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THOMSON, GA., AUGUST 10, 1916.

Notes on Georgia Politics.

THERE never was a more interesting time to be alive, than right now.

And of all the places where it is most interesting to be alive, Georgia holds first position.

Think of having four candidates for governor, all sas-shaying around in the rain and mud, at one time! Think of a lively scrap for Congress in ten Districts! Think of one-half of our lawyers running against the other half, for judges, solicitors, State senators, and members of the legislature!

Pretty soon, we will add to the animation by holding a Purity Convention, a Law and Order Conference, and the Anti-lynching Bee, in every one of which we may count on having a regular old Felder-Eichelberger time of it.

Georgia is the only State in the Union where a second-class row, between fourth-rate rowdies, gets on the front page, crowds the Kaiser to the wall, and eclipses the news from Armageddon.

In addition to which, we mean to hold a Nitrate Convention, on Rock Comfort Creek, for the purpose of getting some minerals out of the air, and some ducats out of the pockets of Uncle Sam.

When the Government appropriates \$20,000,000 to squeeze nitrate out of the atmosphere, there is no reason why the Rock Comfort atmosphere should be snubbed.

Twenty million dollars can find just as much air on Rock Comfort Creek, as it can on the Tennessee River.

Besides, Rock Comfort runs through my District, and we need the money.

Now that Senator Dobbs is bucking Billy Wright, for the Comptroller's office, it wouldn't surprise me to learn that Brother John Lindsey will have opposition.

Brother John slipped very quietly into the snug berth of Pension Commissioner, and he has been holding on with considerable tenacity. When you come to think of it, you must be amazed to realize that none of the State House officers ever voluntarily quit. The circumstance is remarkable.

The legislature made a sad mistake when it resolute in favor of Muscle Shoals, in the matter of the \$20,000,000 nitrate industry. Muscle Shoals is in another State, while right here in Georgia we have Skull Shoals, High Shoals, and the Great Shoals of the Ogeechee. We can find others, if we can get \$20,000,000 by doing it. Are there no shoals on the Chattahoochee, where it tumbles down the hills of Habersham and through the valleys of Hall?

Our legislature never did a more inconsiderate thing, than when it surrendered our share in that infant nitrate-industry.

How do we get free school books out of a law which leaves them optional with Brittain's local Boards? Verily, the grip of Brittain and the Yankee Trust is hard to break. That two-face knave has been the assiduous

ape of the Trust ever since he has been in office; and the luxury of keeping him there, has cost the school patrons hundreds of thousands of dollars. There isn't a particle of doubt that Brittain was acting for Brittain, during all these years when he lobbied, and wire-worked in favor of the Trust.

Two years ago, he was writing letters in which he stated that we could not afford to furnish the books; and, at that very time, the hypocrite was compelling the people to pay two prices for them.

For thirty years, this outrageous robbery of our school children has been going on, and it seems it is to go on forever.

The Yeomans bill is just what anybody who knows Yeomans might have expected from Yeomans.

He professed himself to be in favor of free books, so that he would be in better position to help Brittain *side track* free books.

It is an old dodge, quite worthy of the man who ran up and down the State, in behalf of Leo Frank, circulating the Harry Alexander lie about The Jeffersonian.

That was a neat little job Brittain did for himself and his *Index* brethren, wasn't it? We will have to hire a foreign missionary to preach to these Baptist exemplars. Their holy zeal for the heathen (who sits in darkness) is not incompatible with unusual zeal in behalf of their own pockets, it seems.

With Brittain in office, to profit by bids for printing, made by Brittain's *Index*, the legal and business situation suddenly becomes truly rural.

But he sold his stock in the *Index*, after they had accepted his bid for the printing? Yayr.

Also, the darkey let go the shoat, after he "got cotched."

Nevertheless, an unsympathetic traverse jury sent the coon to the pen, by way of admonition to other darkeys, in the matter of other people's shoats.

Mr. M. L. Brittain and his Yankee Book Trust may bet their bottom dollar on one thing:

They will not always win the game of fooling the majority of the people—not even with the aid of Mr. Clark Howell's *constitution*.

