



"YOUR SKYLINE REMINDS ME OF NEW YORK"

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Yes! Yes! Yes! Yes!—But Never "No!"

GO OVER TO city hall Monday afternoon, all you trustful, conscientious voters, all you citizens who thought your votes changed political conditions last June. If you do, you will probably witness a farce that may not be funny to you who have to pay the piper, but it will be excruciatingly funny to a casual bystander.

You will see—mind you, this is what Miami's powers-that-be have ordained but it has not been announced and there may be a last-moment hitch—Mr. Edward Coleman Romfh, mayor-commissioner for two years and the mainspring of the late (but not lamented) "banker commission," step out of the picture.

And his successor will be appointed. He has already been selected. And is he a man with big-business experience? a civic leader? a mind accustomed to dealing with big problems and social ills? who has had experience in handling hundreds and thousands of men? a financier? a public servant who may be entrusted with the affairs of a \$500,000,000 corporation?

Judge for yourselves.

Mr. Gordon H. Russell operates a weekly paper in Miami called the Miami News. It is supposedly a labor paper. One of those labor papers, you know, that try to straddle the fence—kidding along the union men and at the same time trying to keep on the good side of employers of labor. We hate to say anything about a brother publisher—but anyone familiar with political conditions of Dade county must admit that Mr. Russell is unknown, that he has never done anything to warrant his elevation to the city commission, and that he as a candidate for city commission would have been lost in the shuffle.

Yet he is to be catapulted from mediocrity to magnificence and munificence! Instead of a corner in a printing office, Mr. Russell and his spittoon will henceforth embellish the central meeting place in city hall. He will achieve his ambition—that of being an office-holder without having to go through the ordeal of another defeat at the polls.

And why?

Could it be anything else than that Mr. Russell will simply be a "Yes" man? That he will represent the interests of Mr. Romfh whose place he will fill? That he will do the bidding of Ev Sewell? That he will do what Harry Platt, who will resign as commissioner to become city manager Monday, tells him to do?

If he isn't a "Yes" man, why would he be selected? Especially when there are so many fine executives available for the job. More especially when Red Gautier, the lawyer and also a publisher, has the rightful claim on the first vacancy on the city commission, having lost out by the tiny margin of 15 votes. If Judge Gautier doesn't rise on his haunches and orate in the famous Gautier manner, we shall be sadly disappointed.

We might as well resign ourselves to the situation. We—and by "we" we mean the thousands of voters who tried to break up the pernicious clique that's been ruling us for many, many years—might as well confess our utter failure.

We're back to where we started.

If what we have predicted goes through, we have only this to suggest to Mr. Reeder and Mr. Lummus: Resign! Let the "gang" have absolute power!

Remember, if worst comes to worst, we can always move.

They Sometimes Do It This Way

IN civil actions, where one seeks redress in a justice of the peace court, the amount involved must not exceed \$100.

Sam Misleh is an Armenian. He once sought the advice of a deputy constable by the name of Ware, who, by the way, is under indictment. Ware, for his services charged \$300. Misleh refused to pay the amount, claiming that Ware had not earned any part of it.

The next step occurred in Justice of the Peace Okell's office. A man by the name of Pottmyer sued Ware for a sum of \$300. Ware confessed judgment, but claimed he had no money except the \$300 he hoped to collect from Misleh.

Therefore a judgment was sought against Misleh. Retaining attorneys, Misleh informed the justice of the peace that that court had no jurisdiction as the sum involved was over \$100.

But this difficulty was soon overcome. Three summonses—each on the same ground and subject—were issued. They totalled \$300. Judgment was given and Misleh's car was attached. He had to pay.

Rent collectors also use justice of the peace offices as weapons to collect. This system is very extensively played in the negro district. The deputy constables think nothing of stepping out of their own districts in order to collect fees in another.

Another endeavor of Justice Okell has to do with his double activities as a lawyer and a justice of the peace. Mrs. Ray Byfield desired a divorce. She retained Justice Okell as counsel. He as justice of the peace in District No. 9, issued a peace warrant against Mr. Byfield, residing in Coral Gables, or District No. 7, who was arrested and taken to the county stockade. Justice of the Peace Okell has no jurisdiction in another district.

The Miami public is awakening to the fact that the law is for protection of the people. Quite a number are wondering why they don't get it. Miami Life proposes to show why.

"GET the business" seems to be the motto of the street railway running to Coral Gables, if reports are true. Autoists who have given free rides to citizens have been called upon by a representative of the railway and kindly asked to desist from such practice, as they were depriving the poor transportation company of many dimes.

Round the Town With Rod

HOW DO THEY EAT?

AMONG the things I'd like to know is how county constables eat three square meals a day on the money they earn at their jobs. The constables are paid \$6 for each arrest made. There are ten constables and in three months, March, April and May, they made 132 arrests.

This works out at \$79.20 per constable for the three months. But they did not all arrest the same number of people. Const. Falstree arrested 2; Const. Willis, 8; Const. Smith, 20; Const. Hinson, 26; Const. Pye, 9; Const. Cook, 2; Const. Crittenden, 5; Const. Mehan, 24; Const. Lasse-ter, 35; Const. Short, 1.

Notwithstanding the fact that they have a Cook and Pye, most of them must have been Short.

