

COUNTY OF SEMINOLE RAPS FOR ADMISSION

It is Proposed to Cut Off Upper Third of the Great County of DeSoto Out of Which to Make a New County.

This newspaper has no people's forum, which is that space in other newspapers devoted to the publication of letters from the people on topics of interest to each particular person. The reason why this newspaper has no people's forum is because all of its columns belong to all of the people.

Gentlemen are up here representing a sentiment to divide DeSoto County into two counties, by cutting off the upper third of it and naming it Seminole County. These gentlemen were given an opportunity to tell their story in the SUN. Gentlemen who oppose dividing DeSoto County, are invited to avail themselves of the same opportunity to tell their side of the story in the columns of this newspaper.

The following was written by those gentlemen who favor the division of DeSoto County:

There is a bill before the legislature calling for the formation of Seminole county from the northern third of DeSoto county.

There is a strong tendency in this legislature towards county division. Where it can be clearly shown that a good majority in the affected territory desire division the present legislature seems inclined to pass the bill. The people most affected should be heard on all matters. If matters like county division are left for scheming and paid politicians to manipulate legislation would be a farce.

Democracy means of the people, for the people and by the people; government of a state, a county or a territory. We fought this out in the Revolution:

LET THE PEOPLE RULE.

A FEW FACTS.

DeSoto County is the third largest county in the State. If divided as proposed DeSoto County would still remain the the third largest county in the State and the new county of Seminole would be as large as Hillsboro county, larger than Alachua or Volusia county, and more than twice as large as Bradford county.

In population the new county would have greater population than Ocala or Lee county, and DeSoto county after the division would still have more than twice the population of either of the above counties.

The value of Farm Products in the proposed new county is over a million dollars, or more than that of half the counties in Florida, and after dividing DeSoto county would still rank third in the value of farm products.

DeSoto county had assessed values in 1908 of \$4,258,398. This would give Seminole County an assessed valuation of more than one-third, or about \$1,600,000, and would leave DeSoto an assessed valuation \$2,658,398.

The taxable property in DeSoto county has increased \$1,801,750 during the past eight years, and although the county has built no new public buildings, no hard roads and has no bonded indebtedness the county tax is 18 mills, and it requires all the taxes the county can raise to pay the running expenses, it is so large and unwieldy.

Five-sevenths of the voters of the proposed new county have signed a petition asking for division, and the principal opposition to division comes from a small number of people in Arcadia who individually make money by keeping the county intact.

There has not been a day in three years when there was a doubt that the majority of the citizens in the north end of the county wanted division, but the great strength of Arcadia has beaten them in elections. And we now appeal to the legislature for relief. Twice the people in the north end of the county have emphasized their desire for division at the polls and twice the vote of Arcadia has defeated the division candidate. Now we appeal to you for a just deal by petitions signed by five-sevenths of the voters affected—the only people whose wishes as to a new county should be considered.

MEMORIAL EXERCISES

Continued from First Page.

public trust," and during the whole of their public career not once did they engage in graft, fraud, or speculation.

Right and Justice was their purpose, honor was their compass, virtue was their pilot, love of country was their glory; and in the private walks of life no clouds ever darkened the luster of their reputation. No blot ever bedimmed the purity of their integrity, no stain ever soiled the cleanness of their lives.

These noble attributes of which they were the happy possessors, in the words of an eminent American, "entitles them to the highest, the most resplendent niche in the sacred pantheon of of immortality," and when you, the members of this Legislature, shall be summoned to your eternal home, you may enter the golden gate truly applying to Stephen R. Mallory and Wm. J. Bryan the words of a distinguished Floridian:

"No prouder names in marble sleeps enshrined,
No nobler souls the statesmen's graves confine."

MR. ROBERSON'S SPEECH.

Mr. Roberson spoke in part as follows:

All of my life, I have been taught to love and revere the name of Mallory.

The younger Stephen R. Mallory, whose memory we honor to-day, by dint of his own intrinsic merit and perseverance, arose to the full measure of responsibility as a citizen, as a lawyer, as a public officer.

He was in every sense, "a soldier of the common good," and drew his inspiration only from the needs of the great masses of the people.

An English nobleman once said, he desired no other epitaph than the words, "Here lies the friend of Sir Philip Sidney."

So it would be fitting that we as Floridians should inscribe to these, our honored dead, the tribute: "Here lies the pride of the great masses of the common people."

STATE HOUSE DOPE.

(H. A. F.)

Every body knows the gentleman from Vascambia.

The House decided to protect gophers this morning.

That report of the "pass committee" might be termed a political graveyard for Florida, with some tombstones that glisten brightly but sadly in the "Sun" shine.

The Florida Legislature says, you can't shoot a hawk if he's after your chickens and got one in his mouth, unless you follow him out to a place that is not less than two hundred yards from the settlement or public road, or some neighbor's fence. But when you get him THERE, you are at perfect liberty to fire away if he is perfectly willing to wait.

Also that if anybody steals anything from you the dear state, the kind state, the easy state (will give it back to you, in which business, (if you put in the proper kind of claim,) there ought to be as much money as there is now in letting trains kill cows.

Also that every time you want to refill your prescription at the drug store, (which prescription may have a fraction of a grain of narcotic in it,) you must pay your doctor a dollar to write it over again. No, sir, you can't hardly even get a bottle of any kind of good croup or cough medicine without a "dollar for the doctor."

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