

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

JOHN G. COLLINS, Proprietor.

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Tallahassee, Friday, April 7, 1905.

The newspaper men of Florida honored themselves in honoring Hon. George W. Wilson, editor-in-chief of the Times-Union, with unanimous election as president of the Florida Press Association.

The report of the State Board of Health, printed by the H. & W. B. Drew Company, of Jacksonville, which was placed on the desks of the members of the Legislature Tuesday, was neat, clean, and artistically printed, on good stock. Several members have noted and commented to us on the contrast between it and other public documents that have come before them for consideration.

The Miami Retail Merchants' Association has officially endorsed a bill drafted by the State association, "which provides for a law legalizing the collection of one-third of the wages of a married man justly indebted to a merchant." It is a measure, if thus correctly described, that should not be allowed to go on our statute book. Bad debts are ruinous to any mercantile business, but the idea of protecting the merchant by statute against his own lack of good judgment in granting credit, is worse.

To the ambitious and patriotic youth of the third congressional district Congressman Lamar offers a rare opportunity for a good education at the expense of the Federal government and a place in the public service, in the navy, which is much sought after. The preliminary examination is to take place at Tallahassee, April 14th, and from the principal and five alternates then chosen will be selected later the fortunate one who shall be entitled to the appointment of midshipman at the Annapolis Naval Academy.

The True Democrat extends a special welcome to its brethren of the State press, members of the Legislature, and cordially invites them to visit the office and revel in the exchanges to their hearts' content. Among those present in the city are: Messrs. McCreary, of the Gainesville Sun; Humphreys, of the Bradentown Journal; Neal, of the Westville Advocate and Advertiser, and Zim, of St. Johns, Senators; and Messrs. Matthews, of the Starke Telegraph, and Johnston, of the Dade City Democrat, members of the House.

The decision of Circuit Judge Parkhill completely exonerating Hon. Benj. S. Liddon, of Marianna, of the charges brought against him by Attorneys Calhoun and Boone, of the same town, who are themselves cited to answer in the same court upon similar charges preferred sometime ago, fully met the expectations of Judge Liddon's numerous friends throughout the State. The history of this proceeding reaches far back among the convolutions of the Swayne impeachment case, and when fully written up will make "mighty interesting reading."

Sir Thomas Lipton has announced his intention to have one more trial for the America cup. He has certainly had all of the advertising he needed from his former attempts to capture the celebrated trophy, and his present determination must be set down as the impulse of the "dead game sport." By his admirable behavior in previous contests he has greatly endeared himself to the American people, and American yachtsmen will welcome his return as a contestant of honorable intentions and gentlemanly instincts, with whom it is a pleasure to deal.

Referring to the law proposed by Mr. Geo. W. Willis, of Levy county, to prohibit the shipment of liquors into "dry" counties, the Quincy Times remarks that "The True Democrat 'approves of this measure.'" What this paper said was that it wished such a law "could be enacted and enforced," intimating that it could not be enforced if enacted. We also urged the friends of the temperance cause to "make haste slowly," to be satisfied with the abolishment of the open saloon and seek to hold the "dry" counties in line and make the "wet" counties "dry;" and then, perhaps, a law forbidding the importation of liquor into the State might be made effective.

THE LEGISLATURE ORGANIZED.

With admirable harmony, through the manly withdrawal of opposing candidates, the legislative caucus selected officers for the Legislature whose fitness will be universally acknowledged.

Park M. Trammell, of Lakeland, was elected president of the Senate and Albert W. Gilchrist, of Punta Gorda, speaker of the House, both elections being by unanimous vote. Among other officers elected were the following:

Senate—T. J. Appleyard, secretary; J. O. Culpepper, assistant secretary; Fred Robertson, bill clerk; Nat Marion reading clerk; John R. Willis, assistant reading clerk.

House—J. G. Kellum, chief clerk; K. C. Stevens, assistant chief clerk; Nat R. Walker, reading clerk; G. J. Stozier, assistant reading clerk; G. B. Dickinson, bill clerk.

IN MEMORIAM.

Since the assembling of the last legislative session, Dr. William Forsyth Bynum, the veteran Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives at that time, has passed to his eternal rest, and his memory should be honored in an appropriate manner by the House now in session.

Dr. Bynum was Chief Clerk of the House, with perhaps the exception of a single session, for nearly thirty years. He was an honest and faithful officer and a Christian gentleman. He had a friend in everyone who came in contact with him and no citizen of Florida was more honored and beloved in life, or more sincerely mourned when death took him from his earthly labors.

