

THE FLORIDA STAR

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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.

Looking to Peace.

The English now occupy Bloemfontein, and the South African war can certainly be considered at least half over if not more. When it is ended England will dictate the terms of peace, and it is quite evident that there will be no independent states in South Africa.

The sympathy of the people generally is with the Boers, for they were forced to fight or grant terms that Great Britain demanded of them. These terms included concessions to the outlanders which would have taken the control of the Transvaal from the Boers and transferred it to strangers, and then England's will would have been supreme.

It is probably Great Britain's intention, while she has a large and well-equipped army in South Africa, to put it out of the power of the Boers to give them any further trouble in that section in future.

The Boers should now make peace on the best terms possible for they have nothing to gain by further sacrifice of life and property. They have put up a noble fight and won the admiration of the world, and while they could continue it for some time longer and make it very expensive for the British, they should not be reckless in the extreme, but use their diplomacy now to the best advantage for a settlement.

New Banks.

It is the very general impression that one effect of the refunding provision of the financial bill will be the establishment of a great many small banks. One banker expresses the opinion that as many as 2,000 additional national bank charters will be taken out within the next six months or a year.

Assuming that this estimate is pretty near correct it is supposed that the most of the new banks will be in the south and west where, in the rural districts, there is a want of currency. It may be that in all parts of the country a considerable percentage of the state banks will become national banks. The advantages of national bank circulation under the proposed law will be very much greater than they are at present. The tax on circulation will be only half what it is now and the banks will be able to get bonds on which to base circulation at a very small premium. Besides, circulation will be allowed up to the face value of the bonds. At present circulation for only 90 per cent. of the face value of bonds can be obtained, and the 4 per cent. bonds, about the only kind available, command a premium of between 30 and 40 per cent.

There may be some wildcat banking done under the provisions of the new bill, and some reckless banking on deposits, but as a new bank is not likely to secure a very large deposit fund until it has proved itself worthy of confidence, there is little fear in this line.

There is a varying difference of opinion among bankers as to just what extent the volume of paper currency will be increased. Those who have a reputation for being conservative and experienced are of the opinion that the increase will not be more than \$100,000,000. An increase of this amount, however, will be very largely felt in the business world.

The Kentucky Muddle.

The storm cloud that made its appearance again in Kentucky the first of the week seems to have subsided. An arrangement has now been reached whereby both the Goebelites and the Taylorites will await the decision of the court of appeals, the highest tribunal within that state. To a man up a tree it seems as though Governor Taylor, as he styles himself, is losing official prestige nearly every day; and it is quite apparent that better judgment has taken hold of the Republicans in their deciding not to force matters any further against the decision of their own state courts, which has thus far been against them.

Civil war in that state has no doubt been averted by the forbearance of the Democrats, for had they shown the same reckless disregard for the law that the Republicans have there would undoubtedly have been a collision that would have cost many lives. A great many people will blame Governor Taylor for the partisan stand he has taken, for, as a lawyer, he understood the laws of Kentucky well enough to know that when the legislature decided against him he might as well have stepped down and out of the high position he has been seeking to hold.

The announcement that the matter will be left for the courts to decide gives a feeling of relief all through the country as well as letting up the great tension that has been existing in that state for weeks. The only stumbling block that seems likely to get in the way now for the adjustment of this question is that Governor Taylor may take a notion to hold out again should the court of appeals decide against him.

In the minds of many there arises the question as to how this vexed matter will affect politics in Kentucky next fall? Which will it help, the Republicans or the Democrats? The Republicans may make a huge effort to carry the state to show that Col. Taylor was elected governor, but on the other hand it is doubtful if the Democrats who opposed Goebel will give the Republicans any assistance. As they were simply opposed to Goebel on account of personal matters it is but fair to suppose that as he is no longer living they will go back into the regular Democratic organization. But that there will continue to be bitter feeling between the two great parties is only reasonable to suppose, and it is likely to last, too, for some time to come.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

If the supreme court should decide that the acquisition of Porto Rico carried with it an extension of the constitution over that island it would create an interesting situation in the Philippines.—New York World.

The interests of all the people demand that the ship subsidy bill be defeated. Important interests of the northwest and west are seriously menaced by the possibility of the enactment of such a law.—Chicago Record.

