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THE PRIMARY CAMPAIGN

As Seen By Editor Jordan, of the Punta Gorda Herald. Editor Jordan Was a Candidate for Secretary of State in the Recent Primary, and His Observations Are Worth Your Most Earnest Consideration.

Editor Jordan, of the Punta Gorda Herald, candidate for secretary of state in Tuesday's primary, writes an interesting editorial on "The Primary Campaign." We give this below for your earnest consideration:

"The primary campaign which ended Monday night was the most interesting, not to say exciting, political contest that ever occurred in Florida. From the number of candidates engaged, it might have been thought that it would develop extreme acrimony, but it was remarkably free from what is called 'mud slinging,' or personal vituperation. It is true that considerable sarcasm was exchanged between rival candidates, some of whom indulged in caustic reflections upon their competitors, but there were no attacks upon personal character, no charges of corruption, nothing libelous said, nothing that might be called vilification. This was not so much because the candidates met each other face to face on the stump, as because they were men of high character by whom 'mud slinging' methods were held in contempt.

In this respect, the primary was a good thing; but, in other respects, it developed some serious objections. The chief objection is the great expense imposed upon a candidate, which is a virtual prohibition upon a poor man's becoming a candidate, no matter how capable and deserving he may be. This applies particularly to those running for state and high federal offices.

To make a thorough campaign all over the state, one that would give reasonable assurance of success, the candidate must work with all energy for fully six months, and spend the entire amount allowed by law for the campaign expenses. Candidates for governor and United States senator are limited to an expenditure of \$4,000, of which \$2,500 to \$3,000 could easily be used for postage alone. Office rent, clerical help, services of a manager, printing, newspaper advertising and other items of legitimate expense, to say nothing of the cost of constant traveling for six months, may add \$5,000 to \$10,000 to the postage bill.

We do not see how any candidate for these highest offices can make a thorough campaign for less than ten to fifteen thousand dollars; and the successful candidate for even the minor offices, such as state treasurer and comptroller, if he had very active opposition, would have to spend a similar amount.

Another objection is this, and it is even more serious than the one mentioned above; the state wide primary offers a golden opportunity to any crafter who has the money, the energy and the brains to make a successful run. A man may be known in his own home place as being corrupt; but if he has succeeded in getting his name before the public as an enterprising and brainy citizen, if the newspapers have given him fame for his creditable deeds at home, he can carry this reputation into all parts of the state where his true character is unknown and get enough votes to put him in one of the most important offices of the state. Such a man would not hesitate to spend money beyond the legal limit and swear to a false statement of expenses.

But, you say, if his home people know him to be corrupt, they would expose him. Brother, they won't do it; they dare not do it, because the laws are against them and against the newspapers. Consider the laws, and then ask yourself if you would mount the stump and charge any man with being untrustworthy and "crooked," with being a grafter. Who is going to make a martyr of himself by exposing a grafter to prevent him from winning a high place? Ask Claude L'Engle what was his experience in this particular. See the court records at Bartow as to what befell him.

Well, the people wanted the primary, and they have it; but they may yet discover that it does not always and in every instance furnish them with the best officials.

Thank the Lord, however, that this

ARBITRATION OF DIFFERENCES

Between the United States and Mexico a Possibility. Under the Treaty of 1848 Between the United States and Mexico the Presidents of the Two Countries Might Appoint An Equal Number of Customs to Whom Would Be Submitted All Vexatious Questions.

Washington, June 9.—Arbitration of differences between the United States and Mexico through an international commission, has become a possibility.

Diplomats, particularly those of Central and South American republics, were much interested in information that administration officials are considering seriously proposing such a course to General Carranza. If they definitely decide to suggest this, it will be sent as the United States' answer to Carranza's last note. Acceptance would then depend on the de facto government.

Under the treaty of 1848 between the United States and Mexico the presidents of the two countries might appoint an equal number of customs to whom would be submitted all the vexatious questions arising out of relations between the two countries during the past two years. Among these might be:

Withdrawal of American troops from Mexico.

Indemnification for American lives lost or property damaged in Mexico during recent uprisings.

Customs revenues collected during the American occupation of Vera Cruz and now held in the United States, returned; and claims for property damage growing out of the Vera Cruz incident.

Long pending disputes regarding the exact location of portions of the international boundary.

The commission probably would meet in some South American country. Whether President Wilson had reached a final decision on the question of proposing arbitration to General Carranza is not known.

The treaty of 1848 provides that should such a course be suggested by either party it shall be accepted by the other, unless deemed altogether incompatible with the nature of the differences or the circumstances of the case.

