

# The Jeffersonian

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THOMSON, GA., AUGUST 17, 1916.

## Notes on Georgia Politics.

IN his letter to Dr. Turner, a few months ago, Mr. M. L. Brittain assured the Doctor that he, Brittain, had *always* favored free school-books.

This amazing statement caused me to secure the evidence on Brittain, convicting him of *deliberate falsehood*.

Hon. Grover C. Edmondson wrote, stating that Brittain not only *lobbied* against the free-book bill, but that he, Edmondson, had denounced him for it, on the floor of the House.

Senator C. R. McCrory also wrote, corroborating Mr. Edmondson, and convicting Mr. Brittain of an additional falsehood in reference to Senator Huie.

As if this wasn't bad enough, a friend at Quitman sent me Brittain's own letter, written in January, 1914, in which Mr. Brittain stated his opposition to free books, and placed said opposition on the ground that the State is not able to afford it.

The State is able to support Jim Price and Pete Bahnsen, in their able efforts to carry the Agricultural Department around in passenger cars, to the tune of \$16,000 a year, but it can't afford to comply with the Constitution of 1877, which demands that our children shall have *free* education, in the rudiments of an English Education.

The State can afford to spend over \$300 a year, on every young man whose father is able to board him in Athens, but it is not able to put a blue-back spelling-book in the hand of the poor man's son, and thus give him a start in the long, hard path, which all of us who were poor know so well.

The State is able to run two Agricultural Stations, one at Griffin and the other at Athens, in the effort to improve grown men in farming, but *it is not able to obey its own law*, which requires that its boys shall be taught how to read and write, so that they may become better qualified to act as jurors and voters.

Not many days before the Legislature met, Mr. Brittain addressed the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

As reported in Clark Howell's paper, Mr. Brittain told the Brahmins that he favored free school books. Brittain must have studied the processes of the ancient Greek diplomats, who were said to enter the room with a *dilemma*, negotiate with a *subterfuge*, and leave with a *mental reservation*.

Anyway, Brittain has been up to his old tricks, throughout the Session. *HE OPPOSED FREE BOOKS!* He would consent to nothing more than an experiment with *one* book, and *he* to have control of that.

No wonder his *Christian Index* sought the State's printing!

Does The American Book Company pay M. L. Brittain a salary?

Does the Book Trust allow Mr. Brittain a commission?

The astounding duplicity of this man, and his mysterious obstinacy in combatting the

will of the people, justify the questions; and I ask them, in good faith.

Jim Price says he is running on his record. His *record!* *HIS* record!!!

On page 28 of the Public Accountant's Official Report, is a part of the record that James Price and Peter Bahnsen are running on.

The baleful words are as follows:

"During the two years under review, this Department spent \$32,120.83 for travel."

Thirty-two thousand dollars for James and Peter to ride up and down on the railroads, hunting for boll-weevils, cattle-ticks, and Betsy-bugs!

There are only about 300 work days in a year, and if James and Peter spend \$16,000 a year travelling, they are going at the rate of \$50 a day—which is really too much for such travellers as James and Peter.

The official report further says—

"No one in this department is under bond."

If that's the case, it's no wonder Peter and James travel so expensively.

The baleful report continues—

"The Agricultural Department draws directly from the Treasury . . . while other departments get money only on warrant of the Governor, countersigned by the Comptroller."

James and Peter go right to the Captain's office, and demand the ducats, on what the lawyers call their own *ipse dixit*.

No other department can get money on its *ipse dixit*.

The others have to go to the Governor for a warrant, and this order on the Treasury has to be countersigned by the Comptroller.

More of Jim's record is found on pages 61, 62, and 63, of the Accountant's official report. It is melancholy reading. It almost gives one the blues.

These pages show that Jim seldom visits his most estimable wife, in Athens, but that when he *does*, he charges it up to you and me.

Dog my cats, if I like that!

What I say is, Let every man pay his own way when he goes to see his wife.

Listen to this entry in Jim's expense account—

"From Atlanta to Athens to Homer to Athens to Atlanta Address Old Soldier's Home."

Now, I'm no Sanscrit scholar, but I understand the entry to mean that Jim made a speech to the Old Soldiers, and it cost us \$11.70, although Old Soldiers are not, strictly speaking, an industry connected with the Agricultural Department, and the Old Soldiers, as a body, have not taken part in the Cattle-tick campaign.

In the winter of 1915, Jim was unusually uxorious, and he spent more than \$60 of our money, going to see his most estimable wife.

This lamentable Report shows that Jim charged us \$21 for a trip to Birmingham, \$13.52 for one to Chattanooga, \$48.25 for another to Charleston and Columbia.

On Sept. 1, 1914, as the Report shows, Jim Price charges us with \$6.40, travelling expenses from Atlanta to Macon, and from Macon to Atlanta.

Ah, yes! That was when we held the famous Agricultural Convention, over which Judge Reagan presided; and in which Cousin Joe Pottle, Clayt. Robson, Senator Hoke Smith, and Jim Boykin all pulled together, for Cattle-tick eradication.

