

# THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

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Tallahassee, Friday, June 30, 1905.

Every newspaper in Florida should have copies of the two Asylum Investigating Committees Reports to file away for reference in the future. The Noble report is now out and can be had by applying to the Secretary of State for it.

In the Federal court at Atlanta the other day three bright young men of Florida were admitted to practice at the bar. They were William A. Daniel and Francis L. Dancy, of Jacksonville, and J. E. D. Yonge, of Pensacola, and all were graduates of the University of Georgia law school. Success to them!

The president of Princeton Theological Seminary in a recent sermon said: "I hate to see a cold-blooded, right-living rascal who has \$40,000,000 and can teach Sunday School regularly and drive his hard bargains every week, always keeping just within the range of the law. If I were asked what I thought of such a man, I would say he was lucky not to be in jail."

So far as we have been able to examine the testimony taken by the Nobles Investigating Committee, portraying conditions existing at the State Insane Hospital during the four years of the Jennings Administration, it is almost diametrically contrary in its effect to the alleged conclusions of the committee in its official report purporting to be based upon it. Perhaps some of the members of the committee can explain this extraordinary discrepancy.

What purports to be the whole of the testimony taken before the Noble hospital investigating committee appears in the journal of the House of Representatives for Thursday, June 1, just completed. Judging by what is published, this evidence is more damaging than that taken by the joint committee and published in a previous journal of both houses. There is considerable more to be said about it when an opportunity for a careful study of it has been afforded.

In this issue we publish, for information, the advertisement of the Board of State Institutions inviting bids for the State printing. As will be seen, the bids are to be opened and the contract awarded at a meeting of the board to be held August 1st. We hope that as many printers throughout the State as are prepared to do the work, or any portion of it, or can effect suitable arrangements therefor, will enter the contest and offer bids. If we can be of any service to any of our brethren of the craft in this matter we want them to call on us, and we will serve them to the best of our ability.

Dr. James H. Randolph, assistant physician at the State insane hospital, has suggested to The True Democrat that many of the patients in the institution are pleased and delighted to have reading matter with which to pass the tedious hours of illness or idleness. The State newspapers would be particularly welcome to many, especially those from their home counties; and as an aid to their recovery reading is highly recommended. We pass the suggestion along to our State contemporaries, and urge each to send one copy free to the hospital, in the hope of bestowing a pleasure and benefit upon the unfortunate inmates.

If the laws of Florida authorize the pardoning board to grant conditional pardons, the fact is generally unknown. Through an act of this kind the Jennings administration has involved the present one in vexatious litigation which promises much trouble and expense to the people of the State. In April, 1904, a conditional pardon was granted to Edward Alvarez, convicted at the spring term, 1899, of Bradford circuit court of murder in the second degree. Recently on complaint of citizens of Lawtey, Governor Broward revoked the pardon, whereupon Alvarez appealed to the courts, by attorney, on a petition of habeas corpus, the writ being returnable before Judge Call of the fourth circuit, June 30th. Through delays and appeals this convicted felon may be able to cheat justice for a while.

## GOVERNOR'S MANSION SITE.

The Governor's Mansion law, which we printed in full last week, provides that "in case said Jackson or other park or square in the city of Tallahassee shall not be selected and acquired for the purpose of this act, then no money appropriated by this act shall be used for any purpose of this act until a site for such mansion suitable to said commission shall have been donated and conveyed by proper deed in fee simple, free from all incumbrance, to the State of Florida," etc.

Aside from the legal complications involved in the possible appropriation of one of Tallahassee's public squares for the location of the mansion, there are many excellent reasons why no such action should be taken. These open spaces were originally designed, in the foundation of the city, as "breathing spots" for the use and benefit of all of the city's inhabitants, and for the sake of uniformity in scenic effect. One of them has already been made use of for a country courthouse, and at least one of the remaining ones is anything but beautiful in appearance, portions not occupied by the fire department buildings being used as a camping-ground for travelers. To occupy another with a governor's mansion would only constitute another encroachment upon the rights and privileges of the citizens.

Under this view of the situation, the duty certainly devolves upon the people of the city to provide in some way for the donation of a suitable site. What will they do about it? So far, nothing has been done. The time for action has arrived.

