

**THE FLORIDA STAR**

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Ellis B. Wager, Editor and Publisher.

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Communications on live topics, especially of local interest, are solicited. But the editor reserves the right to condense them to suit. Brief items of neighborhood news always desired.

It must be clearly understood that neither THE STAR nor its editor is responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

Subscribers will confer a favor on THE STAR if they will notify us of any failure to receive their paper.

MR. BRYAN expects to visit New York city within the coming few weeks, and the probabilities are that he will be accorded a warmer reception than on former occasions for the favorable expressions made of him by Mr. Crocker have had a tendency to open the hearts of the Tammanyites.

We note that the Messrs. Featherly have disposed of their Miami Metropolis to Mr. B. B. Tatum, of the Bartow Courier-Informant. Mr. Tatum as an editor stands high in the estimation of the Florida press, and in other business and social circles he is equally as popular. Mr. W. M. Featherly has not decided what he will take up, but his brother will be with the mechanical department of the Metropolis for several months yet probably.

THE legislative committee to hear evidence in the contest for the governorship in Kentucky was formed yesterday and the Goebelites will push it to a final finish as soon as possible. Where charges and counter charges of fraud are set forth by both parties it is difficult to say which is right and which is wrong, or whether both are wrong. The outcome of this contest will be watched with more interest by both sides than it will be credited as a victory to the winner.

SOME railroad statistics given in the current issue of the Scientific American are calculated to throw considerable light upon the comparative destiny of the population of the United States and the countries of the Old World. England, for instance, which has but 23,534 miles of railway, against the 184,532 miles operated in the United States, annually carries 1,062,911,000 passengers, while but 698,342,000 people yearly pass over our railroads. Germany, which has 29,984 miles of railroad, annually transports 646,461,000 passengers—almost as many as travel in a year in this country of magnificent distances and space annihilating trains; and like conditions prevail in every section of the continent—all of which indicates the necessity for the higher rates of transportation which prevail with us, and which are sometimes so harshly criticised by those whose ignorance of the questions involved is their chief contribution to the discussion.

**Trade Failures in 1899.**

The failures reported to Dun's agency for 1899 are fewer in number than in any year since 1883, and smaller in amount of commercial liabilities than in any year since 1891. The aggregate of defaulted liabilities is \$120,000,000, but nearly two-thirds of the banking liabilities were added within a few days, the aggregate reaching about \$30,900,000. The commercial liabilities have been about \$89,200,000, though exact returns from a few recent failures are not yet obtainable.

In no other years except 1881, with defaulted liabilities of \$81,155,332, and 1880, with \$65,752,000 have failures been as small since the above named agency commenced quarterly returns in 1875. The average of liabilities per failure is less than \$9,500, the smallness of which is evidence that the competition between the largest companies in that line of

**Assessment Law Improvement.**

The Tallahasseean suggests that a change should be made in our state assessment laws so that property should be subject to return for taxation until the first of March.

The law now stipulates that property owned the first day of January shall be returned for taxation. It is possible under the present provision of the law for some wealthy concerns to escape taxation almost entirely by being able to dispose of valuable property temporarily and thereby avoid a just proportion of taxation.

The Tallahasseean cites the case of a factory less than a hundred miles from the state capital that remains idle until after the first of the new year, then starts up and in three months does a business of from \$300,000 to \$400,000 annually without paying a cent of taxes except upon a few hundred dollars' worth of idle machinery that cannot be moved.

The suggestion is a good one, and the defect is too easily remedied to allow the law to remain as it now is any longer than the measure can be corrected.

**The Custom House Affair.**

Mr. Gage, secretary of the treasury, has exposed himself to some very severe attacks by the favors which he has shown to the National City Bank of New York. To what extent he was justified in extending these favors it is impossible to say without a fuller knowledge of the facts. It is true he offers some explanations of his actions, but these do not appear satisfactory to the majority of the people, who recognize pretty strongly manifested therein an effort on the part of trusts to control the affairs of the nation. As the guardian of the finances of a great nation he has fallen under a rather suspicious cloud, and a great many well-balanced men seem to think that it is quite improper for him to remain at the head of the treasury department.

A correspondent of the Chicago Inter Ocean says that the secretary is very sensitive under this latest criticism, and he is trying to shift the blame to the president, an unusual proceeding. The president has enough laid at his door without attempting to hold him responsible for Gage's depositing the purchase price of the custom house with the National City Bank.

James Stillman, president of the National City Bank, declines to discuss the transfer of the custom house property to his company or to say why the deed has not been recorded.

The New York News is of the opinion that Mr. Stillman will have to discuss it, for it says if there are seven honest Republicans in congress, and it believes there are, they can join with the Democrats and force an investigation of this real estate deal which bears all the outward signs of a job. If the title has not passed the National City Bank must disgorge the rental since last summer; if the property has passed it must pay its taxes, and in the latter event it must fork over the purchase price, however hard it may be for it to separate itself from more than \$3,000,000.

**Anti-Trust vs. Insurance.**

It now appears that the growing anti-trust sentiment is giving the life and fire insurance companies some concern. The attorney general of Mississippi has taken steps against most all of the fire insurance companies that are doing business in that state because they are members of what is termed the southeastern tariff association, which, it seems, is regarded as a trust in that state where there is a decided law against trusts. The insurance companies may find some way in which they will be able to do business without violation of the Mississippi anti-trust law. The situation in life insurance companies is such, according to a statement made in some of the New York papers, that there may be fierce competition between the largest companies in that line of

They start the new year without any agreement as heretofore made in regard to maintaining rates. In other words the "rebate compact," which bound them together in mutual interest, has been ended, and it is said that the Equitable was the first to withdraw. This company's withdrawal is excused on the plea that the "rebate compact" is likely to create the impression in some of the western states, where there is a strong and decided feeling against trusts, that life insurance companies, themselves, were combined into a trust.

