

AMOUNTS PAID TO THE COUNTY TREASURERS AS EVIDENCED BY
RECEIPTS ON FILE IN STATE TREASURER'S OFFICE.

July 1, to March 31, 1895.....	\$ 5,489 95	
April 1, to June 30, 1895.....	15,271 90	
July 1, to September 30, 1895.....	4,423 34	
October 1, to December 31, 1895.....	6,363 08	
January 1, to March 31, 1896.....	5,609 13	
April 1, to June 30, 1896.....	11,195 09	
January 1, to March 31, 1897.....	5,095 71	
		\$53,394 20
Total received.....	\$108,033 29	\$66,300 82
Total disbursed and on hand.....	85,972 90	53,394 20
Shortage.....	\$ 22,060 39	\$12,906 62
Correct.....	12,906 62	
	\$34,967 01	

WM. H. REYNOLDS.
Comptroller.

EXHIBIT L.

AMOUNT DUE STATE AND COUNTIES TAX CERTIFICATE REDEMPTION FUND.

	State.	Counties.
April 1 to June 30, 1896.....	\$15,710 96	
Amounts paid on account of money due counties June 30, 1896, paid by Treasurer, April 1897.....	11,321 58	
	\$ 4,389 38	
July 1 to September 30, 1896.....	10,863 85	8,407 51
October 1 to December 31, 1896.....	6,807 16	4,499 11
	\$22,060 39	12,906 62
	12,906 62	
	\$34,967 01	
In Merchants Bank of Ocala at date of its failure as per C B Collins' books.....	\$10,927 01	

Check drawn by him and claimed not paid.....	\$22,000 00	\$32,927 00
Shortage in tax fund.....		34,967 01
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Leaving a shortage of (due personally by C B Collins).....		2,040 00
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EXHIBIT M--(15).

(Copy.)

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., January 26, 1897.

GOVERNOR W. D. BLOXHAM,

Capitol:

DEAR SIR—In response to your request for a statement from this office concerning the money in the suspended Merchants National Bank of Ocala, I have the honor to say—

The amount belonging to the Treasurer, now in suspense, amounts to about \$30,000, to protect which I hold securities amounting to about \$90,000, which securities are such as are taken by banks in the ordinary course of business. Time and careful attention will alone develop what those securities are worth. The money in question belongs to what is known as the Tax Certificate Fund, and has never been put into the Treasury, but was held to await the distribution of the same between the State and counties, which is done regularly three months after the end of the quarter in which it was collected. When I entered upon the duties of State Treasurer at the beginning of 1893 I found the sum of \$25,072.20 deposited in said Merchants National Bank of Ocala, and I have kept about an average of that sum ever since so deposited. The bank has during all these trying years very promptly honored my checks in the distribution of said fund, and until recently I had no reason to suppose that it would not be able to do so indefinitely.

I kept the money in Ocala because it was a convenient point for the distribution of said Tax Certificate Fund, nearly all of which was received from the eastern and southern counties.

Owing to my long illness in the summer and the unusually large receipts of tax certificate money in July last, the fund accumulated much larger than I anticipated or intended should be placed in one bank, and there has been no time since July that I could have withdrawn the same. I endeavored as carefully and earnestly as I knew how to reduce the amount gradually, and I have done all that a man could do

The bank made a heroic and fruitless struggle to keep up, and I hoped to the last that it would succeed, but no people ever had to combat such a combination of overwhelmingly adverse circumstances.

The funds tied up belong to the quarters ending September 30 and December 31, 1896.

Yours truly,
(Signed) C B COLLINS,
State Treasurer.

EXHIBIT P.

RECAPITULATION OF SHORTAGE.

Loan to National Bank State of Florida.....	\$15,000 00	
Protested New York Exchange....	591 46	
Protested check D. C. Hull.....	422 90	
	<hr/>	
Total general account.....	\$16,014 36	—\$16,014 36
Balance due State for quarter ending June 30, 1896	\$ 4,389 38	
Balance due State for quarter ending Sept. 30, 1896.....	10,863 85	
Balance due State for quarter ending Dec. 31, 1896.....	6,807 16	
Balance due counties for quarter ending Sept. 30, 1896.....	8,407 51	
Balance due counties for quarter ending Dec. 31, 1896.....	4,499 11	
Total Tax Redemption Fund.....	\$34,967 01	—\$34,967 01
Total shortage.....	\$50,981 37	

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5TH.

Committee met at 9:00 a. m. Present, Senator Gaillard, chairman; Senator Fuller and Representatives Whitner, Hyer and Zewadski.

Mr G C Staypleton, receiver of the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, being duly sworn, says:

By the committee: You are receiver of the Merchants National Bank of Ocala?

A. Yes.

Q. 2. Do you know if these statements here rendered are taken from the books of the bank?

A. Yes, they are true copies of the bank's books.

(Statements above referred to marked Exhibits 1, 2 and 3, and here filed in evidence.)

Q 3 Have you rendered accounts to the Treasurer of the State of Florida, if so, upon what date?

A When I took charge of the affairs of the bank, soon after I took charge, I will not be absolutely sure of the date I sent Mr Collins statements of his accounts as they appear upon the books of the bank from the 1st of June, 1896, up to its suspension. I requested him to compare them carefully with his own books, and if he found any differences to write me indicating precisely of what they consisted so that I could endeavor to adjust them. He replied to that letter after some little delay that he had been busy making up his report to the Legislature, but would immediately thereafter take the matter in hand and advise me further, or words to that effect. I have never received any communication from him, however his promise, from that day to this.

Q 4 Are these statements, Exhibits 1, 2 and 3, duplicates of what you rendered to the Treasurer, as you have just stated?

NOTE.—Exhibits 1, 2 and 3 refer to a transcript of the ledger accounts of C. B. Collins, treasurer, with Merchants National Bank of Ocala, Florida, too voluminous to publish.

A They are duplicates from the 1st of June to suspension.

Q 5 Has Mr Collins ever disputed or contradicted the correctness of the accounts rendered him by you from June 1, 1896, up to the suspension of the bank?

A I received one letter from him since the appointment of this investigating committee, in which he confirmed his telegram, to me consenting to my furnishing the committee with the statements of his accounts, in which he added that his books showed a balance due from the bank to him to amount to about \$12,900. Not having the letter with me I can not give you the exact figures, but I am confident that it was \$12,900 odd dollars. He stated that this amount was due him in addition to the note made to J N C Stockton, trustee, for \$22,000. My recollection is, that shortly after the bank suspended, I think on the day of my appointment, the 3d day of February, 1897, he visited the bank and was interviewed by Examiner McDonald and myself; at that time he thought that the bank owed him \$7,000 or \$8,000, in addition to the \$22,000 note above referred to.

Q 6 Does that \$22,000 note which you refer to appear of record in the bank or on the bank books?