It will be strange, indeed, if the members of the present House should fail to set apart a day, or a few hours, to be devoted to suitable tributes to the memory of Dr. Bynum, and to pass appropriate resolutions recording his virtues and preserving the memory of his good deeds.

THE LATE JUDGE DUNNE.

The recent death of Judge E. F. Dunne, at Baltimore, recalls to the minds of many Floridians his many visits to the State, and his unwearied interest in Florida's welfare and progress.

Judge Dunne was born in Western New York, and while a boy he accompanied his father to California. He studied law in San Francisco, and in 1863 went to Nevada during the silver excitement. In 1864 he served as a member of the Nevada Constitutional Convention, and in 1865 he was elected district judge. He made an enviable record on the bench. In 1869 Judge Dunne was called to Washington, where he was engaged before the Mexican Claims Commission.

His knowledge of Spanish law and of the titles and the Spanish language rendered his service very valuable.

He went to Europe in 1870 and in 1872 married Miss Warner, of Vicksburg, Miss., in Paris. In 1874 he was appointed chief justice of the Arizona court as a War Democrat or Union man, and as from Nevada. In 1890 he was a prominent figure in the Catholic Congress in Baltimore. Mrs. Dunne died in 1883 in Florida.

Judge Dunne was knighted by Pope Plus IX, and was also made a commander of the Order of St. Gregory. Pope Leo XIII created him a papal count, there being only two others in America honored in a similar manner. This title is hereditary and will go to his son, Eugene Dunne, State's attorney of Baltimore. Judge Dunne leaves another son, Brian, and two daughters, nuns in Montana.

Judge Dunne spent some time in Pensacola about three years ago, investigating the matter of colonizing in that part of the State. He was State president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of Florida for a number of years.

PENSACOLA PRIDE.

Pensacola is truly one of the chief cities of the State. The Daily Journal recently indulged in the following pardonable boast:

"Talk about your convention cities—Pensacola is out-classing them all this week. With 250 public school pupils from Indiana here, the members of the West Florida Presbytery, 250 naval stores operators, and about 15,000 officers and men from the fleet, the Deep Water City will have a chance to do the honors proper—and she purposes taking the fullest advantage of the chance."

THE LOBBYIST.

The "regular business" of "promoting legislation" has become so familiar to the public that it is either accepted as an incurable evil, or regarded as a huge joke. For this mental attitude the newspapers of the period are, to some extent, responsible. Only a few of them have uniformly denounced this shady and really disreputable occupation as a foul blot upon our boasted civilization.

No discredit can or need attach to the efforts of reputable citizens to procure the enactment, by legitimate means, of such local or general laws as may be demanded or desired in the interest of the public welfare; it is not the pernicious activity of paid professional "promoters" to induce legislators to enact laws for purely private purposes.

It is refreshing to find a newspaper that is not afraid or ashamed to speak out on this vital topic, and we gladly give space to the following from the Tavares Herald:

It is probable that our Governor Broward is the only chief magistrate in the United States, other than Folk, of Missouri, who has the nerve and strength to forbid lobbying at the State Capital during the session of the Legislature.

There are probably few states that are not sufferers from the wiles of the lobbyist. We say sufferers advisedly, for it has come about that the lobbyist plies his trade only in the interest of schemes which he cannot accomplish by fair means and straight legitimate legislation.

Florida is preeminently a victim of lobbying. Our statutes are loaded with special laws and private enactments that have been passed in the interest of schemes and local interests that are of no general benefit to the State.

Lobbying has expanded into a regular profession. The professional lobbyist, like the professional gambler, is, in certain localities, always in evidence. He is paid a salary to work, and in the event of carrying his point, is given a handsome bonus.

Why should our legislators be subjected to the influences of these shrewd and unscrupulous men?

Suppose our courts should be selected as a field for the lobbyist's operations! Would his advances be tolerated for a moment? What would be his fate if an attempt were made to influence the court's decision, or the juror's finding, or the witness' testimony?

Why should he be permitted to tamper with the Legislature any more than with the courts?

Will Governor Broward have the nerve and virility to shut the lobbyists out?

RAISE MORE POULTRY!

One of the strangest of all the strange things one sees and hears of in Florida is the fact that so little of the vast quantity of poultry produce consumed annually in the State is the product of home enterprise. It is quite safe to say that three-fifths—if not four-fifths—of the entire demand is supplied from abroad. The ease, cheapness and safety with which poultry products can be produced throughout the whole of Northern Florida, and the enormously high and constantly increasing prices which prevail throughout this portion, as well as other sections of the State, should be enough to give an impetus to the industry which would, in a few years, almost make the local supply equal to the demand.

