

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

IN BEHALF OF W. L. TAYLOR

Three Hundred Ladies Appeal to the Board for Mercy.

No public event has occurred at the State Capitol recently that has caused quite as much commotion and comment as the somewhat dramatic appeal made to the State pardoning board on Wednesday of this week by over one hundred ladies of Leon county and Tallahassee, bearing a petition for the pardon, purely upon the grounds of mercy, of Walter L. Taylor.

At the request of a committee representing the movement, Governor Broward appointed a meeting of the board, and when the time arrived the ladies appeared in a body, more than one hundred strong, and were ushered into the audience room of the executive office, where the members of the board were assembled.

The petition, to which were appended the signatures of nearly three hundred of the most prominent women of Tallahassee and Leon county, and others, was presented to the board by Miss Annie Flagg, in a touching and eloquent address. Both the petition with its signatures, and Miss Flagg's address, as well as others made at the time, we hope to have space for hereafter. Brief remarks were also made by Mrs. Howard Gamble, Mrs. Woodward and others.

The matter was taken under advisement by the board, and the sequel will not be known until the board sees fit to announce its decision.

The incident thus briefly described was in itself sufficiently unusual to excite comment, but its most disturbing and exciting feature remains to be mentioned. In order to procure the exact facts as near as possible, a representative of The True Democrat on Thursday interviewed a number of the ladies present who were prominent in the movement, and they described the events referred to with picturesque fidelity.

As the ladies, after the formal performance of their loving task were about to retire, Judge B. S. Liddon, of Marianna, (who acted in the court proceedings of the Taylor case as the paid attorney for the prosecution, and who had been noticed as being present, but who was unknown to most of the ladies, and by many supposed to be some one friendly to the holy cause they represented), arose and demanded a hearing, and immediately began an elaborate argument of the legal aspects of the case, rehearsing the proceedings of the courts and expressing contemptuous disregard of the present movement, undertaken in the name of mercy, for the sake of the victim's five helpless little children (who, by the way, were present), and for the sake of his distressed and sorrowing wife.

Referring to this episode, Mrs. Geo. Greenhow thoughtfully remarked that the entire company of ladies present were utterly astounded at the presence of a paid advocate against the unfortunate man, as well as at the form and manner of his interference in the matter. "Many of the ladies," said she, "openly protested against the intrusion, and one appealed to the Governor asking him why such a thing should be allowed when the committee had requested the appointment for the specific purpose of presenting the appeal, without dreaming of a legal controversy. Governor Broward replied that the meeting, as was customary, had been advertised, and any one had a right to be heard."

"In the course of his speech Judge Liddon sneeringly remarked that this thing of 'woman's tears and sympathy' was old, and we all know all about it, but he wanted to present the justice and the law of the case. Interrupted by myself with the protest that all that was past, and we had heard it all two years ago, and that the legal aspects of the case were not now under consideration, Judge Liddon avoided any direct reply. In speaking of the act for which Taylor was now to be punished, Judge Liddon used the terms 'murder' and 'kill,' but when requested by me to define the difference between those terms he was silent. One lady cited the case of Sylvester, who had been pardoned after an unprovoked assault upon Master Mechanic Burton, at Fernandina, whom he killed; another referred to a still more recent and quite similar case.

"Still protesting at the rank injustice of confronting them on their errand of mercy with a legal argument from a paid attorney who had not even been invited to be present, the ladies withdrew, escorted to the east stairway by the Governor, who said in parting: 'Ladies, I was as much taken by surprise as you were, at the presence of Judge Liddon.'

Mrs. Chas. A. Cay added to the "testimony" of Mrs. Greenhow some exceedingly strong impressions of indignation at the way the ladies had been treated, and remarked that she had heard of no one who had seen any advertisement of the board meeting, as referred to by

the Governor. Mrs. Cay, in passing, remarked that the ladies who had been active in securing signatures to the petition were entitled to great credit for their efforts, and named them, as follows: Mrs. J. W. Coles, Miss Annie Flagg, Mrs. Fanny Hogan, Mrs. George Perkins, Mrs. Fred C. Moor, and others.

