

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

JOHN G. COLLINS, Proprietor.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING.

Entered as Second Class Matter March 21, 1905, at the Post Office at Tallahassee, Florida, under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Office in Telephone Building, Corner Adams and Clinton Streets, Telephone No. 190.

Subscription, \$1.00 Per Year, in Advance. Advertising Rates on Application.

Tallahassee, Friday, July 21, 1905.

Friends of U. S. Senator Mallory everywhere will be pleased to learn that he is much improved in health after a brief sojourn at Tate Springs.

Gadsden county challenges comparison with any other county of the State with a record of only \$60.43 delinquent taxes for 1904. Show up, gentlemen!

After having quite a lot of fun with the cigarette fiends, by telling them of the stringent provisions of the new "cigarette law," the newspapers of the State are now engaged in disseminating the fact that no such law was enacted at the recent session.

The Lake City newspapers—notably the Citizen-Reporter—are fighting the college location battle over again with a degree of vindictiveness which is not at all to their credit. We refrain from encouraging the unreconciled spirit displayed by reproducing their intemperate utterances.

Full and free pardon is granted the Lake City Index on account of a number of sneaking little sarcasms about The True Democrat. The Index was so completely flabbergasted over the decision of the college location matter that it hasn't since been its real, jolly harmless self at all.

No man—or woman—exists whose place in the work of the world cannot be filled, even including the \$100,000-a-year life insurance president. So, when nearly all of the white employees at the State insane hospital "walked out" last week, there were doubtless others near at hand or easily accessible to take their places, and the capable superintendent, Mr. Whitner, while put to a little extra trouble, did not let the helpless wards of the State suffer.

They do say that politics was the trump card in the University deal and that a promise of support for governor given one of the Board of Control was the card that turned the trick.—Madison New Enterprise.

Those who voted for Gainesville were Messrs. T. B. King and P. K. Yonge. Which of these two will the New Enterprise name as the one who was guilty of trading? We pause for a reply—but do not expect to get it. Such imputations are unworthy of a Florida newspaper.

The Atlanta Journal remarks that a rumor is prevalent in that city of the extension of the G. F. & A. system from Carrabelle to Atlanta via Columbus, and adds: "An extension of the Georgia, Florida & Alabama is already under course of construction to Quincy, Fla., and this adds currency to the rumor of the extension to Atlanta. The road traverses the finest section of Georgia and Florida, and such an extension would be of great benefit to Atlanta and the intervening country."

The St. Augustine Record notes the fact that property owners are protesting at the increase in taxation caused by the levy of the drainage tax, and mentions one instance where the taxes of a large owner in Dade county have been increased from \$5,000 to \$30,000. The Record adds: "The object of the new law is to benefit the State, but trouble is already certain to arise when it comes to deciding what lands shall be taxed. If the plan can be worked out fairly and satisfactorily it should result in the opening up of thousands of acres of valuable lands that will provide splendid homes for new settlers."

The Times-Union notes the fact that "in the central part of the State a weekly paper has a protest against the dodger as a method of advertising for the merchant. The editor of this country weekly, who sees his valuable advertising space go begging while the poor subterfuge is being passed to the man on the street by a boy who annoys more than he pleases, rises to argue that the merchant who uses this means of advertising when the newspaper is open to him is a fool, with a capital 'F' of the boldface series."

Tallahassee has a few "dodger merchants," but the number is rapidly diminishing.

The time is fast approaching when the vigorous insistence of U. S. Senator John T. Morgan and others upon the Nicaragua route for the isthmian canal will be completely vindicated. Three years of experience with the Panama route has shown that the obstacles existing there are as formidable to American as to French engineers.

The Jacksonville Metropolis reproduces a portion of The True Democrat's article relating to the reply of the joint committee of investigation of the State hospital to the protest of the Board of State Institutions, commenting as follows:

The Tallahassee True Democrat is by no means a whitewashing machine or an apologist for the wrong doings of officials or employees of the State government.

That is right, Mr. Democrat. Go ahead and let the people know it all. They want the facts, as the good name of a humane institution and the reputation of the State are involved in the matter.

That the reply of the joint hospital committee to the protest of the Board of State Institutions hit the Jennings contingent in a sore place is evident from the following howl of the Brookville Southern Argus:

The first legislative committee appointed to investigate the insane asylum has come out in a full page reply to the scything arraignment of them by the Board of State Institutions. The reply fully justifies all the Board of State Institutions said about them. If all that they alleged about the abuses at the asylum had been true, which we are glad to know are not, it could not have justified them in making a partisan attack upon the administration. They were not supposed to have been sent to Chattahoochee for political purposes, but they seem to have thought so.

