

EVENING STAR

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C. L. BITTINGER,
Editor and General Manager.

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

CANDIDATES AT CANDLER

The candidates invaded the pretty and peaceful precincts of Candler Tuesday and did the handshaking act and speak to the limit. They were met by Committeeman Tom Pritchett, who did the honors most acceptably and saw that none were overlooked.

The noon hour was spent at the attractive home of Mrs. Belle Holtzclaw, where the candidates were the guests of that modest but sterling and high-toned gentleman, Mr. P. H. Nugent, and sat down to a feast fit for the gods in tempting menu and immaculate linen and all the accessories of table adornment. It did appeal to the eye and the senses and the candidates were loud in their unstinted praise of that excellent woman's cuisine. They all asserted they would never forget the day and the feast spread before them.

Those who surrounded that festive board and made the hour memorable with genuine sociability and good will were the following persons: Messrs. L. S. Light, W. L. Martin, W. D. Carn, C. L. Bittinger, S. R. Pyles, E. L. Carney, H. W. Long, C. Y. Miller, J. P. Galloway, J. L. Smoak, R. W. Erwin, J. L. Edwards, J. T. Phillips, A. D. Mitchell, Will D. Graham and Joe Thomas.

It was amusing to note how deeply interested the candidates were in the orange groves and peach orchards and their prospective crops. We regret to say the orange crop will be a light one owing to the long drouth, while the peach crop was affected too, but not to the extent of the orange crop. The February cold snaps did some damage to the peach bloom, but the crop of peaches at Candler will be a good one and the fortunate owners are looking forward with renewed hopes to their shipments of early June peaches and receiving good prices for same.

Mrs. Quick, speaking of her husband's orchard, said that they had taken the precaution to fire a part of a ten-acre orchard and noticed good results from same, as the crop is much heavier on the protected portion than that not protected. Mr. Quick, who is the affable and up-to-date agent at Candler, has seventeen acres in peach orchard and indications are he will ship 1,000 crates. Of course, there are others, but we can't now recall them, except that of Prof. McKinney, the pioneer and successful grower of the place.

The candidates had to take a look at Tom Pritchett's melon field, the finest we have seen so far and we believe the finest in the state. The ground is covered with a perfect network of vines and melons are as plentiful on them as bugs in June, and they are beauties—plenty that would weigh twenty or twenty-five pounds. So far advanced are the melons that Mr. Pritchett has a buyer for them at \$225 a car and the first car will go forward next Wednesday, the 20th of May. In this early delivery Candler will stand at the head of the procession and Tom Pritchett is proud of the distinction he has won as a successful melon grower, but which is in line with his progressive ideas—no matter what he puts his shoulder to, whether it be making or managing an orange grove, peach orchard or whatnot.

We had a pleasant chat with Capt. DeLong, one of the pioneer settlers of Candler. Though age is creeping upon him, he is as bright and cheery as of yore, attending to his store and the duties of postmaster, looking after his beautiful orange grove and interested with his son-in-law, Mr. John R. Mathews, in as fine a bunch of calves as can be seen anywhere and making quite a success of the cattle business.

Others we saw and spoke to were Messrs. Caldwell, Sr. and Jr., Messrs. Hyde, Sr. and Jr., Bob Mitchell, Jim Hall and others. Those who came over to see the candidates from South Lake Weir were Mr. Sigmon and his two sons, John and Lawson Sigmon, and his two pleasing daughters, Misses Sallie and Julia, including Miss Lottie May Black, of Weirsdale.

The speaking over most of the candidates left for home, except Messrs. Light, Erwin and Martin, who took to the woods across to Oklawaha, but will be in evidence at Lynne tomorrow.

