# THE FLORIDA STAR

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Ellis B. Wager, Editor and Publisher.

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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.

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.


## Christmas Greetings.

We greet our readers this week with our best wishes for a Merry Christmas to one and all.

We hope our Florida readers may realize a return of those happy holidays, which were so thoroughly enjoyed here a few years ago, when we were more prosperous—before the adversities of freezes came upon us.

With the realization of marketing in the near future the same amount of golden fruit that we did eight or ten years ago, and a much larger crop of other tropical fruits, pineapples, vegetables, etc., we see no reason why the people of the east coast have not cause to rejoice and be happy once more.

In this, our holiday edition, we have given some special attention to Christmas reading. The very best stories and selections to be had will be found on almost every page of the twelve-page edition of THE STAR this week, all of which has been edited and printed right here at home; and we believe special interest will be found in reading the novel Christmas adventure of Larry O'Six, entitled "The Grix and the Wew," reproduced on pages 10 and 11 from the author's manuscript; and will our readers also please take note of the enterprising merchants who have taken extra space in this edition, and give them the benefit of their Christmas purchases?

The Eagle Clothing store, E. L. Brady & Brother, John R. Walker & company, Carroll & Goldsmith, W.J. Crayford, R. L. Motlow, C. A. Gardner, R. E. Mims and the McFarland Fruit Protection company—all of this place—have from one-half column to a whole column and even a page advertising; while George N. Hatch, of Rockledge, and William Hindle, of Cocoa, are also large advertisers in this issue, as well.

Patronize your home merchants as well as your home newspaper; keep your money at home as much as possible and send away as little as possible—that is the way to build up your town and make it prosperous.

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SINCE it is very essential to make phosphate mining a success that the freight rate from mines to market should be very low there is a sharp lookout for the shortest haul to shipping ports. In view of this fact, and that many phosphate mines in the center of the state have been closed to operation on account of the high freights, we suggest to parties interested that the most direct outlet from the mines to the Atlantic would be a railroad from the interior to Cape Canaveral bight, which is a safe harbor for vessels and would be made a port of absolute safety by an appropriation from the government to construct a sea wall on the shoals east of the bight. One railroad in this state is within less than 50 miles of this point, another within less than 30 miles. If capital could be induced to look into this proposed route we believe it could be very easily made a success.

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HON. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN has turned down all the flattering offers made to him to become the employe of others at a princely salary, and has decided to establish a paper of his own.

## Vital Statistics.

About two years ago, by special act, congress had an investigation of the statistics made of cities over 30,000 population, from which has been compiled some interesting conclusions. The Independent, of New York, has endeavored to select the five foremost cities in the country with respect to certain essential particulars, viz: Population, area, age, birth rate, death rate, liquor business, etc.

Whether the conclusions of the Independent are exact or not there are no means of knowing, as in one place, for instance, a large number of arrests may mean an extraordinary amount of crime, or it may be the result of extreme vigilance on the part of authorities to detect crime and apprehend law-breaking.

But to summarize briefly:

New York is easily the first city in the United States, having the largest population, area and total value of assessed property, in addition to which it is the oldest chartered city. Boston, however, is the richest city, the per capita of real and personal property in that city being $1,942.86. Joliet, Ill., is the poorest city of above 30,000 population (which figure of population holds good throughout the tables); the per capita of real and personal property being $101.50. Most persons possibly imagine that Boston stands at the head of the list in respect to public schools, but that is not true; that honor goes out west, to Butte, Mont., where the expenditure per capita is $5.69. Charleston is credited with standing at the foot of the class in this matter, the per capita for schools being 14 cents.

The greatest number of arrests per 1,000 of population, according to this authority, was in Birmingham, 243, with Atlanta next, 121, while the least number of arrests was in Lexington, Ky. Atlanta stands first in the number of licensed saloons to 1,000 of population, 9.6, followed closely the four Massachusetts cities of Taunton, Brockton, Holyoke and Lynn. The total tax rate is the lowest in Wheeling, W. Va., the rate being $10.40, and highest in Joliet, Ill., where it is $91 per $1.000.

In the matter of vital statistics, one stands the best chance of getting married in Mobile, Ala., where the rate is 20.6 per 1.000, and the least chance in Scranton, Pa., where the rate is 2.7. After the wedding if one desires a large family the residence should be taken up in Fall River, Mass., where the birth rate is 38.78 per 1,000. If on the other hand the couple should not be fond of children they should go to St. Joseph, Mo., where the birth rate is 5.99. Should the union prove happy and its extension over a long period be desired, Seattle would seem from the statistics to be the place to attract attention. The death rate there is 7.43 per 1,000. But should the union prove irksome, with no grounds for divorce, then Charleston is the place—rate 39.94 per 1,000.

These conclusions may be of interest, but of their great value there is exteme doubt, as there are so many differing details that should be taken into consideration with respect to different cities that it is impossible to fix upon a rule that will fit them all.

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## Ejectment Suits.