A It does not.

Q 7 Any record of any such transaction?

A That is a little difficult to answer, the \$22,000 note does not appear upon the record of the bank books.

Q 8 Do the bills payable account show any record of that \$22,000?

A No they do not.

Q 9 Has J N C Stockton, as trustee, established any claim before you as receiver for this indebtedness against the bank?

A He has filed with me a copy of a certain agreement in writing, stated to have been given him by R B McConnell, pledging certain of the banks bills receivable, and other securities to secure this \$22,000 note.

Q 10 When was that?

A The date of that agreement is the 26th day of October, 1896; that agreement, however, does not show for whom J. N. C. Stockton was acting as trustee. I hand you, however, herewith a copy of that agreement which speaks for itself.

(Agreement here filed in evidence and marked Exhibit No. 4.)

Q 11 Has Mr C B Collins, as treasurer, filed any claim with you as receiver of the Merchants National Bank of Ocala for checks protested, said checks being New York exchange given by the said Merchants National Bank; in payment of checks on it amounting to \$591.46?

A He has never filed any claim with me of any nature at all.

Q 12 Has the National Bank of the State of Florida filed any claim with you for said amount of \$591.46?

A I am not sure whether they have or not. I did not bring any memorandum with me of what they were claiming upon dishonored checks.

Q 13 To what equities held by the National City Bank of New York for a loan of \$17,500, held by the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, does this agreement allude?

A The National City Bank of New York City held certain securities of the Merchants National Bank to secure its claim against the Ocala bank, and the agreement given by McConnell pledges, for the purpose named, any equities there may be in the securities held by the National City Bank, after their claim has been satisfied.

I desire to state here, in connection with the agreement above referred to, that I do not recognize the validity of the conveyance of the bank building that was made to J. N. C. Stockton, inasmuch as it was never authorized by the board of directors, nor signed by the cashier of the bank, both of which requirements are called for by the bank's by-laws governing the conveyance of real estate. I have made formal

demand upon Mr Stockton to re-convey to me the bank building, but he has not yet said what he will or will not do. As to the balance of the agreement, it was never authorized by the board of directors, and there is no record of it anywhere in the bank, and while I have not yet repudiated it to Mr Stockton, neither have I admitted its validity as binding on the bank.

Q 14 Have you any knowledge of these securities alluded to as being held by the National City Bank, having been returned by them to the Merchants National Bank of Ocala or to Mr. J. N. C. Stockton, aggregating the sum of \$47,000.

A I do not think the National City Bank has returned any of the securities held by it.

R 15 Do you know the character and value of these securities?

A The securities consist of the bank's bills receivable, Ocala city scrip and other miscellaneous securities. From a careful valuation of the securities still held by the National City Bank, it is apparent that they will not realize more than enough to satisfy the balance still due the National City Bank, and there will be no equity left to apply to the indebtedness mentioned in the agreement to J N C Stockton.

Q 16 What are the other securities, if any, covered by that agreement?

A They consist of a miscellaneous assortment of the bank's bills receivable.

Q 17 What value do you attach to these securities, or what amount could be realized upon these securities, in your judgment, covered by that agreement?

A I have carefully valued these securities, and outside of the bank building, which is in dispute, I think there is no doubt that it would be difficult to realize out of these securities enough to pay the first item of \$15,000, which they are intended to secure.

Q 18 When the check referred to in that statement of \$22,000 dated October 23, 1896, was presented for payment by Mr Stockton, was the bank in a position financially to have paid that check in cash if payment was insisted upon, or in other words could the bank have paid this money in lieu of giving the note and collateral to J N C Stockton, trustee?

A The records of the bank show that it could not have paid the check.

Q 19 Did not Mr Collins deposit further amounts after that date, if so how much?

A The books show that on the 30th of October 1896, he deposited a certificate of deposit for \$10,000 that had been issued to him several months previously.

Q 20 Mr Staypleton, did Mr Collins' regular account, which he kept with the Merchants National Bank of Ocala on April 5th, 1895, show that he deposited to his credit the sum of \$404.76 for which the bank does not appear to have given him credit. Do you know of any such item and why the bank did not credit him?

A I have endeavored to trace that item, on and before the date named, but can not find anything resembling it as having come into the bank.

Q 21 On the 23d day of July 1896, Mr Collins' regular account shows that he deposited in the Merchants National Bank of Ocala \$3.64 for which he has never received credit on the bank's books. Do you know anything about this item?

A Nothing from the bank's books, but I find a letter from him dated the 23d day of July 1896, in which he advises the bank that he charges them with a transfer from the Capital City Bank of Tallahassee of \$7,500, also expense of telegram making transfer, \$3.64.

Q 22 On the 2d day of July, 1895, Mr Collins credited the same account on his books with \$4,500 which the bank has never charged to him. Do you know anything about this item?

A The bank's books do not show this charge to have been made.

Q 23 On the 11th day of September, 1896, Mr. Collins transferred \$20,000 from his regular account to his special account, and the statement rendered by the bank shows an entry of \$15,000 as being transferred. Is this entry by the bank in reference to the \$20,000 transfer made by Mr. Collins?

A That I am unable to say.

Q 24 On the 2d day of September, 1896, the bank charged Mr Collins with an item of \$4.88; on the same date with another item of \$270.19; on the 6th of October, 1896, with an item of \$6.75, for which Mr Collins has never credited the bank. Will you please state what these charges were, if you know?

A I can not find any vouchers for these charges, which makes me think it probable they were warrants properly charged and the cancelled vouchers returned to Mr Collins, but there is no record of what the charges were for.

Q 25 On the 6th day of November, 1896, the bank charges Mr Collins' regular account with an item of \$30; on the same date with another item of \$2,000; on the 9th of November, 1896, with an item of \$81, and another item of \$50; on the 10th of November, 1896, with an item of \$74.50;

on the 13th of November, 1896, with an item of \$45, for which Mr Collins has not given the bank credit. Will you please state what these charges were made for by the bank?

A These charges were made on vouchers which I found in the bank, and which I now hand you copies of.

(Vouchers referred to are here filed in evidence and marked Exhibits Nos 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.)

Q 26 On the 28th day of April, 1894, Mr Collins' books show that he deposited in the Merchants National Bank, to the credit of his special account, \$65.40, for which the bank does not appear to have given him credit. Do you know what this item was?

A There is no record of this deposit having been made that I can find.

Q 27 On the 29th of September 1894, a similar charge is made of \$679.66 for which the bank has never given Mr Collins credit. Do you know anything about this item?

A I answer the same as the foregoing answer.

Q 28 On the 24th day of September, 1894, Mr Collins deposited, or his books show that he deposited to the credit of the same account \$3,750, for which credit has not been given him by the bank. Do you know anything about this item?

A The books of the bank do not show any such deposit on the date named.

