THE MORNING SUN

"If Its Right We Are For It." Owned by the People of the State of Florida, Edited by CLAUDE L'ENGLE.

Volume 2
Number 17

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1909.

Five Cents a Copy
50c for the session

WANTS TO CENSURE TRUSTEES

Mr. MacWilliams Thinks a Resolution to This Effect Should Pass.

Just before the close of the afternoon session of the House Mr. MacWilliams asked permission to introduce the report of a special committee.

There being no objections, the report was received and read.

It was the report of the committee appointed to examine the report of the commission appointed in 1907 to investigate I. I. fund matters, and consisted of both a majority and a minority report, the latter being signed by Mr. MacWilliams.

The majority report, signed by all the members of the committee but one, was to the effect that nothing had been found in the report of the 1907 commission upon which to take action, or that warranted any further action being taken.

As Mr. Hilburn said, "No affirmative relief could be afforded by any action the committee would suggest and therefore the committee recommended that the report of the commission be received and no action taken.

The minority report, however, recommended that the trustees of the I. I. Fund be censured by reason of the findings of the commission of 1907, and MacWilliams explained that he recommended this as the only action the house could take. He had first thought impeachment proceedings against the trustees would be proper, but consideration of the matter had convinced him that such proceedings would not lie. He had then considered the possibility of some other action, but had concluded that the only thing that the house could do, owing to the fact that some of the trustees were now out of office, was to pass a resolution of censure.

This minority report was under discussion when the hour of adjournment came, so the matter will go over until today.

The House got itself into a sort of tangle yesterday morning on Mr. Wall's resolution asking that the Governor be authorized to send the State Auditor to Tampa to investigate the books of the Tampa State Fair Association and report to the House previous to the time the House is called upon to appropriate $30,000 to the association to pay premiums, etc.

Mr. Taylor of Hillsborough moved to table the resolution and then withdrew the motion.

Mr. Brown of DeSoto informed the House that the information desired was on file in the office of the Comptroller, and could be had there.

Mr. Carter renewed the motion of Taylor to table the resolution, and the vote was called for.

The chair announced the motion to table was lost, and proceeded to take the vote on the resolution.

In about three minutes more the chair announced that he had mistaken the count on the motion to table, and that the motion was carried.

Mr. Wall then suggested that somebody else might have made a mistake, and wanted the roll called.

This was done to the great apparent confusion of members, for they kept popping up and changing from no to aye and from aye to no, and asking that the resolution be read again, and for information as to what the vote was on, etc., etc.

The resolution was eventually tabled, but members are still whispering that this was done by mistake. At any rate, it may serve as notice that a little, at least a very little, attention to the reading of bills and resolutions by the clerk would facilitate matters somewhat in the future.

The House had up for special order Mr. Hilburn's bill requiring that the Trustees of the I. I. Fund and the Board of Education should publish notice and ask for bids when any lands of the State were to be sold, exceeding in amount 3000 acres. This brought out quite a good bit of discussion but was passed by a vote of 50 to 4.

LOAN SHARK'S REQUIUM WILL BE SUNG

Two Hundred and Twenty-Two of These Gentry Now Operating in Jacksonville. "Business" Argument Avails Not.

"I think the objection to this bill comes very fittingly from Jacksonville.

"It is from Jacksonville that all objections come when questions of morals conflict with questions of dollars and cents.

"It was so on the prohibition question; it is so on the question now under consideration by this House. Representatives from other parts of this State favor this bill, and the only objection urged on this floor to its passage is from the gentleman from Duval.

"All that we have been able to hear at this session of the Legislature is Jacksonville, JACKSONVILLE, JACKSONVILLE!

"Now, it is time to hear from the other parts of the State."

This was the declaration made by Mr. Stokes of Escambia in the House yesterday morning, just before the vote on his "loan shark" bill was taken. The bill was the special order for the morning, and more interest was displayed in it than has been shown in anything else since the prohibition amendment was up.

Many amendments were offered, most of which were accepted, only one or two being refused.

Among the amendments accepted was one by Mr. Smith of Jackson, the author of a majority of the amendments accepted, to the effect that the words "wilfully and knowingly" should be inserted in one place, because "this bill applies to justice of the peace courts and must be in plain English."

