

# THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

JOHN G. COLLINS, Proprietor.

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Tallahassee, Friday, August 11, 1905.

Wanted! A small sum will be paid for an authentic copy of the "Life of Governor Broward," which was a prominent feature of the last gubernatorial primary campaign.

Where, O where, was "Fifty-Dollar-Liddon" when his friends were so greatly in need of his valuable services to save their printing house property from the inexorable hammer of the sheriff?

Several of our State exchanges continue to gossip about this or that aspirant for gubernatorial honors, but it is altogether too early for such talk. Besides, it ought to be cheerfully conceded that West Florida is the section which has the turn on the next vacancy.

The Punta Gorda Herald aptly and truthfully remarks that some of the best Republicans in the United States live in Florida. "Besides their unquestionable patriotism," says the Herald, "as citizens and personal friends they have no superiors in the land."

The St. Augustine Record feelingly remarks that "Floridians may well begin to doubt the efficacy of the law in putting a stop to crime in this State when a prominent newspaper openly asserts that a certain Jacksonville lawyer is able to boast that never yet has he lost a case before the State Board of Pardons."

The conviction of B. H. Burton, former deputy clerk of Escambia county, and his sentence to eight years' confinement in the penitentiary for indulging in the modern propensity for graft in office, is a significant warning to all of the younger generation of business men, clerks, and others occupying places of trust in public or private business; and should have a salutary effect upon the business morals of the State.

The entire newspaper fraternity in the South learns with sincere grief of the death, at his home in Atlanta, on the 6th inst., of Capt. Evan P. Howell, the distinguished editor for many years of the Atlanta Constitution, and a prominent possibility as a candidate for governor of Georgia. Capt. Howell was in the 66th year of his age, and has been distinctly prominent in the political and industrial history of his State for the past forty years.

Sheriff Pickett, of Duval county, is acquiring local fame, and receiving abundant and encouraging commendation, by his vigorous measures for the execution of the new vagrancy law; and his example is well worthy of study and emulation by all officers throughout the State. Leon county needs a little "cleaning up" in this respect, and we hope to see it done without the necessity of specific complaint against those whose duty it is to see that the laws are duly executed.

The Starke Telegraph advises State Attorney Phillips, of Tampa, to "wait awhile," and not be too eager to go into a contest with Congressman Sparkman for his seat in the House of Representatives; and adds that "there are indications that the people of the State will want him [Sparkman] to go to the Senate after awhile." Maybe so. He might be induced to run for Senator Tallaferra's place a few years hence—if Tallaferra should wish to retire. As to Senator Mallory's successor, West or Middle Florida will take care of that.

Our lively little neighbor, Perry, in Taylor county, is taking very advanced ground in the procession of progress. A Times-Union correspondent writing from there states that the A. C. L. has 500 hands constructing its branch from Newberry to Perry; that the surveying corps of the S. A. L., running a line from Thomas City to Perry, has reached the town; that engineers of the Live Oak, Perry and Gulf Railway have completed the permanent survey to Perry; that grading on the West Peninsular Railroad from Hampton Springs to Perry is completed, and that the South Georgia and West Coast Railroad Company has completed grading to the Perry Naval Stores Company's still, one mile south of the town. Five railroads in a bunch! Hurray for Perry!

## THE STATE PRINTING.

Some time before the recent opening of bids for the State printing a member of the board which was to consider the same and award the contract was heard to remark to a citizen of Leon county that he "would see to it that John Collins did not get any of the State printing, no matter what he might bid." As if a juryman, should, in advance, announce the verdict he intended to render, or a judge should forecast, before the trial, his own decision.

John Collins concedes that the official referred to knew what he was talking about. The unheard of and arbitrary terms announced, whereby each bidder was required to put up a certified check for \$12,500, not only prevented the consideration of John Collins' bid (which was lower than the only other bid presented), but prevented competition from other printing establishments in the State. Whether the cabinet officer referred to was or was not instrumental in imposing so unjust and outrageous a condition, and whether or not his remark about Mr. Collins, chances referred to the requirement of a \$12,500 check as a condition precedent to the consideration of any bid, are altogether immaterial; the fact remains that whoever invented or consented to such an onerous condition, must have done so with the premeditated purpose of eliminating all annoying competition from the pathway of the concern whose bid was successful, and thus not only punishing John Collins for having told a good many unpalatable truths about the Jennings administration in his little paper, but of rewarding a devoted friend and an apologist for the same administration.

