

THE MORNING SUN.

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'Twas two minutes to twelve on a dark night. Everything was hushed, not even a graveyard yawned. Clocks held their hands before their faces and bats wore green goggles. Suddenly the darkness became more dense, and a deeper gloom settled over everything. Silence made itself felt, and it hurt like anything. Everybody would have thought something fierce was about to happen, but nobody could hear himself think. So everybody passed it up and "nothing doing" was the answer that Echo handed out. Fortunately little 'Arry overlooked a censorship on dreams, and Mr. Carroll has drawn on his imagination for a drawing of the scene presented when the "Mole Club" are preparing to hold one of their celebrated "Executive Sessions." Got onto 'Arry's rubber boots. Doesn't he look sweet? He knows he looks real cunning, but he won't tell. Oh, no, no! Who is that rude person with the large ear outside the door? Such unseemly conduct is really reprehensible. His number is twenty-three, and his password seems to be—"On your way."

FELL IN LINE AT CALL OF "SECESH."

County Divisionists Win in First Skirmish—Decker's Bill for Creation of Pinellas County Subject of Sharp Debate—Motion to Postpone Failed.

Democratic principles were jumbled when the bill for the creation of Pinellas County was put on second reading and succeeded by a motion to postpone indefinitely yesterday in the House, but when the saffron-hooded member from Volusia agitated his fore-wave and cried "Secesh," the rebels fell in behind and scored by a vote of 29 to 26.

There was joy in the camp of the divisionists last night and the fires were lighted on seventeen hills. The antis have shown their strength in the House, and unless some strong swarming takes place betimes it is expected that there will be a majority for the division of Hillsborough County.

It should be made clear, however, that the divisionists are not pooling issues. Every delegation in Tallahassee interested in the division of a county is totting its own skillet. It happened that the huskies from Hillsborough were first on the field and ran up the first touchdown; if they kick the goal remains to be developed.

The bill offered by Mr. Decker of Hillsborough came from the committee with an adverse report. There are nine members of the committee. The vote of the members was evenly divided—four for and four against—and Chairman Melton cast the deciding vote against the bill.

When it was reached on the calendar yesterday afternoon, Chairman Melton moved its indefinite postponement, and a discussion followed, which was participated in by Decker and Dudley of Hillsborough, Parkinson of Volusia, MacWilliams of St. Johns and Paul of Holmes.

Mr. Decker opposed the motion. He stood out for a settlement of the question on the floor of the House, and was followed by Mr. Dudley, who took the contrary view.

Mr. Dudley contended that the matter involved was one of democratic principle,—the majority rule. The greater number of the citizens of Hillsborough did not want the county divided, he said. The population of the west side of the county that wanted division represented only about one-sixth of the entire population; the west side paid about one-tenth of the taxes; had never been without one-third of the representation in the Legislature and on the County School Board and one-fifth on the County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Dudley referred to \$400,000 issued in bonds by the county for building good roads; he said that 36 miles of road had been built and the west coast side had at least six miles constructed with this money. He contended that the west side had received more than its share in the way of public service and improvement, and had no

right to object on such counts to the treatment accorded under the Hillsborough County organization.

Mr. Decker read a well-prepared argument for division, and was followed by Mr. Parkinson, who alluded to Mr. Dudley's "underlying democratic principle" of majority rule. Mr. Parkinson begged to refer to another underlying democratic principle, that of local self-government. He said there were ten thousand people on the west coast of Florida in Hillsborough who wanted a new county, and they should have it.

Mr. Parkinson said the majority didn't count when the Southern States got ready to pull out of the Union; the right of self-government was well recognized then and so it continues, and the will of the majority not directly affected should not be permitted to count against the proposition. Mr. Parkinson is a member of the committee which reported the bill favorable that he voted for its favorable recommendation. He said that the arguments before the committee on the question had been of no effect; that every member of the committee had his mind made up before the meeting, and the bill for this reason should not be handicapped by the unfavorable report of the committee. This and much more did Mr. Parkinson say, and sufficiently to gain enthusiastic applause.

The galleries were filled during the debate. The motion to postpone having failed, the bill went to the Engrossing Committee and will be put on the calendar for passage.

For postponement—Mr. Spiker, Messrs. Abernethy, Bradshaw, Duke, Donegan, Dudley, Griggs, Hartsfield, Harvell, Hooker, Jones, Knight (Citrus), Knowles, McKenzie, MacWilliams, Malone, Melton, Morrison, Peaden, Russell, Smith, Snell, Wartman, Watson, Wells and Wilson (Lee)—26.

Against postponement—Messrs. Avant, Carter, Cobb, Decker, Dorman, DuPont, Faulkner, Geiger, Kilgore, Kirkland, Knight (Columbia), Lassiter, Long, McCutcheon, McClellan, Milliner, Olmstead, Parkinson, Paul, Peoples, Reese, Register, Richards, Roddenberry, Taylor, Willis (Gadsden), Willis (Leon) and Williams—29.

LEGISLATORS HEARD SPEECH.

Congressman William Bailey Lamar of the Third District delivered an address to the members of the House and Senate last night, in Representative Hall, on the subject of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The speaker was introduced by Representative Mathews of Marion. Governor Howard was seated on the rostrum.

The speaker's stand was decorated with roses, and a number of ladies were in the audience, which added attractiveness. The Congressman spoke at length. The subject is one with which he is thoroughly familiar, and he handled it with such ease and knowledge betokens.

WILL CONSIDER FRANCHISE BILL.

In Senate Today—Each Got What Was Expected—Unfavorable Report—Little Business in Senate Yesterday.

Senate Bills Nos. 8 and 226 were reported with the recommendation "that they do not pass."

These are the bills providing for franchise taxation. On motion of Senator Trammell, Bill No. 8 was made a special order for today at 10:30 o'clock.

The bill by Senator Beard, providing for the repeal of the act relating to the drainage and reclamation of swamp and overflowed lands (Everglades), was reported without recommendation.

Little spirit was exhibited in the proceedings of the Senate yesterday, and the work of legislation was not materially advanced by the session of two and one-half hours.

Seven or eight bills were introduced, six were passed, three or four amended and referred to the Committee on Engrossed Bills, one advanced to third reading, was about all the crop handled.

When these labors were performed, Senator Henderson moved to adjourn until afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, and Senator Cone, who said that the Committee on Judiciary were overburdened with work and needed the afternoon for it, moved to adjourn until 10 o'clock today, which was agreed to.

Among the bills introduced were: Fixing salaries of certain State officers, by Mr. West of the First.

To amend Sections 549, 551 and 552 of the General Statutes, relative to the assessment and the collection of taxes on railroads and their equipment, and to authorize and require the Railroad Commissioners to make assessments on such property for the purposes of taxation, except of municipal taxation, by Mr. Massey.

To amend Section 2921 of the General Statutes, relating to the institution and maintenance by Railroad Commissioners of proceedings against common carriers, by Mr. Trammell.

Senator Beard put out a feeler on railway legislation by getting his bill requiring railways to provide separate ticket windows for the races, and which was unfavorably reported.

Senator Henderson explained that the bill was so reported because a bill by Mr. Hudson, in addition to other things, covered this matter so fully, that it was deemed unnecessary to pass this bill.

Mr. Beard offered an amendment to the bill, saying that he did so "for fear that the bill was too drastic and might

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