Mr. Chase of Duval spoke at some length in opposition to the measure, saying that while he recognized the evil the bill sought to remedy, and admitted its existence, the bill was not practical and would work hardships instead of relieving them.

"This is another one of them business propositions," said the gentleman from Duval; "it is a condition and not a theory" (in the language of another distinguished gentleman) "and this bill provides nothing practical to take the place of the loan man. Without these loan men many poor people would actually suffer, because they can't go into the banks and get money, not having such securities as banks will accept, and if these loan men are put out of business, where can these poor people go to procure loans? Now, I have no interest in any loan business, not a cent on earth, and haven't a relative in the business either, but there are two hundred and twenty-two men in this business in Jacksonville and my duty is to protect the business interests of that city. I believe a high license is the best way to regulate this evil, and all we should do is to regulate it. This bill, as I said, offers nothing practical in the way of correcting the evil, but a high license will be sufficient protection."

When the vote was taken there were found voting against it only Mr. Chase of Duval, Mr. Moore of Franklin and Mr. Boland of Jefferson, while 54 votes were cast in favor of the bill.

Mr. Stokes has been receiving congratulations upon his success in passing this measure, but denies that he expects to go to the United States Senate by reason of it.

It will be remembered that a gentleman from Jacksonville now occupying a most exalted position, was largely responsible for taking from the statutes of this state the usury bill, which, while in force, had prevented such evils as those sought by Mr. Stokes' bill to be remedied.

LIGHT ON THE ATLANTIC COAST LINE

The Member from Marion Digs into Dusty Reports and Produces Transparent Figures in Support of Franchise Tax.

Mr. Speaker and Fellow Legislators:

The assessed value of the physical property of the A. C. L. road in Georgia was in round numbers in 1908, $18,000 a mile. In Florida it was $6,500.

In Georgia the road's franchise value is $5,000 a mile. In Florida, nothing.

In Georgia, in 1907, this road's net earnings were about 20 cents on the dollar; in Florida, in 1906, 30 cents on the dollar.

The total railroad taxes in Georgia in 1907 were $1,266,000; in Florida, $550,000.

The net earnings of the A. C. L., in 1907 were $1,664,150.50, or nearly $1,200 per average mile, or about 18 per cent on its assessed valuation.

If this road in Georgia must pay taxes on $33,979 per average mile, and in Florida $6,500 per average mile, I ask is this road paying its just share of taxes?

If it has a franchise value in Georgia, why has it not one in Florida?

If it clears 10 cents more on the dollar of operating expenses in Florida than in Georgia, why should it pay taxes on but little more than one fourth of its property?

A road whose net earnings amount to 18 per cent. of its assessed valuation, and which pays taxes on one-fifth of its interest bearing bonds, needs the attention of the Legistature.

Mr. Speaker and fellow Legislators, as we must raise about $600,000 or more to meet the deficiencies and demands, will you make this road, which has increased its watered stock in the last two years approximately $24,000,000 (nearly as much as the entire assessed valuation of all the roads in the State)—will you make this road pay its just share of taxes or will you let it off on an assessment of $6,500 a mile?

Will you add to the burden of the people, who can issue no interest bearing bonds, and make them raise the deficiency?

It is up to you Mr Legislator; what are you going to do about it?

This unjust discrimination of taxes must, will and shall be settled, and settled right, and by your vote you must determine whether rich, foreign, strong money-making corporations shall pay their share of taxes or not.

You must answer to the people on this matter.

LIGHT, of Marion.

Next: S. A. L.

WANTED

AND WANTED BAD AND RIGHT NOW—The knowledge if that two column article in the Times-Union, of Sunday, in regard to Light's franchise bill, and the effort put forth by the Times-Union correspondent, is what made him sick? Also, how 4,500 miles of railroad assessed at $10,000 a mile makes $28,000,000 over railroad assessment. Also, some smart fellow to help me figure on that article in Sunday's Times-Union. None but Cornhills need apply. LIGHT, of Marion.

New York's Legislature has passed a law giving to male and female school teachers equal pay for equal work. There never was a time when there should have been any difference in their salaries because of the difference of their sex. The only variation in salary should be bassed on ability. This principle is recognized and observed in the labor unions in which both sexes are employed, and should be recognized by all law making bodies.