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Good Government; Honesty in Public Office; Equal Justice to All--Special Privileges to None.

For Payment of Wailes Claim

Fight Will Be Made—Congressman Clark, of Florida, Will Represent Claimant.

The next legislature will be given an opportunity to do tardy justice to Col. S. L. Wailes, who has for a lengthy period held a claim against the State the validity of which cannot be questioned in view of its repeated authentication by various governors and congressmen, and whose work in this connection resulted in the payment by the government into the treasury of the State of a sum aggregating $1,089,158.66.

A determined effort will be made at the forthcoming session, which convenes April 6, to collect this claim, and the claimant has employed Congressman Clark, of the Second district, one of the ablest lawyers in the State, to push the matter, and a brief has been prepared which is now being mailed to the various members of the legislature setting forth the salient features of the case.

The legislature of 1877 authorized the Governor of Florida to appoint an agent to settle the claims of the State against the United States government growing out of the Indian hostilities from the year 1849 to 1857 inclusive.

It was on June 12, 1879, that Governor George F. Drew wrote a letter to Col. S. L. Wailes expressing satisfaction with certain work for the State that Col. Wailes had been employed to do and informing him that the State had decided to employ him as the State agent to collect the Indian war claim. Three conditions were attached to this proposed employment: first, that Col. Wailes should associate with him Col. W. K. Beard, a citizen of the State; second, that Col. Wailes should pay all expenses incident to work, and third, that his compensation should be 15 per cent of the amount collected. The result was that Col. Wailes accepted the employment and kept continuously at it for twenty years, encountering and surmounting many difficulties in the way of collection and spending of his own funds to the amount above $53,000 in the meantime, to say nothing of his own labor expended in the effort until the sum was eventually paid into the State treasury.

NEVER PAID A PENNY.

So far Col. Wailes has never received one cent of compensation for his services. The legislature of 1903 voted him an appropriation of $25,000 in compensation, but this amount has remained from that date in the State treasury subject to his call, it is true, but spurned by him as being totally inadequate and insufficient to cover the actual expense of the cost of collection, and even though the claimant is now in poverty he will not accept this "sop," as it were, contending for the full amount pledged him under solemn contract with the State.

In the brief which has been filed by the attorneys for Col. Wailes it is stated there are two ways to settle the matter. One is for the legislature to carry out the contract as made by Gov. Drew by appropriating $163,373.79 to the payment of the claim, this being 15 per cent of the total amount of cash, and State's obligations placed in the State's treasury through his efforts, or by enacting appropriate legislation permitting Col. Wailes to go into the courts with his claim to decide between him and the State.

It is cited in the brief that it is contrary to the law of Florida to sue the State without the consent of the legislature, and further that this matter should be settled speedily and finally in justice to all concerned. It is averred that the plain duty of the legislature under the express terms of the contract is to pay Col. Wailes the 15 per cent of the $1,089,158.66, which is the amount recovered from the federal government, as this is what the courts would probably decree between persons, and that the State should be as just as the courts would require individuals to be. The attorneys pray, however, that if the legislature should determine that it should not make such an appropriation that it should provide a way and a tribunal by which and in which the rights of Col. Wailes may be fully investigated and finally determined.

WILL BE AN ISSUE.

The matter promises to be one of the issues of importance before the next legislature. The brief, which has been submitted by the attorneys to the members in advance, is only in the form of a preliminary bout, as it were. They disclaim any purpose or intention of lobbying for the passage of an appropriation. They assert that it is not the desire of Col. Wailes to lobby and it is far from the desire of his attorneys to engage in any such devices for the passage of the measure, but they do say that they do expect to appear before the proper committee at the proper

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HON. H. CLAY CRAWFORD.

Something of the Man Who is Florida's Secretary of State.

