

THE PALATKA NEWS and Advertiser.

Entered at the Palatka postoffice as available matter of the second class.

Published at Palatka, Florida, on Fridays by

RUSSELL & VICKERS. \$1.00 Per Year in Advance

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RUSSIAN NIGHTS.

When the war broke out we read with thrills descriptions of shells bursting a mile away, and the war correspondent's analysis of his confused state, half-elation, half-fright, when first under fire. But now the writer has to do more than that to get a response from his reader.

The nights have a Russian flavor; they are acid, edged like a knife, fanged like a wolf with cruel cold. The wounded who are not found till the next day die of it. Yet these are the nights in which the Germans come down from behind their foremost trenches, backed by a tempest of rifle fire and shelling, a couple of battalions at a time, and surge across the narrow strand between their defenses and the water, the lines of them swaying back and forth under the scourge of the Russian fire.

Down into the water they go, the water that bites like vitrol, stamping through the ice under the bank, bearing ever forward against the farther bank that is lighted like a festive street with the blaze of rifles and mitrailleuses. Armpit deep, with their rifles unheld above their heads, clear of the water, the searchlights that mock the light slashing across the sky and setting upon them bewilderingly, pointing them out to the immediate finger of death, they come! I was in the positions when they attacked in force, four times between dark and sunrise. Four times down into that water in the face of fire, four times blown off their feet by the rifles and the pretty little machine guns that do their work so devilishly, four times shattered and ground into a water staining pulp of broken flesh—and next night they attacked again.

TO CUT POWERS OF COMMISSIONERS.

Ex-Congressman Claude L'Engle is at Tallahassee where he is furnishing letters on legislative doings to a number of state papers. From one such we take the following:

One legislative subject on which every one agrees is that the power and privileges of the County Commissioners must be abbreviated. This class of public officers have gotten into a perfectly inexplicable habit of shutting their eyes and going ahead and spending the people's money without regard to what the law says about it. By this, the County Commissioners have fixed a floating debt on the people of Florida without warrant or authority of law, of just a little short of three and a half million dollars. Starting with a \$300,000 debt in Duval, practically every County, is involved in greater or smaller amounts as the whim of the County Commissioners may have urged them. Goldstein of Nassau, Hurtenbach of Escambia in the House, Farris of Duval, Calkins of Nassau, in the Senate are working on the subject. The prevailing belief is that it is perfectly useless to pass more laws telling the County Commissioners what they can't do, unless there is a punitive provision in the law or laws that will land the County Commissioners in the County jail if they break them. Senator Farris proposes to make the Attorney-General the official legal adviser of all boards of County Commissioners, thus insuring the Commissioners legal advice from a strictly legal standpoint instead of the advice they have been getting from local attorneys employed by them, which in most cases fitted with the desires and wishes of the County Commissioners themselves.

Hon John S. Beard of Pensacola is strongly opposed to Statewide prohibition. So are the bar-keepers.

The House has placed the ban on the daily journals—they will no longer be distributed at the expense of the State.

It is presumed that Representative Bill Tighman was on hand when the prohibition measure was up for vote. You can't lose him on an occasion like that.

The Hon. Bill Maypole, a member of the House of Representatives from over in West Florida, has introduced a bill in the legislature providing for the investigation of Catholic convents. Bill has been reading the Menace. And some say it was Bill who influenced Sidney Catts to start in the race for governor about a year ago.

King George has offered to take the pledge to give up booze during the war, and thus has another kingly prerogative gone. How now can one boast of being "drunk as a lord?"

"Well, by jinks, th' time's a-comin' when it'll be too durn'dasted hot for some folks t' work—an' all winter 'twuz too pesky cold for 'em t' do a dratted thing. Beats all haow th' weather duz bother some folks, hey?"

Dr. J. A. Van Valzah of Volusia county, a pioneer in the fight against the insurance trust in Florida, will have plenty of help in the present legislature. There are already 28 bills before the legislature designed to clip the wings of this monster trust.

The Florida legislature has several important matters of legislation up for consideration, but nothing more important than the bill providing for compulsory school attendance. The progressive forces of the State are at work for this measure, and there is reason to hope for its passage.