Speaking of the disposition some people indulge by suppressing legitimate local news, the Lakeland News remarks thus:

A newspaper man worthy of the name is never a prying busybody. Family skeletons or private scandals have no interest for him. The sanctity of the home is always respected. But he is not to be thwarted by the idiotic whims of those persons who refuse him information merely because it does not suit their personal pleasure to see a given matter in print. The moral to this little screed is that when a newspaper man asks you for information relative to any matter in which you are interested it would be to your interest to comply with the request, or give a courteous reason why—otherwise you may rest assured you will see the story in print anyway, and while it may not be dealt with from your point of view, its correctness in all essential details will surprise you.

ADVERTISING TAMPA'S FAIR.

The free advertising plan of the Tampa fair managers has become "an issue" in the columns of the State press. The idea was a good one—for the fair management. Fortified by a most liberal subsidy made by the Legislature out of the treasury, the managers could just as well have been liberal in their treatment of the State press, but impressed by the example of the recent great national expositions, an effort was made by the management to induce the Florida newspapers to provide the necessary publicity free of charge. The plan struck a snag, and the newspapers are generally protesting against the injustice contemplated. Among recent expressions on the subject are the following:

Why the newspapers should do all the advertising for nothing, running from forty to fifty dollars per month for four or five months, is one of those things which we can't make out, unless it is because the State pays the premiums and the papers are expected to pay the rest.—Gainesville Sun.

The News admires the shrewd manager of the publicity department of the Florida Mid-Winter Fair, but we cannot see it his way to give column after column of free advertising to a private corporation and accept in return a ham sandwich in payment thereof. Let the Fair management issue stock to the newspapers according to the amount of work done and give them a Press Day besides.—Lakeland News.

Why kick, brethren? Are you so long learning that it is your business to do deadhead work for your State, county and town? We are pained to hear you talk so. Why, go ahead and publish the stuff sent you, as you have done in days gone by when you were hard up and sweating blood to keep the wolf from the door while lying like a gentleman about the beauties of your town and section and the splendid enterprise of your business community. Have you not admonished the people time and time again to "patronize home industries" when at the very time merchants of your municipality were sending out of town to get their job printing done? So you have, and you will do it again. And furthermore, haven't you come in for a "cussing" by pig-headed subscribers who didn't pay for the paper, but who with fine show of scorn and disgust declared "there is nothing in it?" No

doubt you have. It is your business to get "cussed," to "leg" for the other fellow while doing yeoman service for the "general good," and we are surprised and pained that you, with all your wealth of golden experience of which you are possessed from years of contact with a generous public, should have turned at this late day. Don't fail to remember that you are piloting a country journal, that your columns are as free as the air you live on for every public enterprise and private snap, and that you are to look for your reward in heaven.—Leesburg Commercial.

A LAME ARGUMENT.

The Starke Telegraph in a recent issue undertook to disclose the true inwardness of the failure of the Legislature of 1897 to obey the Constitution and make a reapportionment of the members of the House of Representatives according to population. The Telegraph naively declares that "the smaller counties, which hold the balance of power in the Legislature under the present apportionment," would not—and will not—consent that justice should be done and the Constitution obeyed.

By "the smaller counties," it may be presumed that the Telegraph meant those having only a single member of the House under the present apportionment—made in 1887. There are just 22 of these. Can the Telegraph explain how 22 members, out of 68, "hold the balance of power?" The counties which could not have been affected by reapportionment in 1897 number 31—a majority in number; with 40 votes—a majority of the total vote. Will the Telegraph kindly explain how these were induced to disobey the Constitution, in the interest of seven counties whose representation should have been reduced from two members to one each? The votes and influence of the seven counties whose representation should have been increased by one each in 1897 are not now considered at all, and certainly were not regarded in that year. Why?

The truth is that the Telegraph's explanation does not explain anything; and its labored argument to the effect that "the present apportionment was made for the purpose of making Florida's delivery from carpet-bag rule safe and certain," falls quite flat in the light of the fact that in 1887, when the present apportionment was made, there was no "carpet-bag rule," nor any fear of it.

As the representative of one of the seven counties which, under a just reapportionment would have its representation reduced from two members to one, the Telegraph hilariously remarks: "We could give you [meaning the counties entitled to increase of representation] more at present if we felt so inclined * * * but we don't want to and we ain't agoin' to."

Doubtless the time will come when a Legislature may be chosen whose members have some regard for the commands of the Constitution, and then the seven counties which for so many years have been deprived of just representation will be fairly dealt with.

WHAT CAUSED IT.