Mr. Collins is fortunately abundantly able to serve the result of the bidding for the State printing; and also hopes to survive, in the opinion of all honest people, the crooked methods, which defeated him. He knows to a dead certainty to whose animosity they were due, and he promises them that when the subject of State printing contracts and matters pertaining thereto are again the subject of Legislative investigation—as they will be—it will occur at the beginning and not at the end of the session, and there will be no white-washing.

Another thing in which the public as well as our brethren of the State press are particularly interested, is the fact that it will never again occur—as it did two years ago—that the opening of printing bids will be "adjourned" from one day to another, for the express purpose of affording opportunity to juggle with the bids, changing the figures so as to let in and insure the success of a bid that was not the lowest and best, with the changed figures approved by the initials "W. S. J." These things, and many others, are all susceptible of absolute and incontestable proof—if those who are personally interested desire to have them proven in the courts.

Recurring to the so-called investigation by a Senate committee of the recent session, there are many, perhaps, who in the hurry and confusion of the closing scenes of the session omitted to compare the whitewashing report of the committee with the evidence upon which it purported to be based, reported in an appendix by the same committee. In the light of recent events which occurred at the August legal sales day, as set forth in our local columns, this evidence is more than interesting. In that investigation the committee pretended to find out who and what was the "Capital Printing Company." Here is some of the testimony:

I. B. Hilson stated that he started a printing office in Tallahassee in February, 1901, alone; that afterward the "Capital Printing Co." was formed, by making an inventory of his office at \$40,000 and of the old Tallahassee office at \$8,000, with R. Gamble, who claimed to be the owner, and issuing \$48,000 in stock, of which he owned \$40,000 and Gamble \$8,000, and that in order to comply with the incorporation law he gave one share to his wife; and that these were the only stockholders.

W. B. Lamar testified that while he knew of the existence of "the Hilson Paper Plant," he did not know who were stockholders in the new company; knew of no connection between it and the Board of State Institutions; that while he was in office as Attorney-General he knew Hilson intimately, and had heard a rumor to the effect that Hilson's paper was his (Lamar's) organ, but he had no interest in it, and has none now.

A. C. Croom stated that he knew of the Capital Printing Company, but

knew who composed it only from hearsay; does not own any interest in it; does not know who owns the capital stock; so far as he knew, Hilson was running the printing office, before the formation of the company, entirely by himself.

There were other witnesses, but the purpose of reproducing the foregoing does not apply to them. We want our professional brethren to be kind enough to clip out the foregoing brief abstracts of testimony, given under oath, and carefully preserve them—they are going to come in handy at a future time, when circumstances now "cooking" have developed into a tangible shape.

Among those who were expected to testify before this whitewashing committee was the former governor, Jennings, but he was suddenly moved to depart from the city on the evening of the day on which the committee was created, and the committee therefore "failed" to secure his testimony.

A private memorandum from an esteemed and prominent citizen of Carrabelle informs us that the contract has been let for the improvement of the already excellent harbor of that port, thus giving confident promise of "sure enough" deep water. The True Democrat, which has a large clientage at "Tallahassee's seaport," extends its sincere congratulations and hopes that the day is near at hand when the largest ocean-going vessels will be able to reach the Carrabelle wharves for traffic with all of the countries of the earth.

A large number of new subscribers have been added to The True Democrat's list during the past week—sixteen in one day—as the result of the valued friendship of the ladies of Leon county and the splendid work of our special agent, Mr. R. C. Long, Jr., who reports only two refusals of non-subscribers as the result of a preliminary canvass. We have set our mark at "1,000 before November," and we confidently rely upon our hundreds of friends throughout Leon and the adjoining counties to aid in reaching it.

Here's another hard wrench on the "innate modesty" which we so feelingly mentioned in our last issue. We promised then not soon again to quote bouquets from our State exchanges, but the following, from that excellent newspaper, the Southern Argus, published by our old friend, Hon. A. M. C. Russell, at Brooksville, is so hearty and genuine that we cannot resist the temptation:

The Tallahassee True Democrat is, in our opinion, an ideal weekly newspaper. It is as neat as a pin, beautifully printed, and, through its faithful quotations, a conscientious reflector of the opinions of the press of the State. The editor of that paper is a genuine newspaper man first, and a politician next.