According to the authority of the State Commissioner of Agriculture, the total product for 1903 was, of fowls, 1,500,000 head, or about three to each inhabitant! The output of eggs was something like 3,000,000 dozen, or only about six dozen to each inhabitant! The absurd discrepancy between supply and demand is apparent.

Why is this condition permitted to exist? The farmers and fruitgrowers of Florida are of, at least, average intelligence. How is it that they are neglecting so rich a field of profit? Are they so accustomed to regard poultry raising as a mere incident to the more important operations that little notice need be taken of it? How mistaken is such a view!

Of course, poultry farming for profit, as an exclusive occupation, should be begun and conducted with great care, with a complete knowledge of all of its requirements, with capital enough to "start right" and with a fund of patient perseverance which can not be eliminated from the safe conduct of any business. But this appeal is not especially addressed to those who desire or intend embarking in the business in that manner. Rather would we plead with the average farmer or

fruitgrower or dairyman to make the raising of poultry an inexpensive but profitable "side line" to his regular business. Conducted thus, there need be no great expense. Where he now grows a few fowls for his own use he could just as well, and almost as cheaply, extend the scope of his operations by multiplying his stock and output ten, fifteen or twenty times, thus giving a source of income which would soon actually astonish him. The care of poultry is more particularly adapted to the taste and environment of the females and minors of the average farmer's family. Given, the means enlarging present operations, and the prospect of individual sharing in the increase of income, few farmers' wives and children would hesitate to undertake so promising a departure from present conditions.

Try it! Get more fowls. If possible get improved varieties, or improve those you now have. Provide for housing and feeding in somewhat better shape than you have been accustomed to. Read the poultry journals. Acquire both information and experience on the subject. Continue your efforts for three years, and then compare the results with those of your regular business. You will be pleasantly and profitably surprised.

WASHINGTON'S WISDOM.

There was a time when Booker T. Washington possessed the entire confidence, and even enjoyed a large share of admiration, on the part of the white people of the South. His "bad break" in not politely declining the famous luncheon with the president has changed much of the feeling towards him into contempt. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that he more fully realizes and candidly states the mental and temperamental limitations of his race than any other leader among them.

In a recent syndicate article on "The South and the Labor Problem," he testifies to the wide extent and injurious effect of the negro disposition to "prefer an uncertain existence in a city to a life of comparative prosperity upon a farm," and recounts the reasons for this condition as given to him by the victims of this strange hallucination. Whether there real, or imaginary, these reasons are of less moment than the facts themselves; but Washington wisely sums up "the duties and obligations" of his people thus: "Unless they realize fully the opportunities that are before them in the South and seize any chance to improve their methods of labor, the time will come when Italians and other foreigners will attempt to displace them in the labor work of the South."

Such mild though wholesome advice as the above will have little effect in keeping the lazy and pleasure-loving negroes away from the precarious existence in the cities and town to which their taste for excitement and easy living naturally leads them, and which so soon develops into a desperate struggle for sustenance that too often ends in crime. The Tuskegee leader failed to mention another, and much more imminent, alternative consequent upon the almost universal propensity of the farm raised negro to "move to town."

Exasperated beyond endurance by this propensity and its inevitable results, the law-makers of the Southern States are seeking earnestly at each recurring legislative session for a competent remedy for the growing evil. Many of these bodies have settled upon the belief that stringent vagrancy laws will effect a cure. The problem has been carefully studied, and the experiment is being and will be still more extensively tried. Here in Florida, at the session just begun, bills for more effective vagrancy laws will receive the careful attention of the Legislature, and the outcome will be watched with profound interest by every law-abiding citizen.

Wanted—Men!

The great want of this age is men—men who are honest and sound from center to circumference, true to the heart's core; men who will condemn friend or foe, in themselves as well as others; men whose consciences are as steady as the needle to the pole; men who will stand for the right if the heavens totter and the earth reels; men who can tell the truth and look the world and the devil right in the eye; men who neither brag nor run; men who neither flag nor flinch; men who have courage without whistling for it and joy without shouting to bring it; men to whom the current of everlasting life runs still and deep and strong; men who know their place and fill it; men who mind their own business; men who will not lie; men who are willing to earn what they eat and perform what they are paid for doing.—Florida Fraternal Record.

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MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE.

