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Edited by WEN R. PHILLIPS

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Dollar and Fifty Cents for 6 Mos.

# We're In Darn Good Shape for the Fix We're In

WITH new iniquities being revealed almost daily in the contracts between the city of Miami and the Florida Power & Light company, this paper is becoming more convinced that the contracts can be, and eventually will be, set aside.

Such palpable trickery cannot be legal. Even the high-priced lawyers and politicians and out-of-town experts that the power combine has commandeered cannot put it over in any court of equity. It is only our absent-mindedness, and our extreme tolerance bred of the boom days, that have permitted the contracts to go this far.

These 30-year contracts on our water, gas, electricity and transportation can't survive the light of publicity. There are too many public-spirited citizens who have nerve enough to brave the wrath of the Octopus. And there is at least one paper in Dade county holds its obligations to its readers higher than any advertising contracts the power combine seeks to subsidize the publishers with.

These contracts will undoubtedly decide the coming municipal elections. That is, if the voting public will come out of its apathy long enough to listen to some facts that are going to be brought out by the candidates.

One of the candidates, Abe Aronovitz, recently acting state's attorney, furnishes us some interesting details this week. Abe got roiled a few months ago when a relative was charged \$133 for water in his private residence and was deprived of service because he protested. And Abe started investigating the city's contracts.

He found that although the law specifies that a franchise submitted to voters must contain all the body matter in the heading, the water franchise for

which we voted \$1,000,000 to tap the Hialeah wells had nothing in the heading regarding the "joker" section 8. This paragraph provides that after the expiration of five years "grantee's rates and charges for service shall be such as to yield and enable the grantee to earn and pay from its service herein provided for, all the costs of such service, including maintenance, taxes, insurance, rentals, all reasonable and proper reserves, such as reserves for judgments and claims, uncollectable accounts and replacements and depreciation, and all other items except those which, in accordance with approved accounting practice are properly chargeable to property or fixed capital account, and an annual return equal to at least 10 per cent on the contemporaneous rate base, out of which said annual return shall be provided all accounts which shall be paid by grantee for interest on floating and funded debt hereunder, except where such interest is properly chargeable to property or a fixed capital account. Said contemporaneous rate base shall be determined as of any particular time by adding to \$1,903,295, being the agreed and approved value of the property of grantee used or held for use in rendering service on the 31st day of July, 1924, the total cost of all subsequent extension or improvements thereof and of all property additional thereto constructed or provided from time to time, used or held for use in distributing water by grantee hereunder, including proper allowances for organization, assembly, property development, working capital, financing and all costs or expenses, etc."

Can you beat that? Of course, the heading of this franchise for which we voted didn't contain any reference to this provision. No person with taxable property in Miami at stake, with a vestige of brains, would have approved such a provision. Abe says it invalidates the franchise—and we believe it.

We haven't space, using this big type, to tell the whole story this week. But this one thing alone should start all true Miami boosters thinking.

The bus contract could almost bankrupt the city of Miami, for the minimum obligation is \$1,050 per month per bus. And there are 50 buses. That would make \$55,000 per month. And \$650,000 per year. And, if the contract runs 27 years longer, the city faces a possible loss—on this one item alone, mind you—of \$19,500,000!

And if our past experience is any criterion, we'll have to pay it.

Miami Life not only urges, but demands, some action against these franchises. If it cannot persuade the Chamber of Commerce, the civic organizations, the labor unions, or other of these organizations that claim to work for the public good to prosecute; if it cannot persuade this much-touted city commission of ours to cancel its obligations; if it cannot persuade the voters of Miami and the patrons of our public utilities to make the proper complaint, this paper will be forced, in order to preserve itself, to institute suit in this matter. It can't afford, as no other business institution in Miami can, to submit such a fraud.

Everyone is complaining right now about being charged 300 and 4,400 per cent more on light, power and gas than three years ago. Miamians are paying from three to ten times more for public utilities than any of the leading cities of the United States. But under the Florida Power & Light company's contracts, our present rates can be doubled and trebled a couple of years from now.

The City of Miami actually faces bankruptcy! It can be avoided only by nullifying these contracts. Can it be possible that a foreign corporation, composed entirely of outsiders, can come in here and steal an empire without being punished?

