

EVENING STAR

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Editor and General Manager.

R. R. CARROLL,
City Editor and Business Manager.

April 6 In History.

1348—Laura de Noves, subject of Petrarch's amatory poetry, died.
1843—Wordsworth gazetted by the queen as poet laureate of England.
1890—Obsequies at Arlington cemetery to honor the remains of soldiers who died in Cuba and Porto Rico.
1907—Dr. William Henry Drummond, Canadian poet, died at Cobalt, Ont.; born 1855.

ASTRONOMICAL EVENTS:

Tonight and Tomorrow Morning.
Sun sets 6:26, rises 5:29; moon sets 12:24 a. m.; 8 p. m., planet Uranus at quadrature with the sun, being 90 degrees east of that body.

THE CANDIDATES AT GEIGER

The people of the Geiger precinct did themselves proud in the picnic they tendered the candidates Friday. It was held at the school house in a pleasant grove and was well attended. There were over 200 persons present, two-thirds of whom were voters.

Mr. D. R. Zetrouer, the faithful committeeman of the precinct, presided and introduced the candidates. It was a pleasant surprise to all present to note that Hon. John N. C. Stockton, candidate for governor, was present and when introduced was most cordially greeted.

Mr. Stockton spoke for an hour and touched on the different phases of government. He paid the ladies a pretty compliment. He said there were two kinds of politicians; one set that made a platform to ride into office on, and then not obey it; the other to serve the people. He touched on the power of the board of county commissioners, whom, he declared, had more power than any other body of men in the land, as there were none to veto their acts, hence it was important that they should be the best men in the county. He touched on the meeting of the legislature; how they were met at the depot and conducted to the Leon hotel, ushered into the room of a little man 4½ feet high, who is none other than Peter O. Knight, of Tampa, who represents the corporate interests of the state. He is very anxious to know who the member intends to support for speaker, and if he don't know, he is shown. As the selection of a speaker in the corporate power is very important his election is carefully looked after, for he appoints all the committees and whatever the committees report the legislature generally uphold. These members whom Knight can control are most hospitably treated. Everything is free. If one-fifth of the members can be influenced legislation for the corporate interests is possible.

Mr. Stockton instanced the procedure to show how important it was to have a man as governor who would scrutinize closely every measure passed by the legislature so that vicious legislation could be thwarted by the governor's veto. He said business men control the affairs of the country, paid the country people a high compliment by saying that they knew more than the town people; what they read they had time to think over and determine upon which, while, generally speaking, the city man was so immersed in business he neglected the virtues and responsibility of his sovereignty. He said most of his support would come from the country, and he would lose out in the big cities of the state. He would get quality and not quantity. When he wanted a good man to superintend work he always sent to the country. He took a fall out of the liquor interests and because he was opposed to their business and their methods the liquor men said his political end was in sight. He defied them.

He instanced his early history to show that General Gilchrist was not the only man in the gubernatorial race who began life in an humble way and worked for small wages. His first labor when a mere lad was picking cotton, it taking him three days to pick 100 pounds, for which labor he received 30 cents. This money he gave his widowed mother, who had lost her husband in the Civil war and who, as Major Stockton, had mustered into service nearly all the soldiers from Florida who served in the war.

He was a candidate because in response to his proposed candidacy he received a thousand letters from all over the state saying he must make the race. A prominent corporation man said to Stockton: "God made the classes as well as the masses." True, replied the speaker, only the classes had forgotten God, while the masses still depended on him. He said platforms were nothing in a man's candidacy; a man's life was everything. If he was true to himself and God he would be faithful to every trust.

He noticed the ladies of a certain city had certified to the good name of a candidate. He was thankful that he did not need such a recommendation, as he had been in business for

thirty-five years and his life was open for the inspection of all.

Mr. Stockton said he had made government a study for thirty years and detailed Jacksonville's effort at cooperation in public utilities; said the result of said effort was that now his lights cost just one-fourth of what they did under private ownership. That what he saved in this item alone in a year paid the taxes on his property. That the electric light and water plants' profits paid the interest on the city's bonded debt.

He believed in the railroad commission. Many people said he was too extreme and too hard on the railroads. He did not think so because the S. A. L. railroad cost to construct and equip it \$15,000 a mile and yet it is bonded for \$50,000 a mile, and who pays the interest on this indebtedness? The people. The East Coast railroad was bonded for \$20,000 a mile and the contentions of its officials were that the rates proposed by the railroad commission were too low, that it would not pay operating expenses. Investigation disclosed the fact that the railroad's contentions were not true, that outside matters, such as boat lines to Nassau, etc., caused deficiencies.