Q 29 On the 14th of January 1895, Mr Collin's books show that he deposited \$3,000 to the credit of the same account; the bank's books for the same date show a credit of \$2,960. Do you know what these items of credit were?

A I find from the records that a check for \$2,960, drawn by E H Mote on the bank of Leesburg, was deposited to the credit of the special account on that date, but no deposit of \$3,000 appears to have been made.

Q 30 On the 23d day of March 1896, Mr Collin's books show that he deposited to the credit of the same account \$750; on the 1st day of April 1896, the bank credited that account with \$5,000. Has this charge by Mr Collins, and this credit by the bank, any relation to each other?

A I am unable to say.

Q 31 What was that credit of \$5,000 made by the bank on April 1, 1896?

A The \$5,000 credit on April 1, 1896, to the special account, appears from the books to have been a transfer from the regular account to which it was charged.

Q 32 On the 16th day of July, 1894, the bank credited Mr Collins' special account with \$2,000, which Mr Collins has

never charged on his books. Do you know what the item was?

A I do not.

Q 33 On the 21st of January, 1895, an item of \$1,154.76 was credited by the bank to Mr Collins' special account, and which he has never charged on his books. Do you know what this item was?

A That was a transfer from the regular account.

Q 34 Do the bank books show why this transfer was made, and by whose order?

A They do not.

Q 35 On the 19th of December, 1896, a deposit of \$1,700 was credited to Mr Collins' special account, which does not appear by him to have been charged to the bank. Do you know what that item was?

A The books show that the account was credited \$1,700, and bills payable debited \$1,700, the deposit ticket being made out in the handwriting of R B McConnell.

Q 36 On the 30th of October, 1896, a credit of \$10,000 was made by the bank to Mr Collins' special account as Treasurer. Do you know what that item was?

A That item was a certificate of deposit.

Q 37 On the 13th of September, 1895, the bank charged Mr Collins' special account with an item of \$2,000, with which sum Mr Collins has never credited the bank. Do you know what this charge was?

A That is difficult to trace with certainty, but from information furnished me, I have reason to believe that that amount was credited to the account of Borland Bros.

Q 38 You have not found the original item that was charged?

A I have not, but have deposit ticket to the credit of Borland Bros. with other items.

Q 39 On the 19th of September, 1895, the bank charged Mr Collins' special account with a check or item of \$350, which Mr. Collins has never credited the bank with. Do you know what this item was?

A That appears to have been credited to H B Dunn, special account. H G Dunn is marked on the deposit ticket.

Q 40 Will you explain the different credits as they appear on the deposit slips?

A I am informed that at the time the credits were made that R. B. McConnell was personally indebted to the above depositors. Both deposit tickets are made in his handwriting.

Q 41 Then I infer from your answer that McConnell was indebted to these different parties the different amounts, and

that he charged the treasurers with the several amounts to balance his indebtedness to these parties on his books?

A That is the explanation that was given me by my informant, who was an employe in the bank and in a position to know the facts.

Q 42 On February 5, 1896, the bank charged Mr Collins' regular account with an item of \$1,159.38; on March 20, 1896, with an item of \$850.47; on the same date with another item of \$224.57, on the 26th of March, 1896, with an item of \$265.58; which items aggregate the sum of \$2,500. On the 31st of March to offset this charge of these several items, the bank placed the sum of \$2,500 to Mr. Collins' credit. Do you know what these several items were?

A The credit of \$2,500 appears to have been the proceeds of a note signed by the Jacksonville Telephone Company, made to the order of C B Collins, and an examination of the correspondence relative to the debit entries, show that they were payments made to the National Bank of the State of Florida in settlement of collections in their hands, being drafts on the bank drawn by the Jacksonville Telephone Company.

Q 43 Do the committee understand you to say that this note of \$2,500 was a discount by the bank and placed to Mr Collins' credit on his regular account to off-set charges of these drafts mentioned aggregating the sum of \$2,500, drawn by the Jacksonville Telephone Company?

A That is what the records show.

Q 44 Has the bank still in its possession this note of \$2,500?

A The note is in my hands but it was paid by a renewal note for the same amount which is now held by the National Bank of the State among the collateral pledged to them, the old note not having been surrendered evidently when the renewal was accepted in lieu of it.

(Copy of said note here filed in evidence and marked Exhibit No. 11.)

Q 45 On the 21st day of November 1896, Mr. Collins closes his regular account and transferred a balance of \$4,390 to his special account which his books show remains to the credit of his regular account on that date; on the same date the bank transferred a balance of \$1,925.31 from his regular account to his special account to close the regular account. Do you know why this charge or transfer made by the bank was made, whether it was a check given by Mr Collins or whether he simply instructed by letter the Merchants National Bank of Ocala to transfer the balance from the regular account to the special account?

A The transfer was not made by check but by

a charge slip, made I think by one of the book-keepers, I know it was not by a check, to the best of my recollection I have not come across any letter instructing this transfer to be made.

EXHIBIT 5.

(Copy.)

Debit.

C. B. Collins, State Treasurer, J. O. Fleece Note,

Paid. \$30 00

Stamped paid, November 2, 1896.

EXHIBIT 6.

(Copy.)

Debit.

C. B. Collins, State Treasurer, J. S. Smith, Jr., \$81.00.

Stamped paid, November 9, 1896.

EXHIBIT 7.

(Copy.)

Debit.

C. B. Collins, State Treasurer, Bugbee, \$50.00.

Stamped paid, November 9, 1896.

EXHIBIT 8.

(Copy.)

Debit.

C. B. Collins, State Treasurer, Geo. MacKay, \$74.50.

Stamped paid November 10, 1896.

EXHIBIT 9.

(Copy.)

Debit.

C. B. Collins, State Treasurer, Strozier note, \$45.00.

Stamped paid November 13, 1896.

EXHIBIT 10.

Debit.

C. B. Collins, credited account of R. B. Mc., as per your instructions of November 5, 1896, \$2,000.00.

Stamped paid November 9, 1896.

 WEDNESDAY, 3:00 P. M.

Committee met pursuant to adjournment. Present, Senator Gaillard, chairman; Fuller, Whitner and Hyer.

Mr G C Staypleton still testifying.

Q 46 Do you know of any other transaction between the Jacksonville Telephone Company, or any other parties, in which the State of Florida or the Merchants National Bank of Ocala are connected?

A As to the telephone company, I do not know of any other connection other than the \$2,500.

Q 47 Do you know of any other transaction that would lead you to believe there had been speculation in which Mr C B Collins, R B McConnell or the Merchants National Bank of Ocala are interested, and the State's money used in connection therewith?