## A Problem In Division

NINETY-NINE out of every hundred people are asking: "Can Florida be divided into two states?" Not only are they asking, but they are demanding it.

Never was there a state so divided on commercial, moral and political lines. South Floridians and North Floridians are of an entirely different species. In South Florida we're progressive; in North Florida the owls still make love to the chickens.

There is only one solution to this mixup. Divide the state, from Tampa and Vero, southward. These backwoodsmen from the north have dictated to us too much, as it is.

The first thing the legislature should take up is the dividing of Florida.

PERHAPS a Republican or two in Washington, as representatives of Florida, might have helped in securing that new post office appropriation, and speeded up that refund for the harbor.

## R. I. P.

MIAMI LIFE readers this week must be prepared to receive a sad blow—that is, those who read the ads. The Florida Power & Light Company, which has been of the faithful and of the pioneers using this paper as a medium, advertising their wares, products and by-products—even to the lowly busses which, by the way, the taxpayers of Miami, through the connivance of our city commissioners, must subsidize—has made a resolution.

You who have watched the receding sun, knowing that the galloping meters would soon be leading new speed records ere again Old Sol would stick his shining orb over the horizon; even shoving Gar Wood and Captain Segrave into the discard—are now confronted with part of your weekly dozen:

The Florida Power & Light Company has reduced its advertising budget. It has relegated Miami Life into the dark and dismal swamps and no more will have to pay stockholders' funds out to this paper for advertisements.

But remember, though gone, we shall not forget. Anyway, not as long as we must trust to a meter-reader who is a prodigy in addition and multiplication.

## Summer Rates and Politics

EVERY summer invitations go forth from emptying hotels and apartments for the year-round citizen to take the opportunity of securing a \$200-a-month winter apartment for \$50-a-month summer apartment, while hotels slide the old rates down the toboggan.

Which is all good and well and appreciated. And every election time new friendships pop up between men who were formerly hated rivals, and they combine to secure what is known as popular favor of that branch of our public which votes. Which is not either good or appreciated, unless as a standing joke.

Miami is on the verge of an election. New city commissioners are to be chosen, and the citizens are to vote and elect them.

The peculiar part of the deal is that the voting public will still be enjoying winter rates from the guidance of our political self-appointed and hand-selected leaders, if they don't watch out.

Miami's taxpayers are certainly entitled to a summer rate basis from their officials. Year after year, and 12 months in each year, the old schedule of expensive office-holders has prevailed.

Isn't it about time for that class of so-called independent citizens who steadily plod along and try to pay their taxes, to wake up and go to the polls and wallop the old gang into the discard?

Or do they wish to assert their independence and let the "regulars" use their names in favor of the gang which has made costs, assessments, taxes, and municipal conditions a burden on Miamians and Dade countyites ever since an incipient boom turned into a boomerang?

SOME folks up in Little River are kicking about paying ten cents to telephone to the rest of Miami. They should learn up there that they were only annexed into Miami for taxation purposes. Isn't that right, Silver Bluff?

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## Oh, What a Fakir!

MIAMI LIFE nominates the Honorable John W. Martin as the greatest political mountebank ever to occupy the office of Governor, in or out of Florida, and that, we submit, is going some.

Upon the eve of the legislature's assembling, where the Governor purposes putting in his best strokes upon which to pitch his campaign for U. S. senator against Park Trammell, he makes loud claim that he has reduced taxes.

This is such a cheap trick that it should have no credit, but in Martin's case it is a brazen untruth.

The manner in which he has reduced taxes has been by the simple expedient of raising assessments, and those who have taxes to pay know that there has been no reduction, while on the contrary taxes are higher than they have ever been.

It might be admitted that because the assessments have been largely increased it was not necessary to make the millage as high, but that does not relieve the taxpayer. It increases his burden.

Of course Martin knows this. He is merely trying to take advantage of the ignorance of the great horde of voters who do not pay taxes, and of others who cannot remember from one year to another what amounts they are called upon to cough up to this insatiable Moloch.