Interest in the suggested plan here was in the belief that it would tend to better relations between Central and South American Republics.

MERRY NEEDLERS.

Mrs. George Elston yesterday afternoon entertained the Merry Needlers' Club at her beautiful home on the Brownville road. Sewing fancy work and chatting was the principal occupation of the afternoon. While this was going on, Miss Wenda Wey delighted those present with several vocal solos. Miss Allen, Miss Wey's guest, favored the guests with several well rendered instrumental solos. The hostess then served a two-course luncheon as refreshments. Those enjoying this affair were: Mrs. M. M. Archard, Mrs. W. B. Clay, Mrs. John Pelot, Mrs. E. J. Weaver, Mrs. Nichols, Miss Wenda Wey, Miss Allen and Miss Schriener.

Mrs. John J. King, accompanied by her little daughter, Miss Flomina King, will leave tonight for Boca Grande, where they will spend the week-end with relatives and friends.

NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Commissioners of DeSoto County, Florida, up to 2 o'clock p. m. of the 5th day of July, 1916, for grading and ditching the road on west line of sections 30 and 31, township 40 south, range 26 east.

Specifications for said work may be seen at office of J. S. Banister, District Engineer, Punta Gorda Special Road and Bridge District, Punta Gorda, Fla. Reserving the right to reject any or all bids.

A. L. DURRANCE, Clerk.

primary is over and that it will be two years before we shall have another. It is safe to say that but few of the candidates enjoyed this one. We are quite sure that those who spent from \$1,000 to \$4,000 and got defeated, will not waste much admiration upon the primary.

But the campaign was all right, all right, even if the results were not. Jordan and Ford got a lot of fun out of it, and they are doubtless satisfied.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLICAN AND PROGRESSIVE CONVENTIONS DISCUSS PEACE PLANS

Chicago, June 9.—The conference committee of the republican and progressive conventions began discussion of peace plans at 10:40 o'clock last night, and Senator Borah, one of the republican conferees, predicted the session would last at least three hours. This was the situation as epitomized by one of the conferees after the conference had been in session a little more than an hour:

The utmost harmony has reigned in the meeting.

Republicans were impressed with the apparent desire of the progressives to effect an agreement.

No name except that of Colonel Roosevelt had been mentioned. Progressives, while showing a decided preference for Colonel Roosevelt as the nominee, did not say they would not support any other man.

The name of Hughes had not been mentioned.

Encouraged by the happy opening of the conference, it was said that there was a possibility that the conferees would remain in session most of the night, or until they reached some tangible agreement, or complete disagreement.

The conferees were unanimous in asserting the conference was entirely harmonious.

Discussion of candidates followed two lines: The progressives talked only about Colonel Roosevelt, the republican conferees the names of various favorite sons, including Fairbanks, Burton, Root, Hughes and others, but reached no unanimous decision that they favored one of them above the others.

The entire range of discussion, it was said, never got beyond generalities.

While both sides reported progress, the republicans appeared to take a more optimistic view of the situation than some of the progressives, among whom there was far from a unanimity of opinion that an agreement was probable.

It was agreed that the conferees should report to their respective conventions at the Friday session. Neither side was at all sure that the convention it represented could be controlled. It was understood that three ballots would be taken in the republican convention, and if without result, there should be a further conference if, however, as might very likely be, either or both conventions should make a nomination today, all further negotiations would be impossible.

Early in the evening there was a report that the progressive conferees had offered the names of Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, and General Goethals and Leonard Wood as acceptable to them, but this proved to be untrue.

It was hoped that the delegates to both the republican and progressive conventions would discuss the situation fully among themselves, and if no definite action was taken on either side, in the meantime the committee would be in better condition to understand and give expression to the real sentiments of the two conventions.

The republican committeemen said that during the meeting they were distinctly encouraged by the evident desire of the progressives for harmony. At no time, it was said, was there a concerted or insistent demand from the progressives that the republicans accept Colonel Roosevelt.

Senator Smoot, of the republican committee, said that the conference was an open, free and friendly discussion. He added that the reports to the convention would be identical. While Senator Borah and Mr. Crane said the conferees would probably reconvene Friday afternoon, other members of the conference were by no means sure that there would be another meeting.

George W. Perkins, chairman of the progressive committee, confirmed this view and added that none of the conferees were quite free to talk.

The conference was held at the Chicago Club, to which the republican conferees preceded the progressives. George W. Perkins, Horace Wilkinson and other progressive leaders conferred at Mr. Perkins' headquarters, where the long distance wire to Oyster Bay is located, until almost 10 o'clock, and then left for the club. Prior to the calling of the meeting, on an upper floor of the club, the conferees posed for photographs.