The Democratic executive committee of Marion county may feel somewhat in doubt whether Governor Jennings' term of office has really expired. The committee held a meeting soon after the decease of the late General Bullock to recommend the name of his successor as county judge. A quorum not being present, the meeting adjourned to a later day; but what was their surprise to learn, soon after the adjournment, that the Governor had already made an appointment without consulting the committee, or even intimating a desire to have its recommendation. The Times-Union's Ocala correspondent states that the appointment "is causing a great deal of interest and excitement more so than anything in political circles in this county for some time, and the Governor is being censured more by his friends than by his enemies."

## THE FULL PENALTY.

The Pensacola Journal calls attention to the fact that the courts, instead of imposing the full penalty of the law for carrying concealed weapons, have been imposing the minimum penalty—\$100 fine, without imprisonment—and cites the provisions of the law (act of 1901), as follows:

"By imprisonment of not less than three months nor exceeding six months, or by fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor exceeding five hundred dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

And the Journal strongly argues the necessity and expediency of imposing the full penalty for the offense. In this the Journal is right, and the public is indebted to it for directing attention to the matter.

It certainly is the duty of the courts to do everything in their power to prevent crime, and nothing they could do would so effectually act as a preventive of crimes of violence than to inflict the maximum penalty of the law upon all who violate the provisions against the carrying of weapons.

## A SECOND FOLK.

Florida's distinguished Attorney-General, Hon. W. H. Ellis, left the capital last Tuesday for a well-earned and much-needed season of rest from the cares of his great office.

This writer is not the only Florida editor who has been watching the course of Mr. Ellis with intense satisfaction, as numerous references to him in their columns from time to time have abundantly testified; and many of our brethren, as we happen to know, unite with us the belief that he is made up of the same kind of material as the now famous "Folk of Missouri." Firm, yet deliberate in his convictions, valiant and fearless in the pursuance of his duty as he sees it—and he usually sees it aright—he gives promise of becoming, at a time when the qualities which he has thus far so brilliantly displayed are greatly needed, a real and much-feared terror to all evil-doers, and a public official who can always be relied upon to "stand for the right," no matter who it hurts.

Compared with those who have been his predecessors in the same office for the past sixteen years, Mr. Ellis can lose nothing in the way of reputation.

One of these, knowing intimately the uncompromising attitude of all of Florida's Democratic governors—Drew, Bloxham, Perry, Fleming and Mitchell—concerning the binding force of a contract under the seal of the State, executed in good faith by the executive head of the State government, at a time when the struggle of the Democracy with the worst lot of carpet-baggers (save one) that any State was ever cursed with, was scarcely ended, remained in office for months after the Indian war claim fund reached the State treasury, consenting to the repudiation of such contract, and thus helping a corrupt administration to besmirch the honor and sully the good name of Florida by placing her among the repudiators.

No one who knows Mr. Ellis and who has learned to like the manly way he has of "striking out from the shoulder" will ever believe him capable of imitating the example of another of his predecessors, who went so far as to give an official opinion against such a contract on the very day upon which he assumed the duties of the office, in response to a written request dated three days before he was commissioned; which opinion, as he well knew or should have known, was in direct conflict, not only with those of every previous governor, law officer and Legislature of the State, but with a number of decisions of the United States Supreme Court, and at least one of our own supreme court.

Attorney-General Ellis is one of the hardest worked members of the State administration. He asked the late Legislature to give him an assistant, promising, if they would, that he could properly transact all of the law business of the State, and thus avoid the indiscriminate employment of "special counsel," which had so scandalized the Jennings administration; but his very reasonable request was refused. Notwithstanding this, as one of the few real workers who have occupied his official position during the past thirty years, he will come as near as the best of his predecessors have ever done to the thorough and complete performance of every duty which the law imposes upon him. And the people of Florida may hope from him still greater things than this, if any there can be.

We do not care to pursue the history and incidents of the Taylor case beyond its present aspect, save as its circumstances may react upon future events, but we cannot dismiss its discussion from our columns without reproducing the following expression from the able pen of Gen. E. M. Law, the new editor of the Bartow Courier-Informant:

The case of Walter L. Taylor, who is now serving a term of five years penal servitude for assaulting Congressman Lamar, and on whose behalf the ladies of Leon county recently presented a petition to the State Board of Pardons, is attracting general attention throughout the State. While we utterly condemn the pistol-toting habit and believe it should be severely punished in every case that comes before the courts, we cannot but think that Taylor's punishment was excessive. We are familiar with the circumstances under which the assault was made and the course of the trial, as reported in the newspapers at the time, but even when found guilty of the charge against him, which was all right enough, there were circumstances which should have inclined the court to the side of leniency rather than severity. Such a sentence as he received savors more of vindictiveness than of justice. Had Taylor been tried in Tampa, the jury would very probably have acquitted him and given him a chamois besides. "Which is why we remark," as we have done before, that the immortal Pickwick didn't miss it very far when he said, "The law is an ass."

