

THE MORNING SUN.

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Legislative assemblies, being by the people and for the people, are naturally considered proper targets at which to shoot advice.

Prior to a session the old ammunition, kept in cold storage since the last battle of Legislative debate, together with the new compounds in the way of suggestions for Legislative action, is brought out and fired at the members in volley and broadside.

The Florida Legislature of 1907 has not been overlooked in this respect. Round after round of both solid and double-headed suggestion has been hurled into its ranks, and the cannonade will continue until the hammer falls at the moment of adjournment.

This being the case, THE SUN feels that it would be negligent of duty to be silent in the firing line, and offers its first shot in defense of the doctrine of State's rights—And asks of the Legislature of Florida at its forthcoming session that—

It seek nothing at the hands of the Federal Government that the people of Florida can do for themselves.

In addition to refraining from requesting aid of the Federal Government, except that rightfully due the State, let a protest be entered by our Florida lawmakers against the increasing dominion of Federal power—

Against the paternalism and centralization of government now building in this country—through the efforts of the President, aided by the indolence or carelessness of the people, by which the States are being gradually robbed of their rights—a barrier should be raised, and the Legislature should be the first to show the way.

The opportunity is present for the State of Florida, through its Legislative assembly, to place itself in opposition to the practice of the usurpation of State rights by the general Government of the United States.

It is easy to turn over to the general Government rights of sovereign States, but difficult to induce that central power to relinquish authority once assumed—therefore, the need to awaken for self-protection.

Strong expression on this subject has been given recently by Congressman Overman, of Alabama, who declared that "trenching upon the rights of the States is growing to be a dangerous thing, and I hope to see it stop. When the States are deprived of the rights given them by the Constitution, paternalism will follow, and the death of the republic will be next."

A potent storm signal is covered by the words of Mr. Overman, and now is the time to heed it, else the despotism of centralized government will destroy individual freedom.

Indications are many that legislation to regulate the railroads of Florida will be great during the session of 1907.

The freight congestion of the past few months; the irregular and vexatious train service, poor trackage and equipment, indifferent management and other evils in the conduct of the railways of the State have been borne until forbearance without prospect of relief has become irksome to the people of the State.

Their appeal for better conditions, for which they well pay, will, in all probability, be cried out in the Legislature.

Then arises the question: "What will the Legislature do?" Will it afford the relief asked by the people, or will it handle the matter in the way of "How not to do it?"

Rather the former, if determination is the watchword of those who have declared that they wish to serve the people.

If the desire to aid the public is carried in the heart, the problem becomes one of simplicity—the way easy.

Not through the Railroad Commission. That way is indefinite and tedious—uncertain of result.

No matter how willing the members of the Railroad Commission may be to secure improvement and correction of evils, the power to do is withheld from them—the hands that would free the people are tied by legal tape that railway attorneys know so well how to bind.

Fault cannot be found with the rules and regulations adopted by the Railroad Commission of Florida. It is the difficulty of enforcement of the rules and regulations laid down by that body.

But, as said, the way is easy, if the Legislature will act. ENACT THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS INTO STATUTE LAW.

law of these rules and regulations by the railways the law of these rules and regulations by the railways that the cases be heard in justice of peace and county courts.

Such a law, if the bill be drawn in proper manner, so that no loophole of constitutionality be left through which a railway may crawl, would go far toward freeing the people from the evils and ill-treatment of which they now complain.

Stand for the Doctrine of State Rights.

Enact Rules of Railroad Commission Into Statute Law.

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