

The Pensacola Journal

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PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 10, 1911.

Give Us The Information.

Now comes the information from Tallahassee that the proposed investigation of the state officials is nothing but a farce and there will probably be nothing to the matter. Maybe so, but we doubt it.

We do not believe any state official has been guilty of any conduct unbecoming the dignity of a gentleman or a state official, but the report has been sent broadcast throughout the country that there was ground for suspicion that some of the state officials were getting more than was coming to them legally, and that kind of a report hurts these men and hurts the state of Florida.

Since the report has started it must be carried through or the people in Florida will believe that the state officials are "getting theirs" and the legislature was bought off.

If there was no ground for suspicion at first, then the legislature should have found something of value to attend to instead of dabbling in something which did not concern it. It is an injustice to the state officers for the investigation not to be a thorough one in every detail.

On behalf of the people of Florida The Journal asks for the information. If there is an officer that is not within his limits we want to know about it. If they are faithful servants of the people we want to know that also and get all suspicion out of our minds that the investigation aroused.

Give us the information—the truth. It Will Happen In Pensacola. Some of the state editors are attempting to poke a little fun at Pensacola and intimate that the silver service may be presented to the bathship Florida at some other port besides this one.

These boats are of deep draft, the Minnesota is drawing 27.4 feet, the Vermont 27.6 and the Mississippi 26.2. The Florida is larger than the boats we have with us and will draw more water, of course. It is not our intention to show that there is no another harbor in Florida in which these ships could go, but it is the truth, nevertheless.

Some of the harbors have plenty of water inside but they have a bar that cannot be crossed, while Pensacola has a channel five hundred feet wide extending from the wharfs into the gulf. This deep sea channel is more than thirty-three feet deep in low water.

Yes, the silver service presentation will take place in Pensacola, but all Floridians are supposed to come over and take part in the ceremonies. This is a state presentation in which thousands of individuals have taken part to make it possible. If it had not been for the individual effort there would be no silver service for the ship that will bear the name of Florida.

Commencement Exercises At The University.

The Journal is in receipt of an invitation to attend the commencement exercises at the University of Florida to be held on the 26th of May. With the invitation is a commencement calendar which is full of good things for those who are fortunate enough to attend. The exercises will extend over a period of five days, beginning Friday and ending Tuesday morning.

This has been a banner year for the university school and the commencement exercises are in keeping with the work of the year. Dr. Murphree has made the University of Florida one of the best schools in the south. He is an honor to the institution and the latter is a credit to the state.

Bulter county, Alabama, is making a bad record. The county has 26,000 inhabitants and only one marriage has occurred this month.

An effort is being made to have the railroads allow stop-over privileges in the south as is done in the west and the north. This will give home-seekers and tourists the privilege of visiting many places that they would otherwise have to pass by. Although Florida has not suffered to any great extent from the present way of doing things, for Florida, in most cases, is the objective point, the home-seeker tickets should allow stop-over privileges and the roads should not discriminate against the south any longer.

THE CHASE COMMISSION BILL FOR CITY GOVERNMENT.

The bill by Representative Chase of Duval county, providing a commission form of government for such cities as desire to take advantage of it, will no doubt become a law. It does not affect any city that does not want it and can be adopted only in such cities as may approve the commission plan at a regularly called election.

The Tampa Times has made a very careful review of the provisions of the bill as follows:

Section one limits the operations of the act to cities having populations of two thousand or over. Those attaining such population after passage of the act to be entitled to its benefits.

A petition signed by at least 25 per cent. of the voters of a city is required by section two to call an election to decide whether the city shall adopt the system provided by the bill. Such petition must be addressed to the county judge, who shall examine same and if found correct, shall certify that fact to the mayor, who shall call the election. Notice of same shall be published for fifteen days, the election to be within thirty days.

If the question of the adoption of the commission form of government is decided in the affirmative at such election, an election for five commissioners shall be held on the first Monday after the expiration of sixty days from the date of the first election. At least thirty days' notice of this election, by publication in newspapers or posting, shall be given.

After the election and qualification of the commissioners they shall choose one of their number as president, who shall possess and exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the mayor of the city.

The commissioners shall constitute themselves all the powers and functions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the city government, including also the duties and authority of bond trustees. All laws or ordinances of the former city government in force at the time of the change are to remain in force until repealed. City limits to remain the same. All divisions into wards shall be abolished. All city officers and employees shall remain in their positions except those abolished by the act, subject to the orders of the commissioners.

All employees are to be selected and employed and their duties prescribed by the commissioners, who shall possess the power of removal at pleasure without assigning cause. The city government is to be divided into five departments: those of public safety, finance, public improvements, public utilities, and public health.

Meetings of the commissioners are required to be held at least once a week, all meetings to be public and no "executive session." Three members to constitute a quorum.

No franchise for the establishment of a public utility shall be granted for longer than thirty years without giving the city the right and option to purchase same after a certain term. The granting of all franchises must be submitted to a vote of the citizens, after notice of four weeks. The expense of holding such election to be borne by the party seeking the franchise. And no public utility owned by the city shall ever be sold without submitting the question to the voters at a special election to be called for that purpose.

Elections for commissioners shall be held on the second Tuesday in October every four years, which shall be their term of office. Voters shall have the right to vote for any number of candidates for commissioners, not to exceed five, the five receiving the highest number of votes to be elected. The primary election law of the city and state to govern all elections.

