

# THE MORNING SUN.

Volume 1,  
Number 36

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1907.

Five Cents a copy  
\$1 for the session

## DUPONT'S DELSARTE FAILED TO SCORE

**GENTLEMEN BACK OF ANTI-WHISKEY BILL SENT IT THROUGH HOUSE BY GOOD MAJORITY, NOTWITHSTANDING CALISTHENIC DEMONSTRATION OF MEMBER FROM ST. JOHNS.**

DuPont got his skull-grass rumped yesterday while trying to demonstrate calisthenically the difference between sense and sentiment, showing that motion to soften the ventricular and motion to toughen the muscular do not run in the same flume.

Various members brought in the sentiment which caused the gentleman from St. Johns to do the Delsarte. Failing to remember the Vesuvian episode which the anti-whiskey bill of Mr. Faulkner precipitated a few days ago, the member from St. Johns came back yesterday with the same proposition: "Sentiment is one thing; business another."

This it was that caused the fires to burn in the bosom of the Orange County member, and for a space of minutes, unduly prolonged by the discomfiture of the Representative from St. Johns, the fury was spent on him.

That was the other day.

Yesterday, the bill of Mr. Smith, making it unlawful for common carriers to transport whiskey into dry counties, was on its passage.

It was evident that the advocates of the measure felt their ground secure. The discussion was tame in comparison to the previous debate, but when the gentleman from Orange took the floor, and absently grasped a book in his right hand and swung it carelessly back and forth as he talked, the members on the left involuntarily dodged with each oscillation.

It may have been through the office of mutual friends, or it was possibly only the happy arrangement of circumstances that the member from Orange County did not immediately precede or follow the Orange County member. It should not be inferred, however, that the Orange County member's onslaught was in any respect personal. Abstractly analyzed, it was plainly a righteous indignation leveled at the St. Johns member, because he had been the purveyor of the statement that "sentiment is one thing and business another." Or it may have been that the member from Orange County felt in so good a humor from the prospects of having the bill passed that he did not think it worth while to become enraged because of the thoughtless way in which his antagonist has of confounding sense and sentiment.

The change in the gentleman from Orange was plainly visible, and he cooed as softly as a sucking dove, and after he had assured the members that he loved them all the gentlemen on the left quit dodging, but one of them remarked, "If you love us, put that book down."

Mr. Crawford led off by inquiring of Mr. MacWilliams what were the constitutional rights of people living in dry counties, but without waiting for the reply he continued that a majority of the people in the State, representing the best element of society, were opposed to the liquor traffic. "Talk about the Czar of Russia being absolute, why there is no tyranny like that of King Alcohol," he said. "This measure is backed by the best sentiment of the State, and you have the best opportunity you ever had to put yourself squarely on record as favoring it and voting against the greatest curse of the world."

Mr. MacWilliams said the measure was unconstitutional; it was, in direct antagonism to the Fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and he said he would take the contract without cost to prove the measure invalid before any court of competent jurisdiction. Mr. MacWilliams said he would not make an argument, but would let Governor Patterson of Tennessee speak for him. He sent a newspaper clipping to the reading clerk, who read a message of the Tennessee Executive vetoing a similar bill to the one under consideration, and giving his reasons therefor, which were partly that the measure was unconstitutional; that it established discrimination against the whisky men of Tennessee in favor of the dealers of adjoining States. Mr. MacWilliams said the whole thing was a farce; that he would join in an effort to enact any legislation to help the cause of temperance. "I am not as temperate as any man who advocates this measure, but I am not in favor of placing unconstitutional and ineffectual laws on the statute books."

Mr. Williams of Jackson said he was in favor of the measure, even if it should prove to be a farce. He would vote for it to show what side he was on. He was in favor of that side of the question, and would overlook no opportunity to so record himself.

Mr. Wells said he would vote for the measure because his county (Leon) stood in the dry column.

At this juncture was introduced the club drill by Mr. DuPont of St. Johns.

