

# THE MORNING SUN

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## HORSES IS HORSES.

**Whether They Be Three or Sixty-three—A Proposition for the Legislature to Consider is Made by Mr. Cook of Jacksonville.**

It has been the custom in legislatures preceding the present one that bills providing compensation to owners of horses that have been killed by order of the State Board of Health to prevent the spread of disease, should be passed almost without opposition.

Usually these bills have only amounted to small sums for the value of one, two or three horses. This time the legislature will have to deal with a bigger problem, as Mr. Cook of Jacksonville now comes before the legislature asking for partial compensation for sixty-three that he owned in Jacksonville, that were killed by order of the State Board of Health, to stop the spread of glanders, which broke out in Mr. Cook's large livery stable.

Legislators can be in the nature of things deal only in principles, and the proposition presented by the case of Mr. Cook carries the same principle in asking for compensation for sixty-three horses as the proposition of other persons asking for compensation for one horse.

Mr. Cook states his case in a letter written to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which is produced below:

As you will remember, in March Mr. W. J. Cook of this city was compelled by the Board of Health to kill 63 horses diagnosed by the State Board of Health as suffering from glanders. Mr. Cook's business was for the time being absolutely ruined. Out of 68 horses only five were left and three of these are now shut up, to be tested later by the State Health Officer.

Among horse men it is generally understood that horses afflicted with glanders are good for several years' service and can be, to all intents and appearances, from time to time restored to good condition. Of course in some instances the horses become so sick as to be incapacitated for work and die before the disease has run long. The horses owned by Mr. Cook which were killed, by far the larger number appeared to be in good condition and well fitted for work.

Mr. Cook yielded at once to the orders of the State Health Officer and State Veterinarian and had these horses killed, without the slightest consideration as to value of the horses or the destruction of his business. Beyond question, it is best thing for the State for horses having glanders to be at once killed. The benefit is to the public at large and the injury is to the individual. Under such circumstances, it seems peculiarly just that the State should reimburse the owner of the horses for their loss.

Inclosed I hand you a bill for the relief of Mr. Cook, a letter from me to Mr. Cook going into some detail as to the matter, a letter from Mr. Byrd, Assistant State Health officer, designating 63 horses killed, showing their value as taken by Mr. Cook from his books, showing the purchase price of each animal, and also a letter from Hon. W. A. Sebring, Mayor of Jacksonville, to Mr. Cook.

Mr. Cook and I sincerely trust that you will see that this bill is introduced at once and use your utmost endeavor to secure its passage. A letter similar to this with similar enclosures goes by even mail to each of the Duval county delegation.

When the bill is before the committee, Mr. Cook or the writer will go to Tallahassee whenever you desire.

Mr. Cook tells me that Senators Harris and Davis and Mr. Hatcher will be glad to render their assistance in the matter. I think Mr. Hedges will support the bill, although I have not talked to him concerning the matter.

We shall be glad to have any suggestions which you deem wise to make. You can understand, of course, Mr. Cook is very vitally interested in the matter.

With kind regards and trusting you will do your utmost to have the bill passed, I am

Very truly yours,  
(Signed by Mr. Cook's Attorney.)

## THE TEXT-BOOK BILL IN THE SENATE

**"The Greatest Tax the People Pay Is This School-Book Tax." Says Mr. Cone.**

By a vote of 12 to 10, the Senate refused to take the final action on McCreary's textbook, the discussion of which occupied the greater part of the morning session of the Senate.

"Talk about corporations and railroads. This school book business is the dirtiest corporation and has the dirtiest methods of any corporation in existence," exclaimed Mr. Cone, speaking in opposition to the bill, called up out of its regular order through a misunderstanding of the members of the Senate as to which bill they were waiving the rules for.

Senator Cone showed knowledge of his subject, and never made a more forceful and impressive speech; appearing thoroughly imbued with the righteousness of the cause, and his arraignment of the American Book Company was severe and apparently warranted.

He called attention to the lobby up here in support of this bill and fighting state uniformity.

"The greatest tax the people pay, the farmers tell me, is this school-book tax."

He said that seven or eight months before he came up to Tallahassee he had been deluged with letters against state uniformity. He moved indefinite postponement.

Mr. McCreary contended that everything could be accomplished under this law that could be accomplished under state uniformity.

Senator Dayton said he represented three counties, and that one of these, Citrus, had free books, and he objected to wiping out the property of this county. He said that he believed in the county having the right to decide this matter for itself.