The Florida Association of Title Men is to hold its annual convention in Gainesville on the 19th, 20th and 21st insts. It is presumed that among the important topics discussed at the meeting will be the Torrens System. Mr. B. E. Jarrett of Palatka is president of the State association.

Representative McKenzie has introduced a bill in the House providing for a Mother's pension, presumably at the instance of the Children's Home Society of Jacksonville, in which he takes a deep interest. The measure, however, appears a little in advance of the times. Father's pensions are even now taking all our loose change—fathers who fought in the war.

Victoriano Huerta, former provisional president of Mexico, for nearly a year on the bum and an exile, landed in New York Tuesday, where he arrived from Cadiz, Spain. Victoriana has promised under oath to do nothing to involve the neutrality of the United States, and will be treated as a transient alien. He has also promised to keep away from Mexico—as if that were necessary.

The News regrets that so promising a man as Senator Farris of Duval county should wreck his political prospects by casting his vote against the submission of constitutional prohibition. Farris is a large man—large enough to see that unless he has the power within himself to shake off the Jacksonville whisky influence, he can never be Governor of Florida. The time has come when men in public office must take one side or the other—they must be either cold or hot—lukewarmness will get them spewed from consideration for high office.

The Miami Metropolis has made the following ample correction of its slam of a week or more ago at Palatka:

The Metropolis sincerely regrets that this error should have been made and apologizes to Palatka. The information regarding the presence of saloons in Palatka was given by a Miami citizen in a Chamber of Commerce meeting, and The Metropolis accepted it as authentic. We are thoroughly sorry for the happening and will hereafter use every occasion that offers itself to say a good word for "Saloon-less Palatka" which is so rapidly becoming a "City Beautiful!"—Editor Metropolis.

By a vote of 55 to 14 the House of Representatives on Tuesday voted to submit the question of constitutional state-wide prohibition to the voters of Florida at the next ensuing general election. This in spite of the efforts of the Times-Union to make sentiment against the proposition. Those who voted against submission were: Anderson, Escambia; Bussey, Palm Beach; Dancy, Duval; Davis, St. Johns; Goldstein, Nassau; Gomez, Monroe; Harrison, Duval; Hurtenbach, Escambia; Jones, Nassau; Paul, Columbia; Roberts, Monroe; Rouse, Waukulla; Weimer, Levy; Wilson, St. Johns. Those absent and dodging the issue were: Lake of Seminole; Strickland of Leon, and Wilder of Hillsborough. In the Senate the vote will be close and a hard battle is expected.

Ex-Gov Albert W. Gilchrist, who sometime ago announced that he would be a candidate for United States Senator to succeed Senator N. P. Bryan, has stepped enthusiastically into the ring with a circular to voters in the which his platform of 16 planks is printed. He says: "There are 16 planks in the platform. If you agree with 9, a majority, Gilchrist is satisfied; if you agree with all, he is 'dee-lighted.'" In the center of the circular, at the top, is a picture of the candidate surrounded with the following in bold-faced type: "Height, 6 feet 2 inches; weight, one-tenth of a long ton; Age? Unmar-

ried, yet hopeful. The votes of the unmarried and of those who have been unmarried will almost elect him. He wants your vote. He has never made, directly or indirectly, as much as one cent from public office. He has never, directly or indirectly, sold any influence he might have had. An old negro prayed that a chicken be sent him. None was 'sent.' He then prayed that he be sent for a chicken. He went and got it. Gilchrist is not 'sent' by any man or set of clique. He is just going after this 'chicken.' He will get it too—if he gets votes enough. He wants the votes of prohibitionists, the suffrage-to-gets local optionists, corporationists, and antis, the rich, want-to-be, the poor and don't-want-to-be, the good—Pharisees, Publicans and Sinners."

BED OF THE THAMES.

It Often Yields to Dredgers Relics of the Ancient Romans.

"Yes, str," said the skipper of a Thames dredger as he wiped his grimy hands on the legs of his trousers, "there are many worse jobs than dredging. It is interesting and exciting work, too, for one never knows what the bucket scoops are going to pick up."