Henry Clay Crawford, twelfth Secretary of State since the admission of Florida into the Union, was born in Bainbridge, Georgia, on the 5th of April, 1856, and was reared on the "Old Plantation" near Crawfordville, in Wakulla county, Florida. He was married February 22d, 1881, to Anna Moring, of Crawfordville, and for several years thereafter was engaged in the mercantile business.

Mr. Crawford's political career began in 1887, when he was elected to the Florida Legislature from Wakulla county. It will be remembered that the Legislature of that year was marked by the spirited contest for the United States Senatorship between former Governor Bloxham and Governor Perry. Eight years before, Governor Bloxham had appointed the father of the Wakulla Representative to be Secretary of State, and four years thereafter Governor Perry had performed a like service, and Mr. Crawford found himself under obligations to both candidates. He espoused the cause of Governor Bloxham, however, and supported him throughout the long and bitter contest, which finally resulted in the election of Senator Samuel Pasco.

In January, 1889, Mr. Crawford accepted a clerkship in the office of the Secretary of State, which position he held continuously until the death of his father in January, 1902, when Governor Jennings appointed him, without his making application for the said position, to succeed his father, which appointment extended only until the next general election, and in the primary of 1902 he was elected without opposition. In the campaign of 1904 he was opposed for re-election by two ex-State Senators. In the first primary he failed by only a few votes of securing a majority over both opponents, and was forced to go into a second primary, in which he was elected by a majority of more than five thousand votes, and in the primary of 1908 he was again elected without opposition.

No man in this State was ever reared in a better political school, no man ever imbibed his ideas of democracy from a purer source; and those who know him best will be the first to say that no man ever more faithfully applied the fundamental principles of democracy to the political problems with which he has had to cope in his official and political life.

He comes from an old and distinguished Southern family. Among his most prominent ancestors is his great uncle, William Harris Crawford, who was in the public eye along with Webster, Calhoun and Clay. He was United States Senator from Georgia; first President pro tempore of the United States Senate; Secretary of War under President Madison; Secretary of the Treasury under President Monroe, and refused the same position under President John Quincy Adams; was Minister to France during the reign of Napoleon, and was the regular caucus nominee of the Democratic party in 1824 for the Presidency. Another kinsman, George W. Crawford, was Governor of Georgia and Secretary of War. Other ancestors held various positions of honor and trust, one being Secretary of State of Georgia for many years, while his own father was Secretary of State of Florida for twenty one years. In inheriting the political tendencies of his ancestors, the present Secretary of State also exemplifies in his political and private life a frankness of character, honesty of purpose and simplicity of manner that won such high and honorable positions for those who wrote the family name in the political history of the past century. There is nothing resembling ostentation about Mr. Crawford, it has always been his belief and practice that official trusts should make all public servants what the name really implies, not the beneficiary, but the trustee, of the people, subservient at all times to the will and wishes of those from whose hands the trust was received. He is extremely simple in his manner, is easy of approach, and eager in his desire to always accommodate those having business in his department. He is what might be termed a "Working Official," not too good to "punch" a typewriter or transcribe a record, or do anything else connected with the work of his office.

He is ex-officio State Librarian, custodian of the Capitol building and grounds, and member of the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions, the Pardoning Board, the Board of Education and the State Canvassing Board. He is also custodian of the Great Seal of the State and State records. He also has supervision of the compilation and publication of the legislative acts, and of all matters relating to corporations chartered by the State.

Mr. Crawford is Grand Vice-Chancellor of the Order of Knights of Pythias, and takes a great interest in the Order.

His wife died in September, 1908. He has six children, William Bloxham, of Pensacola, John T. G., of Jacksonville, and Genevieve, Gladys, Henry Clay, Jr., and George Gwynn, who live with him in Tallahassee.