A In investigating certain investments in Fullers' earth lands in South Dakota by R B McConnell, who with others afterwards incorporated the "Mining Syndicate, Limited," with principal offices at Omaha, I came across evidence from the records of the bank, and from other sources, that on the 23d day of March, 1896, the State Treasurer sent to the National Park Bank of New York City \$7,500, for the credit of the Ocala bank, that the \$7,500 was credited by the Ocala bank to the account of J T Jones, afterwards president of the "Mining Syndicate, Limited," together with other moneys previously standing to his credit, was transmitted to Omaha. From certain correspondence between Mr C B Collins, or his

representative, to R B McConnell, I have reason to believe that the disposition of this money, which was undoubtedly sent to Omaha, for an investment in Fullers' earth property, was known to Mr Collins, and I find, furthermore, that the Merchants National Bank of Ocala paid his expenses to Omaha and Dakota during the summer of 1896.

Q 48 Have you any letters or telegrams from Mr Collins, or his representative, that will throw any light on this matter?

A I have found one letter which seems to indicate that Mr Collins was interested in the Dakota venture.

Q 49 Have you that letter with you?

A Yes, also other letters and telegrams, copies of which I hand you herewith (copies of said letters and telegrams here filed in evidence. The telegrams connecting Mr Collins with this investment, from R B McConnell are as follows:

On March 17th, 1896, McConnell telegraphed C B Collins, care of the National Bank of the State at Jacksonville: "Could you come here on night train; will meet you; can explain matter better here; will be very advantageous to you; if not will send Wendt with letter to-night; answer." On the same date two other telegrams were sent by R B McConnell to C B Collins that would seem to have been sent prior to the one last referred to. One was sent to him at Anthony, Fla., reading: "Arrived yesterday; come to Ocala to-day; want to see you on important matter." And the other sent to him care of the National Bank of the State, reading: "Could I see you to-morrow, and where matter of importance to you; answer." On the same day McConnell telegraphed L M Thayer at Omaha as follows: "Collins will be here to-night; feel sure everything all right by to-morrow; draw for five thousand to-day. "On the same date McConnell also telegraphed J T Jones, Omaha, as follows: "Party from whom money comes wires will be here to-morrow and arrange; draw for six thousand to-day; will have balance to-morrow; answer." On the 20th of March, 1896, McConnell telegraphed C B Collins, care of the National Bank of the State, Jacksonville, as follows: "Jones wires banks in Omaha refuse to do anything without telegraphic transfer absolutely necessary to pay money Saturday, wire credit Park Bank at once; they will credit us if you will wire; will remit; very important; please arrange; answer." On the 23d day of March, the Ocala bank telegraphed the National Park Bank: "Omaha wires have no advices of credit with Chemical; arrange immediately; very important; Collins, State Treasurer, wires has remitted you \$7,500 our credit; answer." These are all the letters and telegrams I think that connect this matter.

Q 50 In the transaction of the \$7,500 remitted by Mr Collins to the National Park Bank of New York, for the credit of the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, did Mr Collins, as State Treasurer, receive credit at the Merchants National Bank of Ocala for that amount?

A He did not; it was placed to the credit of J. T. Jones, the deposit ticket having been made out by R B McConnell showing that deposit.

Q 51 Referring to your examination this morning, in referring to the adjustment of the two accounts in the Merchants National Bank on December 11th, 1896, the Merchants National Bank charged C B Collins, Treasurer, special account, with a check or item of \$7,000, and Mr Collins has never credited the bank with the same. Will you please state if you know what that charge was for?

A That charge was a debit slip made in the handwriting of R B McConnell on the same day, namely, on the 11th of December, 1896, that the \$22,000 check was charged, the deposit slip reads, "Remitted National Bank of the State," the corresponding credits however do not show that that amount was remitted to the National Bank of the State, the total credit of \$29,000 offsetting the check, and deposit slip aggregating that amount was distributed between bills payable and another account which does not appear to have been entitled to a credit.

Adjourned to 9:30 a. m.

THURSDAY, MAY 6.

Committee met at 9:30 a. m. pursuant to adjournment. Present, Senator Gaillard, chairman; Messrs Zewadski, Whitner and Hyer.

Mr W H Baker, of Jacksonville, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

Q 52 By the Committee—What is your name and profession, and where do you reside?

A W H Baker; I am an attorney and reside in Jacksonville.

Q 53 Do you represent either the Merchants National Bank of Ocala or the National Bank of the State of Florida of Jacksonville?

A I have never represented the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, nor have ever had any official relation with it. I have represented the National Bank of the State of Florida as its attorney in many matters, and am a director in that bank. ;

Q 54 Have you, as said attorney, ever had any occasion to examine into the affairs of the Merchants National Bank of Ocala since it has gone into the hands of a receiver, as to transactions between it and the National Bank of the State of Florida, or C B Collins as State Treasurer?

A Since the failure of the Merchants National Bank I have been to Ocala on two or three occasions in reference to securities formerly the property of the Merchants National Bank, and which had been hypothecated with the National Bank of the State of Florida, but I have not a list of these securities here and cannot give them in detail without having the papers before me, as I can not remember the amounts or names of the parties.

Q 55 Give as near as you can the value of the securities mentioned, their approximate value as appear upon their face?

A The nature of these securities are bills of discount and land certificates and would approximate between \$55,000 and \$60,000. In addition there is a deed which is in effect a mortgage on the building in Ocala, which I have been reliably informed is worth between \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Q 56 Have you examined the securities or have you an idea of what could be realized upon the amount of \$55,000 or \$60,000 of the bills discounted?

A I will make a little explanation by saying that after the failure of the bank and we began to investigate the securities, I found to my utter astonishment, as also to the officers of the National Bank of the State of Florida, that many of these securities were bogus; that one note they gave us was a paid note, a note of the Franco-American Phosphate Company for \$1,700, that there was another note which was sent to McConnell when it became due for renewal, that McConnell renewed it but did not deliver up the old note, and sent the renewed note to the National City Bank of New York, this was a note of L M Thayer for \$1,700. Then there was a note on the Brooksville State Bank for \$2,000, of which bank McConnell was also president, that have learned from the receiver of the Merchants National Bank that the Brooksville bank received no consideration for, and that it is question how far the bank is liable for the note. Then there is some paper of a cigar company which I am informed has failed; there is also \$1,000 of the Birdsey paper. As near as we can get at it, the paper will probably realize \$15,000 altogether, of which I think we have already collected about \$3,000.

Q 57 In relation to the deed given by McConnell to the Merchants National Bank building, and the lot upon which it is situated, consideration \$15,000, to J N C Stockton, have

you as attorney seen the resolution or a copy of it, authorizing McConnell to execute said deed?

A Yes, I have seen it; it is signed by McConnell in his handwriting, and has the seal of the bank. My impression is that it was dated some time in August, 1896.

Q 58 Have you seen the minutes of the directors of the Merchants National Bank of Ocala of the corresponding date of said alleged resolution, if so do the minutes contain such a resolution?