## EGGS AND CHICKENS.

The price of eggs in this city has been high all summer, and it would seem as though the raising of chickens and the egg business ought to pay well in this section. Only for a short time in the spring were they below twenty-five cents a dozen, and they have been scarce at that price.

There is also no doubt but what money can be made in the chicken business if anyone would go at the business systematically. But it takes work and patience at chicken raising, and a little knowledge of the business.

It is certainly a fact that eggs and chickens are higher than they should be in this part of the State.—Gainesville Sun.

The True Democrat has heretofore urged the advantages and profit of poultry farming for the people of this region, and again repeats its conviction that no industry is so well adapted to this climate and none more likely to yield a satisfactory profit upon moderate investment than the growing of poultry and poultry products.

In furtherance of the purpose in view, we urgently recommend that those who are so situated as to be able to apply a part of their time and attention to this industry should send for some good and reliable poultry journal and give attention to the study of the requisites and appliances necessary to the successful practice of the industry. They will find abundant encouragement from such publications, as well as from the extremely remunerative prices which such products now bring in the home market.

## Tallahassee Graded and High School.

The exercises of this school will begin on Monday, October 2, under the most favorably auspices in its history. During the two years just completed the enrollment has increased 64 per cent; and the increase in the quality of the work accomplished has been in about the same proportion. On account of the great overflow in patronage, the board of public instruction has decided to provide the most ample and approved facilities for conducting a graded and high school second to none in the country.

To the faculty have been added six teachers who are graduates from some of the greatest colleges of Virginia, Kentucky and Georgia; and who, by years of experience in the school room, have become eminently fitted for the work to which they have been assigned. They have been selected with an eye single upon department work, and the board takes pride in announcing to the parents of Tallahassee and Leon county that but few colleges can boast of a more happy selection of teachers. The board has realized that this is an age of specialists and announces that in the faculty is a teacher who has spent years in becoming expert in the teaching of history and literature; another similarly prepared in mathematics, another in science, and another, who has had nine years of training in Latin and four years in Greek.

In order that those who wish to take entrance examinations for the high school grades, may have an opportunity of knowing what work will be expected of them, a synopsis of the course of study for the high school department is given as follows:

Ninth Grade—English grammar, English classics, prose composition, algebra, arithmetic (completed), history of England, history of United States (completed), First Book in Latin, physical geography.

Tenth Grade—English grammar, English classics, prose composition, arithmetic (reviewed), algebra (completed), history of England, history and civil government of Florida, Caesar, zoology, botany.

Eleventh Grade—Rhetoric, English classics, plain geometry, English history, civil government, Cicero's orations against Cataline, Virgil (three books) Greek begun and twenty pages Xenophon's Anabasis read, physics.

Twelfth Grade—Rhetoric, rhetorical and grammatical study of English classics, theme writing, plain trigonometry, solid geometry, United States history, Virgil, Ovid, Anabasis, Iliad, chemistry.

An object of the school will be to prepare boys for the University of Florida and girls for the Florida Female College. The principal has been requested to ascertain from these two schools exactly what is required for entrance to the freshman classes, and to have as his object the accomplishment of these requirements. The principal will be glad to talk with any students who may wish to apply for entrance. It is possible that arrangements can be made to give them special instruction for entrance examinations. Much can be accomplished by hard work during August and September.

E. B. EPPEL,  
County Superintendent.

For further information, please address Jno. W. Wideman, Principal, Tallahassee, Fla.

## "Make Hay While the Sun Shines."

There is a lesson in the work of the thrifty farmer. He knows that the bright sunshine may last but a day and he prepares for the showers which are so liable to follow. So it should be with every household. Dysentery, diarrhoea and cholera morbus may attack some member of the home without warning. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which is the best known medicine for these diseases, should always be kept at hand, as immediate treatment is necessary, and delay may prove fatal. For sale by all druggists.