"Those ladies," said Mrs. Cay, "certainly felt as if the entire community, practically, was interested and represented in their effort, and that is precisely what we said to the board. We argued that the punishment proposed to be inflicted upon Mr. Taylor was not only unjust, as being far in excess of his offense, but would be visited most heavily upon his innocent family, who were dependent upon his personal efforts for their support. Also, that aside from the legal aspects of the case, with which we had nothing to do, we urged the board, in the discharge of its duties, and clothed with the right to consider the side of the case which we had presented, to exercise its prerogative of mercy."

"Many of the ladies present expressed the indignation they felt at the insolent manner and irrelevant matter of Judge Liddon's intrusion and remarks, and some were inclined to blame the board, but refrained because of Governor Broward's explanation."

Mrs. R. B. Gorman said that she could fill volumes with expressions of the just indignation felt by every lady in the company at the brutal manner in which they had been treated, but that she felt so strongly on the subject that she would prefer to say nothing more.

Mrs. Fred C. Moor and Miss Kate Moor were emphatic in their expressions of indignation at Judge Liddon's uncalculated behavior. "I, myself, asked Governor Broward," said Mrs. Moor, "if this meeting had not been arranged especially for the presentation of the petition, and why we were confronted by a lawyer with a legal argument. His reply was that the custom of the board was to hold open meetings, at which anyone could appear. I, and many others, regarded Judge Liddon's remarks and his manner as almost insulting to the ladies present."

Mrs. J. W. Coles and Miss Flagg were seen together, and united in the very strongest condemnation of Judge Liddon for intruding himself upon such an occasion, after he, as the paid prosecutor, had had every opportunity to labor for the conviction of Taylor in the courts, and had succeeded. "The movement," said Miss Flagg, "was one purely in the interest of mercy and humanity, and we did not, of course, expect to encounter a lawyer's argument of the facts and legal circumstances of the case, which had all been threshed out in the courts. This much, in effect, I said to the board after Mr. Liddon ceased speaking, and I remarked to Governor Broward that he should have advised us that we would be confronted by a paid advocate, charged with the ghastly duty of breaking the force of our appeal for mercy and hired to appear and browbeat us. I understood afterwards that Governor Broward expressly disclaimed any knowledge of Judge Liddon's intention to be present."

Both Mrs. Coles and Miss Flagg declared that the meeting of the board could not have been advertised, as stated by the Governor, or if done, it was in some corner which had entirely escaped general public notice.

This chronicle of a most extraordinary occurrence would be incomplete without a brief account of a circumstance contemporary in time and closely connected with the appeal of the women of Leon county for executive clemency in the Taylor case. One of the most devoted of the many friends who have come forward in aid of this distressed family addressed a letter to Hon. W. B. Lamar, the chief prosecutor of Mr. Taylor, from which we have been permitted to make the following extracts:

"My dear Mr. Lamar: There is something within me that impels me to write this letter to you, for it seems as though I stand half way between a love for your mother's family and the love for my townspeople; and because of this I cannot keep silent."

"Mr. Lamar, will you not be magnanimous, and telegraph to Governor Broward at once upon receipt of this letter asking him to pardon Mr. Taylor? Mr. Taylor has been wrong, I know this. We all do. But lose sight of him and think of his poor wife and five little helpless children--the oldest nine years, and a baby one year--without anything left to them but disgrace and this terrible sorrow. Even their home has a mortgage of \$1,200 at eight per cent. interest--almost the entire value of the home. Think of them, if you can picture such misery."

"If you could have witnessed the heart-breaking scene in that home when the wretched wife was told that a pardon had been refused; when the little girl threw her arms about her mother's neck and cried: 'Mama, are they going to take our papa away from us?--I am sure that you would have been only too glad to beg for a pardon for him.'