"Do we make any rich 'captures?' Occasionally we do, but of course we bring up more mud than anything else. But, personally, I believe that the bottom of the Thames is a small gold mine in disguise, but one that it is impossible to 'work.' A 'nugget' is brought up now and again, and a 'nugget' may mean a gold watch or coins."

"Some time back a bucket scoop brought to the surface a small sack, and this sack contained a number of watches, mostly minus the cases. Evidently they had been thrown into the river by thieves, who had no use for them."

"Human bones are brought to light at infrequent intervals, and so are old metal implements. Roman coins are fairly plentiful close by Billingsgate and London bridge, and some of the copper ones which have been recovered are as clean as new coins from the mint. Julius Caesar coins and weapons have been found in the upper river and some stone age implements down by Hampton court."—London Answers.

A Saturday Sermonette

"Where be all the miracles that our fathers told us of?" Judges vi:13.

That is, why are our own times so empty of God? This speech has a flavor that is familiar. "Where are the miracles?" Why do we not have the same sort of revelations that they had "in Bible times?" We hear that nowadays, "We hear it from good people—just as it came from the lips of a good man on to this page of the Book of Judges. Might one remind such questioners of the experience of Gideon, realized so soon after his question? He wanted miracles. His question has a shade of doubt in it as to the existence of such signs. And, already, verse 12, God had given him assurance of His Presence. And further miracles he-an to accumulate about him as a center. And, then, brave Gideon began to be timid. It is not always easy to hear the answers to our own prayers. So Gideon, who was in a fair way to get miracles, wanted to beg off. "Wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold! My family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." Just like Job and Moses, when God got near to him, Gideon began to shrink up in his own estimation. Well, now, we want signs, miracles "as they had in Bible times, you know." "Bible times!" That is a bit indefinite. And "Bible times" were not just as thickly strewn with miracles as, maybe, we imagine. We read of such signs in the close succession of Scripture pages, perhaps, but there may be scores or hundreds of years between them. And, maybe, we shut our eyes to miracles that we do have. That was a weakness of Gideon. He was looking back to Egypt for miracles such as the fathers had recalled. He didn't see the miracles of his own day, and right at his own door. Right near to him were the miracles of his heroic and immediate patriotic predecessors, Othniel and Ehud and Deborah and Barak, when the very stars in their courses fought against Sisera." He didn't see them. He didn't recall Shamgar and his terrific ox road. He was blind to all this. "Where are the miracles?" That was the cry. And that is the way we behave—some of us. We have miracles. The Bible is crammed full of them. But we don't believe them—some of us. We do not even read them—some of us. They are in the events of the day. But we do not make them out—some of us. They are "in the times" as fully, perhaps, as they were "in Bible times." But we do not discern "the signs of the times"—some of us. They are in the wonderful developments of science; in Harold Begbie's "Twice Born Men"; in the transformation of a professional ball player into one of the mightiest soul winners of modern days. Yet we do not see these wonders—Some of us. We are like astronomers who can see the wonders in the boundless fields of space, but cannot see their own gardens. May be the want with us, as with Gideon, is not so much miracles as sight. J. M. B.

SAIL "SPANISH MAIN"

American Vessels Carry Goods "Made in U. S. A."

Follow Trade Routes Devised by Drake and Other Freebooters—Big Business No Longer Needs Urging to Seize Chance.

New York.—Down at the wharves these days there are Yankee steamers, flying the Stars and Stripes, loading with "Made in U. S. A." products bound for the Spanish main.

The trade routes that Drake and his crew of freebooting heroes originated in their task of plundering Spanish cities of South America, are followed by more American ships than European now, where a few months ago it was the Union Jack or Norwegian or German flag that flew from the mastsheads of the ships in the tropics.

Big business, the kind that deals in millions, no longer needs urging to seize its opportunity, and the little fellows who deal in thousands instead of millions are following the leaders.

A dozen or more ships are clearing every week for Argentina and Brazil and for ports on the west coast of South America, via the canal.

And South American goods are coming back in American bottoms. Manuel A. Molina, consul general of the Argentine republic in New York, issued an official statement in which he pleaded for closer trade relations between the United States and Argentina.