The Secretary's greatest pleasure and life hobby is hunting wild ducks and geese. He knows every cove and creek between the Ocklockonee and Waclasa rivers, and those who have enjoyed the pleasure of a trip with him will testify that Clay Crawford knows where and how to "bag the ducks." He is never happier than when on his duck stand in the marsh grass, with his feet buried in the mud, and his famous Chesapeake Bay dog, Van, by his side, watching for the passing duck or goose; unless it be around the camp fire at night when he loves to dwell upon the scenes, and tell of his experiences, in those creeks and coves, in the days of long ago when he hunted in them as a boy.

Applications Made For Pardons

Some Were Granted And Some Denied. Regular Monthly Meetings For Consideration of Such Requests.

The State Board of Pardons will adhere to old rule of holding a regular meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The proceedings of the Board at last meeting were as follows:

The Pardoning Board met at the Executive Office at ten o'clock a. m., all members present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

JOHN HENRY GLISSON.

Judge B. S. Liddon presented the application of John Henry Glisson for pardon from a conviction of manslaughter and sentence of ten years imprisonment by the Circuit Court for Jackson county at the Spring Term, 1907. The application was duly considered and it was ordered that it be denied.

LEE GATESWOOD.

Hon. John R. Willis presented the application of Lee Gateswood for pardon from a conviction of manslaughter and sentence of twenty years imprisonment by the Circuit Court for Pasco county at the Spring Term, 1900. It appearing that at the time of the homicide the applicant was only 16 or 17 years of age, that he has now served about nine years in State prison, in addition to having been more than two years in jail before sentence, and petitions being presented from numerous representative citizens of Pasco county, it is therefore ordered that the Commissioner of Agriculture make investigation of applicant's prison record, and if same has been good that a conditional pardon be granted to the applicant, Lee Gateswood.

CHARLIE HOLMES.

Mr. W. C. Hodges presented the application of Charlie Holmes for pardon from a conviction of second larceny and sentence of three years imprisonment by the Criminal Court of Record of Duval county in August, 1906. It appearing that applicant was convicted of the theft of one pair of shoes of the value of $1 75, that all but about one month of his three years sentence has been served, that his prison conduct has been good, and the application being endorsed by numerous citizens of Brunswick, Ga., the former home of applicant, it is therefore ordered that a conditional pardon be granted to the applicant, Charlie Holmes.

DAVID LONDON.

Mr. W. C. Hodges presented the application of David London for pardon from a conviction of grand larceny and sentence of fifteen years imprisonment by the Circuit Court for Duval county at the Spring Term, 1899. It appearing that applicant was convicted of the larceny of one dozen silk skirts, that he has now served about ten years imprisonment for said crime, that he is 65 years of age and broken in health, and that his application is very strongly endorsed by prison officials because of his exemplary prison conduct, it is therefore ordered that a conditional pardon be granted to the applicant, David London.

WILLIS POPE.

Hon. J. R. Willis presented the application of Willis Pope for pardon from a conviction of assault with intent to murder and sentence of three years imprisonment by the Circuit Court for Levy county at the Spring Term, 1908. After due consideration, it was ordered that this application be passed over for further consideration at some future date.

GEORGE WILLIAMS AN DAYTON WILLIAMS.

Hon. J. R. Willis presented the application of George Williams and Dayton Williams for pardon from conviction of assault with intent to murder and sentence of ten years imprisonment each by the Circuit Court for Levy county at the Spring Term, 1907. After due consideration, it was ordered that these applications be denied.

LUM HEWITT.

Mr. W. C. Hodges presented the application of Lum Hewitt for pardon from a conviction of murder in the second degree and sentence of life imprisonment by the Circuit Court for Duval county at the Fall Term, 1898. It appearing that at the time of the homicide the applicant was only 15 or 16 years old, that he was instigated therein largely by two older brothers, that this application is endorsed by numerous representative citizens of Bradford county, applicant's former home, by the prison officials under whom applicant has served, and by Circuit Judge R. M. Call, before whom he was tried, it is therefore, upon consideration, ordered that a conditional pardon be granted to the applicant, Lum Hewitt.

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