The speaker touched on education, and said he believed in it. He referred to Governor Broward's efforts to rescue what public lands yet remained from the maw of the corporations. Said he believed in drainage if it could be made profitable to the people. He had inspected the drained land and saw tomatoes growing today where four months ago four feet of water stood on the land.

He spoke of his candidacy four years ago for the senate and that those opposing him had spent \$380,000 to defeat him. That in Lafayette county one vote cost his opponents \$500. Spoke about false statements and unfair reports. He referred to the efforts of his opponents to reflect on his character in his dealings with the city of Jacksonville in a paving contract. Insinuating reports were spread broadcast and the report of the city council was withheld for a long time, and when it did come forth it was a mild censure on the way it was done. But on learning that the report was to be made, Mr. Stockton attended a meeting of the council and asked to be allowed to make a statement, which request was granted. The Metropolis (not in his favor) published the report and his statement side by side; also the Times-Union, which was all he could ask. But then comes Albert Gilchrist, candidate for governor, who sends out a circular which includes this council report, reflecting on him, but not a word concerning his statement showing that the council report was biased and unfair. He desired to be fair and wished the same consideration from his opponents.

He touched on inequalities of taxation, which bore heaviest on the small farmer. If elected he proposed the big fish should swim in shallow water. Was opposed to the United States courts nullifying acts of the railroad commission; desired to see the state primary law improved; said the appointment to office in Volusia county arose out of the fact that there had not been an honest election in that county in ten years. The liquor business benefited few, ruined many. There was an old law enacted forty years ago that gave the governor power to summarily suppress blind tigers and every one in this business caught was worth \$207 to the state. He spoke of good citizenship and how it was the duty of a man to vote on the liquor interest as his wife wished him to and a man who would not do this was recreant to his home and which homes formed the basis of our government.

Mr. Stockton was given a most attentive hearing. The people were delighted to think that he had sprung a surprise on them by his presence, but he said he had been invited and could not ignore the request and was indeed pleased to be present.

Then followed such a dinner as the good wives and the fair maids of that favored section bear a reputation for. An hour was spent around the festive board and the speaking again progressed. C. L. Bittinger was the first on the list, as a candidate for the legislature. He said that he had no platform or no promises to make, but would stand for everything that came before him, if elected, on its merits; to give diligent attention to his duties, to study every question that came up to the best of his information and judgment; to serve the people faithfully, not to forget that he was their servant and to stand for every principle of justice and equity as between man and man; that he opposed graft, believed in honest government, was for sobriety and the efficient maintenance of the state government on lines of economy. That he favored good roads, good schools, pensions for the old soldiers and everything that meant progress to every material and moral interest in the state.

W. D. Carn, another candidate for the legislature, followed and made a good and acceptable speech. The reporter was called away and only heard a part of it. He, of course, favored the school interests, uniformity of text books as a great saving to the county and state; believed in a railroad commission and stool for local option or prohibition. He was in the house of his friends and was warmly applauded.

Mr. L. S. Light, candidate for the legislature, followed Mr. Carn. Mr. Light has formulated a large chart, on which he displays the expenses of the state government for decades; how taxes have advanced from a few mills on the dollar until now they

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amount to about \$4 a head. His platform is: Cut expenses; equal and lower taxes. His plea in a word was that the assessed value of the state is one hundred and forty million. Governor Broward says it is nearer 300 million dollars than 140 million and from this basis Mr. Light contends this being the case, the taxation should be lower. His cut expenses embraces too many clerkships in the legislature; pages are paid too much; that the state board of health spent last year \$64,000; too much by \$40,000. Believed uniformity of school books would save the state \$100,000 a year. That you can cut \$300,000 in salaries. Said half of the property in the state paid no taxes. That the railroads do not pay on 85 million dollars worth of property. All of which is fault of past legislatures. Objects to expense of higher institutions of learning. They cost one-fifth of the expense of our schools. This is all wrong. Found fault with taxation of banks, state and national, and took Assessor Ayer to task for not getting after the Ocala banks when he was sure there was a nigger in the woodpile. That the bonding of railroads must cease, for the producer must pay the interest of same. Was going to the legislature to correct all these evils; was as sure he was going to be elected as he was that there was a God in heaven, and when he got there he would gnaw the bone until his colleague in the legislature would come to his way of thinking and accomplish all the reforms he contended for on the stump. He had no fight to make on prohibition. Mr. Light's fervent declarations that he would be elected as sure as a supreme being ruled the universe elicited intense applause.

Dr. Griffith, another candidate for the legislature, was not present and sending his regrets stated that sick patients kept him away.