When the conference adjourned Senator Borah and Governor Johnson came down in the elevator together, chatting pleasantly. The other conferees followed in a few minutes and soon dispersed.

At the end of the session of the conferees one of the members summed up the situation in this way:

"We all agreed not to disclose the details of our meeting until reports are made to our respective conventions. I can say this, however, it had not changed the situation in respect to the probable nomination of Justice Hughes by the republican convention. A situation has been created by which the progressives in all probability will be willing to postpone the desire of the radical members to rush into a nomination of Colonel Roosevelt for the sole purpose of being the first to put a ticket in the field.

"There was absolute harmony so far as our personal relations were concerned, and I believe we made for good feeling, regardless of whether we accomplished the main purpose of coming together or not."

TRAMMELL'S ELECTION CONCEDED

By Bryan. It Will Require the Count of the Second Choice Votes to Determine Who Is Nominated for Governor. Sydney J. Catts Is Now Leading in First Choice Votes, But the Friends of Knott Believe These Will Be Rapidly Overcome By the Second Choice Votes. Many Believe That the Ratio of His Second Choice Votes Will Be Six to One Of Those Received by Catts. Second Choice Votes Will Also Decide the Race for Circuit Judge in the Tenth District. Brown Has a Tolerably Safe Lead in First Choice Votes.

Senator Bryan last night conceded the election of Governor Park Trammell to the United States senate. Governor Trammell issued a signed statement in which he shows that reports from forty-five counties give him 27,808 first choice votes, Bryan 15,889, Wall 9,379, and Gilchrist 6,664. The returns indicate that Trammell carried forty-five counties, Bryan six, and Wall one.

It will require a count of the second choice votes to determine who is elected governor, Sydney J. Catts or W. V. Knott. The latest returns show that Catts leads in first choice votes, but it is believed by the Knott supporters that he will lead in second

choice votes in the ratio of six to one over those received by Catts.

It will also require the counting of the second choice votes to determine who is elected as circuit judge of the tenth judicial circuit. On the face of the returns as reported by the three counties, Polk, DeSoto and Lee, Judge R. E. Brown of Arcadia, is leading in first choice votes over John S. Edwards of Lakeland. The second choice votes of Arcadia and Wauchula, the largest voting precincts in this county, do not indicate that the ratio of the votes received by these two leading candidates will be materially changed. Edwards will have to gain considerably in second choice votes to overcome the Brown lead.

A Pittsburgh astronomer announces some extraordinary new spots on the sun, but perhaps he forgot to wipe the soot off his lens.—Cleveland Leader.

WILSON HAS COMPLETED

The Platform Draft to Be Presented to the Democratic National Committee. The Principal Plank Refers to the Administration's Success in Guarding the Nation's Honor, and at the Same Time Keeping the Country Out of War.

Washington, June 9.—President Wilson has practically completed a draft of the platform to be presented to the democratic national committee. The principal plank, it is said, will consist of a declaration of the administration's success in guarding the honor and peace of the United States. Specially, the foreign affairs section of the platform will praise these acts of the administration.

Protection of the neutral rights of the United States and other nations. Refusal to allow the country to be drawn into the Mexican internal troubles and prompt dispatch of troops after raiders on American territory. Upholding the Monroe doctrine and a continuance of the good relations with other nations of the western hemisphere.

Support of the policy of "America first."

Planks on domestic affairs will refer particularly to the merits of the Underwood tariff act, the federal reserve act, and the administration's preparedness plans.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Moved, seconded and carried, that consideration of the bids of D. G. McCormick Company and F. Watts Hall be postponed until Friday, June 9th, at 10 o'clock a. m.

The bond trustees from Punta Gorda special road and bridge district filed their report.

Bond trustees from special road and bridge district No. 5, filed their report.

The treasurer filed his report.

Thursday, June 8th.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the report of John W. Welch, Joel Bishop and C. G. Brown, viewers for widening the road through center of section 5, township 41 south, range 23 east, be referred back, with instructions to make a more definite report, and that they be empowered to employ J. S. Bannister to make survey and full report in order that a record may be made from which the road may be definitely located in the future, and the clerk be directed to notify said viewers of this action.

Moved, seconded and carried, that S. Thomas and wife, of Punta Gorda, be placed on the pauper list at \$10 per month.