## Show Me the Way to Go Home

RESIDENTS in some parts of the city had waited years before street signs were put up at their corners. Then, after the signs were up only a few months, many of them were taken down because the city wanted to put up new posts for the signs. And now, in many sections, the new posts are up—but the street signs haven't been put back up or, in some instances, only one sign was put back. What we are trying to figure out is, why it was ever necessary to remove the signs from the corners at all, during the process of putting up the new posts. So far, the answer seems to be "No."

Cross Florida Week-End low fare Excursion Tickets will be on sale through April. Same high-class train service. Seaboard Air Line Railway. Phones 8161-6104. (Adv.)

What Everybody's Asking Today:

When Is Your Wife Going North?



## Greeby to Start Summer School

Will Head Massive Unendowed Institution Provided He Does Not Go to China—Which is Very Unlikely.

RAMMERHEAD GREEBY, who declined a position as chief director of the Chamber of Commerce, announced to a Miami Life reporter that he was still working for a bigger and better Miami, and would open a summer school for real estate salesmen in the Roosevelt hotel building.

Mr. Greeby, lounging in the beautiful and palatial tug, "Lieutenant Governor Simpson," had been making a survey of strategic points in Biscayne Bay for the purpose of locating forts in case the Chinese should attempt to capture Miami, and it was while so doing that the idea of promoting a summer school for real estate salesmen entered his mind.

"I do not desire no publicity," stated the well-known advocate of free municipal laundries, "but I do believe something should be done to educate our present crop of real estate salesmen. Two years ago real estate salesmen knew their business and had no trouble in disposing of choice lots in Taylor and Liberty counties for folks to build their palatial winter homes on, but this season they lack the finer points of the game and can't even sell or get a binder on Croissitania or Florida City lots. Which proves they need education."

"So I have conceived this idea of putting things back where they belong."

Little Geraldine, Mr. Greeby's adopted daughter, who recently had a birthday party at Key Largo, started her tantalizing laugh and remarked that the reason the old man had spent so much time under Henry Chase's supervision was because he forgot to put things back, but a playful tap from a belying pin caused the young one to call it a day.

Otherwise ignoring the interruption, Mr. Greeby continued: "I have made arrangements for a series of lectures and will let you know the first week's schedule: On Mondays "Doc" Damms will give his No. 7 sneech on "The Beauties of Central Miami When Seen From a Distance," Tuesdays, "How to Honor Your Sons by Building Subdivisions," by G. Frank Croissant; Wednesdays, "Beautiful Hialeah," by the city attorney of that city who is also the legal adviser of the Greeby Summer School for Real Estate Salesmen; Thursdays, "Boca Raton and its Proximity to Floranada," by Addison Mizner; Fridays the students will be given an evening meal at the Greeby-Jeeby Inn, and the following week's tuition fees will be due. Saturday will be a holiday for the salesmen, thus giving them a chance to do what laundry work they need, and also to study the real estate for sale lists as compiled from the Herald and the Miami Beach Beacon.

"This course of instruction, which will last two years, will fit a real estate salesman for anything, and those that graduate will be ready to go to work for anybody."

Declining an invitation to brush his teeth, the reporter let Mr. Greeby drink the Zonite, and sought further information from the civic leader as to what progress the Greeby Rough Riders were making for their coming trip to China.

"Fine," answered Hammerhead. "Everything is in readiness for a hurried departure. All we now need is uniforms, equipment, arms and rations, and we can leave at once as soon as some privates enlist. The immigration authorities have entered whole-heartedly into the patriotic move and are ready

TO SEE BETTER  
—SEE—  
**SMITH**  
THE  
MIAMI OPTICAL CO.  
OPTICAL SPECIALIST  
49 N. Miami Ave.

**HOTEL HALCYON**  
N. E. SECOND AVENUE AND FLAGLER STREET  
OPEN ALL THE YEAR  
EUROPEAN PLAN  
Recently Redecorated Throughout  
Special Rates Now in Effect  
"Make the Halcyon Your Summer Home"  
T. J. PETERS, Prop. A. H. MOULD, Manager

## The Tell-Tale Tourist

Gone are the "auction jewelry" stores. And there's the moaning and groaning amongst those landlords who listened to the wiles and smiles of those beneficent merchants who allowed they'd undersell our legitimate stores, and pay \$25 daily into the city treasury for the privilege of so doing. The sheriff's office broke into the premises of the one on Flagler street and found the owners had taken stock—and everything else and departed.