No one knows better than Gen. Harrison himself the practical difficulty of heading off Mr. McKinley from re-nomination. Even Mr. Blaine failed in such an effort against Gen. Harrison in 1892, and Mr. Blaine was a very popular man in the Republican party. The president now, like the president then, has a superb machine to support him. So far as delegates are concerned, it is quite irresistible.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

The Republican leaders in congress have got to their wits' end and at the same time to the end of their rope. They admit their own utter helplessness and incompetency in the face of inevitable problems presented by the situation which they, themselves, through their own weakness and folly and their blind dependence upon the blind leadership of President McKinley, have created for their own utter confusion. When was there

ever a great political party in such a hole?—Baltimore Sun.

Senator Hoar, who opposed seating Mr. Corbett as senator from Oregon and favors seating Mr. Quay as senator from Pennsylvania, though the cases are essentially alike, said that Mr. Mantle, of Montana, and two other senators-elect had been rejected because they were silverites, and the senate had determined to repeal the silver purchase law. According to the gentleman from Massachusetts, the senate claims the right of electing its own members.—N. Y. Journal of Commerce.

The opprobrium of cabinet service has been shifted around a great deal. It went in some degree from Attorney General Griggs to Secretary of War Alger. Gen. Alger was got rid of through the diplomacy of the late Vice President Hobart and the next man for the public displeasure to fall on was Secretary of the Treasury Gage. Now his case has been rendered less conspicuous by the troubles of Secretary of State Hay. Mr. Gage is a nice enough man to be entitled to some rest. His troubles will come again soon enough.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The people of the United States want a canal across the isthmus and they want work begun as soon as possible. They, as a rule, don't specially care whether it is to be a Panama canal or a Nicaragua canal, and the one easiest dug and earliest completed will please them if it answers all the purposes of a ship canal. What they want their senators and congressmen to do is to select the best and most available route, appropriate the money for constructing the canal, and at the same time respect the rights of other nations.—Nashville American.

There are thousands upon thousands of pensions being paid out to those who are undeserving, to those who were camp followers and sutlers' clerks. These robberies could be discovered and stopped if a law was passed making it obligatory upon the government to publish a list of the pensioners in every community. Efforts to secure such a law have been made, but the pension sharks have always been able to defeat them on the ground that such a publication would "humiliate the old soldier." There can be no humiliation in it. The deserving pensioner is an honor to his country. The dishonest and undeserving pensioner should be eliminated. The pension roll should be a roll of honor.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

MIMS.

Mr. A. S. Piatt and family are occupying Mrs. M. C. Mims' house.

Mr. F. H. Sackett took another party to the beach Tuesday, in the Gem.

We hear that a large party of bicyclists visited Mims and LaGrange Sunday evening.

Mrs. Eunice Schofield leaves on Saturday to complete her term of school at White City.

Mr. Charles Emmons and daughter have returned to Mims, after visiting Rockledge and Melbourne.

Mr. M. H. Barnett left last week for his home in Springfield, Mass. Mrs. Barnett will remain some time longer.

That the recent cold weather did very little damage in this neighborhood is shown by the large number of orange trees in bud and blossom.

Miss Mary Burtus returned Monday from a short visit to Palatka, where she was the guest of Mrs. Gen. Badeau, who is spending some weeks at the Putnam House this winter.

Sad Accident.

An unusually sad accident occurred at Palm Beach Saturday afternoon. Walter, the 5-year-old son of Captain and Mrs. U. D. Hendrickson, who live two miles north of there on the lake front, wandered away from the house, and when missed could not be found. The members of the family searched for an hour in vain. The search was continued all night, almost every rod of ground in the vicinity being gone over, while another party looked along the lake shore. About 8 o'clock Sunday morning the body of the little fellow was discovered in the lake near the dock in front of Mr. Hendrickson's store. A schooner was moored at the wharf and the child probably climbed aboard that while at play, and from there fell into the water unseen.

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STATE NEWS ITEMS.

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

Jacksonville Metropolis: Hon. Fred T. Myers is on a handshaking tour in South Florida.

Jacksonville is to have a soap factory. The machinery for the new enterprise will cost \$15,000.

The Vanderbilt party, that has been at Palm Beach, for a while past, had their private cars attached to train 74 yesterday afternoon, returning north.