Moved, seconded and carried, that Mrs. Mattie Whidden, of Punta Gorda, be placed on pauper list at \$5 per month.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the petition of J. D. Harley and others for a road beginning near the church at center of northwest quarter, section 14, township 39 south, range 29 east, thence west one mile, be received and placed on file, and that M. A. Millar, H. G. Cassels and S. B. Johnson be appointed to view and mark said road and make report according to law.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the petition of C. M. Wilcox and others for a road on west line of east half, section 32, township 42, range 29, be received and placed on file, and that F. L. Soules, B. D. Stewart and E. Staples be appointed to view and mark said road and make report according to law.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the petition of F. V. Soules and others for a road beginning at the quarter post on north line of section 32, township 42, range 26, and run north to one-quarter post on south line section, then east to southeast corner said section, thence north to northeast corner said section 5, be received and placed on file, and that F. L. Soules, B. D. Stewart and E. Staples be appointed to view and mark said road and make report according to law.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the petition of citizens of Palmdale and Lakeport for a road connecting said towns be received and placed on file, and that Ralph Blair, F. C. Ready and C. McKimpton be appointed to view and mark said road and make report as required by law.

The hour having arrived, bids for clearing and grubbing road No. 5 in

NOMINEES OF THE PRIMARY

As Shown By Official Canvass. All County Officers Nominated for Re-election Except Three. Second Choice Votes Nominate Bullock for County Commissioner.

Although the official results of Tuesday's primary have not been put in shape that we can give a complete official count at the time of going to press, we are able to state that the official count will show the following results for county officers:

For judge of the circuit court, R. E. Brown; for state senator, A. M. Wilson; for representative, Will C. Langford; for sheriff, J. L. Dishong; for clerk circuit court, A. L. Durrance; for superintendent of public instruction, P. G. Shaver; for county surveyor, M. L. Albitton; for tax assessor, H. V. Burghy; for tax collector, Cyril Baldwin; for supervisor of registration, S. T. Langford; for prosecuting attorney, Hugh G. Jones; for county commissioner district No. 1, L. W. Whitson; for county commissioner district No. 2, J. W. Bullock; for county commissioner district No. 3, William M. Whitten; for county commissioner district No. 4, W. G. Welles; for county commissioner district No. 5, D. L. Skipper. Mr. Skipper had no opposition.

For judge of the circuit court, Judge Brown has a safe lead over his two opponents, Judge Bell and Hon. John S. Edwards, and it is not thought that the second choice votes will change the result.

For state senator Hon. A. M. Wilson will undoubtedly be nominated over his opponent, Hon. C. P. Parrish.

the special road and bridge district No. 5, also for construction of certain culverts in district No. 5, for grubbing and clearing in district No. 1, and repairs to jail were opened.

By motion, second and carried, action was deferred of the bids for clearing and grubbing in district No. 1 until Saturday, June 24th.

Moved, seconded and carried that the bid of R. W. Underhill for the grubbing and clearing of road No. 5, in special road and bridge district No. 5, at \$3.75 per station be accepted, and that the said Underhill be required to execute bond to DeSoto county for \$350 conditioned upon the faithful performance of his contract, and to remain in full force and effect for three months after acceptance of completed work.

The sheriff filed his report.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the contract and bond of R. W. Underhill, this day filed, for clearing and grubbing and other work on road No. 5 in special road and bridge district No. 5 be accepted and approved, and the chairman of this board is authorized to sign said contract on behalf of this board.

Friday, June 9th.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the clerk report at the beginning of each month as follows:

First, total warrants drawn on each of the several funds.

Second, total amount subject to warrant on each of the several funds.

Third, total amount paid to each of commissioners for attendance and road viewing.

The tax collector filed his report.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the comptroller be requested to allow S. F. J. Trabe to redeem all fractional block 78, original survey of Punta Gorda, at a valuation of \$50, the assessed valuation being excessive.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the bid of F. Watts Hall for hard surfacing material on divisions No. 15 and 16, of Punta Gorda road and bridge district at the following prices, to-wit: For all of division No. 16, and 2,640 yards on division No. 15, at 95 cents per cubic yard, and 8,300 yards on division 15 at \$1.40 per cubic yard, be accepted, provided he enter into contract and give bond within thirty days of this date, and that the attorney be directed to prepare the necessary contract and bond, and that the clerk is hereby directed to return checks to all other bidders.

Moved, seconded and carried, that the bid for grading and ditching on west line of sections 30 and 31, township 40 south, range 26 east, be rejected, and the clerk be directed to re-advertise for bids for said work, said bids to be received up to 2 p. m. of July 5, 1916.