R. W. Erwin presented his claims for the position of superintendent of public schools. He favored uniformity of text books, but thought the change should be gradually so those who used them would not be burden-

ed too much at one time. He thought the change would be worth ten thousand dollars to the county. He gave his record as a teacher for the past seven years in Marion as qualifying him for the position. Said if elected would visit every school and faithfully inspect same. Prof. J. H. Brinson was absent and the editor of the Star made his excuses.

Next came the candidates for sheriff. First, John P. Galloway, who said his past record as sheriff of Sumter county was his credentials for the office. C. Y. Miller, another candidate, said his record of twenty years in Marion was his best asset. J. L. Smoak presented his residence of twenty-three years as an evidence of his good faith and ability to perform the duties of the office. That the people for the past twelve months had sought him to run. John L. Edwards was the last of the four candidates for this office. He made a business-like statement and said he had been importuned to become a candidate and after looking the field over consented. If elected he would conduct the office in a business-like manner and would be sheriff in name and conduct of the same. He presented his life among the citizens of this county as his credentials for fidelity to duty and impartial execution of the same.

Mr. Alfred Ayer, the present incumbent of the assessor's office, made a taking talk and his humorous remarks created roars of laughter. He said he had only words of commendation for his opponent; was a fine fellow and a good clerk, as he had served him well, but if that was the way his pupils were going to do him he would prepare no more boys in his office to rob him of his job, but in the future would hire girls; they were better than boys and wouldn't come bobbing up every two years and try for his shoes. He said he had learned much in the eight years he had had charge of his office, which was invaluable experience that any new man would need. He took Light to task for his criticism of his, the assessor's work, and plainly showed that Light was off on Ayer's job. That there was a law governing the duties of the assessor and if this law was complied with, which he thought he had done, he had done his duty. It was easy to say thus and so but difficult to make declarations good.

Mr. J. P. Phillips, Mr. Ayer's opponent, followed and made things lively for his opponent and interesting to the crowd. He met his old friend at every point and carried the game of candidate talk very successfully. He acquitted himself well for a beginner.

Dow Beck, of Cottage Hill, presented his claims as a candidate for county commissioner by instancing his citizenship of forty-one years in his section. He made a few statements about the jury box business, drawing of jurors and judges of election that Mr. Edwards, as chairman of the board of county commissioners had to correct.

Ben Freyermouth, of Cotton Plant, said he had toted the skillet of other aspirants for forty years and this time he had a desire for office. Told interesting reminiscences of the late General Robert Bullock and the campaign of 1876, when he piloted General Bullock into the cedar swamp of

Levy county where he addressed six hundred cedar choppers and through his eloquence turned the state over from radicalism to safe and sane democracy. He spoke of Stockton as the next governor. He believed in good roads and spoke with pride of Ocala and the new courthouse.

J. M. Mathews, of Flemington, was too busy plowing to be present, but sent word that he was in the race.

The audience gave the candidates a patient and respectful hearing and evidently enjoyed the oratory of the day.

Notes

The Geigerites did us all proud. A barrel of lemonade and a barrel of ice water were on tap. All the section's prominent citizens were in evidence and the glad hand of its people was extended to all. There is not a better section or people in good old Marion. They are industrious and thrifty, have good homes, live comfortably and believe in the good things in life and that they are worth living for. They are successful truckers and farmers and if rainfall comes in time their fields of beans will mean money in their pockets.

Among old friends with whom we renewed social ties were the Geigers, W. W. D. L. and S. P., D. R. Zetrouer and J. B. Harrell. Micanopy had a large delegation present, notably, Waterman Johnson, Revs. Slstrunk and Thrasher, Methodist and Baptist representatives, Mr. Gunter, the horse and livery man, Merchant Chitty, Mrs. Sue Feaster, who has so many friends in Ocala, S. A. Neil, the prosperous farmer. He had placed back of the speaker's stand a bunch of very fine grapefruit as an evidence that it was grown in that section and for which the writer is indebted to Mr. Neil.

Geiger is proud of her school with Miss Annie Long, of Eve, teacher. It ran seven months and the school made an average of 90, a splendid showing. The day was greatly enjoyed and all the candidates went away happy, as all had friends among the voters.

IMPORTANT SCHOOL ELECTION

Tomorrow there will be an election for sub-school trustees for the Ocala precinct. Those now serving are Dr. J. E. Chace, W. T. Gary and G. W. Martin. They will no doubt be voted for again, as there is no opposition, but all the same, it behooves voters to go to the polls and declare how much millage they wish assessed for school purposes. The voting booth will be either in the band stand or courthouse. Voters, come out and do your duty.

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