The Social Democrats have organized in Tampa. Col. J. A. Turner, a well known gentleman, has been chosen president of the local branch. This organization is carrying out the ideas expounded by Eugene V. Debs.

Henry Graham, who has been confined in jail at Fort Myers for about one year, entered a plea of guilty for manslaughter and was sentenced for ten years at hard labor. The other two Grahams are still at large, with no prospects of recapture.

Jacksonville News: Capital punishment is already forbidden by law in Rhode Island, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and judging from last week's ghastly exhibition of official incompetency in Pensacola, in which a condemned criminal was hung twice, it might be well to abolish the death penalty in this state as well.

The Tampa carnival has been postponed. The leading factors in the project—those who worked and planned tirelessly for its success—took this step at an informal meeting last Wednesday. It seems the burden of the labor necessary to the success of the carnival fell upon a few men, and the work was more than could be accomplished in the limited time before April 2nd. The carnival will be held sometime in the summer or in the fall.

In many of the orange groves of the immediate section around Orlando fruit buds are making their appearance in profusion. While a large percentage of the groves were practically wiped out by the disaster of five years ago, those that escaped serious damage are coming on at a rate that is altogether gratifying to owners. One of the most promising young groves is that of Mr. C. B. Thornton, in the northern portion of that city. The trees were planted two years ago, and are now blooming quite freely. From present indications three-fourths of them will bear fruit this year.

Weekly Weather Report.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEATHER BUREAU.

Comparative statement of temperatures and rainfall for the week ending Tuesday, Feb. 13, 1900.

Table with columns: DATE, MAX., MIN., 1899 MAX., MIN. Rows for Feb 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

Total rainfall for the week, "T." Departure from the normal rainfall for the week, minus .56 inch.

Departure from normal rainfall since Jan. 1st, 1900, plus .91 inch.

H. P. HARDIN, Observer Weather Bureau, Jupiter, Fla., Feb. 13, 1900.

Lewis Dennis, Salem, Ind., says: "Kodol Dyspepsia Cure did me more good than anything I ever took." It digests what you eat and cannot help but cure dyspepsia and stomach troubles. B. R. Wilson & Son.

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The Death Penalty.

The Universalist state conference, after a few days' session in Pensacola, adjourned Saturday. Among other late actions taken was the adoption of the following resolution against capital punishment: "Resolved, That the death penalty is un-Christian; a system of retaliation and barbarism, which cheapens human life; a form of legal murder which increases the crime of murder instead of remedying it. It cannot have the sanction of any follower of Christ or any Christian church. We, therefore, protest against capital punishment, and recommend that our people use their influence for its abolition and the substitution of a form of punishment in accord with the doctrines of our divine Master."

Good Roads Convention.

From present indications the state good roads convention, which will meet in Orlando March 22-23, will go beyond the highest expectations of its promoters. Hon. W. L. Palmer, chairman of the committee on arrangements, is daily receiving numerous letters from prominent men in all portions of the state who signify their intention to be in attendance upon the convention. It is thought that Hon. James Wilson and Gen. Roy Stone of the United States department of agriculture, will be induced to attend. Col. M. O. Elderidge, of the United States division of road inquiry, will be present and deliver an illustrated lecture, and other men of national reputation will be in attendance. The program is now being carefully prepared, and will be made public in a few days. Aside from other attractions will be a fair exhibit, embracing field crops, garden crops, manufacture, art, etc., and will be an interesting feature to the occasion. The court house auditorium will be used for the meetings of the convention.

Conductor Kills Negro.

The opening of so many turpentine camps, while it brings much business, is also bringing a very undesirable class of citizens in the many desperate characters among the negro operatives, says a report from Cedar Keys. As the southbound passenger train halted at Rosewood, a few miles north of that place, Saturday evening, the conductor, Capt. Joe Beckham, discovered two negroes who had beaten their way from the station beyond. On his forbidding them to attempt the game again, he was answered by an insulting epithet, and one of them pulled a revolver and fired point blank at Beckham, who was sitting in his baggage car door. As soon as the conductor could secure his revolver from his grip he stepped to the door, and was met by a second shot, one of the balls passing through his coat. The conductor sprang to the ground, and ordered the man to stop, as he would put him under arrest. The negro fired a third time, when Capt. Beckham fired three times in rapid succession. The negro ran about one hundred yards and fell dead, his pistol still grasped in his hand.

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