So it seems that the anti-trust sentiment has brought about the annulment of an agreement which has heretofore prevented competition between the life insurance companies. While it is not known that a cut for business will follow, such will be difficult to obviate, and the smaller companies, in that event, would probably be inconvenienced more as the larger ones would take business at very close rates to keep their business moving, but if the policy holders are consulted they will undoubtedly insist that the business be transacted along conservative lines.

We predict the Republican party will find that its recently passed currency bill will hardly be a panacea against financial troubles. The proposition to curtail the circulating medium places that party in a position from which it will shortly be extremely difficult to extricate itself. The United States is fast reaching that state of equanimity where it will refuse to convulse itself every time that Wall street shows evidences of a panic, as was plainly shown by how little the flurry of two weeks ago affected the whole country. Speculative capitalists had better beware how they set the pace for the Republican party in this manner for their desperate game will be likely to result disastrously to themselves and Wall street as well.

THE efforts of Secretary Gage to establish a money trust are likely to get him into trouble. During the time he has been in office he has been looking out for the banks, and it is understood that when he retires from the secretaryship he will become the head of the trust. His favoritism has become so conspicuous that a resolution is to be introduced in congress, calling for an investigation. It may not pass, as the administration may try to shield Mr. Gage to save itself, but if it does some things may be brought to light that will show the people how completely the country is in the clutches of the money power.

**Adrift For Over Four Years.**

A bottle was picked up on the ocean beach sometime ago near here which was thrown from the vessel Star-of-the-Sea by a sailor named H. T. Wood on Christmas day, 1895, which was then on her way from a Pennsylvania port bound to Charleston, 13 days out. This bottle has been drifting about nearly four years before reaching terra firma. The length of time it has been drifting about shows the numerous currents and counter currents that are common to this part of the Atlantic coast.

Mr. E. L. Lesley, of Bassinger, recently drove 225 head of Morgan's beef cattle to Fort Pierce for the Cuban market.

**"Winter Finds Out What Summer Lays By."**

Be it spring, summer, autumn or winter, someone in the family is "under the weather" from trouble originating in impure blood or irritated condition of the system.

All these, of whatever name, can be cured by the great blood purifier, Hood's Sarsaparilla. I need no disappointments. Abscesses—I am past 64 and my good health is due to Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills, which purified my blood and healed the ugly abscesses that troubled me." Mrs. BIRTON, ESTELL, Southard, N.J. Dyspepsia—My husband doctored a long time for dyspepsia with only temporary relief. The first bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla helped and the second cured him. It cured my sick headaches." Mrs. MARY A. CLARK, Wilmington, Vt.



Hood's Pills cure liver ills, the non-irritating and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

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**STATE NEWS ITEMS.**

Bits of Information About Various Events Occurring at Different Florida Points.

The jury in the case of state vs. Sherman Henry, charged with rape, at Gainesville, returned a verdict of guilty, with a recommendation of mercy. Henry is a colored man about thirty years of age, and of brutal appearance.

Robert Bass, age 82 years, died at Bayview, near Clearwater, Friday, the 15th inst., from Bright's disease. He left Georgia in 1871 and settled on the Bass farm, North Kissimmee, when the nearest town then was Melonville, on Lake Monroe. He leaves a numerous family living in various parts of South Florida.

Secretary Smith, of the Jacksonville board of trade, has received a number of samples of sugar cane sent him from different sections of the state for analysis by Prof. Stubbs, at the government experiment station at New Orleans. The samples are collected to see how Florida cane compares with that of Louisiana. Several growers have written they will have samples with the freight agents at their different railroad stations, and the railways are transporting the cane free of charge for the experiment.

**FOR SALE CHEAP.**

Improved place in LaGrange. Three acres pine land cleared and fenced containing dwelling house, with kitchen and dining room detached, and storehouse. Good drinking water. Also eight acres in Turnbull hammock, four acres cleared and fenced. Above property will be sold cheap. Part cash, balance on time if desired. Address H. A. Carlile, LaGrange.

**CASTORIA.**  
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*  
The Kind You Have Always Bought

**Weekly Weather Report.**  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEATHER BUREAU.

Comparative statement of temperatures and rainfall for the week ending Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1900.

DATE.	1899		1898	
	MAX.	MIN.	MAX.	MIN.
Dec 27.	72	63	64	49
" 28.	77	65	63	41
" 29.	66	50	74	49
" 30.	55	40	77	61
" 31.	67	43	78	70
1900				
Jan. 1.	68	54	77	63
" 2.	54	38	71	66

Total rainfall for the week, 0.04 inch. Departure from the normal rainfall for the week, minus .50 inch. Departure from normal rainfall since Jan. 1, 1899, plus 3.95 inches. Departure from normal rainfall since Jan. 1st, 1900, minus .18 inch.  
HAL P. HARDIN, Observer Weather Bureau. Jupiter, Fla., Jan. 2, 1900.

There is more catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and, therefore, requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

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To our customers, old and new, we wish a prosperous and happy year, as well as to those who have not been. We hope to merit the same liberal patronage accorded us during the past ten years.

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