Lots of Betsy-bugs were slain in that Macon Convention of 1914, and Jim Price slew quite a few, himself; and all he charged us for helping Hardwick steal Hutchens and Slaton delegates, was \$6.40.

We got off light.

We are fixing to hold another Cattle-tick Convention, of the same sort, and it's going to be a bad time for Betsy-bugs.

The Report of the Accountant shows that Jim's lieutenant, E. L. Worsham, kept the State's money in his own name, in bank; and that on Dec. 31, 1915, when the cash balance of the State should have shown \$14,393.23, Lee Worsham's bank balance was only \$49.77, and the State's money was nowhere to be found!

This is the "record" which Jim Price is running on, for re-election!

The Accountant reports that Jim has been spending \$5,000 buying cotton seed, to give away!

At 50 cents a bushel, that sum would buy quite a lot of seed.

To whom has Jim Price given 10,000 bushels of cotton seed?

Did you know that the State has been giving away five thousand dollars, a year, in cotton seed, while it is too poor to keep old soldiers' pensions promptly paid, unable to promptly pay the school-teachers, and unable to give the poor man's child a Spelling book and a Reader?

Five thousand dollars for free cotton seed! Who got 'em?

Tell us about it, Jim! You have no platform, but are running on your "record."

Here's your record, Jim! Tell us from whom you bought the seed, and to whom you gave them.

And tell us whether you knew, in Dec. 1915, that Lee Worsham was short \$14,000!

In Lincoln County lives Jim Boykin, brother to the Atlanta lawyer who took sides against us in the Frank case.

In 1914, the county went for Rufe Hutchens, in his race for the Senate.

Jim Boykin had himself appointed delegate to the Macon Convention, and he therein knifed Rufe Hutchens, and delivered Lincoln's vote to Hardwick.

In other words, Boykin betrayed the county he represented. In Lincoln, he couldn't get 50 votes for anything.

In Dorsey's race, he sees a chance to get on the band wagon, and regain lost ground.

Everybody sees that the Hardwick-Pottle-Harris plan is, to divide the vote, and throw the struggle into another Macon Convention.

To such a convention, Hardwick men will go, disguised as Dorsey supporters.

Those men will knife Dorsey, as they knifed Hutchens, and will take orders from Hardwick.

Beware of traitors, Hugh!

The sort of man Jim's brother is, will be seen in the following letter, written to the man who was used by John Grant and John Slaton to vilify the State and myself in the Frank Case:

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 13, 1915.

Dear Sir: I thank you from the bottom of my heart for article appearing in Sundays and today's issue of The Chronicle. Your courage is SUBLIME. All honest Georgians should honor you for the work you are doing to combat and counteract the forces of evil set in motion by THAT ARCH-FIEND, TOM WATSON.

I rejoice and thank God that we have one Georgian brave and brainy enough to present the side of truth, and who can so ably present THE FACTS THAT WILL CLEAR THE NAME OF JOHN M. SLATON, AS TRUE AND HONEST A MAN AS EVER LIVED, from that charge of corruption in his official act as Governor. You should be supported by every honest Georgian. I am with you 'till the end. Your editorial is convincing. It has been read and favorably received here.

With best wishes,

Yours truly,  
JOHN A. BOYKIN.

The Constitution announces that Edward A. Stephens, who was Dorsey's assistant, has resigned in order that he may devote himself entirely to John A. Boykin, who is running for Dorsey's former office.

Edward is to be John's assistant, if that champion of John M. Slaton can be elected by the rich Jews and the Roman Catholics.

You have never written a line in favor of rrying out the Constitution of 1877, which ovided for an *absolutely free education*, in e English rudiments, Spelling, Reading, riting, and Arithmetic.

During the entire period since the people tified the work of Robert Toombs, Charles Jenkins, Nelson Tift, and the other makers the Constitution, the great paper of which r. Clark Howell is now the Editor, *has ver made a fight for our boys and girls— manding that they be given what the ghest State law promised.*

The common people pay the bulk of the illions appropriated to the Public School nds, and they have the mortification and ter disappointment of seeing their little es shut out of school, because of the pro- itive prices of text-books, the exacting of es for tuition, and the vicious system of anging the books every time the Trust and s pals need more loot.

Can Mr. Howell think of a better plan to olish illiteracy than to obey the Constitu- on, and make the schools *free*?

Does he suppose that the average man nks less of his boy and girl, than Mr. owell thinks of his?

Can he believe that the average parent eds to be driven by the State to give his ildren the benefits of education?

Let some such man as Professor Lanier, of nkins County, run for State School Super- tent, on a platform of pledging the State *keep faith with its children!*

The State has allowed itself to be debauched the Book Trust, and such Superintendents Brittain; and every attempt that we have ade to release our throats from the strangle- ld of the New York Seventeen-million- llar Trust, has been defeated by such men

Ed McMichael, M. L. Brittain and the bbyists hired by the Roman Catholic Book rust.

Enormous sums are voted to educate the ns of the rich, at the State University; rmous sums are voted to pay the teachers, t the children who most need the help, and e parents who are the most helpless, are al- wed to go on, from year to year, eating eir hearts out, because they are financially ble to buy the outrageously high-priced xt-books, pay the tuition fees which have n grafted on to public terms, cash up the dential dues, and clothe their little ones cently for association with other people's ildren.