At the recent fall term of the circuit court of Dade county, held last week at Miami, a large number of ejectment suits were on the docket for trial, in which W. H. H. Gleason was plaintiff and E. L. White and many others were defendants. These suits involve the title to numerous tracts of land on the Biscayne Bay front, near Buena Vista. It was agreed by Mr. George M. Robbins, who represents Mr. Gleason, and defeneants' counsel, that all the cases should be tried before Judge Minor S. Jones, without a jury, at a special term of the circuit court to be held at Titusville during the last week in December. The court and counsel have inspected the land in question.

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Wilson & Son guarantee every bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and will refund the money to anyone who is not satisfied after using two thirds of the contents. This is the best remedy in the w[illegible]YSICIAN grippe, coughs, colds, croup [illegible] cough and is pleasant and [illegible] TITUSVILLE, [illegible]ents any tendency of [illegible]fice at Mrs. J. D. Crabb's.


### GRANT.

Mrs. Nelson left Tuesday for Melbourne to visit her friend, Mrs. Hainlin. Mrs. Nelson was accompanied by her son, Mr. Oscar Nelson, who returned the same afternoon.

Mr. Charles Werning, one of our worthy citizens, who left last April for Paris, returned to Grant last Friday. He now entertains his many friends by telling them about the sights he saw at the exposition.

Among the latest arrivals at the Jorgensen Inn were Mr. and Miss Ames, of East Dorset, Vt., and Mr. Charles Werning. The proprietress says that business is good this year, as both the Inn and the Annex have been crowded this winter.

The people of Grant were very much astonished last Friday when they saw a railroad velocipede literally flying (as they expressed it) along the track. As it went south we only caught a glimpse of a red waist and a sun bonnet; but on its return we found the riders were none other than a certain young lady of Grant and a certain young man from a neighboring city.

Mr. William D. Ames, of East Dorset, Vt., arrived here last Wednesday. He was accompanied by his charming and popular daughter, Miss Bertha. Mr. Ames, who was a pleasant visitor to Grant last winter, left Thursday for Palm Beach, where he has decided to spend the winter, much to the diappointment of his friends in Grant. Miss Ames remained in this place until Saturday, when she left for Palm Beach, to join her father. Miss Ames made many friends during her stay here, and everyone says that to know her was to like her. Her friends were all very sorry to see her leave Grant. We hope, ere long, to see Mr. and Miss Ames in Grant again, where they will be received with a hearty welcome.

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When you need a soothing and healing antiseptic application for any purpose, use the original DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve, a well-known cure for piles and skin diseases; it heals sores without leaving a scar. Beware of counterfeits. Wilson & Son.


### GEORGIANA.

Brady Bower is on his island place for the present, with his family.

Rev. Mr. Sirdefield preached last Sunday morning and evening at this place.

Some, every now and then, are here from Cocoa or Rockledge, recreating for pleasure or pastime.

Mr. F. W. Munson is always busy in his attention to his groves in behalf of others, as well as merchandising.

Some movements were going on at the church on the evening of the 18th inst.—preparing for Christmas, no doubt.

Mr. Tuttle, who has charge of Dr. Chambers' place, especially the vegetable part of it, is now shipping beans, and will soon ship peppers, in case the markets justify so doing.

### OAK HILL.

Mr. H.S. Barker has recently purchased a nice young horse.

Mr. G. B. Cooper came up from Mims Friday to attend the dance and remained till Sunday.

Mrs. Fair, our efficient teacher, spent Saturday and Sunday in Daytona and Port Orange.

Mr. and Mrs. Keck, of Bowling Green, made a short visit to Mrs. Keck's sister, Mrs. F. W. Bright, last week.

A great many oranges are being shipped from this place, and the returns thus far have been very satisfactory.

A very pleasant dance was given in the packing house belonging to Mr. F. W. Hatch, Friday night, in honor of the Misses Harriet and Daisy Creighton.

Mr. Miller R. Creighton, Jr., and sisters, Misses Harriet and Daisy, left Sunday for their home in Baltimore. They will be greatly missed by the young people here.

Mr. Hatton Turner, who has been here for the past ten days, left Wednesday for Jacksonville, but expects to return for a longer stay. He spent last winter in Mexico.

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Now is the time when croup and lung troubles prove rapidly fatal. The only harmless remedy that produces immediate results is One Minute Cough Cure. It is very pleasant to take and can be relied upon to quickly cure coughs, colds and all lung diseases; it will prevent consumption. Wilson & Son.


## Convention of Baptists.

The Baptist state convention at Arcadia last week was largely attended and the session proved of great interest to all present. At the Wednesday evening session the convention met in the city hall, which has seating capacity for more than 1,000 people. Dr. John F. Forbes, the distinguished president of Stetson university, preached the convention sermon to a crowded audience; Vice-President William S. Jennings, governor-elect, presided; Dr. A. J. S. Thomas, of South Carolina, read the scriptures, and Dr. Fred Jones, of Pensacola, led in prayer on this occasion.

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**It Hits the Spot.**

When suffering from a severe cold and your throat and lungs feel sore, take a dose of Foley's Honey and Tar, when the soreness will be at once relieved, a warm grateful feeling and healing of the parts affected will be experienced and you will say: "It feels so good. It hits the spot." Guaranteed. Wilson & Son.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER
ABSOLUTELY PURE
Makes the food more delicious and wholesome
ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.