Some day—and it is not far distant—the interpreters and enforcers of what laws we have covering the situation, will see to it that such concerns are not allowed to invade our city on a gyping expedition for a few short months, and then ha-ha us as they depart, loaded with the gold of our gullible. There should not be much sympathy for those who try and get something for nothing, and most every patron of the auction jewelry stores entertained some such hope, but those patrons are entitled to protection.

There are two oil lease concerns in Miami. One at N. E. First street and N. E. Second avenue, and the other at Flagler and N. E. Second avenue. Mr. Snyder is at the latter corner. He affirms oil has been smelled or seen out at the Tamiami Trail well. Mr. Graham, at the other corner, states such is not yet an assured fact, and believes the public should be so told.

The well is a "wildcat" proposition. Leases are for sale, and those that buy are speculators, pure and simple. You either win or lose, and for the protection of that branch of the public which likes to take a flyer, this information is passed on. To

**R. Laacke Co.**  
Awnings Tents  
LARGE TENTS For Rent See Us First Phone 22214  
1758 N. E. Second Ave. Successors to MAGIC CITY AWNING WORKS

**THE C. T. CO.**  
BONDSMEN  
Office, 307 Seybold Bldg., Miami, Fla.  
J. E. Courtney, Manager  
Gus Bunnell, Agent  
1249 N. W. 10th Ave.  
Night Phones 9972-7003  
Office Phone 31651

**A Low Priced Special Arch Shoe**  
The "Constant Comfort" Shoe is a boon to those whose habits or physical condition demand special attention to the feet.  
One-strap and three-button types in patent leather or black kid with turned soles and SPECIAL BUILT-IN ARCH with Cuban heel, are stylish as well as comfortable.  
—\$5—  
**CONSTANT COMFORT**  
The Shoe with 7 Points of Comfort  
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.  
**O'Berry's**  
Quality Footwear  
137-39 Seybold Bldg.-28 N.E. 1ST ST.  
And 3850-32 N. E. 2nd Ave. Buena Vista

successfully and accurately secure a good test of what's down in the hole, a core must be taken, and, at this writing, the only evidence at hand is a bit of yellow sand washed out with the flowing water, which left a coffee-colored stain when chloroform was used as an analyzing agent.

It may be that some folks want to go, and the lady, Mrs. Austen, who does the hostessing, said to tell all the natives that the Interstate Society would hold a dancing, bridge and soft drink festival on the terrace of the Terrace apartments, Lenox and Sixth street, Miami Beach, Saturday evening, from 8 to 12.

In a case before U. S. Commissioner Spitzer last Monday, a coast guard crew, which had chased a captured boat, after one of the men had had his head dented with a coast guard bullet, information was that the captured boat had no lights, and consequently was open to the suspicion of being a rum-runner. The defendants came back with the information that the coast guard boat had no lights either. And the evidence finally at hand was to the effect that the coast guard could navigate without lights, as a state of war existed between that branch of the government and smugglers.

Miami evidently aspires to her place in the vanguard of sports centers—unless the reformers stop the latest ventures. The Miami Coliseum, to be erected at Coral

Gables, has received the financial backing of that city, and active construction has begun, with John B. Orr as the contractor. The building, the largest of its kind in the South, will seat 8,000, and will be ready by September 15. J. K. Dorn is the president, Jos. H. Adams the vice president, and G. R. Washbush, secretary-treasurer.

While in another part of Miami the Miami Sports Club has secured a large tract of land to erect a bicycle and motorcycle track, and take care of other athletic events.

Mrs. Clifton Littlewood, who has been active these many years in the development of Community Singers and public free concerts for the different neighborhoods of Miami, states the coming year will be the greatest ever had in the music line, and that everyone in town will have the opportunity to show their talent during National Music Week. She can be found in the Chamber of Commerce building should you want to know.

Have you kicked in to the Community Chest yet?

Miami Life is Read, Not Skimmed.