Commissioners elected are required to qualify by the first Monday of the month next succeeding their election. Surety bonds of five thousand dollars each are required, the commissioners to have charge of the finance department to give an additional bond if required by the majority of the commissioners.

The power of removal or "recall" is exercised in the following manner: At any time after a commissioner has been in office six months a petition, signed by at least 25 per cent. of the qualified voters of the city, each of whom must give his address, and setting forth the grounds upon which the removal of the commissioner is asked, may be presented to the county judge, who shall examine the signatures and ascertain their number and qualifications, and if the petition bears the signatures of the requisite number of qualified voters, he shall certify that fact to the board of commissioners. If the commissioner complained of does not resign before the next regular meeting of the board, said board shall call an election in not less than thirty days nor more than forty days, for the purpose of choosing a successor to the accused commissioner, who shall also himself be a candidate, and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall hold office for the remainder of the term.

The commissioners themselves shall fill all vacancies caused by death or resignation, unless there shall be more than two vacancies, in which latter case the remaining members of the board, shall call a special election to fill such vacancies.

The salaries of commissioners are graded as follows: In towns of 2,000 and less than 5,000, four hundred dollars; of 5,000 and less than 10,000, eight hundred dollars; of 10,000 and less than 25,000, twelve hundred dollars; of 25,000 and less than 50,000, three thousand dollars; of 50,000 and over, five thousand dollars.

Expenditures are to be determined at regular meetings. Officers and employees to be chosen solely for fitness and qualifications. The promise of employment or anything of value in exchange for political support is forbidden. Reports under oath of expenditures on account of elections must be made to the county judge within thirty days after such elections, and said reports must be published. Commissioners, officers and employees are forbidden to be interested in any way in contracts with, or materials furnished for, the city, and from being interested in public service corporations operating in the city, and from accepting or using franks or free passes of any kind, under penalty of a fine of five hundred dollars or imprisonment for ninety days. This last prohibition does not apply to policemen or firemen in uniform or on duty.

A detailed statement of expenditures and a summary of the proceedings of the board of commissioners is required to be printed in pamphlet form and circulated each month, and an annual audit of the books and accounts of the city must be made and published.

Save a few unimportant details, the foregoing is a complete summary of the provisions of this very interesting bill. The prospects seem fair for it to become a law. If it does it will furnish a plan upon which the cities of Florida may be governed, and this fact furnishes the reason for our devoting so much of our space to this outline. It is perhaps as conservative a measure as there would be any likelihood of passing, and it also concedes as much as could be expected to the prevailing governmental fads of the day.

VOX POPULI.

REPLIES TO DEFENDERS OF PASTOR RUSSELL. Klondyke, Fla., May 2, 1911. Editor Pensacola Journal.

In a recent issue of The Journal Mrs. Georgia Rice, Mr. Porter and others call for "facts" in regard to Pastor Russell's teaching.

I have carefully examined his writings and find that he is the constructor of a heterogeneous mass of error, remarkable for inconsistency and still more remarkable because he claims to base it all on the words of Scripture. Passages of Scripture, when understood, are abused very often; when they are misapprehended they are abused always. What says Cooper: "Of all the arts sagacious dupes invent. To cheat themselves, and gain the world's consent. The worst is Scripture warped from its intent." And this Charles T. Russell has not failed to do.



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lating the words of John 1:1 "and a God, was the Word" and explaining the words "a god" by reference to Psalm 82:6. Readers of the Greek New Testament will readily admit that my description of such conduct is mild compared with that which it really deserves, seeing what the aim and object of it really is: To warp Scripture from its intent, and lead the simple astray from the truth therein contained.

(b) Where is his authority for saying that "He took not the nature of angels"? In Hebrew 2:16 there is no mention of "nature." Literally it reads: "For not indeed of angels takes He hold; but of the seed of Abraham He takes hold." This twice-repeated verb occurs nineteen times in the New Testament and is translated thus: "Caught him," "He took the blind man by the hand," "Barnabas took him," "lay hold on eternal life." In each case there is the idea of help. For instance, when Peter was sinking our Lord put out His hand and "caught him." How simple, then, read in the light of other Scriptures, is this statement! It has nothing to do with "natures." It states simply that our Lord did not help angels; it was men He came to help.

But someone may plead: In our Authorized Version it does speak of nature. True, but you will observe that the words are in Italian, which at once tells us that there are no words in the original corresponding to them. But C. T. R. by his own words places himself outside the benefit of this plea, supposing we grant it, for in his preface he writes: "The quotations from Scripture in this volume are not always from the common English version; we have endeavored to give the reader such translations as would most clearly give the sense, from the standpoint of the oldest Greek manuscripts."

"Think of a man who does not know Greek speaking in this lordly manner of 'the oldest Greek manuscripts!' I say, 'does not know Greek?' for if he has ever learned it, either he has forgotten its very rudiments, or most cleverly conceals his knowledge. There is an example of this in his treatment of the devil in the verse just before. C. T. R. is very fond of quoting: 'He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.' (Heb. 2:14), for from it he proves (at least he thinks he does) the final annihilation of Satan. Did he know Greek he would know that the word translated 'destroy' means really 'bring to naught.' For instance, in Luke 13:7 it is translated 'cumbereth.' It itself, but it also injured the soil. It made naught of all the nourishment of the soil, of all the sunshine and rain, of all the care and attention bestowed upon it. Its response to all this was 'nothing.' It brought forth no fruit. And this is a very good illustration of the meaning of the word rendered here, 'destroy.' And Paul uses it, for instance, in Romans 2:8. 'Do we then

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