A I was shown by Mr Staypleton a book purporting to be the minutes of the directors of the bank, and which appeared to be such to me, and of that date, but the resolution is not inscribed upon the book of minutes.

Governor W D Bloxham being duly sworn deposes and says:

By the committee—Governor, before the date of your inauguration as Governor, January 5th, 1897, what official position, if any, did you occupy?

A I was Comptroller of the State.

Q 60 Please state in your own way, all the matters pertaining both to your office as Comptroller of the State, or to your present office as Governor, that you may know regarding the matter under investigation?

A A day or two after I was inaugurated, I asked Mr Collins to make me a statement, under section 123 of the Revised Statutes, in order that I might lay before the new Comptroller the exact financial condition of the States affairs—of course it was Mr Collins' duty to make the report anyway. In response to that request, Mr Collins made the report which he had usually made to the Governor, which is simply a balance sheet, a copy of which I herewith hand the committee. (Copy here read and filed in evidence and marked Exhibit No 13.) I wrote a pencil note to Mr Collins returning that balance sheet, and told him that I wanted an itemized statement of all the moneys in the treasury, where deposited, what securities he had, and everything in connection with said moneys in order that I might present it to Mr Reynolds, that he might see the condition of everything in starting out in the administration. Mr Collins then, under date of January 12th, 1897, presented the following written report. (Copy of which is here read in evidence and filed and marked exhibit No 14.) This exhibit, as you will see, gives the names of the banks in which Mr Collins stated he had money and securities for it. He did not mention the Merchants National Bank of Ocala when he presented this report. I sent for the Comptroller, as I wanted the Comptroller to go over this report with me; we went over this report, Mr Collins, the Comptroller and

myself, to see where the money was, what securities the Treasurer held, and what banks the money was in. After Mr Collins left, the Comptroller and myself talked it over and congratulated ourselves that the money was all safe; that there was none in the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, about which there had been a good deal of talk.

Q 61 What time was that Governor?

A That was on January 12, 1897. On January 14, Mr. Collins came to my office, and I remarked to him that I was very much delighted and so was Mr Reynolds, in finding that the State's money was all right. He remarked, "Well I have some bad news, the Ocala bank has failed and I had about \$30,000 in it." A few days after that, I requested Mr Collins to give me a written statement upon the matter—he had given me a verbal report, but I asked him for a written report. On January 26th, he presented me with this written report. (Copy of report here read in evidence and filed marked Exhibit No 15.)

I have said on January 14th he made me a verbal report. I afterwards asked him for this written report which is dated January 26. On January 16, two days after he had made me his verbal report, I wrote him this letter. (Copy of which is here read in evidence and filed marked Exhibit No 16.) When I reached Tampa, I had stopped over all night in Jacksonville; I wrote him this letter dated January 21. (Copy of which is here read in evidence and filed marked Exhibit No 17).

The Treasurer's clerk furnished me a abstract the first week in February of the condition of the treasury during January, that abstract was not as full as I wanted it, and I wrote Mr Collins this formal letter. Mr. Collins was absent at the time the abstract was furnished, but as soon as he returned I wrote him this letter dated February 27. (Copy of which is here read in evidence and filed marked Exhibit No 18.)

On March 5, I addressed Mr Collins this letter (copy of which is here read in evidence and filed, marked Exhibit No. 19).

When Mr Collins made the statement for February, I found that he still had money in banks without any collateral security for it, and on March 5th I wrote him the letter just mentioned.

When Mr Collins made his report to me under date of January 26th, stating that he had about \$30,000 in the Ocala bank, tied up by its failure, he stated, as you will see in the last two lines of his report, that it was tax redemption money, which was for the quarter, as he states in that report, ending

September 30th and December 31st, 1896. Of course in performance of what I conceived to be my duty, I went down into the redemption department, with which I was familiar, and requested one of the clerks to give me a full itemized statement at once of all redemptions made for 1896 for the counties and for the State, and I also addressed a communication to the Comptroller asking him to give me the amount that Mr Collins had paid in on account of redemptions. I found the amount of redemption at the time due the State on June 30, 1896, for the second quarter of 1896, to be \$15,710.96. Mr Collins stated to me, and which I believe to be correct, that he had sent out the counties proportion of the redemptions for the second quarter ending June 30, 1896. The Comptroller reported that he was due for the quarter ending September 30, 1896, for the State, \$10,863.85, and for the counties, \$8,407.51; and that he was due for the quarter ending December 31, 1896, for the State, \$6,807.16, and for the counties, \$4,499.11. Adding all these amounts together it made \$46,288.59 that Mr Collins was due for and on account of tax redemptions for 1896. I got this information from the Comptroller's books about the 10th of March 1897. On the 20th or 22d of March, I addressed a letter to the Attorney-General, asking him to commence suit on Mr Collins' bond for \$46,288.59. Upon consultation with the Attorney-General, it was thought probably best to postpone the suit until the committee, which it was supposed that the Legislature would appoint, had made its report upon the deficiency in Mr Collins' office, so that we would know the exact amount to bring suit for.

I called Mr Collins' attention to the fact that in his report to me under date of January 26th, he stated his deficiency in the Ocala bank was for the two last quarters of 1896, and that there is an amount due for the second quarter ending June 30th, 1896, of \$15,710.96. He told me that he would pay that into the treasury, and my information is—but I have not looked at the reports—that he has paid it in, or at least a large portion.

Q 62 Governor, do you know anything in regard to a loan of \$15,000 by the State Treasurer to the Marion county school board; if the same was authorized by you and the Comptroller or not?

A I have no knowledge as to when that loan was made. It was not made with the consent of the Governor and Comptroller. It could not have been made with their consent, for the reason that there is no law authorizing it.

Q 63 We also find another loan of \$3,000 to Citrus county.

Do you know whether or not that was authorized by the Governor and Comptroller and Treasurer?

A I never heard of that until late yesterday afternoon, when I received my first information about it.

Adjourned to 3 p. m.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Mr W N Shine being duly sworn deposes and says:

Q 64 Where do you reside, what is your name and occupation?

Q My name is W N Shine, I am at present residing in Jacksonville, and am vice-president and general manager of the Jacksonville Telephone Company, and I am also State Printer.

Q 65 What is the name and character of your company?

A The Jacksonville Telephone Company, a corporation.

Q 66 Your official position with that company is vice-president and general manager?

Q 67 Who are the incorporators of that company?

A A H King, W N Shine and C B Collins.

Q 68 How much is the capital stock of that corporation, and how much cash has been paid in?

A Really it would be difficult for me to answer that question directly; we had worked on the company quite a while before it was incorporated, had gotten it in first rate working order, we allowed ourselves so much for our time, and so much money was paid into the capital stock, up to 10 per cent. of the capital stock, but I could not give the figures.

Q 69 What was the capital stock?