"We have products you want, as well as markets for your products," he said. "The United States is interested in capturing our markets by selling its products to us, but does not reciprocate in purchasing our goods to a similar degree. Argentine wool and hides are bought in the London markets by American importers. Why not import them direct to America and save the middleman's profit?"

Yankee millionaires saw the chance, and there are a few ships now en route from Buenos Aires with Argentine products which will be sold in the open market here.

The Argentine consul's plea was followed, a few days later, by an announcement from Peru. The government there decided to import flour from the United States and sell it at cost price in order to reduce the cost of bread there.

These announcements had immediate results, and, as a sequel, a chain of government-encouraged schools for the training of foreign commerce experts may soon be realized. Prof. C. L. Swiggett of the University of Tennessee, who is a member of the committee on commercial preparation of the National Foreign Trade council, announced that important links in this chain of schools would be Columbia university in New York, the University of Chicago, Tulane university, Harvard, University of Cincinnati and Charleston college.

FARMER'S WIFE EARNS AUTO

Helps Husband With Carpenter Work; He Sells His Wheat at \$1.50.

Culver, Kan.—Last summer before D. H. Knott threshed his wheat he decided to hold the crop for a higher price. He built granaries and repaired others on his farm, but the work of harvesting and threshing made labor scarce and he finally secured his wife's services in assisting in the carpenter work and she make a good hand. When the work was completed and the threshing machine was ready for his stacks, Mrs. Knott said: "Now, husband, what am I to get for my services?"

"Well, when wheat reaches a dollar and a half I will sell and we will have a motor car," was the answer.

The wheat is sold and Mr. Knott's bank account shows that he received a dollar and a half a bushel. Mrs. Knott is waiting for the auto.

SENDS JEWELS TO LAUNDRY

Detectives Get to Chinaman's Before Bundle With \$1,000 in Diamonds.

San Francisco.—After planning \$1,000 worth of diamonds to the inside of her nightgown to insure their safety, Mrs. Leo Shapirer sent the jewels and the gown to a Chinese laundry and almost succumbed to hysterics before they were recovered by the police.

With Detectives Grism and Howell, Mr. Shapirer hastened to the laundry, arriving there before the package of laundry. The diamonds were recovered.

Takes Seven to Handle Souze.

New York.—It required the services of seven able-bodied policemen to remove a 350-pound woman from her home to the alcoholic ward at Bellevue hospital.

Tangoes at One Hundred and One.

New Haven, Conn.—Asher Sheldon celebrated his one hundred and first birthday by tangoing with Mrs. Sarah Cook, ninety-three, at a reception given by his friends.

Pays for Stolen Rides.

Newark, N. J.—"Conscience Stricken" has sent 25 cents to the Public Service Railway company for five rides taken on street cars and not paid for.



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Spring Styles at the Big Store

Call us up—Phone 91—and we will be glad to send you an assortment of suits for you to select your Spring suit from—and remember if it comes from Fearnside's, it is guaranteed. Fearnside Clothing Co. The Big Store on the Corner.

SAVE MONEY ON GROCERIES You can do it at the City Cash Grocery. By buying and selling for cash only, we can give you more groceries for your money, and give you absolutely fresh groceries. Have you tried the cash plan? If not, why not try a few orders with us and prove us. The City Cash Grocery TWO STORES: Opposite the Court House and 618 Lemon St. C. H. PRICE, Proprietor

STANDING TIMBER. Rule by Which to Figure Out its Contents in Board Feet. The contents of trees in board feet is usually figured by Doyle's rule. This rule is to deduct four inches from the small diameter of the log for slab, squaring one quarter of the remainder and multiplying the results by the length of the log in feet. For example, to find the contents of a twelve foot log twenty-four inches in diameter (inside the bark) at the small end—(24 inches minus 4 inches equal 20 inches; 20 inches by 20 inches equal 400; 400 by 12 equal 4800 board feet.

For Sunday, be sure to ask for Smith's Candy or Chocolates Unadulterated, crisp and delicious. Made in Palatka.

Very Easy. "It is said that two people can live on less than one. How do you account for it?" "Necessity." \$100 Reward, \$100. The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Drugists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.