**HAVANA**  
With Miami's Oldest and Most Popular Touring Company ALL EXPENSE TOURS 4-5-6-Day Tours \$75-\$95-\$115  
Get our new 12-page folder. It gives complete and definite information that will not mislead you.  
**Jones Tours**  
39 N. E. 2nd Ave. Phone 8473 Spanish Village, Miami Beach

**Picture Framing**  
RICHARD B. HOIT  
101 HALCYON ARCADE ROOM 48  
477 SW 3rd St.  
QUICK SERVICE - PARKING SPACE

**BUCKEYE GARAGE**  
S. C. McDonald  
160 N. E. 14th Street  
Phone 4449  
"Wrecker Service"  
Complete Garage Service General Repairs on All Makes of Cars

**GRAVES PHARMACY**  
COLLINS AVENUE AT SEVENTH STREET  
MIAMI BEACH  
PRESCRIPTION SPECIALISTS  
Expert Registered Pharmacists Always in Charge at This Store

**WOFFORD**  
Directly on the Ocean at 24th St.  
Perfect cuisine, homelike appointments, charming social atmosphere. Private bathing beach. Dancing nightly in new Spanish Tea Garden with syncopation by the Music Weavers. Special Tea Dansants Sunday afternoons, 4:30 to 6.  
Moderate American Plan Rates

**BISCAYNE PLAZA** the largest and most beautiful THEATRE on MIAMI BEACH  
COLLINS AVE. at BISCAYNE ST.  
SUNDAY AND MONDAY  
"OH, BABY," with Madge Kennedy and Little Billy  
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY  
"THE CITY," with May Allison and Walter McGrail  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY  
"A POOR GIRL'S ROMANCE," with Gertrude Short  
SATURDAY  
"A REGULAR SCOUT," with Fred Thomson and His Wonder Horse, Silver King  
ERDELL MUTCHLER and his Biscayne Plaza Symphony Orchestra.  
BLANCHE KELL ROGERS, Feature Organist, at the Kimball.  
PERFORMANCES AT 7:30. Adults 50c; Children 25c.  
FREE PARKING SPACE. Street Cars and Buses Stop at Theatre Entrance

**NOTICE TO VOTERS**  
Registration books for City Primary Election, May 3, are open each day (Sundays excepted) from 10 o'clock A. M. until 6 o'clock P. M. at following places:  
1. Little River, Suburban Plumbing Co., 7921 N. E. 2nd Ave.  
2. Buena Vista, 3834 N. E. 2nd Ave., directly across street from Shackelford Motor Co.  
3. Automotive Equipment Co., corner 24th St. and N. E. 2nd Ave.  
4. Allapattah, Wallis Realty Office, 1938 N. W. 17th Ave.  
5. Fire Station, N. Miami Ave. and 14th St.  
6. City Hall, W. Flagler St. and First Ave.  
7. Michaud's Soda Shop, corner W. Flagler St. and 17th Ave.  
8. Fire Station, S. Miami Ave. and 10th St.  
9. Silver Bluff, City Hall.  
10. Coconut Grove, City Hall.  
Poll taxes may be paid at all of the above registration places except precinct 6. Persons registering in Precinct 6 will pay their poll taxes at the Court House. House.  
To vote in the Primary Election May 3, poll taxes for the years 1925 and 1926 must be paid on or before April 9th.  
Registration books for the Primary Election close April 26th at 6 o'clock P. M.

**I AM GOIN TO DRILL A DEEP-TEST WELL —FOR— OIL**  
I OWN THE OIL, GAS, AND MINERAL RIGHTS ON A TRACT OF LAND CONTAINING MORE THAN **20,000 ACRES**  
SITUATED IN THE EVERGLADES BETWEEN THE WELL NOW BEING DRILLED ON THE TAMAMI TRAIL AND THE GULF COAST  
I offer you an opportunity to buy an Oil and Gas Lease on some of this acreage. Buy a small tract or a whole section.  
The Prices Are Low—Your Money Will Help Drill the Well  
BE SURE TO CALL AT MY OFFICE AT 104 BAYSHORE DRIVE INVESTIGATE — THEN — INVEST  
**CONRAD MEYER**  
OFFICE OPEN SUNDAY 104 Bayshore Drive (One Block North of Flagler Street) OFFICE OPEN SUNDAY