"Suppose you pass this bill," said he, describing a semi-circle with both arms, placing the weight of the body on the ball of the left foot and stepping off promptly on the right, paused in a challenging attitude, "you won't have anything to run your schools with. Sentiment is one thing and sense is another. The State collects \$250,000 a year from the whisky men; the counties get \$125,000, and the cities get \$125,000; in all the whisky dealers pay half a million dollars in taxes. Suppose you pass this bill and cut off this revenue—what then?"

Mr. Wilson of Hernando: "This bill will not run any wet county dry, so how will it affect the revenue?"

Mr. DuPont: "The revenue will be reduced because the business will be reduced. The privilege of the whisky men to ship whisky to the dry counties of the State con-

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## FOR MR. WATSON WAS NOT THERE

**WHERE? AT THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE. HE WAS ELSEWHERE, SO HE DID NOT HEAR THE ARGUMENT FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY. BUT THE COMMITTEE HAD A QUORUM JUST THE SAME.**

There was heap and plenty doing,  
When Steve—our uncle—took the chair;  
There were signs of storms a-brewing,  
There were razors in the air.  
And all could see that trouble,  
Was troubling them for fair;  
But it did not boil and bubble,  
For Watson wasn't there.

CHORUS.

No, Watson wasn't there, my boy,  
Watson wasn't there.  
He would have been, of course, if he  
Hadn't been elsewhere.  
He had some urgent business,  
Though its kind was not made clear,  
But it must have been important  
For Watson wasn't there.

To the altogether painful, wholly inexcusable and horribly amateurish words and music above set forth, the House Committee on City and County Organization adjourned last night after hearing arguments why Dade County should be cut in two, and agreeing to report the bill creating Palm Beach County, without recommendation.

This is a way committees have of side-stepping a warm proposition that's liable to blister hands that get fastened onto it, no matter which way the votes go.

Which, in this case, is incidental. The feature of this meeting was the absence of John Watson, the member from the county that was to be dis-membered.

Please don't take this in a personal sense; there was no intention manifested to put John out—quite the contrary—all wanted John in (the meeting of course), but John was "put out" (in temper this time), so he did not put in an appearance.

Some thought this careless of John, others regarded it as studied design, a well-laid scheme on his part to apply the slow poison of Legislative delay to a measure that does not present an aspect pleasing to his law-making prospective.

What was thought might have been recorded on the pages that are left blank in the book of uncertainties, if it hadn't been for Uncle Steve.

But there's always Uncle Steve.

He was educated in a school of fish, and talks like a string of three-pound sheephead.

He butts in where statesmen fear to tread.

This time he pulled his left eyebrow down to the level of the so'west corner of his nose (it's a way he has) and in that stormy weather voice of his said:

"Now, John Watson treated this committee shabby. He should have been here. He knew we were going to have a meeting; he's been doing a lot of talking against dividing and when he gets a chance to talk to the committee it looks like he wants to keep us from getting a quorum."

Steve said this after the meeting adjourned, at which a quorum was present or accounted for, thanks to Mr. Dudley's proxy.

There was no good to be interred with the bones of Caesar, but Antony spoke. In fact, there were two of them, which goes to show how we improve as we march along with the passing centuries.

A huge map adorned the wall.

This map looked like one of those celebrated campaign maps of our esteemed Executive, owing to the prominence of Lake Okeechobee, but it was said to be a good likeness of the bone of contention.

The piece de resistance on this pleasing landscape was a red line from left to right across the middle. This convinced everybody that it's dead easy to divide a county, which facile demonstration made vivid impression as the rosy tint of the dividing line bit into the inner consciousnesses of the favored ones, who did not partake of the Watsonian absent treatment.

There were others who painted golden sunsets of the advantages, present and future, to be gained by cutting Dade in two, and the committee would have made a favorable report if some one had not remembered.

This person played an obligato on the chestnut bell. He rang in that "spirit-of-fairness" proposition, which was followed by the sidestep mentioned before.

All but Parkinson—

The volunteer from Volusia wanted to report favorably right then and there, and hesitated not to say so.

Some one was rude enough to suggest that Parkinson was not unwilling to get this committee into the habit of reporting favorably on the dividing question.

But this is another story—

The Dade county dividing bill is now before the House without favor or prejudice annexed or otherwise appertaining—

And Watson wasn't there,  
Which didn't seem to matter much.

