

# THE TRUE DEMOCRAT

JOHN G. COLLINS, Proprietor.

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The True Democrat is the Official Newspaper of Leon County.

Tallahassee, Friday, July 13, 1906.

The Times-Union says "if the Gadsden Senator chooses to run for Governor, he will make the dust fly."

The free advertisement contributed for the material and moral upbuilding of the members of the I. I. Board and their warrior monopolizes much of our editorial space. But we give it cheerfully, and hope they may be benefited.

Floridians generally regret to learn of the continued serious illness of Mr. George W. Wilson, editor-in-chief of the Times-Union, who is still at Hot Springs in miserable health, with a strong probability that he will not recover.

"The Tallahassee True Democrat will say next week that it is opposed to the drainage of the Everglades."—Polk County Record. It surely will, since it will always be found saying something about which it sees rascality, abuse, more tax burdens and scheming in. The True Democrat will continue to say something until that infamous joint resolution is voted down and out, and until the people of Florida are convinced it is time to have corrected many wrongs of the day, and of the last five or six years. Now, won't you lend a hand in this work in the interest of our people against the schemers?

The friendship of good and pure men and women is one of the best possessions a human being can possess in this day and generation of selfishness, and he who would abuse that kind of pure friendship should feel within himself that he is worse than an ingrate. All men should live and so conduct themselves as to secure as much of the true article of friendship as one may be able to gather to himself. The fellow who will sacrifice manhood and principle to secure the friendship of bad and unworthy people for what can possibly be gathered from such friendships, is of the lowest and most dangerous hypocrites on earth. He who does not value a true and tried friend above all else, can't properly appreciate anything on earth.

Even mangrove swamp lands are worth more than 41¢ cents an acre, if you please, and being located on the lower Everglades, if ever glade lands will bring over \$1.25 per acre, so should those that were sold the last time to that Palgrove Company, who desired them for the acids, etc., there was in them, as is claimed by Mr. Jennings and the Board. Mr. Jennings and the Board may believe a good deal was made, but we do not believe many Floridians will think any such stuff. Next time you wish to sell a lump of land to raise money to carry on that drainage scheme, let the world know it, and perhaps you can secure a better price. You will need a large amount—going into the millions—to make a showing in "digging them ditches," so why not get the better prices by being public about it just a little bit before the sales are made. We got onto it this time after it was recorded in Monroe county too, and not from the board!

## THE GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA

### Bought Lumber in the City of Chicago for a Dredge Boat.

The Governor of Florida, according to a Chicago contemporary, has lately been in that city buying lumber of the Edward Hines Lumber Company. This looks like a mighty strange thing for the Governor of a lumber State to do. The Journal always knew that the Hines outfit was about as smooth as they make 'em, but never dreamed of anything like this. The story goes that "Governor Broward was in Chicago for the purpose of buying lumber, needing some stock for State purposes which could not be conveniently secured at a lumber market nearer by." He actually bought, the account goes on to say, "two cars of white pine ceiling, floor and other stock, some of which was intended for use on a steamer owned by the State." Of course, when his excellency comes up for office some time again he will be particularly strong in the lumber circles of his State.—New Orleans Trade Journal.

## STRAIGHT GOODS IT WAS!

The True Democrat gave it straight from the records of Monroe county, and saw no necessity of asking your Most Worshipful for facts in regard to it.

We reproduce the following so that True Democrat readers may see for themselves the puny efforts made by these officers and the organ in another feeble attempt to justify that cheap 41¢-cent land sale, though in reality their energy is merely put forth to attempt to discredit our exposures of their objectionable acts. It is really as colorless and lacking in any genuine explanation or justification as was Governor Broward's interview, published a week previous, and makes the champions, as well as the principals, appear equally as silly:

In the effort to avoid being scooped on State House news, the Sun addressed a letter last Monday to each of the five Trustees of the I. I. Fund.

All five letters were identical except as to the addressee. One was sent to the Governor, one to the Comptroller, one to the Treasurer, one to the Attorney-General and one to the Commissioner of Agriculture, all ex-officio Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund.

Here is a copy of the letter sent to each and the reply of each:

Hon. W. V. Knott, State Treasurer: Sir—In the issue of the True Democrat, dated June 29, 1906, this language is used: "We covered, for the first time, the facts in the I. I. land sale referred to in the last issue of this newspaper. \* \* \* That's right; now just keep your eyes open and the True Democrat will continue to keep you posted. Don't be afraid of it, either, for when we give it to you you can depend on its being 'straight goods.'"

