

# THE MORNING SUN.

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

Issued Daily Except Monday, at Tallahassee, Florida.

Application made for entry as Second Class Mail Matter at the postoffice in Tallahassee, Fla., April 20, 1909.

CLAUDE L'ENGLE, EDITOR

## Brief Review of Work of Session.

Continued from First Page.

and sixty-odd thousand dollars that was taken from them by the unconstitutionality of the former act providing it. This bill was vetoed by the governor and could not be passed over his veto, but the Legislature did its part.

A resolution by the House declaring for the primary system, and requesting the State Democratic committee to call it.

The constitutional amendment declaring for prohibition throughout the State passed the session by a rousing majority in each House, and this question will be given to the voters to incorporate into their organic law at the next general election, or perhaps to reject it. It at least gives the opportunity to the people to express themselves on this question.

These four bills and the resolutions that were passed and will most likely receive the Governor's signature, make a positive action of the Legislature that will offset, counteract, overbalance, and go a long way toward making up for its failure to pass many other good bills that were introduced, and mark the work of this Legislature of 1909 as the best for the general good that has convened in years.

It was too much to expect one body of men to enact into law all of the general REMEDIAL bills that were proposed.

Although the legislative grind seemed long, there is in reality a short time to consider and thresh into shape many proposals for the public good. The legislative machinery is cumbersome and unwieldy, as must be any body composed of men of many idols, aims, plans and purposes, all of which have to be harmonized before there can be that concentration of thought that produces legislation.

There is no doubt that, given one week more, this Legislature, having gotten down to its fighting weight through a course of training that rid it of that adipose tissue uncondusive to hard work, would have placed on the statute books other laws that would have done the people good.

Distinctive and noteworthy as the work of the session of 1909 has been, it is perhaps more distinguished from other sessions for activity of legislative thought and earnestness of legislative endeavors to protect, foster and advance the interests of the masses.

There was introduced, considered and vigorously prosecuted, a bill for State uniformity of text books, which for the third time passed one branch of the legislative body, but this time a little further step was made, in that two bills that would have given this beneficial measure to the people were passed one in each branch. This action positively points to the passage of this bill by the next Legislature as the goal that will be reached as surely as it convenes, and lights the hope in the breast of every parent in this State who has suffered from the exactions of the book trust that he has but two years more to bear the weight of this load on his back and to suffer this strain upon his pocket.

A bill for a tax on inheritances was introduced and went to second reading in one branch and to third reading in the other. Lack of time alone prevented this bill becoming

ing a law. Its advancement to the position it held at the close of the session points the way for the next session.

While no positive action was taken by both houses on the referendum, still, the Senate, by a majority vote of one did declare for it with a loud voice when it tacked it on as an amendment to the Jacksonville charter bill, notwithstanding Senatorial courtesy over a local bill, which has been the rule for years; and the amendment was lost in the House by but one vote.

A constitutional amendment that would have effectually settled the pistol toting habit took an advanced position on the calendar, and so great was the interest manifested in it that it will be easy for the next session to adopt it. This resolution proposed an amendment to the constitution providing that the right to bear arms should be fixed by law and when this is adopted as part of the organic law, statutes regulating the carrying of arms by means of licenses, and bonds for those who wish to carry them, will be certain of enforcement.

A bill extending and more accurately defining the powers of the Railroad Commission passed the House by a very large vote, and failed in the Senate the last day because there was a minority sufficient to prevent the rules being waived and the bill being taken up out of its regular order. This bill deserved to pass, because there was a majority in the Senate ready to pass it, and this proves that majorities don't always rule. But it also points the way for the enactment of the bill at the next session.

A resolution to amend the constitution defining the qualifications of voters failed because of the fear of the prohibitionists to submit this along with the prohibition amendment. This is what is known as the "grandfather clause," and if adopted would forever take the negro out of politics in this State.

There is no doubt that this amendment will be submitted by the next legislature.

The guaranty bank deposit law passed in the popular branch of the Legislature and failed in the Senate, probably because it could not be reached in the regular order, and the impossibility of inducing the minority to consent to waive the rules to take it up out of its regular order, this minority being of sufficient strength to prevent the necessary two-thirds majority at any time. This division in the Senate is practically the same division that appeared in the caucus when Mr. Hudson received for president 21 votes and Mr. Humphreys 11.

It is impossible, in the space at the disposal of this journal and with the facilities that it has for its publication, to attempt a comprehensive review of the work of the Legislature of 1909. This brief mention of some of the bills passed and considered is a selection of what appears to be the most important part of its work and its endeavor.

Comparisons, odious at all times, are particularly so when no good can be accomplished by making them. It would be impossible to single out the work of a few members without being unintentionally unjust to others. It would be equally impossible to characterize the action of some who have appeared not to have the interest of the masses at heart at all times without going into explanations and citing facts and circumstances impossible to set down here.

As the rain falls equally upon the just and the unjust, so will the credit for the good work done by the Legislature of 1909 be shared by those who worked patriotically and with a full and high regard for their oaths of office, and those who seemed to have faltered and fallen by the wayside.

If it were true that to cut out rottenness from the body politic meant a momentary check to an unhealthy seeming prosperity, I should not for one moment hesitate to put the knife to the corruption.—Roosevelt.

We attack only the corrupt men of wealth who find in the purchased politician the most efficient instrument of corruption and in the purchased newspaper the most efficient defender of corruption.—Roosevelt.

Chase Farris promises some day to be a credit to his State.

## BOARD OF ASSESSORS BILL IS UP TO THE GOVERNOR

### House Declined to Extend "Senatorial Courtesy" to Text-Book Bill—Governor Vetoes Pig Bill.

Right into a disheartening, dead calm of inertia, caused by a tiring sixty-days and many-nights session, with colors flying, under a full head of canvas, came House Bill 645, relating to the assessment of railroad property, and providing for appointment of five commissioners to do the work.

By the force of her momentum, and a favorable current, she passed the stake-boat by a vote of 20 to 2.

This is a straight, fair, good bill, and a straight, fair, good Governor can't do other than sign it.

No one seemed much worried about the near approach of the end of the session. Some Senators sat in the windows smoking, while others were chasing pet measures through the jungles of the enrolling committee.

Senator Cone introduced a resolution that the House be asked to waive the rules and take up Senate Bill 390, the uniform text book bill. The resolution was carried but the House refused to take up the bill.

The Carn bill, however, was passed by the House and certified to the Senate. This is practically a duplicate of the Cone bill.

The Governor sent up yesterday the most important veto message of the session, the same being in regard to restricting the wanderations of grown-up pigs in Lake County.

### STATE HOUSE DOPE.

H. A. F.

Alexander does like he does from his own Volution.

Of all leisurely correspondents, J. Ira is the easiest Goer.

Thornton and Stringer have striking facial resemblances. Don't tell either one I said so.

Clarke became excited and actually raised his voice above a whisper.

"I understand your husband is something of an after-dinner speaker."

"Yes," answered young Mrs. Torkins, "what Charley is liable to say after a dinner is the reason we can't keep a cook."—Washington Star.

## BIG FOUNTAIN

For Soft Drinks. Latest Design of Soda Fountain Just Installed at

## HOLMES DRUG COMPANY

A Model of Sanitary Excellence. Agent for Huy-  
lers Candies, Distributers of Fine Cigars. To be  
Sure About Quality, Get it at Holmes . . .  
West Side Munroe St. Tallahassee, Florida