The recent "walk-out" at the State asylum was one of the results of the publication, in the Times-Union of July 7th, of the reply of the joint legislative committee which investigated the hospital to the protest of the Board of State Institutions. As the public is interested in knowing the exact status of the matter, we reproduce below that part of the joint committee's reply which referred to evidence furnished by Mr. D. W. C. Yarborough, and which was the cause of offense to the striking employees. Mr. Yarborough's evidence as officially published by the joint committee and the House committee did not appear to be objectionable to these employees, but when recapitulated by the joint committee in its reply, its obnoxious features appeared to be brought out into bold relief, and emphasized; hence the indignation of the striking employees.

In its reply the joint committee said: "If the good name or character of the female employees has been traduced, it was not done by the committee. Mr. D. W. C. Yarborough did volunteer some very damaging information to one member of the committee with reference, as he expressed it, to the reprehensible conduct between male and female attendants. He said they had gone out in pairs or couples two nights in the week, rambling and lying out until late, and in one instance a couple was out all night; that when Dr. Guinn was away so long last summer he (Yarborough) determined to stop it, etc.; that in one instance he was satisfied something wrong was going on in a room, and he opened the door quickly and found them in a very compromising position; that they had gone to such an extent that there seemed to be no de-

gree of shame of one couple in the presence of another. He did not call names, nor was he asked to do so. He also referred to some two or more female attendants and probably one patient, who had given birth within two to four months after leaving the hospital. He also referred to the conduct of Dr. Guinn and a female employee."

The employees, it is said, also had grievances against Mrs. Yarborough, who has been acting as supervisors in the female department of the hospital, but specifications of the same have not been made public.

In another column we publish the official statement of Superintendent Whitner; and without hesitation we affirm that he could not maintain the discipline of the institution without promptly denying the demands of the striking employees. And we feel entirely confident of Superintendent Whitner's ability to restore the normal status of the institution by the prompt employment of others to fill the vacancies in the hospital force.

PUBLIC OPINION

As Expressed in Print Concerning College Location.

With one or two exceptions, the Florida newspapers have been prompt to uphold the hands of the joint board in the matter of locating the State colleges, and in promising abundant moral support to the several boards in respect to the future management of these institutions. Here follow a few expressions from leading journals throughout the State:

The action of the authorities in selecting Gainesville as the location for the new State University will meet with quite general approval throughout the State, as also will the selection of Tallahassee for the Female College.—Palatka News.

The Board of Control and Board of Education after hearing the arguments for Lake City, Tallahassee and Gainesville, and after careful reflection, located the University at the latter place. We doubt not this was a wise decision.—DeFuniak Herald.

Gainesville has fairly won the great prize fight after a great fight, and although our sympathies were with our neighbor, Lake City, now that the issue has been finally determined, we present to Gainesville our sincere congratulations accompanied by the renewed assurance of our distinguished consideration.—Live Oak Democrat.

Florida will now have two good, sustained educational institutions, and the State will be somewhat relieved of the financial burden of supporting a number of colleges. The recently appointed body—the Board of Control—did the work, so let us hope both sides are now satisfied with the selections made. Success to Gainesville and Tallahassee!—Titusville Advocate.

In locating the State University at Gainesville, the Board of Control doubtless had no other motive or incentive than a desire to please a majority of the people and best serve the interests of the whole State. Gainesville is an ideal location and we believe the institution will prosper there. Let's all pull together and strive to make the University the very best in the South!—Marianna Times-Courier.

The action of the Board of Control in locating the University at Gainesville has met with the generous approval of the people of old Putnam. This county was among the first to advocate the claims of the Alachua city, and therefore the outcome was particularly pleasing to all. Gainesville is an ideal site for a great institution of this character. Her central location, excellent climate, healthful surroundings—in brief, her natural advantages are scarcely equalled.—Palatka Times-Herald.

In locating these institutions the boards have made no mistake. This we firmly believe is the verdict of three-fourths of the people of Florida today, and will be the verdict of time, which after all is the only true test of the wisdom of all human actions. Gainesville is an ideal college town and if she is anything like as immaculate as her friends represented her to be in the newspapers and in the contest before the boards, we should think that not only university students, but half the population of the State would long to go there to take in some of that rare atmosphere of public spirit, moral elevation, exalted refinement, Christian toleration and brotherly love which hang like a halo above this terrestrial paradise. But jesting aside, having given the University an ideal location, let us all "put our shoulders to the wheel" and work as one man to make it an ideal institution of learning.—Bartow Courier-Informant.