"You have everything that success and wealth can give; they have nothing but sorrow. I beg this of you, and I but voice the deep feeling of almost

every home in Tallahassee. I have never seen greater sorrow felt on any trouble, and if at this last moment you can turn this sorrow away from them you will not lose by such mercy--rather, by far, will you gain the love of this people."

"I am not asking too much. You can do this if you will, and I do beg it of you. No one has asked me to write to you. I am doing it for the love of my people. Be merciful! It is the chance of your life to show these people of Tallahassee that you are one with them."

"Your friend,"

To this touching appeal Mr. Lamar replied by telegraph as follows:

"YOUR KIND LETTER RECEIVED. CANNOT CONSISTENTLY RECOMMEND TO GOVERNOR BROWARD TO REVERSE THE JURY'S VERDICT AND THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT."

"W. B. LAMAR."

Comment would be superfluous.

While few of even the most sanguine friends of Mr. Taylor hoped for a full pardon for him, the result of the appeal of the women of Leon county for mercy was more surprising even than the appearance and argument of Judge Liddon.

Upon the adjournment of the board, about 1 o'clock p. m. Friday, a representative of The True Democrat who was in attendance asked a member of the board what had been done with the Taylor case. The reply was:

"The Board declined to take the matter up. They did nothing. That's the best way to express it."

As we have already delayed publication to announce the result, we defer comment until a later issue, feeling assured that the insulted women will comment with sufficient vigor upon the extraordinary attitude of the board.

A storm of indignation often ends with a reign of terror.

The Boy's Club.

The members of the "Order of American Boys" had a most enjoyable straw ride to Lake Hall Tuesday evening. The Club, during the heated term when it is rather warm for athletics, has resolved itself into a debating society, meeting every Friday. Master Everett Lewis is now captain, and makes an excellent presiding officer.

THE HOSPITAL STRIKE.

Full Details From Superintendent B. F. Whitner as Officially Reported.

Superintendent Whitner on the 15th inst., forwarded to the Board of State Institutions the following official report of the trouble at the hospital. The latest advices from the institution are to the effect that the situation is well in hand, new employees having been secured, and every detail of administration is being carefully provided for. The report, which follows, and the action of the superintendent have been approved by the board:

Chattahoochee, Fla., July 15, 1905. Hon. Board of Commissioners of State Institutions, Tallahassee, Fla. Gentlemen--I respectfully submit the following statement as to the recent strike of the attendants here: On the morning of July 11, I was handed a petition by one of the attendants (male) after asking a private interview. I told him that was not the proper way to obtain what they wanted and explained in a kind manner that I could not consider the request with the threat of resignation if I did not comply, that they had better erase that clause in the petition, that it was too grave a matter to be answered at once. The petition stated that they would resign on the 12th in a body. The paper was returned, and in the course of the day was again presented by another male attendant with no change except that the date of threatened resignation, which was extended to the 13th. It is of course evident to the Board that I could not relegate the management of the Institution to the attendants, and after consulting with the other members of the Hospital Staff, I determined to prepare for the emergency and take no further notice of the petition, which was in reality a mutiny. I should simply be at the mercy of the attendants if I should adopt any other course.

The strikers no doubt expected all the attendants and employees to join them but in this they were disappointed, as four female and seven male attendants refused to go out, and only one of the outside employees, the baker, joined them. The electrician, engineer, steward, etc., were faithful, and profuse in their efforts for any assistance and to do anything in their power to help us through the trouble. On the morning of the 13th the strikers walked out. The wives of several of the employees came right in, several new female attendants were employed, which enables

us to manage the female department. In the male department we are filling the places left vacant rapidly. In a few days we will have all the help needed in both departments. Everything is remarkably quiet and I anticipate no further trouble. Will be able to give the patients the care they should receive and there will be no danger or cause for alarm on that score. It has put harder work on the attendants for a few days, but it will not be long before we will have a full complement in each department. There has not been a colored nurse in either of the white departments, newspaper reports to the contrary notwithstanding. Of course I regret the whole affair, but do not see how I could have acted otherwise and preserved the necessary discipline in the hospital, or my own self respect.