## FLORIDA FERTILIZER LAWS.

**Synopis For the Benefit of Farmers In the State.**

The Florida fertilizer laws are made for the protection of the farmers, and yet these laws are understood by only a few persons. In order that they may become more generally known, Hon. W. A. Rawls, state chemist, has prepared a brief synopsis of said laws. It will be observed that the nominal fee of $2 for each analysis of a fertilizer, which was formerly charged, was, upon the suggestion of the state chemist, abolished by the commissioner of agriculture. This was done four years ago, and since that time no fees have been charged for making the analysis.

The synopsis of the laws follows:

"Every substance prepared, manufactured, sold or imported for fertilizing purposes, except barnyard or stable manure, tobacco stems and crude cottonseed, shall pay a tonnage tax of 25 cents a ton. Each bag, barrel, or other package shall have attached a tag representing this fact, which tag shall be issued by the commissioner of agriculture. The commissioner of agriculture has power at all times to have samples taken of any fertilizer or fertilizing material on sale or in the hands of the consumer which thus represents the actual goods offered for sale.

"Every package of fertilizer offered for sale must have attached a plainly printed label, a copy of which must be filed with the commissioner of agriculture, stating the number of net pounds, and the name of the fertilizer, the name and address of the manufacturer, and analysis, giving the percentage of moisture, the available and insoluble phosphoric acid, ammonia and potash.

"Any manufacturer who misrepresents the proportions of phosphoric acid, ammonia or potash in any fertilizer, is subject to a penalty of $500 for the first offense and $1,000 for each subsequent offense.

"Failure to pay the tonnage tax of 25 cents per ton is a misdemeanor, and the penalty is $200 for the first offense and $150 for each subsequent offense, and in addition it is made the duty of the sheriff of each county to seize and sell all unstamped fertilizers.

"Any person purchasing fertilizer for his own use, such person being a citizen of Florida, can have an analysis of such fertilizer made by the state chemist, by taking and sealing a fair sample, in the presence of two disinterested witnesses, and having it sent to the commissioner of agriculture by a disinterested person."

Mr. Rawls, commenting on the subject of the fertilizer laws, says:

"The best way to tell anything about a fertilizer is to have a chemical analysis made of it. Nothing can be told from the appearance or from the odor. We have good laws to protect the farmers, and they should avail themselves of these laws. The stamps show that the tax of 25 cents per ton has been paid, the printed analysis on the label shows what the goods ought to contain, and no farmer should accept any goods without this printed guarantee on every package; if this, together with the stamp, is not on every package, then something is wrong, and the commissioner of agriculture ought to be notified, and he will give the matter prompt attention. The object of the laws is to protect the farmer. Before the establishment of the department of agriculture and the office of state chemist, Florida was flooded with worthless fertilizers; now these are the exception and not the rule.

"Many people do not understand our fertilizer laws, and consequently fail to obtain the advantage to be derived from them; if you are a consumer of fertilizers write a postal card to the commissioner of agriculture, asking for a copy of the law, read it, see how many safeguards it throws around the sale of fertilizers, and what a protection it is to every agriculturist in the state."

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**Weekly Weather Report.**

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WEATHER BUREAU.

Comparative statement of temperatures and rainfall for the week ending Tuesday Dec. 18, 1900.

| | 1900 | | 1899 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DATE. | MAX. | MIN. | MAX. | MIN. |
| Dec. 12. | 74 | 56 | 78 | 71 |
| " 13. | 79 | 69 | 74 | 68 |
| " 14. | 79 | 69 | 75 | 66 |
| " 15. | 74 | 60 | 77 | 63 |
| " 16. | 75 | 62 | 75 | 65 |
| " 17. | 71 | 67 | 76 | 62 |
| " 18. | 72 | 66 | 76 | 71 |

Total rainfall for the week. .32 inch

Departure from the normal rainfall for the week, minus .19 inch.

Departure from normal rainfall since Jan. 1st, 1900, minus 5.65 inches.

HAL P. HARDIN,
Observer Weather Bureau.

Jupiter, Fla., Dec. 18, 1900.

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Many persons have had the experience of Mr. Peter Sherman, of North Stratford, N. H., who says: "For years I suffered torture from chronic indigestion, but Kodol Dyspepsia Cure made a well man of me." It digests what you eat and is a certain cure for dyspepsia and every form of stomach trouble. It gives relief at once, even in the worst cases, and cannot help but do you good. Wilson & Son.

In Your Christmas Buying

YOU WANT TO INCLUDE MANY NICE THINGS TO EAT.

The Christmas Dinner

should be a pleasure long to remember.

GEO. N. HATCH,

AT ROCKLEDGE,

Can furnish you with most everything needed for the occasion, from the choicest cuts of Western Meat to the finest Raisins, Nuts, Cranberries, Figs, and Florida Oranges.

His stock of General Merchandise never has been so complete. If you can't call in person, send your order and it will have their best attention.