We believe however that as bad as this may appear on the surface what seems a hard blow may in reality be DeFuniak's opportunity. Under the provisions of the Buckman bill the authority is given for the State to permit the use of the State property not used for State school purposes for the use of county high school purposes. Under the deeds for the property to the State here it can be used for school purposes only. If this property can be secured for the purpose of a high school here, and we believe that it can, we have the opportunity to establish a high school that will be of even more benefit to our town and in fact all West Florida, than the Normal school was or ever could be.

We already have the prestige of a school town, students from all over this part of the State are anxious to come here. Indeed, it is altogether likely that if we take the proper steps in the matter that the loss of the State Normal school has been really to our advantage.—DeFuniak Breeze.

MEMORIAL TO SOUTHERN WOMEN.

Forty years have elapsed since the close of the civil war; and the proposed memorial to the women of the South has not yet been erected. That the United Confederate Veterans are not insensible, however, to the obligation resting upon them to take the lead in this patriotic enterprise was fully demonstrated at the last annual reunion at Louisville, where the following preamble and resolutions were adopted unanimously:

Whereas, At our reunion of 1904, our federation turned over to the sons the sacred duty of raising the funds for the Memorial to the Women of the Confederacy; and

Whereas, In so doing we never relinquish our deep and abiding love for the cause, or our intention to aid and assist it by every means in our power; and

Whereas, We have clearly shown this, by our appointment of a committee to co-operate and by the work which this committee and many other veterans in all parts of the South have done during the past year; and

Whereas, It will ever be our most earnest desire to see this tribute paid to our glorious women, and we are most anxious to further co-operate with and give substantial aid to our sons in the performance of this sacred duty; therefore, be it

Resolved First—That each camp of the United Confederate Veterans, immediately after the adjournment of the convention and the return home of its delegates, shall appoint a committee to actively canvass its respective community to raise funds for this Memorial to the Women of the Confederacy, to which noble, worthy and just object this federation has repeatedly and solemnly pledged itself and its comrades.

Second—That in case any camp does not take action within one month by appointing this committee, it shall then become the duty of its commander to make appointment of such committee.

If no action is then taken by the commander, any member of the camp who is enthused with the high sense of his duty to this holy cause, and desires to honor our God-like women, is urged personally to take charge of the matter, secure the indorsement of his local camp or its officers and make such collections as he can from his community.

Third—That all funds collected under resolutions one and two shall be deposited in some home bank, at interest, to the credit of the chairman of the United Confederate Veterans' committee of co-operation (Gen. C. Irvine Walker, Charleston, S. C.), and that he shall be promptly advised of such deposit.

Fourth—That the above resolutions are not intended to be obligatory upon such camps as have already taken similar action or have already contributed to this fund \$50, or more.

Fifth—That each camp is urged to endeavor to raise from its community as its quota, at the very least, the sum of \$50.

Sixth—That all camps shall complete this work by January 1, 1906, and on that date make a report of the results achieved, to the chairman of our committee of co-operation, (Gen. C. Irvine Walker, Charleston, S. C.)

Defective Laws.

Jacksonville Metropolis.

With all the precedents of careless legislation, and advice to be careful in the framing and passing of laws, the Florida Legislature seems to give little heed. Law after law has been declared null and void by the courts, because the rules of passage were not complied with, and the constitutional provisions not obeyed. The rules are plain, and if a school boy should neglect to obey them he would deserve switching. Yet men of intelligence and experience in business and some in law will proceed session after session of the Legislature to pass laws so carelessly as to make them of no effect when an attempt to enforce them is made.

Judiciary committees of the Legislature, whose duties are to see that all bills comply with the constitution, are also at times at fault in reporting bills to be in proper shape, and upon these reports it is concluded that legally the bills are all right, but when the test comes afterwards in the courts, it is pointed out that either the established rules of procedure have not been followed or that there are one or more provisions of a bill in conflict with the constitution, and the result is all the expense and bother of passage is wasted. Slight defects that could be remedied in a second are overlooked, and these often prove fatal to good laws—laws that the people need and want.

If the number of bills introduced in the Legislature were limited perhaps more pains would be taken to see that all were right before enacted into law.

The scramble to introduce bills has been one of the prime faults of legislation. Some members seem to think the more bills introduced the better their constituents will be pleased, when in fact, if only one or two well-prepared bills were introduced they would not be knocked out by the courts, as is generally the case when many are hurriedly prepared and rushed through by committees and Legislature.

The Metropolis and other State papers warned the last Legislature in regard to hasty and defective passage of laws, but it seems to have done little good, as attorneys all over the State are now attacking the validity of new laws, and the prospect is that many will fail to stand the judicial scrutiny.