While in Candler we made a pleasant call at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Hall, where we enjoyed a chat with Mrs. Hall and her charming daughter, Miss Blanche, one of the successful school teachers of the county. Mrs. Hall is a living witness of the efficiency of our climate for lung trouble. Thirty-two years ago Mr. and Mrs. Hall came to Marion county from Missouri. She was then suffering from lung trouble and so far advanced was her case that her life was despaired of and some eminent physicians said she could not live. But they came to our health giving climate and although she is not a strong woman now, she is able to be about her home, bright, cheerful and helpful, a sunbeam to her friends and a radiant ray of light to her family. These good people came overland from Missouri. Mr. Tom Rickard's family

were their traveling companions, their homes being in prairie schooners and the propelling power, mules. They passed through Ocala as they journeyed southward and started here a day and were interviewed by Editor Frank Harris and the late John F. Dunn, who told them all about the fertility of Marion and her beautiful Lake Weir and that it why they sought a home within sight of its shining shores and although having passed through all vicissitudes and trials of life and the wreck of the big freeze of 1894-'95, they are still happy and have no regrets, but contented to think they can and do enjoy life under the gorgeous canopy of our southern sky and its sun-kissed breezes.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The high school graduates have issued their invitations for the graduating exercises to be held Friday evening, May 22nd, 8 o'clock, at the First Baptist church. The graduates this year are Ralph K. Robinson, Annie M. Atkinson, Mary Gates, Lawrence Price and Genevieve Smith. Mr. Robinson is president of the class and Miss Atkinson secretary and treasurer. It is needless to add that the church will not hold the large audience that will gather to hear them.

COL. R. F. ROGERS

This gentleman's name you will find on the county ballot for state executive committeeman from Marion county. Col. Rogers is so well known not only as a gentleman and largely interested in the turpentine belt, but as one of the true and tried democrats of the land, that it should be a pleasure to every voter to cast a ballot for him, which we trust will be the case.

RESOURCEFUL AND SUCCESSFUL

While at Citra we had the pleasure of making the trip from Citra with W. J. Crosby to McIntosh, seeing some of the work in which he is engaged. Mr. Crosby is general manager of twelve extensive orange groves, which are in the name of the White & Williams Co. and extend from Citra to the Oaklawn junction. Over this territory he has three capable overseers, and whose work he daily supervises. In our trip we passed several of these groves, looking well, and passed through one which is a new grove and created since the big freeze of 1894-'95. It is a thing of beauty, covering nearly thirty acres of ground and a good producer. Mr. Crosby, in his grove operations, employs an average of thirty men through the year, has sixteen mules and two horses he uses in farming, raises all the feed his live stock consume and what is the real business of the general superintendent or manager is the financing of all this property and he has done all of this so successfully that at the end of the year he has been able to reimburse himself and declare a respectable dividend for the owners. Two years ago he harvested 12,000 boxes of fruit. The past season he marketed 14,000 boxes and did it successfully. We mention the above fact for the purpose of aiding the voters in the fifth commissioners' district to decide what manner of business man Mr. Crosby is and the need of such a thorough-going and systematic business man as he. Mr. Crosby's history since his advent into Citra some eight years ago has been a wonder to those who have seen the business genius he has displayed in it all and stamps him as one of the marked young men of our county. The county of Marion cannot have too many men of Mr. Crosby's stamp, gauged, if you will, in any and every walk of life.

Candidate for the legislature W. L. Martin, of Sparr, said at Flemington that he deemed the letter sent by the Marion County Anti-Saloon League to the legislative candidates an impertinence.

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MURDER IN SECOND DEGREE

Was the Verdict Brought by the Jury Against John S. O'Neill

All yesterday morning the circuit court was occupied in getting a jury to try the homicide case of John S. O'Neill, for killing Simeon McClendon at Belleview in Mr. C. A. Tremere's store, several months ago. The defendant was represented by Attorney R. B. Bullock, and Mr. E. W. Davis conducted the prosecution for the state.