## BROOME GUARDED THE PENSION BILL

**BILL LITTLE CHANGED BY AMENDMENTS—OBJECTION TO CREATION OF THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR OF PENSIONS—SENATOR DECLARES AGAINST EXTRAVAGANCE OF LEGISLATURE.**

Trying to amend the pension bill was the principal work of the Senate yesterday.

Many amendments were offered, but few were chosen, and those adopted did not materially change the bill as reported from committee.

Senator Broome was on guard, and watchful was he to see that nothing harmful crept into the measure.

Toward the close of consideration, Senator Henderson, probably desiring to see what effect it would have on the Senator from the Sixth, offered an amendment making the tax twenty-four mills instead of four.

Senator Broome could scarcely believe that his hearing was true, and he asked that the amendment be read again.

Then, with reproachful expression shadowing his classic features, he paused in amazement before speaking, while Senator Cone declared, "That amendment would kill the bill."

Senator Broome found his voice, and in vexed tone inquired: "Who is trying to turn this Senate into a circus?"

Senator Henderson arose, bowed to the Senator from the Sixth, and withdrew the amendment.

Residence in the State was a matter of contention, Senator Harris discussing the subject at some length, prefacing his argument by the statement that perhaps his demand would cause him unpopularity, but that he deemed it a wise provision to lengthen the period of residence in the State in order not to make the pension system burdensome. The property qualification being removed in the bill and the period of residence in the State shortened would tend to increase the pension list to an extent for which provision for sufficient funds was not made.

He said he was in favor of pensions, and to do all possible for Confederate soldiers, but he thought it unwise to fix the term of residence at ten years, and offered an amendment that it be from January 1, 1890.

Senator Sams said: "It is a good bill as it stands, and needs no amendment," while Senator Cone said: "Soldiers from other States come to Florida and help build up the State and they should not be required to wait so long before getting a pension."

Lively debate followed the amendment offered by Senator Neel, that pensions be paid "Confederate prisoners of war who were confined in Northern prisons who volunteered to fight Indians in the Territories, who had previously served three or more years in the service of the Confederate States, shall not be classed as deserters under this act."

Senators Broome and Cone objected to this, and in support of the amendment Mr. Neel said that as far as he was aware there was only one man to be benefited thereby, and that was a resident of his county.

This man had been in the Confederate army for more than three years, was captured, and while sick in prison accepted the freedom offered by the United States to enlist and serve in its army against Indians. He needed a pension, said Senator Neel, and as he had served the Confederacy well he thought he was deserving of it.

Senator Beard expressed the opinion that it would be better not to adopt the amendment and to grant this soldier a pension by Legislative action.

"Did he take the oath of allegiance to the United States Government?" inquired Senator Broome.

"I suppose that he did," replied Senator Neel, "or else he could not have served in its army."

"If he did take such oath of allegiance to the United States, then I hope and trust that this amendment will be defeated," declared Senator Broome.

Senator Neel then asked Senator Broome: "Did you take the oath of allegiance?"

"Never, sir. Not before the war ended. I would have gone to the gallows first," was the reply of Senator Broome.

And the amendment was defeated.

Several other amendments were offered, some were adopted, but causing little change in the bill, when a real lively clash occurred over one offered by Senator Buckman, creating an Inspector of Pensions—

This Inspector of Pensions to receive \$1,500 and examine pension claims and report fraudulent claims to the State Pension Board.

Speaking to the amendment, Mr. Buckman said that there were many fraudulent pensioners, who keep the pension fund from those to whom it belongs.

He spoke of his experience in the United States Court and the number of cases of fraudulent Federal pension claims that had been prosecuted. He declared that an Inspector was necessary to purge the rolls of those who were getting pensions illegally.

Senator Beard said: "It is a good amendment and will create an office of usefulness."

"It is impossible for fraudulent claimants to get pensions with the eyes of the Board of Pensions looking on," declared Senator Cone.

"The work of such an officer would not be effective," he continued, "because the Inspector would not find out any more than is known now."

"I think the amendment is a good one," said Senator Trammell. "At the last Confederate State convention they

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