A \$100,000 at the time of incorporation, and in our calculation we paid in 10 per cent. of the capital stock.

Q 70 The gentlemen named are the only stockholders in the corporation?

A They are the only corporators.

Q 71 What amount in cash was paid in by each?

A I should say that I paid in \$2,300 and Mr King paid in \$500 at the time of incorporation.

Q 72 What did Mr Collins pay in?

A He did not pay in anything; Mr Collins' connection with the company, if you will allow me to explain, as when we went to incorporate the company, we found that we had to have a third man, and Mr. Collins' interest was for the privilege of using his name as an incorporator, and to assist us in selling a proposed bond issue or the raising of funds on our bonds or notes in order to construct the plant.

Q 73 You say that Mr Collins did not pay in any money at all?

A No. Understand me in that connection; his name was merely used as a basis of securing money to build the plant.

Q 74 Did he ever pay in any money?

A We have received money through him.

Q 75 How much?

A \$6,000, which was secured by six notes of the company, and the bonds of the company. Five of the notes have been paid, one is still held by the Capital City Bank of this city.

Q 76 Did you not state to a gentleman in Tallahassee that Mr Collins, the State Treasurer, advanced the money to build that plant?

A Not to my recollection.

Q 77 Has Mr Collins' stock or bonds been sold?

A He never had any bonds; his stock has been sold.

Q 78 How much stock did he have, and how much did it bring?

A He had a third of \$100,000, which is \$33,333.33 $\frac{1}{3}$, and he has sold that.

Q 79 What did he realize on that?

A He has only received the first payment on it.

Q 80 How much was the first payment?

A \$500.

Q 81 \$500. Is that all he has received for his stock?

A Yes.

Q 82 Did you ever send a gentleman away to endeavor to sell the bonds or guarantee of the company?

A Yes.

Q 83 When was this enterprise incorporated?

A I believe it was in November or December, 1895.

Q 84 When was this \$6,000 borrowed?

A I can not give you the exact date.

Q 85 For how long a time?

A I do not know.

Q 86 How was the money paid to the company.

A Some of it was paid through a check.

Q 87 Was the check on Jacksonville?

A Yes, but I do not know whether it was Mr Collins' check, or whether it was exchange on New York. It strikes me that a part of the money was sent to Jacksonville, but I am not quite sure.

Q 88 You do not know what bank the check was on?

A I do not know whether it was on the National Bank of the State or whether it was on the New York City.

Q 89 It was sent to the company by Mr Collins?

A Yes.

Q 90 How was this \$6,000 raised, by six notes of \$1,000 each?

A Yes.

Q 91 Who made the notes?

A I think the president of the company, Mr King.

Q 92 Who were they made payable to?

A I do not know, but I should say to the Jacksonville Telephone company.

Q 93 Do you know who endorsed them?

A The president is the only one authorized to endorse paper; I look after all local business, but he has been in charge of all paper relating to loans, and I should say that he endorsed it to the best of my recollection.

Q 94 Before the incorporation, what work had been done on your telephone company?

A There was a charter passed by the city council of Jacksonville, and the people of Jacksonville were canvassed for five-year subscription contracts to the company, and everything gotten ready, then we incorporated.

Q 95 You had not put up any wire?

A I do not think so.

Q 96 You must necessarily then have spent some money before incorporation was perfected?

A Yes.

Q 97 What amount, to the best of your knowledge?

A I cannot tell you, but somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2,500.

Q 98 Who furnished the \$2,500?

A I furnished some of it myself. I was the promoter of the company, employed agents and others, I paid my own expenses and a good many others, and when Mr King came in he put in \$300.

Q 99 Did Mr Collins ever put in any money before the incorporation?

A No. Mr Collins, to my knowledge, never put in a cent of his own money at any time.

Q 100 In other words, his connection with the company was to give stability to the company, and for his services he was to receive one-third of the capital stock?

A Yes.

Q 101 Did he hold any position in the company?

A No, he was simply one of the incorporators.

Q 102 You say that Mr Collins advanced upon notes for you to get \$6,000. Do you know where the money came from?

A I cannot answer that. I remember on one occasion

hearing Mr King ask Mr Collins where, but I have forgotten Mr. Collins' answer, but he did not furnish it.

Q 103 You cannot recollect having told a gentleman in this city that Mr Collins advanced the money?

A I could not have possibly have made a statement of that kind.

Q 104 Has Mr Collins been finally settled with on the basis that he was to go into the company, allowing his name to be used, and to receive therefor one-third of the capital stock?

A He did receive the stock, but does not own any of it now.

Q 105 Do you know of your own knowledge whether or not Mr Collins has sold all of his stock, bona fide, or has hypothecated it or has paid it into the hands of any one as trustee to act for him?

A It has been a bona fide sale of the stock.

Q 106 State the amount of the stock sold and the amount realized therefor, and to whom sold if you know?

A He has received \$500, the first payment on his stock. The stock was sold conditionally; I was to pay him \$1,000 for his stock, the present value of the stock being hard to determine, but it was understood that if the stock was to become very valuable, I was to pay him more for it, no amount named, it being left entirely to me.

Q 107 Then from your last answer, Mr Collins still has an equity in the ownership of that stock?

A I do not consider it so at all, I do not consider that Mr Collins has any interest in the world in that stock after I pay him another \$500.

Q 108 As to the \$6,000 that you refer to as having been paid to the company through Mr Collins, has this money been returned either to Mr Collins or to the parties from whom he obtained it?

A \$5,000 of that \$6,000 has been returned. There is still one note due of \$1,000, held by the Capital City Bank of this city.

Q 109 Who were the five notes paid to?

A Paid to Mr Collins.

Q 110 Mr Shine, we have in evidence here a note for \$2,500, held by the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, payable to Mr C B Collins. Does this note come into this transaction of \$6,000, or is it a different transaction. How do you consider that?

A I will tell you just how that happened. We applied to the Merchants National Bank for a loan of \$2,500; which they

agreed to do, and my impression was that it was by Mr Collins' endorsement. I know that we gave notes for that \$2,500 to the Merchants National Bank, and I think that Mr Collins endorsed the company's note for \$2,500, but whether it was made payable to him or not I could not say.

Q 111 Has that note ever been paid?

A No.

Q 112 It is still held by the Merchants National Bank?

A So far as I know.

Q 113 What was the date of the sale of Mr Collin's stock?

A It has been made for some time.

Q 114 What time was it completed?

A I do not know. I could look it up, but think it was completed about sixty days ago.

Q 115 On the 5th of February, 1896, the Merchants National Bank of Ocala charged Mr Collins' regular account with \$1,159.38; on March 20, 1896, with \$850.47; on the same day with another item of \$224.57; on the 26th of March, 1896, with an item of \$265.58, which items aggregate the sum of \$2,500. In what manner does this \$2,500 come into your calculations with regard to money advanced to your company?