Mr. Williams and Mr. McMullen spoke on the subject. The motion to indefinitely postpone was lost, and the Senate agreed to wait the return of the Senators absent on junketing trips before taking final action.

## THE MAN FROM MANATEE

**Wakes The House Up When He Wakes Himself Up, By Overturning His Legislative Chair—Old Man Pettigrew Never Slept.**

Sighs, yawns, and the occasional creak of a chair, or the shuffle of the few weary pedal extremities that were not resting comfortably on desks, greeted the soporific rise and fall of Uncle Nat's resonant voice at the night session of the House.

Overworked, poorly fed, under-paid representatives were snatching a bit of much-needed rest while those interested were local-billing.

But this picture of peacefulness was not built to stand. Suddenly a shriek, a groan and a crash cracked the atmosphere, and the Laws of Florida, House stationery and newspapers came down in a common heap, in the wake of feet seeking a firmer foundation.

"Order in the House!" thundered the temporary Speaker, who comes from a long line of intrepid ancestry that never trembled at the roar of a cannon or at the shake of a quake.

Then from the far western end of the House slowly rose from a huddled group, a very ruddy countenance with abashment written loud on every feature and following after came the head and shoulders of a man.

The "huff" of Manatee had gone to sleep, the burden of his portly form had tilted too far to starboard, and the displaced center of gravity had done the rest.

The brief excitement over, Uncle Nat went on with an important document restraining the peregrinations of pigs

## BILL FOR STATE PRINTING PLANT AND FOR PRINTING SCHOOL BOOKS

**Is Introduced by Mr. Bynum of Suwannee. He Estimates a Saving of \$150,000 a Year by This Law.**

Mr. Bynum of Hamilton Wednesday introduced a bill to establish and maintain a State printing plant at which shall be done all State printing, and published and manufactured all text books of certain grades to be used in all county schools in the State of Florida, and to name and regulate and prescribe the duties of all officials connected therewith; and to provide for the maintenance of such plant, and the compilation of said books; and to further provide an appropriation for the creation and maintenance of said plant and the compilation and distribution of such school books.

This bill, the purpose of which is shown by its title, will revolutionize the system of printing for the State now in vogue. It will cut the State's printing bill about in half, and will save to the people who buy school books something like \$150,000 a year.

The State paid for legislative printing alone, during the session of 1907, \$18,000. Had the State owned its own plant, as the present bill provides that it shall do, the expense of legislative printing would have been about \$9,000.

In the matter of text books for the schools, the manufacture of which is provided for by this bill, Mr. Bynum has the figures to show what amount is now being paid for such books, what it would cost the State to have the work done in its own printing shop, and that a saving of over \$150,000 can be made that is now coming out of the pockets of the tax payers of the State and of some who are unable to pay taxes.

Under the provisions of the bill the Governor appoints a State Superintendent of Printing, who is to hold office for four years, at a salary of \$2,500 a year, and whose office shall be of equal dignity with other cabinet offices. He is to be authorized to purchase a printing plant for the State, and to have, of course, various other duties. The bill will no doubt be printed and it is sure of careful consideration by the House.

## PLAINT OF THE PLUTES.

"You can't please all the people all the time" is as true as that other adage about fooling the people, but when you have succeeded in pleasing only a part of the people anyway it must be somewhat discouraging to find that you are no longer pleasing even that portion of the population to which you once gave eminent satisfaction.

This seems to be the position in which the "Old Guard" now in Tallahassee is placed, as indicated by gossip current on the streets, to the effect that "the interests" are not satisfied with the course now being pursued by the said "Old Guard." This is not quoted as fact, but simply as gossip, but the gossip is to the effect that "we don't like this lukewarmness, this absence of enthusiasm in our behalf."

There's another old saw that seems to have been disproved by what are supposed to be the facts in this case, too; that one about "The Old Guard dies, but never surrenders." If this "Old Guard" had not surrendered why the complaint of the "interests" about the loss of enthusiasm in their behalf? No reason is given for the apparent change, and, as stated, it is not reported as authentic that such a change has occurred, but is only given as gossip that the corporations are murmuring at the neglect of their interests by those whom they had had reasons to regard as friends. "Can it be," they asked, "that political aspirations have had something to do with the present course of side-stepping?"

afflicted with wanderlust; erstwhile tired feet sought their accustomed resting place, and dreams of future political preferment made sweet the rest of Florida's most numerous branch of the Legislature.