THE county constables have been told that their deputies must conform to the law on the matter of the \$1,000 bond necessary for deputies to hold. Only one deputy was bonded and he is a deputy no more. As far as the county constables are concerned they are in a non-paying business. There are too many districts. Instead of ten there should only be six of them. Broward line to about 100th street; 100th street to 36th street; 36th street to the Tamiami Trail; Tamiami Trail to just south of Goulds; and then the rest of the county around Homestead. This sort of division would give constables a chance to make a living. The county constables should work in conjunction with the sheriff's office at all times, instead of against it. At the present time the sheriff's office is away behind in the matter of serving papers and the constables are sitting around waiting for something to do. (Continued on back page.)

Pictures Quit Moving

CAPT. PRYER, a well known maker of news reels, took some thousands of feet of film in and about the city of Miami, over a period of several months. For two years he tried to sell the idea of sending out Miami films as an advertising stunt to Fred Weede. Eventually, after Charlie Helsler, of the chamber of commerce, got busy on the selling end, Fred decided that it would be all right. A department for forwarding the films and securing bookings was formed. It was placed in the hands of Mrs. Grant and she certainly booked the films well. In all, about nine millions of people have seen these reels showing Miami at its best. Then came a time when the reels needed repairs. But there was no money for that department, not even the price of postage stamps to answer inquiries from people anxious to show the reels. At the present time the department is dead, the films are being withdrawn, and Mrs. Grant has lost the one assistant they allowed her and about half of her salary. The total cost to the city of these films and the bookings amounted to \$5,800. This is the cheapest and best publicity Miami ever had. There are over a thousand bookings that are still to be attended to and there is no money to attend to them. The cost of the department was only \$800 more than was given to George Bean for signing a receipt. Ain't it hell?

THE city plumber asked the city commission for \$65 this week. He wanted to attend a convention in Jacksonville. He didn't get it. First thing we know Ed Romfh and J. E. Lummus, Sr., will want to attend a bankers convention, Harry Platt will want to go to a painters' ball, Mayor Ev will want to look over the retail clothing's new styles, and Cliff Reeder will want to cast his eyes over the dirt at the National Real Estate Dealers doings. Millions for sewers but not one cent for conventions—unless brought to Miami.

"WHAT you going to do when the rent man comes around?" is just now the blue song being dirged by the Chamber of Commerce. Maybe George Bean will tear up that contract and relieve the situation.

MIAMI has employed efficiency experts. The new administration probably will keep them here quite a while, as there is much to be done. For example, the experts may be able to inform us why such chaotic conditions existed as were revealed in the finance department. Whether Means is guilty or is shouldering others' guilt, is not exactly the point. Four different men are reported to have handled the city's money. Is not the city to blame for that condition?

More Railroading By the F. E. C.

MIAMI'S tourist folder will be printed by the Record Company of St. Augustine, Florida.

This company, which is subsidized by the Florida East Coast Railway Company, had the contract handed to them on a silver salver.

And here is the reason: The specifications were made out to the minutest detail, in order that they might dovetail into the equipment of the Record plant, and to make it practically impossible for any other printer in the state to figure on the job economically.

The specifications, as outlined by the publicity committee, call for an 8x9 page, which is the standard size used for the stereotyped railway folder, although some of the more up-to-date railroads such as the Pennsylvania, have adopted the 6x9 inch page that can be printed on a standard size of paper.

To produce an 8x9 inch page economically, local printers would have had to establish mill connections far in advance to get this special size paper—which would be 33x38 inches instead of the standard size, 25x38 inches.

In the matter of the completed job the specifications submitted by the St. Augustine company showed that they would use four colors on the inside pages and four-color process on the cover and outside pages; although Mr. Sewell, who considers himself the last word in the matter of publicity booklets, contends that it would take five colors to reproduce the effect desired. But in this, Mr. Sewell betrayed his ignorance, or does not understand that colors blend in printing producing other tints and shades.

This makes four colors on all pages and cover. The Record (Continued on back page.)

Why Not? Everything Else Is Gone

THE traits of "Little Nell" have cropped out in another direction. This time it is a group of benevolent and philanthropic medical men who wish to do good or do Miami good.

The Jackson Memorial hospital, built at an expense of between \$700,000 and \$800,000 on money paid by taxpayers, is the sweet little morsel now craved. These medical men are ready and willing to pay a whole dollar per year for it. All they ask in return is that the city of Miami pay five dollars per day for each charity patient who enters the institution.

No doubt they also would like to use the \$600,000 trust fund also which has been donated to the hospital. Anyway, it looks like a strange sight—a strange sight to see a city commission which wouldn't fall for such a proposition.

THE two H's—Hawthorne and Hunt—state's attorney and assistant, have started in to inquire just why laws are not being enforced. They receive hearty co-operation from the county solicitor, and it won't be long now before some startling episodes might uncover.

A Hot Meeting

A HOT meeting of the publicity directors of the city, the mayor and the head of the publicity department was held last week. H. H. Mase, one of the directors, was absent, but the other four laid down a lot of law and some considerable excitement was evident during most of the session. As the session lasted from eight o'clock in the morning until after six at night somebody must have had a lot to say about something. No report of the meeting was made public, it evidently being the publicity department's business to keep things quiet.

Dangerous Busses

SEVERAL accidents have happened at the corner of Fifth street and Meridian avenue, Miami Beach, within the last few days. The large yellow busses of the Miami Beach Railway Company turn there and no sign is made by the driver. In consequence, a Lincoln sedan ran into one last Sunday and tore off the running board—besides damaging the car. These big busses also park on the south side of Alton road and have to cross over the heavy causeway traffic.

TRAFFIC OFFICER B. B. WHITE is being underpaid. He only receives around \$180 per month. His arrests total around 75 or 100 a week, which brings somewhere around \$4,000 a month into the city treasury. Shouldn't he be put on a commission basis?

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