Very respectfully,
B. F. WHITNER,
Superintendent.

Tribute From a Friend.

Sidney Johnson Vason died at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, July 11th, 1905, after a lingering illness of nearly two months.

He was born in Albany, Ga., November 21st, 1861, and was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Vason. He died at the flood-tide of his success and usefulness, and his death brings serious loss to extended commercial interests, which he had long and faithfully served as an expert accountant. In the past he had originated a new and simplified method of accounting; banking and bookkeeping, which met the approval of some of the largest commercial houses and banks in the South, and his new system had been copyrighted. As a man of good morals, he was of the very highest type and a worthy member of the church. Eight years ago he was married to Miss Alice Guion, of Charlotte, N. C. His wife and a bright little boy survive him.

Energy, integrity and education had equipped him for the battle he had fought and won, for he lived to see the efforts of his arduous toil bear the golden fruits of success.

He alone is trustworthy who stands by his work, ready to acknowledge his failures or wear the laurels of success with the beautiful composure of an honest man who has done his best.

His love and affection for his parents and family and his constancy to his friends were worthy of emulation. His was a character that was truly noble without any ostentation, brave, true and generous. From boyhood he was honest in all contracts and faithful to every trust and duty assigned him. Remembered and loved by his boyhood playmates who were benefitted by his companionship, who now grieve over his untimely death. Thus passed away a noble friend and associate to that eternal home, where duty, charity and self-sacrifice on earth reap their reward.

R. A. SHINE, JR.

Now Is the Time.

Isn't it sad that so many people keep the flowers they have plucked for you until the day of your funeral? Their songs of praise are not heard until your funeral procession in passing their door. The mantle of charity does not become public property until put in use by the preacher at the last sad rites. If any one has a flower, even the tiniest little one, let me have it now while I am on earth and so sadly need its beauty and fragrance. What good will it do me on my coffin above a pulseless heart that has so often grown tired because of lack of an encouraging word? The grass that is kept green above my head will avail me little on the other shore. Here is where I need the flowers and the smiles and the words of praise and encouragement--not over there. If the friends who are going to come round to my house after I am gone to see "if they can be of any assistance" will come now I will show them how they can do me a whole lot of good. There are lots of the former, there are few of the latter. Carry your flowers to the living, and sing your songs of praise at the dinner table. Don't wait for the funeral.--Augusta, Ga., Herald.

Change in Time of Departure of Steamer Crescent City from Apalachicola.

The traveling public will please be advised that the steamer Crescent City due to leave Apalachicola daily at 6:30 a. m., will in the future leave there at 7:00 a. m. daily, except Sundays, and Sundays at 7:30 a. m.

R. C. SNIPES,
Traveling Passenger Agent,
Tallahassee, Fla.

The Busy Bee.

Atchison Globe: I have been hearing of the busy bee until I am tired of it. A bee works all the summer and rests all winter, like a plasterer. And a bee has bad habits. Go into a vineyard and you will find bee drunkards around burst grapes. The drunkard bees sip the juice until they become full and then fall to the ground and sleep off their debauch; a drunkard bee knows enough not to go home with a jag on.

Notice.

Effective Sunday, July 23, the special train service between Tallahassee and St. Marks on Sunday, will be discontinued. F. P. WOODWARD, Agent.

DOINGS AT THE STATE CAPITOL

Items of Interest from the Various State Departments.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Appointments-Honorary Fish Commissioner--John Y. Detwiler, New Smyrna; State Board of Accountancy--G. R. De Saussure, Jacksonville; Walter Mucklow, Jacksonville; E. I. Mathews, Tallahassee.

State Board of Medical Examiners--Dr. J. D. Fernandez, Jacksonville; Dr. J. Harris Pierpont, Pensacola; Dr. Henry E. Palmer, Tallahassee; Dr. J. Harrison Hodges, Gainesville; Dr. John B. Maloney, Key West; Dr. A. L. Blacklock Madison; Dr. R. L. Harris, Orlando.