## OUR POSITION.

Tallahassee will not be satisfied with the location of the Florida Female College in that city. Her True Democrat says she also has "eminently superior advantages" as a location for the State University and seriously insists that that institution shall be located in the capital city. Its argument that "geographically and with reference to the population of the State, Tallahassee has no superior within its borders" will not impress people familiar with the geography and railway system of Florida. Let us now hear from Pensacola. —Live Oak Democrat.

Tallahassee will be satisfied with whatever disposition of the college location problem is made by the Board of Control and the State Board of Education. It will have to be. It has not made as much noise in the presentation of its "claims" to the location of the university as some other places have done, because it does not believe that noise is going to affect the result, and because the boards will be able, upon inspection of its advantages, to reach a just decision concerning them, in comparison with those presented by other localities. Tallahassee feels entirely confident that either the university or the female college will be located here preferably the former; and the boards are assured the prompt and hearty support and co-operation of Tallahassee in their exceedingly difficult and measurably thankless task of rehabilitating the educational institutions of the State in accordance with the Buckman law.

## GILCHRIST GIVES REASONS.

In a well-written letter to the Tampa Tribune Speaker Gilchrist gives some very excellent reasons why he opposed the State Fair appropriation of \$30,000, in the course of which he gives the dictionary meaning of the word "graft," which, of course, the word being slang, differs materially from the commonly accepted meaning. But it "gets there all the same." He also says: "I would be willing to give thirty cents to anyone who will give me the name of any member of the House of Representatives to whom I was under obligations to vote \$30,000 of the people's money to the private incorporators of this fair. I have never in my life voted money from the public treasury with which to pay my own political debts. Not satisfied with getting the money the Tribune publishes the deal by which it was accomplished. If you will give us \$30,000, we will help give DeFuniak \$4,000. 'You scratch my back and I will scratch yours.'" Gilchrist certainly holds the strongest position in the matter of this appropriation.

The famous new fast train between New York and Chicago, was wrecked near Mentor, O., last Wednesday, causing the death of nineteen persons and the injury of many more. The fast schedule was ordered abandoned, but later was restored, the rigid investigation which ensued showing that the accident was not caused by the fast speed but by the act of some miscreant who opened the switch just a minute or two before the fast train arrived. It is to be hoped that the guilty party may be arrested and punished.

## SOUND DEMOCRATIC DOCTRINE.

At the recent commencement exercises of Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tenn., an address was delivered by Missouri's newly-elected governor, Hon. Joseph W. Folk, in which he said:

"It is one thing to be against wrong; it is quite another thing to fight wrong; One is a non-combatant that never won a cause, the other a soldier in the fight. Good citizens need to become more aggressive. The man that is afraid to show his colors and stand in the open against evils is of little benefit to good government. The country needs soldiers of peace as well as soldiers of war. Monroe proclaimed the doctrine of America for Americans. The Missouri doctrine inverts that phase and applies it both ways. Americans for America is the slogan that needs to be sounded now."

In a country a state or a municipality imbued with such doctrine as the above there is no room for graft or grafters. Governor Folk, while prosecuting attorney in St. Louis, made for himself along the lines indicated in the above quoted utterance the reputation which later won for him the highest State office in the gift of his fellow-citizens. Such work as he then performed, and such doctrine as he now preaches, are needed to purify the body politic in other states besides Missouri and in other municipalities besides St. Louis.

It was upon precisely such a foundation of principles that The True Democrat was established and has thus far been conducted. All that it needs for the continuance of its appointed work is the prompt, cheerful and substantial support of all honest, God-fearing people who believe in demanding and enforcing the conduct of the public business with the same degree of strict honesty, integrity and faithfulness that is exacted of employees and agents engaged in the management of private affairs.

## PRACTICAL LOCAL OPTION.

Bradford county went dry the other day by a heavy majority—240 in a vote of 980. Referring to the contest, the Starke Telegraph says:

No county ever had a more orderly prohibition campaign than the one just closed in Bradford. The meetings held preceding the election were marked by good order, and the contending forces met at the polls in the very friendliest spirit. The contest leaves no rankling sores, and within a fortnight the incidents of the campaign will be forgotten, and the interest of every good citizen will be centered in seeing that the law placed in force by the ballots of the majority is enforced.

One of the most pleasing and creditable features of our prohibition campaign was the "frost" that invariably fell upon every attempt to discredit or belittle the efforts of the good women, and the ministers who took an active part in the work. Not many attempts of this kind were made, of course, but when a little ill-breeding did crop out it always met the "frost" it deserved, notwithstanding the attempter was surrounded by partisans. The Telegraph could not subscribe to the "wet" creed, but we certainly do wish to commend our friends on that side of the question for such wholesome and high-toned features in their campaign methods as the one we have here mentioned.