We presume that Mr. Collins is able to make good his statement or he would not have made it. We take it as a matter of course that Mr. Collins has sought information as to the doings of the I. I. Board from the members of that board. It would seem that Mr. Collins has been favored, in that he has been able to get hold of information which the Sun has not been able to obtain, although representatives of the Sun have diligently sought for it by personal application to members of your board. We would like, for our information, to have you tell us on what dates Mr. Collins sought information from you as to the doings of the I. I. Board and of your department. We ask this with the view of refreshing your memory about the information given to Mr. Collins, so that we may be able to be equally informed. Yours very truly, The Sun.

By Claude L'Engle, Editor.

Why did you not quote the whole article, in your letter of inquiry to the dignitaries, instead of cutting out the main parts and using asterisks? but that matters not. Your silly attitude in the matter speaks for itself. We presume you got just what you were asked to come after, and quote each reply as it was given you, in cold type. Did we not tell you at the beginning that you were welcome to the whole "bunch"; that you could have the whole shooting match, with the State printing thrown in; that we did not toady to them, and that we were not deceitful with them? We meant it, and now they are your own, with all you can get out of them. "Nurse them very carefully."

Mr. Knott comes first, and we quote his little letter:

Dear Sir—In answer to your letter of inquiry, dated 2nd inst., I have to advise that, so far as I can recall, Mr. Collins has made no inquiry of me, has submitted no request for information to me, and has received no information from me, relative to the affairs of the Internal Improvement Fund of Florida, of which I am ex-officio one of the trustees. Yours very truly, W. V. Knott, State Treasurer.

We admit we have not, for the reason that it was altogether unnecessary. We got all the information we needed to make the position in the 41¢-cent land sale clear, furnished us from the legal records of Monroe county, and we published it as we got it. We, however, a few months before, demanded of you a published statement as to where the State moneys were deposited and what securities were held for same, which information had been requested of the Governor by resolution of the last Legislature, and which had been ignored and treated with contempt until we applied to you for it. We got it, and published it, after so long a time. The True Democrat does not believe you such a very bad man, and we leave you off here.

But now comes J. Emmet Sheep (in Wolfe's clothing), and reader, will you particularly give attention to him. He is the same fellow that a few Jacksonville committeemen made an independent candidate of against Mr. Holloway, who had been regularly and duly nominated by a Democratic primary, after having requested him to withdraw from the race (which Mr. Holloway very properly refused to do, and whom the voters of Florida fully sustained by

voting for him and snowing the beautiful "Jemmett" under). But, possibly at the behest of the same influences which had instigated the executive committee's action, our present Governor very soon afterwards insulted the people of Florida by making him his private secretary. Pray don't lose sight of him, for he now plays Governor when Mr. Broward is out of town, which, by the way, is quite often!

State of Florida, Executive Department, Tallahassee, July 2nd, 1906.

Dear Sir—In reply to your favor of the 2nd inst., asking for dates on which Mr. Collins sought information from the Executive office as to the doings of the I. I. Board and other public matters, I beg leave to say that, within my knowledge, Mr. Collins has entered the executive office but once since the middle of last October, when I became private secretary. On that occasion he made certain inquiries about the Cooper case, and then telegraphed to the Jacksonville Metropolitan, a false account of what occurred in the Executive office; and since that time, within my knowledge, he has not again visited this office. Very truly yours, J. Emmett Wolfe, Private Secretary to the Governor.

We published that occurrence just as it happened, and admitted that the audience you played it to was very small. If a lie has been told, you are the guilty wretch, and, as you once signed papers (to escape prosecution) to the effect that you had labelled Col. W. D. Chipley, we believe our statement in this matter will hold good against yours anywhere in Florida. We call your attention, and that of your sponsors, to the fact that no such handicap to our integrity and reputation has ever existed. Some of your friends, referring to the portion of your conduct which we termed "contemptuous," excused you by saying, "That is just Wolfe's way." Alright, we accept that. If Wolfe's natural way is contemptuous, far be it from us to demand that he change his innate disposition, but we object to such disposition being given such license in public matters, and suggest that it would be easier to change occupant of the office.

Mr. McLin's little letter follows:

Dear Sir—Your communication of the 2nd, addressed to me as Commissioner of Agriculture and as a Trustee of the I. I. Fund, received. Replying to your inquiry as to "what dates Mr. Collins sought information" from me "as to the doings of the I. I. Board" and of this "Department," I beg to advise: Mr. Collins, the editor of the True Democrat, has never called on me in person, or by any representative, and requested information relative to the matters under my supervision as Commissioner of Agriculture, nor as a member of the I. I. Fund. Yours very respectfully, B. E. McLin, Commissioner of Agriculture.

