dickinson, of Orange.
Reading Clerk—Nat E. Walker, of Wakulla.
Assistant Reading Clerk—Geo. J. Strozier, of Orange.
Engrossing Clerk—A. S. York, of Bradford.
Enrolling Clerk—B. F. Umstead, of Suwannee.
Recording Clerk—W. K. Jackson, Jr., of Citrus.
Sergeant-at-Arms—Geo. E. Hawkins, of Suwannee.
Messenger—W. G. Lanier, of Columbia.
Doorkeeper—Dan Wiggins, of Leon.
Chaplain—D. E. Bryan, of DeSoto.
Chaplain—Rev. J. T. Coleman, of Leon.
Pages—Harry G. Fannis, of Calhoun; Francis Hays, of Leon; Richard Bennett, of Duval; George Reddick, of Marion.

The usual committee to notify the Governor that the respective houses were organized and ready for business were appointed and performed their duty, and Secretary Dickinson communicated to the Senate the message of the Governor, whereupon that body adjourned to 3:30 Wednesday. The House also adjourned to Wednesday after receiving the Governor's message.

WEDNESDAY.

Both houses met, but transacted little business, pending the appointment of the standing committees. A few bills were introduced, and a motion in the House that all bills be printed was defeated. The usual number of committees to visit the several State institutions was adopted by both houses, and in the Senate the protest of James G. Beahm, of Marion county, against the seating of Hon. C. M. Brown as Senator from the 20th district was presented and referred. The standing committees were announced.

THURSDAY.

The Senate, after the introduction of several bills, adjourned to Monday afternoon.

Quite a large number of bills were introduced in the House. A veto message of former Governor Jennings was considered and sustained. A motion for a committee to consider all matters relating to vagrancy was tabled. The report of the committee on rules was adopted. Speaker Gilchrist announced the standing committees.

Railroad Commission.

Due notice having been given, the Commission, on April 1, promulgated the new schedule of freight rates on Class F, ranging for carloads, from 65 to 82.50, according to distance; with 15 per cent added on certain articles, viz: Tan bark, barrels, box material, gravel, melons, moulting, sand in barrels or sacks, oyster shells for paving, rough stone (except marble and slate), earthenware, soap and galvanized iron attachments to be used in turpentine.

Hon. Geo. W. Wallace, state attorney for the second circuit, has returned from Blountstown court.