Following the termination of the struggle, the people purpose the formation of a permanent organization to attend to the "blind tiger" evil, should such a course be necessary.

An agitation for a wet or dry campaign in Putnam county is impending, and in Volusia county, which has been dry for some time, informations have been filed against 20 of the 40 or 50 illicit liquor dealers, 14 of whom were arraigned in court last week and fined from \$50 to \$250 each with costs.

This is practical local option, and all dry counties can eliminate the blind tiger evil if they choose.

John Collins of the Tallahassee True Democrat, says he is having a new building put up for his plant. He is indeed fortunate. It's all the average newspaper man can do to pay rent on an old building that was formerly intended for anything but a printing office. —Quincy Times.

Our neighbor must not assume that we have grown rich enough to erect an office building by the publication of The True Democrat for about four months. One of the best and most progressive citizens of our home town is erecting the new office building to lease to us, specially designed for the purpose, and the work of construction began last Monday, so we hope to be settled in our new home by September.

On Monday, 24 days after the adjournment of the Legislature, the House journal of Thursday, June 1, made its appearance. It contains, or purports to contain, all of the testimony taken by the House committee which investigated the insane asylum, of which Hon. C. S. Noble was chairman. If any of our newspaper friends throughout the State fail to receive a copy, it can be procured by applying to the Secretary of State.

## A NATION OF GRAFTERS.

Are the people of the United States in danger of being known abroad as a nation of grafters?

This partial list of recent crookedness in high places is enough to appall the average honest citizen:

Governor D. H. Johnson, former Governor Palmer S. Mosely and several others of less prominence, indicted in the courts of the Indian Territory for alleged frauds in the issue and use of warrants against the Chickasaw nation. United States Marshal W. T. Ward and others indicted in the same courts for conspiracy to present false claims against the United States.

In Washington, William G. Crawford, charged with conspiracy to defraud the government.

United States Senator John Mitchell, of Oregon, on trial for accepting fees of lobbyist while serving as Senator, in connection with Oregon land frauds.

Benjamin H. Gaskell, a Philadelphia banker, who died about a month ago, left as a legacy later discovered defalcations as trustee, etc., amounting to nearly one million dollars.

B. H. Tallmadge arrested in New Mexico charged with subornation of perjury in the matter of extensive frauds in entries of public lands in New Mexico.

Forty packing house proprietors and managers indicted in Chicago for fraudulent practices.

A trusted employee of the Smithsonian Institute detected in the embezzlement of its funds to the amount of \$46,000.

Boodling in St. Louis, Chicago and Philadelphia.

The Equitable wreck.

The above are only a very few of the instances which have recently been brought to public notice—how many other cases, not yet discovered, cannot be even conjectured.

In the name of public virtue, honesty and integrity, let us, if we can, keep Florida out of the list; and if any wrong-doing has been practiced in the conduct of the public business, let us hasten to fix the blame where it rightfully belongs, bring the offenders to justice, and thus clear our record in the sight of all the inhabitants of our common country!

## THE FUNCTION OF THE PRESS.

Discussing the nature and extent of the functions of the newspaper in relation to the political campaigns, the Pensacola Journal recently expressed itself in the following wise and conservative manner:

A newspaper cannot control men's wills; it cannot compel them to vote or act contrary to their own convictions; it cannot command adherence or support for any particular candidate or policy.

A newspaper's province and power consists simply of two things—(1) the ability to present the plain truth about facts and conditions as it sees them, and (2) the more difficult but not less important ability to reflect, not control, public sentiment upon those facts and conditions in which the public is, for the time being, interested.

Take the recent city campaign for an example. The people knew what they wanted without being told. They wanted a White Primary and, wanting it, they took the most direct means of establishing it.

The Journal could not compel them to want it, could not compel them to get it; could not induce them by its own desires in the matter in any way or to any effect.

What The Journal could do and tried to do was to present the facts in the case to the public in a truthful way and, knowing those facts, the public was perfectly able to act for itself, which it did.

Had The Journal mis-stated the facts, attempted to deceive the public or tried to play false to the confidence which the public reposed in it, that fact would have become known at once and the public would have repudiated The Journal.