The jury was secured by noon and sworn and placed in charge of Bailiff George W. Smith. There were half a dozen witnesses for the state. The reporter heard the testimony of J. N. Shedd and Mat Dudley. Both worked in the store and were eye witnesses. We did not hear the testimony leading up to the killing, but that part of it was to the effect that John O'Neill walked into the store with his shotgun, raised it to his side and fired without saying anything to McClendon, and McClendon fell dead. O'Neill then walked out and said to some one, "Well, I've done it," and then if any one else wanted a similar dose they could get it, or words to that effect. He then gave himself up to an officer. Following are the jurors:

J. H. Randall, R. E. Brigrance, S. R. Long, Harry Leavengood, J. M. Blitch, J. B. George, R. H. Scott, E. S. Jennings, S. A. Neal, Rhodes Whittington, Harmon Sherouse and Drew Mathews.

The jury after wrestling with the evidence, guarded in their deliberations all night, brought in a verdict this morning of murder in the second degree. We understand nine were for murder in the first degree, but three jurors stood out so determinedly the nine yielded to them. R. B. Bullock defended the prisoner and did it so effectively that he saved his client's neck.

THE PRESBYTERIAN UNION

Today and tomorrow the Ladies' Foreign Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Union of the Suwannee Presbytery are in session in the Presbyterian church in this city. The meetings are open to all and those who have time and inclination can pass an hour very pleasantly with these splendid women.

The following delegates are in attendance: Mesdames J. H. McLaurin, Charles Marvin and Misses Agnes Davidson and Ida Stafford, from the first Presbyterian church of Jacksonville; Mrs. Mattie Fort, from East Jacksonville church; Mrs. D. W. Johnson, from Johnson's Lake; Mrs. Jackson, from Archer; Mesdames Hay, Evans and Hyde from Gainesville; Mrs. A. J. Henry, from Lake City, and Misses Ballantyne and McIntosh, from Luraville.

The morning session was devoted to an address of welcome by Mrs. R. L. Anderson, responded to by Miss Mattie Fort, and the enrollment of delegates, reading of minutes, appointment of committees, reports of delegates, committees, treasurer, etc. In the afternoon report of Presbyterian visitor, discussion of the young people's work, Mrs. John H. Taylor sang and Mrs. Charles Marvin of Jacksonville, discussed the early history of organized woman's work, and Mrs. W. H. Anthony spoke in the spirit of missions. Tonight midweek prayer meeting.

BELLEVIEW'S NEW OFFICIALS

A municipal election was held in Belleview yesterday and the following are the persons elected: Mayor, Jos. Millsom; clerk, treasurer and assessor, L. L. Hopkins; collector, Amos Nott; councilmen for two years, J. A. Freeman, J. J. Nelson and R. C. Ridge.

THE SOAP BERRY NUT

Col. Livingston is in receipt of a very encouraging letter from a soap manufacturer making inquiries about the soap berry nut and asking him to name a price for his crop. The soap berry tree is getting into prominence in Florida and from the present indications it won't be long before you will see this tree cultivated like the orange tree is now.

J. L. Miller, the Martel cattleman, was in town this morning bringing in a very valuable horse which was stolen from Bob Atkins, the Leesburg liveryman. Mr. Miller captured the animal from Ed Armstrong, a negro. The negro sold the horse for \$50.

Messrs. Jesse Blitch and J. B. George, of the Montbrook section, who served on the O'Neill murder case, returned to their homes this morning, after paying the Star a pleasant call.

Messrs. A. J. Ellis and Louis Hall, two young men of Citra, were in town today. Mr. Ellis said there would be a big delegation of Citra folks at the Pine picnic.

Mr. W. H. Goldfoil, an enterprising farmer of the Romeo section, came in today to be a witness before the circuit court. Mr. G. said it was extremely dry in his section and crops will be stunted on account of scarcity of rain.

GOOD THING TO DIE WITH

Some one said religion and life insurance were good things to die with. See the "man," he will tell you where to get both. M. D. Wilson is the "man."

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