It is a rotten shame that school children should be utterly unable to get a fair deal from the Georgia dailies, and from the Georgia legislature.

When we middle-aged folks were going to school, we could—and did—use the same books, every year, until they were handed down from the oldest child to the youngest.

But under the Brittain and Book Trust system, every child must have a separate set of books, and every child has to keep on buying new books, and every book is sold at three times more than a fair price.

Somebody steals the money!

Somebody goes in cohort with the Yankee Trust, and divides the loot.

There isn't an intelligent man in Georgia who does not suspect, that the Authorities who continue this infamous system, get a *commission on the sale of the books!*

Would Brittain and his Superintendents go before a Notary, and make affidavit, that they have never had a personal and selfish interest in the sales of the text-books?

Now would be a good time for them to do it.

We have our reasons for believing that the Book Trust leans upon a *Brittain Trust*; and that this *combine of Superintendents* is the hidden hand which directs the legislators who vote for the Yankee publishers, *against the Georgia child.*

Clark Howell would be well advised, if he lets M. L. Brittain tote his own skillet.

The *Constitution* seems to favor Hugh Dor-

sey for governor, but it will injure Hugh by boosting Brittain.

Dr. Keese is running on a platform of *principles*: Brittain is not.

Brittain and his school-inspector, Miss Parrish, favor the use of State money, by Roman Catholic *religious* schools.

If this is not unlawful, nothing is.

So, when Clark Howell boosts Brittain in the *Constitution*, Clark necessarily endorses what Brittain endorses; and that puts a Dorsey paper in a false position.

Dorsey's platform condemns Brittain's practice.

Dorsey says that it is unconstitutional to allow any church school to use State money.

Brittain is doing that very thing; and has always done it.

He defends it, and so does his Miss Parrish.

Not only that, his Miss Parrish lectures to the children, and teaches these young people that the Roman Catholic schools have a legal right to the State's money.

Miss Parrish's lectures in behalf of Popery are made under Brittain's auspices, and at the expense of Protestant tax-payers.

Clark Howell knows this, or ought to know it, for the facts were made public, months ago.

Therefore, the *Constitution* will seriously damage Hugh Dorsey's campaign, if it persists in booming Brittain, whose violation of our Supreme law has been defiant and of long standing.

I think that every friend of mine is loyally supporting Hugh Dorsey and Dr. Keese. We want them both elected. Dr. Keese's platform appeals to us, profoundly.

Any whip-sawing of Dr. Keese by Dorsey's Atlanta friends will cause trouble.

Dorsey is understood to be as much opposed to Brittain's unlawful favoritism towards the Catholic schools, as Dr. Keese is; and if there is a misunderstanding on the subject, now is the time to find it out.

We musn't have any doubts as to where we stand.

I understand that Hugh Dorsey condemns Brittain's way of giving public funds to the Pope's private schools—that is to say, the Savannah schools wherein the "Sisters" teach the Pope's ludicrous creed.

If Mr. Dorsey *doesn't* stand right there, I have misunderstood him, and I want to be set right, without delay.

Now that Hon. Sam Olive, of Richmond, has voted to "insult the Sisters," the morning Chronic-bellyache can change its diet, by vilifying somebody nearer its Catholic office.

The State is going to inspect and "insult" every State institution, where orphans, lunatics, inebriates, deaf and dumb, convicts, or citizens held like convicts, are confined.

If the "Sisters" consider it an insult to submit to the same laws and the same methods used by the State in dealing with its own schools, asylums, penitentiary, etc., then the Sisters had better choose another jurisdiction.

A foreign church which comes in here, and builds Bastilles—with thick walls, barred windows, fortress-like enclosures—can't expect to *always* be allowed to fill those dungeons with kidnapped children and deceived women, free from State inquiry into the actual state of things inside those iron-barred rooms.

If a Turk should come to Atlanta and build a Seraglio, *filling it with women*, the City would have something to say about it.

If Senator Smoot, of Utah, should move to Macon, build as many houses as Brigham Young built for his wives, and openly live with 18 wives, as Brigham did, the City would be very much interested.

The Turk might plead his "religion," and so might Smoot, but that sort of "faith" wouldn't work with us.