O my countrymen! There is no lawlessness re destructive to our own posterity, and to e future of your Commonwealth than this stematic, cynical, corrupt, and persistent usal of those in office to obey the Constitu- m of 1877

I deny that our people do not want to ucate their boys and girls—I deny it! A fouler slander was never published.

Take away the bars you have allowed to put up! Remove the obstructions, between e cottage and the school-house!

Do right! Furnish the books, and abolish tuition and dential fees, while the child being taught the elementary branches of English education.

DO THAT, and you will never again hear y sensible men argue, that *the State should urp parental authorit, over your minor ild.*

Mr Howell's third question is rich: "What medy do you propose for the overthrow of ury and extortion, IN SMALL-TOWN NKKS?"

O you small-town banks! Be ashamed of yourselves! You have oused the righteous wrath of the Hon. ark Howell, and he virtually demands that gubernatorial candidates pledge them-

selves to eradicate the evils, precipitated upon mankind, by you small-town banks.

Let us see! Was it the small-town bank that the U. S. Comptroller of the Currency caught charging 150 per cent., *in Georgia?*

Was it the small-town bank which John Skelton Williams denounced, in the public prints, because it got millions of new Govern- ment money, *at 3 per cent. interest*, and loaned it to needy borrowers, at interest rates ranging from 20 per cent. to 2,400 per cent.?

Was it the small-town bank against which Comptroller Williams demanded Congression- al legislation, in order that he might punish some of the 100 per cent. patriots, on the criminal side of the courts?

Can Hon. Clark Howell go to Hon. W. J. Speer, Treasurer of Georgia, or to Hon. B. F. Perry, State Bank Examiner, and secure from those gentlemen an official denunciation of any small-town bank, for charging more than 12 per cent. on discounts?

Why is it the patrons of small-town banks pay 12 per cent.?

It is because they cannot elsewhere get cheaper money, and more accommodation.

And let me again Yankeeize my answer to Mr. Howell, by asking him another question:

Would not the quickest and most complete remedy for usury, either in small-town banks or in big-city banks, *be to enact a system of Rural Credits*, so that the small towns would be supplied with Government money, on the same terms as the big-city banks?

The only way to curb the big-city banks and hold them down to the Law, is to *give them competition.*

Let the Democratic party redeem its Balti- more pledge; let it enact a system of Rural Credits; let it supply rural communities with 3 per cent. money—and then you won't have to ask any futile laws against usury.

Speaking of "mob law"—what sort of law is it when the big-city bankers charge 150 per cent. for the use of 3 per cent. money, *which the law requires them to lend at 3?*

What sort of law is it, when all the rail- roads violate the public-crossing laws, and the Sunday freight-car laws?

What sort of law is it, when rich people, in magnificent automobiles, break all the speed laws, and warning laws, killing and maiming ten thousand human beings every year?

What sort of law is it, when thousands of girls disappear, annually, never to be heard of again, except in connection with a slavery worse than death?

What sort of law is it, *when a foreign or- ganization*, calling itself a church, is allowed to erect, all over this land of the free, *enor- mous dungeons*, screened by high walls, barred with iron doors and windows, *wherein 20,000 bachelors—lusty, red-faced, thick-lip- ped and satyr-eyed—keep 58,000 American girls and women under lock and key?*

What sort of law is it, when "Juvenile Courts" sentence young Americans of both sexes to the pope's workshops, delusively called Houses of the Good Shepherd?

What sort of law is it, when a Protestant brother, or father, can get no aid from the courts, in rescuing a sister, or a daughter, from these dungeons which the Italian pope has planted in every State of the Union?

What sort of law is it, when the American priests, each of whom is a sworn subject of a foreigner, and the sworn enemy of our Govern- ment, forbids and defies the States to in- spect those dungeons, and to learn how many of those *imprisoned concubines of the bach- elor priest CRAVE FREEDOM FROM THAT AWFUL LIFE?*

Let me volunteer a piece of advice to the Hon. Clark Howell:

*Quit trying NOT TO SEE what are the real causes of lawlessness.*

Contempt of law, in high places, breeds contempt of law, in places not so high.

*As to lynchings*, the swiftest way to lessen them in Georgia would be to *abolish the Prison Commission*, which no other State seems to need, and which has already *usurped the powers of a higher Supreme Court*: then, restrict the pardoning power which has been so shockingly abused, in behalf of rapists and murderers.

When a jury finds a defendant guilty of murder, but mercifully spares his life, *it is a demoralizing abuse of power for the Prison Commission and the Governor to pardon the convict, AFTER THREE YEARS detention at the State Farm.*

When an assassin lurks until midnight out- side your home, and shoots you through the window as you are going to bed, it is a fright- ful disregard of Justice for prominent citi- zens, daily papers, and log-rolling politicians, to besiege the Prison Commission and the Governor for a pardon, when the convict has never really been put to work a single day at the State Farm.

Yet, some of the very Slatonites and Leo Frankites who now yell for Law and Order, want the midnight assassin *pardoned.*

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