

THE MORNING SUN

Volume 1,
Number 51.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1907.

Five Cents a Copy
\$1 for the month.

"PITY THE PEE-PUL" WAS THE CRY

**BUT THE NAUGHTY MAJORITY PAID NO HEED
TO SENATOR HARRIS AND HIS LITTLE BAND,
WHO TRIED TO PRUNE THE APPROPRIATION
BILL.**

"Save the pee-pul," was the minority cry in the Senate yesterday afternoon as the appropriation bill was discussed.

With the "Now I can go before the people" style, the most vicious and persistent attack launched at a bill this session was hurled at House Bill No. 546, providing for the expenses of the State Government.

It availed nothing material, sanity prevailed, and the bill, as far as considered up to the time of adjournment, was left practically as it had come from the House, save that several increases were made and but one decrease.

Overflowing with pity for the "pee-pul," as he had been a sympathetic gusher for Mr. Flagler, Senator Harris (Mr. Trammell in the chair) entreated and implored and beseeched the Senate to remember the taxpayer.

At times he was somewhat emphatic and positive in his appeal, but perhaps the Senate did not understand that there was serious danger to the Senate in his protests, because it refused to indorse him in each and every amendment.

Aiding and abetting Mr. Harris in his supplication for the people were Senators Broome, Humphries, Willis and Johnson, but in spite of this galaxy the majority appeared quite indifferent to the public feeling of which Mr. Harris warned the Senate.

After defeat had been handed out to the Senator from the Twenty-fourth several times, and the redoubtable Willis, they appeared to be the only ones of the allies who were not disheartened by failure, Mr. Harris hauled down his flag and retreated to his position as President.

The fight was over, as far as he was concerned, and it was left to Senators Broome and Willis to keep the majority from capturing the treasury.

After adjournment Senator Willis was still seated at his desk telling how he would take the Journal and show the good people of Levy county the record of the eventful day.

Senator Willis carried off the only trophy of the battle—an amendment that cut the increase in the salary of the Governor's secretary \$300, bringing it to the present figure.

Senator Broome was there with the language that helped to carry the amendment, and with this little victory the bill-cutters were jubilant.

Good fortune was not theirs to keep.

Senator Crane offered an amendment to the next job on the list, clerk in the executive office, making the salary \$900 a year.

"The salary now is sufficient," said Mr. Harris.

"How well do I remember Governor Bloxham, who had but one clerk and one stenographer.

"There are four clerks in the Governor's office now," continued Mr. Harris, as he dwelt reminiscently on the glories of the departed days of Bloxham and Mitchell, when the people knew not of the amount of executive business that would demand so many clerks and stenographers.

Senator Crane ventured to remind Mr. Harris that the State had not stood still and that the work had increased.

"Sixty dollars a month is enough for a stenographer," said Mr. Humphries, who also said many more things to the effect that the salary should not be raised.

Hearty approval of his objection was voiced by Mr. Harris, who cried: "They get enough now. I won't vote for another dollar."

Neither did he, and twelve voted with him, but as the other side were seventeen strong, his opposition was not noticed.

The vote on this amendment was:
Yeas—Senators Adams, Alford, Cone, Cottrell, Crane, Davis, Girardeau, Hudson, Jackson, Leggett, Massey, Neel, Trammell, Withers, West (1st), West (4th), Zim—17.

Nays—Mr. President, Senators Baker, Beard, Buckman, Broome, Canova, Crews, Henderson, Humphries, Johnson, McCreary, Sams, Willis—13.

The figure named in the House Bill as a contingent fund for the Governor—\$6,000 a year, an increase of \$2,000—did not suit Mr. Harris, and he offered an amendment to keep it at the present figure.

The amendment was defeated by a vote of eleven yeas to eighteen nays, but not before the President of the Senate and his cohorts fought there and back and then some, and called up the good old days of Governors Bloxham and Mitchell.

"This contingent fund is an extravagant expense," declared Senator Harris, who then reverted to contingent funds of the past, as far back as the administration of Governor Mitchell, to support his claim that they were now too large.

"The Governor now has a salary of \$5,000, and the proposition is to give him a contingent fund of \$6,000, making \$11,000 in all, for which we have no accounting," asserted Mr. Harris.

