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COLUMBUS B. SMITH, Editor.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1907.

He is indeed a pretty sorry man who cannot find somewhere in the history of the past year something to be thankful for.

Alabama has followed the lead of Georgia, the legislature of the State having enacted last week a law which will bring about State prohibition after January 1st, 1909. Other Southern States are contemplating a similar action.

Old "They Say" has it that there was not a single glass turned down at the banquet to the candidates at Ocala. And just think of the prohibition shouters that were there. But the race for office is ever run on words, words, Horatio—Lake land News.

Is it possible that another week has passed and Jacksonville has not put forward one or two candidates for State or National office? What's the matter, Times-Union and Metropolis? Get a hustle on your reporters. Wake 'em up. Surely they are not attending properly to their business.

Judges L. J. Reeves and E. C. Maxwell, both of Pensacola, have been mentioned as suitable material for governor. Either name sounds good to us, principally because we have never heard of either of them being mixed up to an appreciable extent in politics and because we know they are honest, capable men and worthy of the exalted station of governor of Florida.

Ex-Superintendent W. N. Sheats has announced that he will again be a candidate for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction, saying that it is vindication which he seeks from the people rather than the office itself. Of course Mr. Holloway will want to be re-elected and we have no hesitancy in saying that if we are to have a repetition of the campaign of a few years ago between these two gentlemen then it were better that both of them be "snowed under" hard and sufficient and a new man be elected to the place.

November 28th and no call for that extra session of the legislature. Those Tallahassee prophets who predicted that the extra session would convene on December second have missed their mark and should go out of the prophesying business. Let us sincerely hope that the call will be longer and further delayed and that no extra session will be held at all. We believe the rank and file of the people throughout the State are opposed to another expenditure of State money for useless legislation and we don't think the governor can very well afford to issue such proclamation in the face of the strong opposing voice which has sounded against it.

In his speech at DeFuniak the other day, Hon. Jefferson Browne, candidate for governor hit mighty near true when he said, "there are some who want all the offices; who think there are too many 'people's men' in politics, and they want to get them out of their way. They think there are too many on the people's side for the number of offices and try to drive from the ranks of the people those who dare to aspire for an office they want. They want the voters to be 'people's men' but they want no 'people's men' as candidates but themselves." Just consider the political line-up as it stands at present and you will be obliged to admit that the honorable Jefferson B. is pretty near correct. If the "people" would adopt the suggestion of the New Enterprise and positively refuse to listen to, the siren songs of candidates of either of the existing factions, dig out from the ranks of the people men of ability, truth, courage and honesty—and they may be found in plentiful number—and elect them to the offices to be filled we feel safe in saying that the State would receive a benefit of which it might be proud for the balance of time. In our opinion, what is needed more than anything else in Florida is a complete revolution of the political wheel and a clean sweep of every factional politician now holding office.

The present money stringency started in the big towns and of course some of the smaller towns, to be in the fashion, copied after the larger ones and ceased to pay out cash but instead issued Clearing House certificates. Now that is a pretty good scheme but we in Madison prefer the hard coin and the "long green" with our Uncle Samuel's stamp upon it to give it value, and thus far in the game that is all we have had to use—and we confidently believe that Madison banks will not be put to the necessity of issuing anything but the real money. But what we wanted to say is, that if there ever was a time when the citizen should keep his money at home, that time is now. The money which you may send to nearby towns for articles which you could buy just as good and cheap here at home, only adds to the money circulation of that town and takes that much out of circulation in your home town. Keep your money at home, put it in the banks or some place where you can get it back when you need it.

The Sun is rather hard on the candidates for Railroad Commissioner thus far announced. It says: "It does seem as if the people are not yet aroused to the importance of the office of Railroad Commissioner, because no big man has yet announced for it. There are three good men running, but neither of these is big enough in ideas, in experience, in brain and in determination to do, to give the people what they ought to have in this office." Why, down this way, Claude, we think our man Dunn is pretty well equipped to hold down the job and we are gratified to find by reading that he is making a very favorable impression upon the people in the sections of the State which he has visited.

It is really amusing to read the frenzied advertisements of the "Business Men's Association"

of Jacksonville which appear daily in the papers of that city and which seek in frenzied tones to prohibit the calling of a wet or dry election in Duval county. The anti-whiskey people patronize the columns of the city papers pretty liberally also, and to a man up a tree it looks like they have the best of the argument.

Senator Fred M. Hudson of Dade county is being considered as a probable candidate for the office of Attorney-General. Senator Hudson would make a good one. He is a fighter, and by that we mean he knows when, how and whom to fight, and when he gets into a scrap he never hollers "for the calf rope." Added to these qualifications he possesses brains and plenty of legal knowledge. Fact is, we rather like to consider the gentleman in connection with the office of Attorney-General.

Tom Appleyard has become a prophet—a political prophet—and as a starter he prophesies as follows: "Tariff revision will not take place until the spring of 1909, at an extra session of Congress called for that purpose. Our reason for believing this is that the Republicans intend to wait. If, next fall, they elect the President, and in addition choose a majority of the House of Representatives of the 61st Congress, the new President will call a special session of congress, as we have indicated, just as soon as he is sworn in, to meet as soon as possible under the law, for the sole purpose of tariff revision. Dollars to doughnuts this will be the G. O. P. programme."

The Tampa News says that Jules Salomon, candidate for Railroad Commissioner, has 37 speeches prepared for campaign purposes—no two alike, and all guaranteed to make the "dear peepul" feel that in him they have the Moses who will deliver them from bondage." If Jules gets to shooting off those speeches too promiscuously some of his opponents will send to Jacksonville and secure the services of Blodgett—Jules will remember him—and then we fear our good friend Jules will have to climb down off "de band wagon."

SHEPHERD CARVERS.

The Lonely Sheep Tenders of the California Sierras.

There are few lonelier lives in the world than those lived by shepherds in the high meadows of the California Sierras. All alone they follow their sheep, seeing no one for many months of the year but the sheep, their dogs and perhaps an occasional—a very occasional—traveler. Probably this solitude dries up the springs of speech, for they are said to be very silent when they do encounter any one.

One of these strange men is a Basque from the Pyrenees. A lean, dark visaged, ragged fellow, he is now and then overtaken by some wanderer in the mountains. Along the trail before him his sheep feed. His mongrel collie hangs at his heels. He may raise his stick in mute salutation; he may slouch by without a sign. Yet this uncouth being has one talent—he can carve. His amusement is carving quaint sheep buckles out of bone. Every herd has its bellwether, about whose neck hangs a bell. The bell depends from a leather collar, and it is the buckles of these collars that this old Basque shepherd and some of these other Sierra shepherds make in the course of their lonely days. Sometimes a buckle represents a summer's work, for some of them are very elaborate. Some are in the semblance of saints or angels, some have the monograms of the sheep owners or of the shepherds in curious designs. All are patiently cut, bit by bit, with the pocketknife of the shepherd.—Exchange.

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