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Andrew Carnegie having recently fully settled the negro problem of this country in his oracular Josiah Bounderby fashion, in which he seemed to take a vast relish in degrading his personal ancestors, now dispose of further controversy in the Cook-Peary dispute by publicly announcing that Peary is the sole discoverer of the North Pole.

Despite the vigorous efforts of a few State contemporaries to infuse life into the various issues to be decided by the people of Florida next year, a dead calm prevails and there isn't a ripple on the surface of our politics. The imperious claims of Christmas are not to be ignored, and until the great holiday has become history candidates, muses, and their partisans might as well "lay low."

The Brooksville Argus strongly insists that the democratic party of Florida should call a convention and proclaim a platform. Platforms are so frequently broken by all political parties nowadays that they have ceased to command much respect, but it does seem that unless we are determined to abolish the system of formally stating party principles and pledges entirely, it is about time we were constructing a new platform for the use of Florida democracy. If we are not mistaken the one now in use is an antique curio made nearly ten years ago which calls in clarion tones for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the divine ratio of 16 to 1. Is that still a living issue in the politics of our State?

Now is the time for the versatile and accomplished editor to busy himself in the arduous work of preparing one of those chaste and beautiful Christmas editorials for which he is so justly celebrated, and which give such a free field for the exercise of his taste and ingenuity in separating what he said last Christmas with such glowing spontaneity that he almost finds himself into thinking that he has said something original.

Up in the circuit court at Tallahassee Judge Maloney, before whom a gang of "blind tigers" were being tried, ruled that "the man who buys liquor from a blind tiger is as guilty as the man who sells it, and that officers of the law, whose sworn duty it is to prevent the commission of crime, as far as it is in their power to do so, have no right to direct a violation of a statute to secure evidence of a supposed crime." This question is important enough to be settled with fine authority by the supreme court. If Judge Maloney's decision is good law it will be glad news to all the blind tigers in Florida, for it will deprive the officers of one of their most effective means of bringing the rascals to justice.

The Jacksonville Metropolis calls attention to the fact that the Egyptian cotton crop is not so insignificant as some people seem to think. In 1909-0 it aggregated 1,250,000 bales. Under existing laws it comes into this country free of duty, to compete with our Sea Island cotton, which, of course, helps to keep the price of the latter down. Frank Clark, our representative in congress, wants to impose a tax upon the foreign cotton to abate the competition with the Florida product, and for this some people want to read him out of the democratic party as advocating the republican doctrine of protection. But as protection is the fixed policy of the government, Mr. Clark doubtless thinks that Florida farmers should get some benefit from it while it lasts, and we suspect that they agree with him.

President Taft last Monday appointed Judge Horace H. Lurton, of Nashville, Tenn., associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, to succeed the late Judge Peckham, of New York. The new appointee has been on the federal bench ever since Cleveland's presidency as judge of the Sixth Circuit, and is recognized as a jurist and citizen of the highest type, the full equal of any one of that group of great judges he has been called to join. President Taft has shown himself broadly sagacious in making this appointment of a Southern democrat to a high place, for which doubtless there were many republican applicants, and he is keeping his promise made on his late journey through the South, that he would make his administration so national the Southern people should feel that the government belonged as much to them as to the people of the North.

Ex-Governor Vardaman, of Mississippi is in Florida and will lecture in Ocala and Tampa, doubtless on the negro question. Here alarmist talk on that issue we do not need in the South. We want to hear from the man who can show us the practical solution—not the agitator who only fills us with gloomy forebodings, stirs our resentment and hate, hardens our prejudices, and by just that much increases the friction and irritation, and makes conditions worse. We have never heard ex-Governor Vardaman, but we have read much of and from him, and from impressions thus gained we cannot think of him as a hopeful counsellor on this issue. One of the prize assets of any Southern community is a really able and well-informed man who is a cheerful philosopher on the negro problem, but there is no man in the world today wise enough to solve it. Only the innumerable agents of evolution, guided by Divine Providence and working through generations, can accomplish that stupendous task.

BRYAN ON PROHIBITION.

We have been hearing much in a flippant and satirical way from certain editors supposed to be cute of their facts, Henry Watterson among them, to the effect that William J. Bryan, in despair of reaching the presidency on any of his old issues, had determined to make national prohibition the leading plank in his political platform. We never believed it. It didn't sound like Mr. Bryan, in whom common sense has always been conspicuous even when leading forlorn hopes.

And now comes The Commoner and confirms our opinion on the subject. In a recent issue of that paper Mr. Bryan fully and finally disposes of the story that he had adopted prohibition as his paramount issue, in the following language:

"For the benefit of Mr. Watterson, to whom ill-natured conduct is peculiarly unbecoming, and of the other editors quoted, it may be said that Mr. Bryan does not expect to see prohibition a paramount issue in national politics. If that ever comes, it is not likely to be in Mr. Bryan's day. Mr. Bryan may, however, be truthfully credited with a desire to assist in securing for the several states absolute and exclusive control over the liquor traffic—including control over all shipments of liquor as soon as the liquor enters the state. It will be interesting to see how some democratic editors will explain their opposition to the good old democratic doctrine that the state ought to be allowed to attend to its own business."

C. H. Stuart, recently of Paragould, Ark., where he had a job printing and newspaper business, is the new editor and manager of the Dunnellon Advocate. Bittinger & Carroll, of the Ocala Star, who own the Advocate, recommend Mr. Stuart very highly, and the Democrat extends him the right hand of fellowship.

That Christmas edition of the Tampa Tribune was fine in all respects, which reminds us to say that since that paper got the full Associated Press dispatches and Lambright resumed his strong and sparkling work on the editorial page, it has moved up into the front rank of Southern dailies, and Wallace Stovall has a right to be proud of the success that has crowned his long endeavors to get there.

Notice of Disolution.

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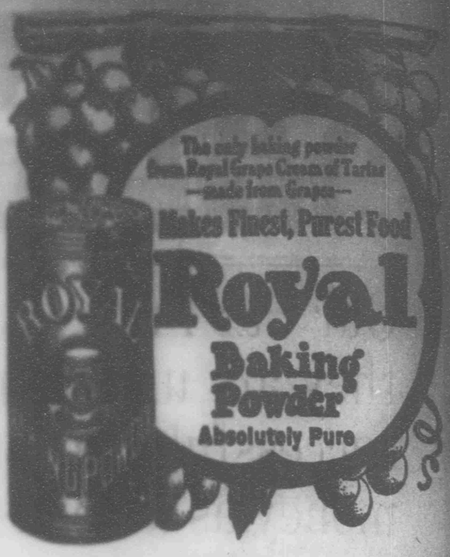

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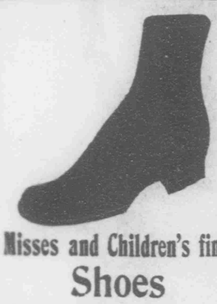

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