

FLORIDA TOPICS

Short Items from all Sections of the State

Lakeland's new cigar factory will soon be in operation.

The Plant City Courier estimates the loss by last week's fire at \$75,000, with \$10,000 insurance.

The Tampa cigar manufacturers need two thousand more cigar makers to be able to fill fall orders.

A wet and dry election was held in Citrus county Friday, the vote being overwhelmingly in favor of a dry county.

The Florida Poultry Association will hold its second annual show at Orlando, December 18 to 21 and competition will be open to the world.

St. Augustine's new theater will be named "The Jefferson" in honor of the late Joseph Jefferson, the well known actor and friend of Florida.

The date of Pensacola's horse show has been announced as Thursday, November 15. This was settled upon at a meeting of the Pensacola Driving Association.

The Suwannee county sea island cotton growers are making arrangements with English spinners to get the raw material into the hands of the manufacturers direct, thus saving the middleman's commission.

The prohibitionists are busy circulating their petitions for signatures for a wet or dry election in Hillsborough county, and the Tampa Times says that from present indications it is likely that the election will be called for the first month in the New Year.

Shipments of cigars from Tampa for the week ending October 12 were 5,885,000. Total shipments from January 1 to October 12 were 218,945,000. Total shipments for the corresponding period of last year were 198,210,000. The increase in shipments for this year up to October 12 was 20,735,000.

On the night of the "coming out" convention the Ocala board of trade will give a banquet at the Ocala House to which the newspaper editors, high state officials, visiting candidates and many distinguished Floridians will be invited, and it is looked forward to as forming a pleasant ending to the day's festivities.

Rumor has it that the Florida East Coast railroad will start work at an early date on the erection of a new depot and car shops in Miami, the same being located along the main line from 6th street to the Miami river. It was announced several months ago that those movements were contemplated and practically determined.

Shipments of cotton from Pensacola during the past week were heavier than at any time during the present season, and if the port can keep up the record established Pensacola will enjoy the best cotton season in its history. More than thirteen thousand bales were sent to foreign countries from this port during the six days of last week, and the valuation of the shipments will reach almost a million dollars.

Peter O. Kugler's admission that the Seaboard Air Line, the Stone and Webster interests, and other clients which he represented at Tallahassee, paid for the whiskey and cigars which he dispensed there is interesting as an admission, but it could hardly be considered news. Everyone of any intelligence knew that Peter's corporate checks were putting up the money to run his Tallahassee establishment.—Pensacola Journal.

Leesburg is greatly elated over the prospect of having the Oklawaha river cleared of logs and other obstructions to navigation by the United States officials so as to permit uninterrupted navigation from Leesburg to Silver Springs. Hubbard Brabton and E. W. Curtis, two government employes, are now at work straightening sharp bends removing logs, etc. They are working near Moss Bluff at present. When the work is done the enterprising citizens of Leesburg will put on a line of boats between that city and Jacksonville.—Ocala Star.

The following little sketch of J. E. Pace, who is mentioned now as the celery king of Florida, appeared in a late issue of the Sanford Chronicle: "J. E. Pace in 1896 planted 10,000 plants; in 1897 he planted 25,000. He paid all the expenses of three acres and cleared \$5,000. All this took place after the great freeze, that desolated so many orange groves. Up to the present Mr. Pace has under cultivation 16 acres, averaging \$1,800 an acre. Land that brought 50 cents an acre in 1897 now brings \$300 an acre. Mr. Pace was born in Georgia in 1853 and came to Florida in 1874.

Dave Johnson, a negro murderer, escaped from jail at Pensacola, Monday night.

Ling Sing, a Chinaman, was fined \$50 and cost in the Tampa criminal court Monday for selling opium.

The Salvation Army of Pensacola have already commenced preparations to provide Christmas dinners for 500 poor people.

"The Southern Cyclone" is the name of a magazine which will soon make its appearance at Live Oak. It promises to be a warm member.

Col. Tom W. Harris, a cousin of Editor Harris of the Ocala Banner, and formerly a leading light of Florida journalism, died at Chattanooga last week.

There will be an immense crop of tomatoes grown on the East Coast the coming season, and the prospects are the growers will get the best prices they have ever received.

Nearly all the companies of the Second Regiment, Florida State troops, are in camp on Egmont Key, near Tampa while the First Regiment is at Fort Barrancas, Pensacola.

Returns from Citrus county give a majority of nearly 250 for the dries. Inverness was the banner precinct, going 80 to 2 in favor of the dries. Crystal River came next with 70 dry and 11 wet.

Another Confederate veteran of the good old kind was honored in the election of General W. L. Wittich, of Pensacola, to succeed General Jewell as commander of the Florida Division of Confederate Veterans.

William Jennings Bryan, the "Great Commoner" of the Democratic party, and possible third-time nominee of that party for the Presidency of the United States, may be Tampa's guest during the State Fair in February.

The regattas on the East Coast this season will be the greatest that have yet been held. It is proposed to have them begin in Jacksonville and continue on down the coast, concluding at Miami with more boats and better races than at any other point.

Pompano is reported to be the liveliest settlement in Dade county at the present time. Buildings are going up there with a rush in preparation for the winter season, and a new church is also being erected there. M. M. Smoke who is one of the first citizens of Pompano, is very busy framing houses which will be used by farmers and their families this winter.—Miami Record.

By the use of an acid the man Mears confined in the Miami jail for murder, succeeded in cutting off the heads of certain bolts on his cell door, gained access to the main corridor of the jail. A piece of gas pipe, part of an iron hoop and several empty bottles in which had been acids were found in his cell. He was placed in another cell and a special watch will be made over him.

Saturday afternoon an interesting occurrence was noted by people who happened to be within view of the river between the hours of 1 and 3 o'clock. The whole river from one side to the other seemed to be solidly packed with mullet headed up the stream. For two or three hours the fish continued to pass up the river and many of them were caught with spears by people along the shores.—Miami Record.

If the \$1,000 fines which Judge Stewart is putting upon the illegal liquor sellers in this county fail to stop the traffic in the stuff, a jail sentence will do the business, and that is what Judge Stewart has decided to do. So if you want to work in the Volusia county gang a year start up a blind tiger.—DeLand Record. That's the best method to convince law breakers that the courts are not in league with their evil doings.

Death far beneath the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, was, several days ago the tragic fate of a Greek sponge diver employed at Tarpon Springs. The Greek, with a party of his fellow countrymen, was diving for sponge at a point 40 or 50 miles off Tarpon Springs, and was therefore working at great depth. The tube through which the man was given air, by some unknown accident, broke. Immediately thereafter a small flood of water poured down into the headpiece of the Greek's diving apparatus on a mission of death. The unfortunate man immediately signalled those above to haul him to surface, which they did with all possible speed. Their efforts were in vain, however, as the man died of strangulation before reaching the surface.

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