

## BROWARD EXPLAINS

Continued from First Page.

was too grand to be conceived and nurtured in anything but a giant's brain—this man is a forceful, earnest, convincing talker, and with that calm, unruffled, deliberative air of earnestness that keeps him close to his hearers, and makes him almost irresistible.

I have heard many men—John Wise, Seth Low, Bourke Cockran, Grover Cleveland, James G. Blaine, he that was called the matchless and peerless orator—all of them having a national reputation; but I have heard no man who can speak more appealingly, more convincingly or more earnestly than Napoleon B. Broward.

Governor Broward began his speech of two hours or more by telling how he was laughed at when he, after recounting that he had followed the sea, announced that it was his determination to be Governor of Florida.

He told of his promise in that campaign to drain the Everglades, and to save the land for the people. He mentioned the area bigger than three states that had been given to the railroads by the generous Legislatures, and of the area left us in comparison, but in itself as big as some states.

He told of the problems which confronted him when he became Governor: that he found suits to the right of him, to the left of him, in front and behind him, with lawyers highly trained and learned, volleying and thundering.

He told of the difficulty that the Trustees had in finding a lawyer of sufficient ability to cope with the legal talent arrayed against them, and who had not been at one time or another an attorney for one of these land-grant railroads that still claimed land.

He said that the Trustees had in 1905 selected former Governor Jennings as chief counsel, and had retained other attorneys.

He said that in 1906, the Trustees decided to dispense with the service of the other attorneys, and retain Jennings as general counsel at \$5,000 a year. He told of the action of Governor Jennings in going to a bank and taking out deeds that had been put there in escrow for 103,000 acres of land which had afterwards been sold for \$225,000, and the bringing on by this act of more litigation.

He told of the difficulty that confronted the Trustees and their general counsel in their task of saving the land for the people. He told of the losing of the case involving \$223,000 and thousands of acres of land and the judgment by the United States Court in favor of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. He recited at length the conversations between himself and Jennings and the Trustees about what to do to save the land, and as is his habit, went into details about a trip he and Jennings made during which the happy inspiration came to him, and which Jennings approved, which resulted in the offer of a compromise to the L. & N. R. R., the consummation of which put the title to the lands in the hands of the School Board and beyond the reach of the other litigants, even if they should be successful.

He went into the history of the transaction between the Trustees and the L. & N. R. R., and so great is his attention-holding power that not a man in his audience showed evidence of flagging interest while he was dealing in dry legal details.

Then he told of a meeting of the Trustees, after the great work of the saving of the lands for the people had been done, and that some one—he did not remember who—of the Trustees had suggested that Jennings be given a bonus, in addition to his salary as general counsel for the magnificent work he had done as agent, under the special appointment by the previous resolution of the Trustees.

He said that Jennings told the trustees that he would leave it to them as to what they should pay him, and left the meeting. He told of the decision to pay him five thousand dollars for his services as agent. He next recited in detail the settlement of another litigation with the Wisner land company, assignees of the claims of the land grants to the Florida Southern Railway, and upon the final and satisfactory consummation of this compromise, he told of the payment of another five thousand dollars to the general counsel, for his services as agent.

He said that he and the trustees had done the best they could, and that if he had the same thing to do over again in regard to the Jennings fees and other things, that he would do exactly as he had done.

He said that the trustees were all poor men, working hard for the people, and ventured the statement that none of them

had a dress-suit to wear to a social function.

He said that he would feel very bad if even three members of that house should censure him. He suggested that men should not assume the attitude of going out of their way to censure somebody or to hurt somebody, and that when men were visited with discretion as these trustees were, and had used it the best they knew how, they should not be cut down with public censure unless they richly deserved it.

The former Governor said, that if mistakes had been made, they were mistakes; that if errors of judgment were committed, they were of the head and not of the heart, and that he would rather be censured, if censured he must be, for saving the public land than for losing it, and that these trustees who had been criticised, had saved a part of the public domain equal to two states like Rhode Island.

The Governor said that there were some people who threw a fit and trembled and shook all over, whenever you mentioned the name of Jennings, and that one of them was around Tallahassee.

He called this "Jennings-phobia" for want of a better name, but the trustees considered Mr. Jennings as the best man they could get, and they also considered that he was poorly paid for the services he performed.

Answering a question, the Governor said that although Mr. Jennings was by resolution appointed agent at the same time that he was by previous resolution acting as general counsel, the amount to be paid him was not fixed by the resolution and was not decided on until Jennings performed his services in that matter, and that Jennings told the trustees that if they thought that he deserved any extra pay he would be glad to receive it, and would leave the amount in their hands.

The Governor made a favorable impression, a pronounced impression, a deep impression upon all of his hearers, as he always does, when he speaks.

On the adoption of the minority report in lieu of the majority report the vote was:

Yeas.—Messrs. Bynum, Chaires, Chase, Clark, Conway, Demsey, Durrance, Hatcher, Hodges, Hull, Knight, Knowles, MacWilliams, Mahaffey, Malone, Pattishall, Stringer, Terrell, Thaggard, Wall, Wells.—21-

Nays.—Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Alexander, Butler, Calkins, Carn, Cash, Cox, Davis, Dupont, Grace, Hardee, Hilburn, Kelly, Light, Miller, Moore, Neely, Newton, Ogilvie, Peaden, Richbourg, Smith, Stewart, Stokes, Taylor, Watford.—28.

On the adoption of the majority report, the vote was:  
Yeas.—Messrs. Alexander, Butler, Miller, Ogilvie, Peaden, Richbourg, Smith, Stewart, Stokes, Taylor, Watford, Calkins, Cox, Davis, Dupont, Doke, Hilburn, Kelly.—18.

Nays.—Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Bynum, Carn, Cash, Chaires, Chase, Clark, Conway, Dempsey, Durrance, Grace, Hardee, Hatcher, Hodges, Hull, Knight, Knowles, Light, MacWilliams, Malone, Moore Newton, Roberson, Stringer, Terrell, Thaggard, Wells.—27.

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