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

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.

THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD RULE.

It is the duty of all members of the Legislature to consider EVERY QUESTION that comes before the Legislature on its merits.

They are representatives of the people to whom, for a short time, the people have delegated THEIR INHERENT RIGHT TO RULE.

No man has a right to make laws for another man unless that right is delegated to him by the people in whom alone is inherently vested the right to make laws, which is the right to rule.

When certain men are sent to the Legislature, they do not represent themselves and they have not the right to let their personal feelings, likes or perjudices interfere with the consideration of public questions.

It is THE PEOPLE who sit in the Legislature, and before any question is decided, it should be considered by the representatives of the people strictly on its own merits without regard to the merits or demerits of ANY OTHER QUESTION or of its survival or fall.

Agreements that are made between representatives of the people to vote a certain way on a question before it comes up for consideration in the body in which they represent the people, are against public policy.

As representatives of the people, members of the Legislature have no right to bind themselves to vote for or against any measure, until that measure is properly presented to them in regular order in the body in which the people have delegated to them their voting power.

Discussion in the house yesterday and the day before on the Constitutional Amendment, known as the Grandfather Clause, brought out the fact that certain members had signed an agreement to vote against all Constitutional Amendments, unless they violated some scruple or pledge.

The men who signed this resolution were honest men, zealous in their devotion to the great cause of prohibition.

This is a noble cause, worthy of the support of all men. It is of great importance to this State. Its incorporation as a part of the State Constitution would be a step in the direction of public morals, and would help to save men and boys from the curse of drunkenness, which leads to poverty, disgrace and shame and the suffering of innocent persons.

If is well for representatives of the people TO DO ALL THEY CAN TO AID THE GREAT CAUSE OF PROHIBITION.

But the people's delegates have no right to pledge themselves beforehand to vote against Constitutional amendments because of the fear that the submission of any more Constitutional Amendments at the same time that the prohibition amendment is submitted, might endanger the adoption of the prohibition amendment.

However zealous certain good men might be in the cause of prohibition, they are not doing their duty to the State, and to the people who alone have the inherent right to rule, and who have delegated it to them for a time, when by an agreement or otherwise, they put it beyond their power to consider all questions affecting the people on their merits.

The people have as much right to vote on one question that their representatives see fit to submit to them, as another, and when questions effecting the people are not considered on their merits, but are prejudged beforehand by the representatives of the people, the people are not properly represented.

So, with due appreciation of the motives that prompted certain men to sign an agreement to vote against all constitutional amendments—saving only their consciences and their pledges from the force of the obligation—

And, with all respect to them as good men fully advised of their duty to the people—

I say—

That the men who signed this agreement failed in their duty to all the people, and that they cannot properly represent all the people until they have their names stricken from this list.

SPREADING IT ON THE JOURNAL.

When a petition from Claude L'Engle, a citizen of Florida, was, by ths Speaker, called to the attention of the House yesterday morning, with a request, made by Mr. Register of Hamilton, that the petition be read and spread upon the Journal, Mr. Calkins of Nassau objected, making the statement to back up his objection that it was not right to put petitions on the Journal until they could be looked into, and suggesting that the petition be referred to the judiciary committee, as the petition itself prayed, which was done.

Mr. Register refused to yield to the suggestion of Mr. Calkins, but the presiding officer, Mr. Stokes, ruled with Mr. Calkins.

In order to show that there is nothing wrong in this particular petition to keep it from the public records, and because it refers wholly to details of public business, and because it was read in the House and by this reading became public property, I take the liberty of spreading it on THIS journal, which belongs to the people.

The petition follows:

Sirs:—

Your petitioner, Claude L'Engle, respectfully represents unto you and your Honorable Body, that he is a citizen of the State of Florida. That on a certain day, to-wit, the first day of January, 1909, he was the owner of four hundred shares of the capital stock of the Capital Publishing Company, the same being more than four-fifths of the stock issued by that company, and by reason of this ownership of these four hundred shares, he was President and General Manager of that company.

That on the first day of January, 1909, the Capital Publishing Company of which your petitioner was President and General Manager, as aforesaid, was seized and possessed of the contract to do all of the public printing of the State of Florida at certain prices specified in the contract, and under bond for the faithful performance of that contract: That a clause in that contract distinctly set forth that the Board of State Institutions, on the part of the State, agreed to pay all bills for public printing to the Capital Publishing Company, as soon as the bills were properly approved by the head of the department ordering the printing.

Your petitioner further avers that there was another clause in said contract for State Printing, which distinctly set forth as a part of that contract that the said Capital Publishing Company was to do all the printing for the State of Florida, for all departments now created, and for departments that may be created during the life of said contract.

Your petitioner further avers that on or before the first day of January, 1909, hemade a demand on the Comptroller of the State of Florida for payment of said bills, approved by the departments ordering the work covered by them, to the amount of $3,500, or thereabout, and that the Comptroller, whose duty it is to issue warrants for the payment of all bills against the State, properly presented, for which there is appropriation made, refused to issue said warrants to your petitioner, or to the order of the said Capital Publishing Company, although the funds against which said warrants properly could be drawn, were ample to pay said bills, under the Appropriation Act of 1907, giving as a reason for his refusal that the affairs of the said Capital Publishing Company were such, on account of certain litigation then pending between the Capital City Bank and the Capital Publishing Company, that he could not deliver to your petitioner said warrants, although the Capital Publishing Company was entitled to receive them.

Your petitioner further avers that he thereupon exhibited

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