A representative of this newspaper did call at Mr. McLin's office to secure some information relative to one of those former sacrifice land sales. In fairness to him, however, we will state that he was out of the city, and our representative applied to his chief clerk, Mr. Cliff Gwynn, when he was informed that a resolution had been adopted and spread on the minutes to the effect that no information could or would be furnished anyone of the transactions of the board except by permission of that body, and, if we mistake not, directed us to Governor Broward, himself, who told Mr. Choate in a very sarcastic and emphatic manner that he "did not see why we should give you fellows any information, as you are always 'digging us.'" Mr. Choate informed him that, while this newspaper had criticized some acts of the former administration, up to that time the True Democrat had had no occasion to charge his administration with wrong-doing; but that the True Democrat would criticize wrong-doing whenever occasion arose for it. Since then we have seen occasion for criticism in some of Mr. Broward's pet schemes and in some of his reckless sayings and doings, and we shall continue to do that same thing just so long as they occur, as we have done in this outrageous low sale of lands.

There is a land matter, however, we have mind of that we will ask Mr. McLin of later. That leaves Mr. McLin some better than the worst of them.

But now comes Mr. Croom:

Dear Sir—In answer to your inquiry about whether Mr. Collins has ever been in to ask me for information as to this office, touching my work as a Trustee of the I. I. Fund or as Comptroller, I desire to say to you that never since I have been in Tallahassee has Mr. Collins asked me for any information of any kind. He has not, to my knowledge, been in office at all. One Mr. Choate, who, I believe, at the time represented the True Democrat, did come into the office on one occasion and asked for and received a copy of my annual report. Beyond this no communication has passed between myself and the office of the Tallahassee True Democrat, nor anyone connected with it. I take this occasion to assure you that not only the editor of the True Democrat, but

any other editor, and all other persons in Florida, will be given any information asked for concerning the public records of this office or the acts of myself or the clerks in my office. Yours very truly, A. C. Croom, Comptroller.

As his official record is so perfectly familiar to the people of Florida, comment from the True Democrat at this time is unnecessary.

But just to let you, Governor Broward, and J. Emmett Wolfe know that we do find out some things straight, without bowing into your august presences, however, we will relate a little story related to us just before you took up this very interesting letter-writing. It runs thusly: A sheriff of a Florida county killed a desperate negro. It was in line with his duties, and no reward had been offered or agreed upon. The officer had to shoot him because he resisted when arrest was attempted. Soon afterwards it was suggested that this officer should have \$100 for the heroic deed of killing a desperado. Some letters were passed between the Governor and the sheriff, who finally came to Tallahassee to settle the matter and collect the reward promised by the Governor. [Some asterisks ought to go in here.] Well, to make a long story short, as the story goes, Mr. Broward gave the sheriff an order to Mr. Wolfe to ARRANGE for its settlement. Here Mr. Wolfe asserted the dignity of his official position by stating to the sheriff that it couldn't "be bid"—there was no law or authority for it. After telling Mr. Wolfe he had the GOVERNOR'S ORDER and it was none of his concern since he got his reward, the story goes, he returned to the Governor, who conducted the sheriff to Mr. Croom and laid the case before him. Mr. Croom said, "You order it, and it will be paid." It is said a warrant was drawn and \$100 paid that sheriff as a reward, when no reward had been offered for that prisoner, either dead or alive. Investigation at the proper time may show that a number of such loose transactions are being maneuvered through, regardless of lack of legal authority, JUST BECAUSE THOSE IN HIGH AUTHORITY DESIRE OR ORDER IT. (Work for the next Legislature!)

Who is to blame for this manner of looking after the people's interests?

Then General Ellis closes this little letter parade as follows:

Dear Sir—I am in receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., asking me if I would inform you on what dates Mr. Collins, editor of the True Democrat, sought information from me as to the doings of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Board" and of the Attorney-General's department.

I beg to say that Mr. Collins has not applied to me for any information as to any of the affairs of this department; but that whenever he or any other citizen of the State applies for such information, he will be given by me full information as to the affairs of this office and may have free access to the records and correspondence thereof to that end.

As to the information concerning the transactions of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, I beg to say that on October 20th, 1904, the trustees adopted the following resolution, which is found on page 260 of volume 5 of the printed minutes of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund:

"Resolved, That upon request for any information concerning the affairs, files or records of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, that said request be referred to the trustees, for permission or direction relative thereto, prior to the furnishing of any data, copies of records, deeds, plats, or maps, relative to the Internal Improvement Fund, under said request. That when copies of lists or deeds, or other records, maps or data, are furnished to an applicant, that a copy thereof be furnished to the trustees, through the heads of departments, and that the secretary of the trustees furnish a copy of these resolutions to all the employees of the trustees."