A I do not know anything about that, all that I know that we gave notes to the Merchants National Bank of Ocala which was endorsed by Mr Collins.

Q 116 How was it paid to the company?

A It was paid through the National Bank of the State of Florida.

Q 117 In one sum?

A I suppose so, we checked it out.

Q 118 Do you know of any drafts being drawn by Mr King as president, for the different amounts on the Merchants National Bank of Ocala?

A No.

Q 119 If drafts were drawn he would draw them would he?

A Yes.

Q 120 That part of the business does not come under your supervision?

A No; all local business does, but all of these loans except one, were conducted by Mr King, as president; one I negotiated myself, but it has no connection whatever with this matter.

Q 121 What do you estimate your plant to be worth?

A We estimate the plant to be valued at \$48,000, but this does not include the franchise from the city for twenty years, nor the five-year subscription contracts held by the company.

Q 122 What is the approximate value of the entire plant?

A We have never placed any valuation on it; the only valuation ever placed on it was by an expert from Wisconsin, who stated that the plant was worth \$100,000.

Q 123 What bonds of the company are out against that?

A An issue of \$30,000.

Q 124 What is the indebtedness of the company?

A I should say that it was in the neighborhood of \$20,500.

Q 125 Besides the bonds?

A We do not consider the bonds an indebtedness, they stand as security, held as collateral for the \$20,500.

Q 126 The total indebtedness of the company then is \$20,500.

A Yes, about that, but the bonds cut no figure in the matter.

Mr. C. B. Collins, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

By the committee. Mr. Collins, referring to the matter of the tax certificate redemption fund in the Ocala bank on the 6th of April, 1897, you disbursed \$11,321.58, being the proportion of State taxes you received for the quarter ending June 30, 1896, amounting to \$15,710.96, the committee would like to know out of what fund you paid that \$11,321.58?

A I paid it out of the tax certificate fund.

Q 128 Did you pay it out of the fund that you had received for the quarter ending June 30, 1896?

A I intended it for that.

Q 129 Did you pay it out of this fund you had received for the quarter ending June 30, 1896?

A I think I did.

Q 130 What did you do with the moneys received for the tax certificate redemption fund for the quarter ending June 30, 1896?

A The \$15,000 that you find placed to the credit of the regular account should have been credited to that account, instead of to the regular account. I was not in the office at the time.

Q 131 Then, if the committee understand you, the money you received for the quarter ending June 30, 1896, for the tax redemption fund, was deposited in the Merchants National Bank of Ocala?

A It was, but in error to the wrong fund. I afterwards transferred it, and it is in the \$20,000 transfer.

Q 132 The fact remains, however, that the money received by you for the quarter ending June 30, 1896, was deposited to your regular or special account in the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, whether or not it was transferred

from one account to another, it was in fact deposited in the Merchants National Bank of Ocala in some way?

A Yes.

Q 133 If that money was deposited at that time and in the manner you have stated, how did you check it out on April 6, 1897, or a part thereof.

A I have explained that matter several times when that money was deposited on April 6, it was money that was left over from the year 1896 in a box in the office, and you understand when that amount was transferred from regular account to the tax certificate fund it was to correct the error and really it should have been paid into the treasury proper.

Q 134 Well, did you withdraw \$20,000 in cash from the Merchants National Bank of Ocala and deposit the same to the regular treasury account?

A No, there was no money past so far as the Merchants' National Bank was concerned, it was simply a transfer from one account to another.

Q 135 Was the money received by you for the tax redemption fund for the quarter ending September 30, 1896 and for the quarter ending December 31, 1896, lost in the Merchants National Bank of Ocala by reason of said bank's failure?

A Yes.

Q 136 Was there any part of the moneys for these quarters remaining in your office in a box or otherwise which you retained?

A The only explanation I make to that is that I at no time kept the money of the quarters separate, I am sorry that I did not do it now, but I did not do it, however; I have kept it so since the 1st of January. Understand me there was no money deposited in that bank after July, it was simply a transfer from the regular account to the tax certificate account.

Q 137 You have said in a previous answer, that the \$11-321.58 which you disbursed on this account on April 6, 1897, was money that you had left over in a box in your vault; from what source did you derive this money?

A It had accumulated from the tax certificate fund.

Q 138 From what quarter ending?

A As I have told you that I did not keep it separate, for the different quarters, but it was up to the first of January, 1897.

Q 139 The Comptrollers' statements and receipts show that you properly disbursed all of the funds, both to the State and to the counties, for the two previous quarters, up to and

including the quarter ending March 31st, 1896; is that not a fact?

A It is.

Q 140 Then by your statement you had no moneys left over in your hands for any of the quarters ending and including the quarter ending March 31st, 1896?

A All of those quarters were settled completely.

Q 141 And you also disbursed the moneys due the counties for their pro rata share of the fund due for the quarter ending June 30th, 1896, amounting to \$11,195.09 as shown by your receipts in your office, did you not?

A Yes, I guess so.

Q 142 Then if you say that all the moneys due for the quarters ending September 30th, 1896, and December 31st, 1896, were lost in the Merchants National Bank of Ocala by reason of said bank's failure, how can you now claim that you still hold a balance of \$11,321.58 which you had not previously disbursed?

A I have told you that there was no distinction between the quarters, that the money had been deposited to the credit of the wrong fund and a transfer made from that fund to the tax certificate fund.

Q 143 Do we understand that you have made no deposit of any funds in that bank since July, 1896?

A I think it was about the 13th of July; towards the middle of July was the last deposit I have any recollection of making.

Q 144 What amount was that?

A \$15,000.

Q 145 In what shape was that deposited?

A It was in the shape of an order to the National Bank of the State of Florida for \$7,500, and on the Capital City Bank of Tallahassee for \$7,500.

Q 146 You have said that at no time after July 1st could you have gotten a dollar out of that bank?

A I have never said that because I drew a great many dollars out after that time.

Q 147 Yet by your own admission on the 13th of July you paid into that bank, when you could not get a dollar out of it, \$15,000.

A I will explain that.

Q 148 Just please answer the question and explain afterwards.

A But I beg your pardon, I have never held that at any time could I draw out of any bank I have put money in all the money on deposit at one time, but I will explain the circumstances under which this deposit was made if you will

permit me, it was simply a matter of judgment as to what was best to do in the premises. Mr McConnell came to me and told me that he was in a condition that it was absolutely impossible for him to go on. This was about the middle of July this was, I think, the 13th of July, stated that he had \$30,000 tied up in two cargoes of phosphate, that the matter was delayed on account of some deficiency in the papers, but that in a little while he would be all right, that he had checks out he would have to protest or they would likely cause him trouble, but that if I could let him have the money he could pay it back in ten days, and it was simply a matter of what was best to do to save the account.

Q 149 Out of what fund did you advance that \$15,000?