First District—Thos. F. West, Milton.
Second District—W. A. Blount, Pensacola.
Third District—John Neel, Westville.
Fourth District—C. L. Wilson, Marianna.
Fifth District—A. J. Alford, Carrabelle.
Sixth District—T. M. Scott, Quincy.
Seventh District—Park M. Trammell, Lakeland.
Eighth District—Geo. P. Raney, Tallahassee.
Ninth District—W. K. Jackson, Inverness.
Tenth District—B. D. Wadsworth, Madison.
Eleventh District—James E. Crane, Tampa.
Twelfth District—T. J. Faulkner, Perry.
Thirteenth District—F. M. Hudson, Tibbals.
Fourteenth District—Guy Gilden, Lake City.
Fifteenth District—J. B. Crews, Lake Butler.
Sixteenth District—Thomas S. Davis, Fernandina.
Seventeenth District—J. R. Newlan, Live Oak.
Eighteenth District—Telfair Stockton, Jacksonville.
Nineteenth District—Louis C. Massey, Orlando.
Twentieth District—C. M. Brown, Ocala.
Twenty-First District—N. R. Carter, Levyville.
Twenty-second District—E. B. Bailey, Monticello.
Twenty-third District—G. M. Lee, Leesburg.
Twenty-fourth District—W. Hunt Harris, Key West.
Twenty-fifth District—S. W. Clark, Blountstown.
Twenty-sixth District—E. S. Crill, Palatka.
Twenty-seventh District—Joseph H. Humphries, Bradentown.
Twenty-eighth District—Frank W. Sams, New Smyrna.
Twenty-ninth District—E. E. Canova, Sanderson.
Thirtieth District—Frank Adams, Jasper.
Thirty-first District—Lewis W. Zim, St. Augustine.
Thirty-second District—H. H. McCreary, Gainesville.

*Holdover Senators.
**Fills unexpired term of Hon. T. Williams, resigned.
†J. G. Baskin, Ocala, elected to fill vacancy.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Alachua—J. A. Rotborough, Windsor; C. M. Tillman, Campville.
Baker—L. C. Cobb, Sanderson.
Bradford—J. L. Hill, Lake Butler; E. S. Matthews, Starke.
Brevard—Claude F. Olmstead, Fort Pierce.
Calhoun—J. E. Pirrong, Wewahatchka.
Citrus—J. W. Knight, Floral City.
Clay—William E. Baker, Melrose.
Columbia—A. J. P. Julian, Lake City; E. G. Persons, Fort White.
Dade—Graham W. King, Ojus.
DeSoto—Albert W. Gilchrist, Punta Gorda.
Duval—H. H. Buckman, Jacksonville; S. H. Melton, Jacksonville.
Escambia—J. Campbell Avery, Jr., Pensacola; J. T. Fillingim, Bluff Springs.
Franklin—William J. Owen, Apalachicola.
Gadsden—J. Baxter Campbell, Quincy; William L. Taylor, Branchville.
Hamilton—John Bradshaw, Jennings; John L. Smith, Jasper.
Hernando—C. S. Wilson, Brooksville.
Hillsboro—John S. Taylor, Largo; G. B. Wells, Plant City.
Holmes—D. J. Paul, Westville.
Jackson—Jefferson D. Stephens, Marianna; James N. Wilson, Sneads.
Jefferson—W. M. Girardeau, Monticello; James A. Sledge, Monticello.
Lake—S. P. Kirkland, Altoona; C. S. Noble, Montclair.
Lee—F. J. Wilson, Buckingham; Leon—W. A. Rawls, Tallahassee; John L. Robison, Woodville.
Levy—C. W. McElroy, Judson.
Liberty—Edmund C. Berndon, Orange.
Madison—J. Ellis Blanton, Lee; C. L. Loggett, Greenville.
Manatee—A. T. Cornwell, Bradentown.
Marion—Carlos S. Sistrunk, Ocala; E. L. Wartman, Citra.
Monroe—C. L. Knowles, Key West; Ernest P. Roberts, Key West.
Nassau—Wm. J. Carleton, Kings Ferry; B. G. Dyal, Moniac, Ga.
Orange—Geo. W. Crawford, Lonway; Wm. H. Jewell, Orlando.
Osceola—John W. Watson, Kissimmee.
Pasco—John B. Johnston, Dade City.
Polk—A. T. Williams, Green Pond; A. P. Carter, Fort Meade.
Putnam—John P. Wall, Putnam Hall; G. F. Sprague, Crescent City.
Santa Rosa—J. H. Harvell, Bagdad.
St. Johns—C. J. DuPont, Matanzas; H. H. Floyd, Howard.
Sumter—W. C. G. Kilgore, Wildwood.
Suwannee—W. R. Dorman, Live Oak; J. M. Hall, O'Brien.
Taylor—L. W. Blanton, Perry.
Volusia—Charles L. Smith, Daytona; Thomas J. Sparkman, Port Orange.
Wakulla—Frank W. Duval, Crawfordville.
Walton—W. A. McCullum, Dorcas.
Washington—William A. Bryan, Chipley.

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