A great many newspapers arrogate to themselves the power to control the public sentiment of a community, and a great many people actually believe they have that power.

The newspapers, however, know better and the people who hold that impression are mistaken. If there were any doubt of this, just let a newspaper go wrong a time or two or get out of joint with public sentiment itself, and see how quick the public turns it down.

Newspapers have power, but that power consists solely in their ability to present the plain, unvarnished truth regarding conditions as they exist. This done, the public will do the rest, and all the arts of subterfuge, perversion, or subtle appeal cannot change the public mind when it once knows the truth and the facts.

Referring to her "last message," contained in a recent published interview, Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy declares that her seclusion is "solely from lack of time to accomplish what I do for humanity, and have the moments left in which to regale myself with the sweet intercourse of society."

## DUE TO THE PRESS.

The newspapers, more than all other agencies, are responsible for the victory of the people over the corrupt ring in Philadelphia. But for their merciless exposure of the rascals in and out of the councilmanic bodies, the thieving gas ordinance would have stood. But for their vigorous urging Mayor Weaver would hardly have had the moral courage to stand out against the machine.

The newspapers, without regard to party, fought the steal from its incipency. Nor did they fight it in any milk or cider fashion. "Rolls of honor" and "rolls of dishonor" were printed in bold type. None of those who voted for the steal escaped, their names appearing in bold face type in the "dishonorable list."

Thus it was that the rape of the treasury was prevented. Yet few, even of Philadelphia, will give credit to these unselfish and patriotic newspapers which stood for their rights against as corrupt a gang of bribe-givers and bribe-takers as ever disgraced an American city.

A free and untrammelled press is the bulwark of American liberty. When its mouth is closed thieves will triumph and moral decay set in. —Miami Metropolis.

## Retires from Politics.

In the last issue of the Jasper News appeared the following graceful card from Senator Frank Adams expressing his determination to retire permanently from the field of local politics. Taken all in all Senator Adams has made an excellent record in his public life, and his retirement will be regarded with regret far beyond the boundaries of his home county:

To the People of Hamilton County: Twelve years ago, through your confidence and kindness, I was sent as your representative to the Florida Senate. Twice during this period the senators were good enough to have me preside over their deliberations. During these twelve years I have done at all times that which to me appeared to be right and best for the interests of my county and that of my state.

I appreciate beyond the power of words to express the many, many kindnesses that have been shown me at home and abroad, and I now return to the people who gave it, my commission as senator. I have had it for three terms, and that is long enough. "Rotation in office" is a Democratic doctrine, and is a good one. No one man should fill any one position always.

I therefore announce far in advance of the time, that I will not be a candidate under any circumstances for the Senate next time, no matter what may be said to the contrary by anyone.

I hope to divide my time equally in halves. The first half of it shall be devoted to my business, and the other half in letting alone that of the other "fellow," and shall only take such interest in politics as every free American citizen should—cast his vote in accordance with his own convictions.

In retiring to private life, I beg once more to give expression to my heartfelt gratitude to the people of my county and state for their manifold kindnesses to me.

FRANK ADAMS.

Hon. John P. Wall, for many years member of the House of Representatives from Putnam county, following Senator Frank Adams' precedent, has announced his determination not to "stand" for re-election. Representative Wall has always been recognized as a strong and upright member, and his absence from the legislative halls will be regretted by many, outside of his home county.

The Equitable racket grows worse and worse. The courts of criminal procedure in New York have suspended their vacations at the request of District Attorney Jerome, who contemplates the prosecution of the officials who have been "making ducks and drakes" of the funds of the Society. The report of the insurance commissioner disclosed the fact, among others, that the \$25,000 salary of a director who died thirteen months ago is still being paid. Former President Alexander has made restitution of over \$25,000 improperly received by him on "syndicate operations." And the end is not yet.

Governor Folk of Missouri recently issued an order to suppress gambling at race tracks, announcing that the militia would be used, if necessary, to secure the execution of the order. Sheriff Hergel, of St. Louis county, rebelled (as a certain Florida sheriff once did against a Florida governor), and declared that "An appeal to bayonets is the first threat of a bigot, fired by fanatical zeal, his personal ambition, and by ideas against the guaranteed liberties of the people." Nevertheless, and although the belligerent official's deputies made a number of arrests at the track, the governor has announced the removal of the sheriff and prosecuting attorney for "utter disregard of their official oaths."