State Board of Health--Dr. Horace L. Simpson, Pensacola; E. M. Hendry, Tampa, H. Fozzard, Jacksonville.

School Board, Brevard county--E. B. Arnold, Malabar; R. E. Mims, Bonaventure.

County Commissioner--J. F. Wooten, Cocoa; J. T. Cockshutt. Justice of Peace, Sumter county--C. Bevell, Bushnell; Marion county--J. M. Matthew, Flemington.

Constable--Temple H. Burton, Delray. Notaries Public, at large--T. J. Rooks, Ebro; E. W. Hodgson, Eau Gallie; C. B. Smith, Madison.

STATE DEPARTMENT.

Letters patent: The R. D. Hope Co, Jansen, \$110,000. Incorporators: R. D. Hope, P. G. Walton, C. Van Brunt.

Bay Shore Land Co., St. Petersburg, \$50,000. Incorporators: A. E. Hoxie, Frank W. Ward, C. Percy Snell, A. C. Clewis.

Gulf Trading Co., Carrabelle, \$30,000. Incorporators: A. C. Croom, W. C. Croom, E. R. L. Moore, D. O. Neil, J. J. Blominquiat.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The following report of W. V. Knott, State treasurer, filed with the governor, shows balances to the credit of the several State and educational funds at the close of business June 30, 1905, as follows:

General revenue	\$150,912.17
One mill school	46,213.20
Pension tax	43,360.54
State Board of Health	88,077.75
Principal of State school	5,052.92
Interest of State school	.37
Principal of seminary	24.17
Interest of seminary	1,973.50
Hire of State convicts	53,407.42
Agricultural College	125.84
Indian War claim	25,000.00
Experiment station	1,509.47
White college, Morrill	7.60
Colored college, Morrill	2,201.99
University, incidental	131.33
Station, incidental	547.16
University, mess hall	4.50
University, gymnasium	160.65
South Florida Military College, current expense	567.23
South Florida Military College, improvement	50.00
University, fire loss	65.84
Florida Agricultural Institute, Kissimmee	3,965.82
Florida Hospital for Insane, fire loss	129.70
Total	\$423,931.93

SUPREME COURT.

J. Seth Hills, petitioner, vs. Wm. S. Clark, respondent. Application for certiorari refused.

Robert Muggs, plaintiff in error, vs. R. A. Jackson, defendant in error. Petition for rehearing granted and set for oral argument August 25th.

George Summers, appellant, vs. Florida Pebble Phosphate Co., appellee, et al. Petition for rehearing denied.

U. C. Durham, appellant, vs. D. R. Edwards, appellee. Petition for rehearing denied.

Argument was heard on Tuesday in the Epps murder cases on appeal.

Georgia, Florida and Alabama Railway; Carrabelle, Tallahassee & Georgia Railroad.

Tallahassee, Fla., July 20, 1905. Summer excursion rate to Lanark and Sopchoppy (when for Panacea Springs.)

The following round trip rates are announced to Gulf Coast resorts for the season of 1905, from Tallahassee: Sopchoppy, \$1.00; Lanark, \$1.00; Sundays, final limit date of sale.

Sopchoppy, \$1.25; Lanark, \$1.50; Saturdays, final limit following Monday.

Sopchoppy, \$1.50; Lanark, \$2.00; daily, final limit 15 days.

Sopchoppy, \$1.65; Lanark, \$2.40; daily, final limit 30 days.

R. C. SNIPES,
Traveling Passenger Agent.

A Federal judge in California has enjoined the State Federation of Labor and a local labor council from executing a boycott upon a local firm of manufacturers on the ground that the defendants were conspiring to destroy the property and ruin the business of their intended victims. Organized labor should have moral strength enough to sustain its rights without resort to unlawful means or the injury of others.

For Rent, 5-room Cottage. Apply to Miss Janie Clark. 13-1f