I have furnished no information to anyone concerning the transactions of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund without first referring the matter to the trustees pursuant to the above-quoted resolution.

Up to the present time no representative of the True Democrat has ever applied to me for any information in relation to the transactions of the trustees. I wish to state, however, that, so far as I am concerned as a member of the trustees, any gentleman of the press, or any other citizen of the State, may have full and complete information concerning any and all transactions of the trustees upon application thereof. Yours very truly, W. H. Ellis, Attorney-General.

Now, we accept General Ellis' letter just as it is in so far as it relates to our asking him for information relative to this or other land matters, but, knowing he is familiar with several funny little things which have happened that, in self-respect, would prevent our seeking information from others of the "bunch," (relative to printing matters) we recall his efforts to have a certain resolution spread on one board's minutes, refusing to receive some dirty, shoddy printing which all the above

gentlemen were willing to accept after it had been rejected by the Supreme Court officials, denounced by the bar association of Jacksonville and by all who saw it; this resolution also required the printer to make good several hundred dollars losses to the State caused by delays. Now, General, tell the people of the State just what you do know about these things and you will help us open their eyes. You know several little things of this kind that would help clear up the horizon. Become a kind of Folk, now, and let's get at them right.

And Mr. L'Engle closes his investigation into our "straight goods" department thusly:

If Mr. Collins can print "straight goods" about the doings of a State department without asking the men who compose that department anything, or even visiting their offices, he performs a feat hitherto not accomplished by any newspaper man who has lived or died.

Claude, you manage to acquit us of being foolish enough to apply to the accused for evidence on which to make our case; thanks. You also manage to convict yourself of having assumed the role of champion of the administration, saving us that trouble, and that you are not even ingenuous in that line. Ridiculous the idea that John Collins would be nincompoop enough to ask the I. I. Board for information of their unbusiness-like transactions so that an attack might be made on them! Really, you should have known better. What a spectacle to make of yourself before those august statesmen! And to assume that they kept a record of the dates on which we sought information! Worse yet. But we hope you are not incurable.

Claude, there is something radically wrong with your "representatives." You ought now to be able to see that. That we have gotten the information no one has controverted, and that we did not get it from the board you have conclusively proven. It was "straight goods," Claude. We are not nearly so close to the capitol as yourself, but we "scooped" you, and you had better begin to hustle, for we intend to do it again, very first chance.

Claude, your farce inquiry is a howling success!

Honestly, frankly now, Claude, which was written first, your letter of inquiry or the replies thereto?

## AFTER ANOTHER ELECTION.

Petitions are being carried around, we are informed, for signatures asking for another "wet and dry" election in Leon county. The moral element of this city and county hopes the move will fail. That having it "prohibition" has proven best under all the circumstances many of us believe to be the case, and we cannot afford to have our city go back to open bar-rooms. That there has been blind tiger violations of law none will doubt, but we believe there will be less of it in the future. Rather than become discouraged or disgusted on account of these blind tigers, let's determine for the good morals and respectability of the Capital City, which is also one of the leading college towns, to keep Tallahassee in the prohibition column of dry counties. That the good morals of this county are better than they ever were there can be no doubt, and most of our business men testify that it has not affected business. Sure it is that many who used to spend their money for whiskey now apply it to the better support and comfort of themselves and families, are buying property or are saving it. True, some send off and get their drink, and others patronize illegal sellers, but still it leaves things better, all things considered, than with open bar-rooms.

Let's not be discouraged, but rather put on armor, and for the war. Create such a sentiment against illegal selling that the law will be enforced to the letter.

Now that the whiskey element have begun the first work of the campaign, it behooves all who favor morality and the welfare of our youth and sobriety to get busy. Let's at them and keep Leon county dry. If we can get hold of that petition we will publish it, so that our people may be able to see who are the signers. We are convinced it will be impossible to get enough signers amongst the best of the white or colored citizens of the county. To get up a petition with a sufficient number of names, most of them will have to come from an element that cares nothing for the moral and religious condition of our community—the tiger element and the rift-raff. May Leon county keep clean and respectable.

FOR RENT.—Five-room cottage in Long's Grove Addition; Separate kitchen, good porches, fine well water, stable, etc. Apply to Dr. B. J. Bond. 17