This brought a call down in no uncertain terms from Senator Massey.

"The Senator is saying what he must not have intended to say when he stated that the Governor would have a salary of \$11,000," declared Mr. Massey, who followed up this assertion with vigorous protest that a statement should have been made in any way tending to reflect on the character of the Chief Executive.

"I am tired of this saying what Governor Mitchell and



Mr. Long's two and one-half cent bill has bumped the corporation bumps.

Governor Bloxham did fifteen years ago," continued Mr. Massey. "We are dealing with the conditions of to-day and not of the past."

For some minutes Mr. Massey talked, and his keen words carried stinging rebuke.

Disclaimer was entered by Mr. Harris that there was anything in his argument to reflect on the Governor, and that he did not mean that the Governor made improper use of the contingent fund, but repeated his saying that \$6,000 was too much for the contingent fund.

The statement having been made that the Governor was paying a clerk out of the contingent fund, Mr. Humphries said: "If he needs another clerk why does he not come here and ask us for it, and not attempt deception by asking increase of the contingent fund? The present amount is sufficient, and I don't think the money should be given under false pretenses."

"It is a little far-fetched for a few men in this Legislature to cast reflections against the integrity of our Chief Executive," said Senator Cone, who then spoke for the need of a contingent fund of sufficient amount.

Senator Johnson said: "The Legislature has nothing to do with what the Governor does with the contingent fund. It is given to him to do as he sees fit."

Mr. Johnson, however, thought there should be no increase, and spoke of the extravagance of the Legislature from the beginning of the session, in which he had no part as he was not here. He declared his intention of objecting to every increase in the bill.

Senator Hudson thought that the contingent fund was one of the most important appropriations to be made, as it was expended for many useful purposes, particularly to the law and order of the State.

Senator Crane offered an amendment, providing another stenographer for the Governor, but this was defeated by a tie vote, after much debate, in which Senator Harris led.

No change was suggested in the appropriation for the office of the Secretary of State, but when the list for the Comptroller's office was read war broke out with renewed force, and several columns of space would be required to record all that was said in the interest of reform and, of course, the people.

Senator Harris wanted to cut off two clerks in the Tax Redemption Department, declaring that there were too many clerks employed.

"I tell you, Senators," he said, "there is a day of reckoning coming," but the Senate refused to be frightened and defeated the amendment.

Senator Adams defended the heads of State departments, saying that they knew how many clerks were needed to carry on the work, and he did not believe any executive official would employ more assistance than was needed.

Senator Cone spoke of the additional work in the office of the Comptroller on account of a new system in handling tax certificates, caused by a law of recent years, and Senator Crill offered a thorough explanation of the work of the Tax Redemption Department, and stated that no more clerks were employed than necessary to carry on the work. He was also of the opinion that more help was needed in the Pension Department.

Then occurred a prolonged discussion, forced by Senator Harris, in which Senators Broome and Humphries acted with him, relative to clerks in the Comptroller's office holding two positions.

Nothing in particular resulted, except that several different brands of oratory were exploited, and Senator Harris made his declaration:

"I do my own thinking."

This was not disputed.

"If ninety-nine other Representatives were against me I would vote as I thought right," he said.

"Talk to me about any man doing my thinking for me," he solemnly exclaimed. "I do my own thinking, as my brain permits, and then I speak."

After a few more amendments to cut down the bill had been defeated, Mr. Harris thought, and as the result of this thought, he decided to resume occupancy of the chair, asking that no more roll calls be asked on amendments and that the bill be pushed through.

The Senate adjourned with an amendment pending.

FOR SHIP CANAL.

The House yesterday passed a memorial to Congress to make preliminary surveys of the Caloosahatchee River and Lake Okechobee for the purpose of ascertaining the cost of a canal across the State, to be used for commercial purposes, and to facilitate the transportation of the United States mail.

HOUSE DEFEATS INSURANCE BILL

VOTES FOR INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT—GOVERNOR BROWARD LAUDED BY MEMBERS AS EVANGEL OF PROGRESS AND FREEDOM FROM PLUTOCRACY.

The House yesterday placed the fiat of its disapproval on one of the measures advocated by the Governor—that for the establishment of a Bureau of State Life Insurance. The vote to indefinitely postpone the measure was carried by 37 to 22.

