

# THE MORNING SUN.

"IF IT'S RIGHT WE'RE FOR IT"

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CLAUDE L'ENGLE, Editor

## EDITORIAL.

This news paper belongs entirely to the people of Florida. The expenses of its publication are met from a fund made up by the people of Florida.

This fund was turned over to me for this purpose—because in the fullness of their charity, the contributors confided in my humble capacity and limited experience to use it well, and in the integrity of my purpose to use it only for good, in strict conformity with the impulse that prompted them to raise it.

When asked to edit it, I said that I would be glad to do it, IF I WERE LEFT ENTIRELY FREE. I reminded them that the motto of The Sun was—"If it's right, we are for it," and that a paper sailing under this flag, carried NOTHING BUT TRUTH AND GOOD INTENT for ballast.

This accounts for the Morning Sun.  
I ask all good men to help me.

CLAUDE L'ENGLE.

### DIVIDE GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY.

On the broad principle that it is best to divide responsibility in governmental affairs, I venture to call attention to a bill that is pending in the Senate and the House for the purpose of asking members to give this bill their attention, to consider its merits, to discover its demerits, if any, and, if they find the principle of the bill to be good, to perfect it, and save the principle by passing it.

I hope it will not be considered necessary for me to say anything to prove that it is best to divide responsibility in governmental affairs.

For this principle is the foundation-rock of democratic government and the keystone of the arch of democratic institutions.

Democracy owes its very existence to the force of the truth of this principle acting on the minds of men.

Democracy gets its name from the Greek word "the people," and a government by the people is always one of divided responsibilities.

Whenever men have become tired of absolutism, whenever the public conscience has been quickened, and the minds of men have been freed, they have demanded a democracy, in order, by dividing governmental responsibilities, to do away with absolutism.

This much being said in support of a proposition that really needed no demonstrating, I will get down to the particular bill I started to write about.

It is a bill introduced in the House by Mr. Mahaffey, of Gadsden, and in the Senate by Mr. Miller, of the First.

It changes Section 578 of the General Statutes so as to make it read, that the Clerks of the Circuit Courts of this State shall send their statements of tax redemptions to the Comptroller, but the money to the State Treasurer.

The law which contains Section 578 was passed, probably, without the law-makers considering carefully its practical working, and puts in the hands of the Comptroller a large amount of money, which sometimes reaches close to a hundred thousand dollars, and without remembering that the State Treasury is designated by the Constitution as the place where public money shall be kept.

Under the present law, Clerks of the Circuit Courts of all of the counties send to the Comptroller a list of tax redemptions monthly, with checks to cover the amounts paid in. The Comptroller deposits his money to his credit, as Comptroller, in banks of his own choosing. He then distributes the amounts to the State, and to the counties. It takes some time to do this work, and the rule is that the Comptroller is from four to eight months behind in the distribution of this money.

This leaves an average balance to the credit of the Comptroller all the time, of from sixty to ninety thousand dollars.

The bill pending in the Legislature, to which I am endeavoring to call your attention in the hope that it will be enacted, provides—

That the money sent in by the various Clerks of Circuit Courts shall be kept in the State Treasury until the Comptroller makes his distribution, and then shall be paid out by warrant of the Comptroller just like all other public money is paid out.

There are patent to me, and to any one else who will direct his attention to this matter, good reasons why this law should be changed as this bill will change it.

First: The Constitution directs that public money shall be kept in the State Treasury.

Second: The State Treasurer gives \$100,000 bond, the Comptroller \$5,000.

Third: Banks in which public money in the State Treasury is deposited, are selected by three men, the Governor, the Treasurer and the Comptroller, and these three are required by law to designate those banks as State Depositories which offer the best inducement as to security and interest. Public money in the hands of the Comptroller is deposited in banks selected by one man, without any requirement of law for security or interest.

Fourth: Three men pass on the securities offered by banks in which money in the State Treasury is deposited. One man passes on the securities, if he wishes to require them, offered by banks in which money to the Comptroller's credit is deposited.

Fifth: Public money in the State Treasury deposited in banks draws two per cent. interest on average monthly balances. Public money in the hands of the Comptroller deposited in banks draws

no interest that gets into the public treasury.

If the money that now is in the Comptroller's treasury is put, by this law, into the Public Treasury—

Three men will handle it instead of one; a man under a hundred thousand-dollar bond responsible for it, instead of one under a five thousand-dollar bond; security will by law be required for it when deposited in banks; and interest will be paid on it.

If the average balances that the Comptroller has had in his hands for the last three years had been in the State Treasury, it would have produced between \$1200 and \$1800 per year, which would have gone into the general revenue fund.

This new bill, if made a law, will not take any thing out of the hands of the Comptroller, except the money which the Constitution did not intend he should have.

This bill has been in the hands of the House committee for more than the six days designated by House rules for a bill to be reported. It should not be allowed to die on the calendar. There is too much merit in it.

It should be reported favorably, unfavorably or without recommendation, without further delay, and should come squarely before the House for the members to exercise their right as representatives of the people to enact it or to kill it.

For the reasons I have given I believe that it should be enacted. These columns are open to any one who can discover any reason why it should not be enacted.

### HERE'S A WAY TO STOP PISTOL-TOTING.

Pistol-toting bills have displaced Legislative space, consumed Legislative time, inspired Legislative oratory, and made holes in Legislative appropriations for many Legislative sessions.

As a result of all of this activity of this pistol-toting proposition, the statute books of Florida are incumbered with a great deal of dead and useless pistol-toting timber.

Those earnest and able advocates of laws

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