The measure was offered by Mr. Register of Hamilton, who said that he had been asked if this was not one of the Governor's measures, to which he replied that he believed the measure to be in line with the Governor's recommendation, and he desired to say that if the people would let Napoleon B. Broward lead them, the State of Florida would in a short time be rid of the yoke of plutocracy.

Mr. Reese favored the measure. The argument of innovation would probably be brought forward, he said. While the idea was new in this country to some degree it was not a new question, and had been tested by time in the old countries. He mentioned Germany as one in which the government issued life insurance policies successfully, and at a much less price than the companies in this country assessed.

Mr. Malone saw danger in the experiment. He held that it was undemocratic in principle. He referred to the stand against the United States bank taken by Andrew Jackson, that staunch figure of democracy, and held that the State Life Insurance Bureau embodied the same idea that Jackson antagonized. Mr. Malone objected to the plan principally because it would create a political machine, as he saw it; and would place the securities of the people in jeopardy at every election.

It would be necessarily in politics, and while he had no fight against the politician, being inclined in that direction himself, Mr. Malone said it would be a basis for political fights; he thought it better to pay a little more for insurance, if necessary, than to place it in politics, and have the State Government menaced with the burden of it.

Mr. Pettigrew was of the opinion that State life insurance would be a good thing, even if it carried the graft that had been suggested. The State of Florida, he said, paid one million dollars annually for insurance. If the grafters got as much as one hundred thousand, there would still be a saving to the people of the State, for all the money paid for insurance would be kept at home. The gentleman from Missouri would not start now than two years hence, for it was finally coming to State life insurance; there was no doubt of that in his opinion. "Let us do the right thing now," he said in conclusion.

Mr. Mathews of Marion was not surprised at the cry of political slavery that had been raised against the State life insurance idea. Anything, he said, had to run the gamut of adverse criticism. Mr. Mathews referred to the present Governor as one of the greatest the State had ever had, saying that he had studied the question carefully, and he was willing to rely largely on his judgment when he had so strongly recommended State life insurance. Mr. Mathews held that it was no argument against the proposition to say that there was nothing to begin on; fifty years ago, he said, the Equitable began on nothing and made no great progress for a number of years; he thought the State could manage the affair successfully to the good of the people.

Mr. Parkinson favored the passage of the bill; the experience of other countries in managing insurance for the people afforded example of what might be done, and the example of corruption in the private companies showed what might happen to these corporations, which were not guarded in the careful manner that would attach to State control.

Mr. Malone here came back with the proposition that if the officials of independent companies were found to be corrupt, was not reasonable to assume that officials engaged to conduct insurance for the State would be open also to the suspicion. Mr. Malone said the air was full of the cries of corruption now; that the State of Florida couldn't keep its "two-eyed" boar straight. "Why should we encourage this thing by saddling an Insurance Bureau on the State? These Utopian dreams cannot be realized until man has been wholly regenerated. I would like to ask the gentleman from Escambia (Reese) if he is not now a member of a commission to investigate charges of corruption."

Mr. Reese: "I am, but I do not believe that any corruption exists." Mr. Reese said the bill appeared to him as one which would appeal to all patriotic men who had confidence in the men who were chosen to govern.

Mr. Register saw a real beauty in the movement, because the money that had been going away from home to corrupt the officials of life insurance companies could be kept at home operating on the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number.

Those voting for the postponement of the bill were: The Speaker, Messrs. Abernethy, Bradshaw, Clarke, Duke, Donegan, Dorman, DuPont, Farris, Geiger, Griggs, Hartsfield, Hooker, Johnson, Knight (Citrus), Knowles, Lassiter, McKenzie, MacWilliams, Malone, Melton, Millnor, Morrison, Ogilvie, Olmstead, Roddenberry, Rowe, Russell, Smith, Snell, Taylor, Watson, Wells, Willis, (Gadsden), Willis (Levy), Wilson (Calhoun), Wilson (Lee)—37.

Against postponement: Messrs. Avant, Carter, Cobb, Crawford, Durrance, Harvell, Kirkland, Knight (Columbia), Long, Mathews, Neel, Parkinson, Paul, Peadar Peoples, Pettigrew, Reese, Register, Richbourg, Thompson, Williams, Wilson (Hernando)—22.