A It was intended to have been advanced out of the tax certificate fund.

Q 150 Out of what fund actually did you advance that \$15,000?

A It was the treasury fund.

Q 151 Where did Mr McConnell see you at?

A At Nashville, Tenn.

Q 152 And he told you that he would pay that money back in ten days. Did he do it?

A He did not.

Q 153 Mr Collins, you have stated in that Mr McConnell told you that same story in October, that if you did not advance him \$15,000 that the bank would fail; have you not?

A Yes.

Q 154 Did you have such an unlimited amount of confidence in that man's promise that you were willing to jeopardize the State's funds?

A I have never admitted that I advanced him any money in October. He came to me and brought credits and securities and wanted me to advance him the money, but I told him that I could not advance him the money and did not advance it; at least I never intended to do so, and I shall insist upon that to the last. I simply told him that it was utterly out of the question for me to do it.

Q 155 When McConnell met you in Nashville to arrange with you for that \$15,000, in what manner did you arrange for the payment to him of the \$15,000?

A By telegram to the National Bank of the State of Florida and the Capital City Bank of Tallahassee for \$7,500 each.

Q 156 Did Mr McConnell go to Nashville for that purpose?

A I expect he met me for that very purpose; he came into the train when it stopped for supper at Nashville.

Q 157 Did he bring or give you any collateral?

A He had nothing with him at the time, simply his word that he would refund it in ten days.

Q 158 Is it not a fact, and has it not been brought to your attention, that that bank was in a failing condition as far back as 1894?

A I understood in 1894 that both of the banks in Ocala were very hard up, but after the failure of the First National Bank, the Merchants bank got upon a good foundation, its statements were such that I felt that it was all right, and I think it could have gone on.

Q 159 Did you disburse the \$11,321.58 on April 6th, 1897, by check.

A No, I took it out of a box in the office in the treasury and took the Comptroller's receipt.

Q 160 Mr. Collins if you turned cash over to the Comptroller, was it not from cash that you had received for the quarter ending June 30th, 1896?

A I cannot answer that, it was from cash received during the year ending June 30th, 1896.

Q 161 You have testified that all moneys received for the quarter ending March 31, 1896, and the counties proportion for the quarter ending June 30, 1896, were properly disbursed from the fund you had received, if that is a fact, is it possible for you to have had any other part of the fund except that for the quarter ending June 30, 1896.

A The quarter ending March 31, 1896, was not nor could not have been disbursed until July, 1896, and I do not think it was disbursed until I returned home in October.

Q 162 Is it not a fact, then, that the \$15,710.96 was the only tax certificate redemption money that you had in your hands after disbursing for the quarter ending March 31, 1896?

A That is unquestionably so.

Q 163 Then, if you had this money, amounting to \$15,710.96, for the quarter ending June 30, 1896, why did you wait until April 6, 1897, before disbursing \$11,321.58 out of it?

A I answered that the other day. The reason I did not turn that money into the treasury was because I had not got a statement from the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, and I did not know exactly what the bank owed me.

Q 164 But, if I understand you, this money which you received for the quarter ending July 30, 1896, was never deposited in the bank, but kept in a box in the vault, as you have previously testified. Is that so?

A There were two accounts kept; I do not want to make

any statement that would appear contradictory, but there was just so much money went into the bank.

Q 165 The statement of your account with the Merchants National Bank of Ocala shows your special account and your regular account being closed, according to your own books, that you had a balance of \$10,927.01 on hand at the time that the bank failed, giving you credit for the check of \$22,000 which you claim never has been paid, which would leave the bank owing you, according to your books, \$32,927.01, and you claim that the bank is indebted to the State in the sum of \$34,967.01, being a greater indebtedness of \$2,040 than your accounts show. How do you account for this difference?

A That is what I have been working for several days now to find out; there seems to be a discrepancy of \$2,040 in the accounts, and I think I will find it. If I do not find it I will certainly put in the cash to replace it.

Q 166 You say you were in Nashville, Tennessee, on July 16, 1896. We have a telegram here from you to the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, dated July 16, 1896, saying: "I place ten thousand with city, and send five thousand in currency." Signed, "C B Collins, State Treasurer." To what does that refer?

A I have never sent such a telegram, never heard of it before.

Q 167 It has no reference to the \$15,000 you say you loaned him on that very day?

A I do not know, but it would seem to have, but I never heard of that before. It is all new to me. If the Merchants National Bank ever received such a telegram it was never sent by me, for I never sent such a telegram.

Q 168 Mr Collins, will you please state your connection with the Jacksonville Telephone company at the time of its incorporation?

A I do not know that this matter is connected with that business. I question the right of this committee to ask it. That is a private affair, and I do not care to answer it.

Q 169 Will you please state to this committee what connection you have had with Mr McConnell in regard to the Fullers Earth Mining company, an enterprise at Omaha and South Dakota?

A Absolutely nothing.

Q 170 You furnished no money for that enterprise?

A Never a dollar.

Q 171 Do you know anything of it whatever?

A I heard McConnell discussing it. Said he thought there was a fortune in it, but I have no connection with it whatever.

Q 172 Did you, or did you not go out there with McConnell?

A I went out there, but not with McConnell.

Q 173 Is it not a fact that the Merchants National Bank of Ocala paid your expenses out to Dakota, if you went out there?

A It never paid it with my knowledge.

Q 174 I ask you again if you ever loaned him any money to put in any enterprise of that kind.

A No, emphatically.

Q 175 Were you ever requested by Mr McConnell to go into the Fullers earth business?

A No.

Q 176 As to the Marion county school warrants there seems to be some difference, the school board claims that they never got the money, I want you to state to this committee, when you proposed to loan the money, how it was that you paid or if you have any evidence to show that the money was paid to the rightful parties?

A To the best of my recollection that transaction was as follows: I first got a letter in the latter part of November, or the early part of December, 1896, from Mr McConnell, the president of the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, stating that the Marion county school board wanted to borrow \$15,000 saying that he could not furnish it, and wanted to know if I could furnish it. I wrote him that that was a large amount of money for them to want, but knowing how much money Marion county used every year, and knowing that the teacher's warrants were unpaid. I answered him, and told him that I would let him have the \$15,000 if the board would make out three warrants for \$5,000 each, as I did not want to make it all payable in one sum. In the due course of mail I got a letter from John W Stevens enclosing the three warrants for \$5,000 each, and I enclosed to him a check to the amount of \$10,000 and told him that I would remit the balance in a few days, that I did not care to send all of it just at that time, it was a little difficult to spare it, in fact I told him that I did not want to spare that much just at that time. I went off then down to Tampa for a couple of weeks, and when I came back I sent the other \$5,000 to John W Stevens, the county treasurer of Marion county. That was all I knew about it. Never heard anything until I got a telegram from Mr Harris asking me if I had returned those school warrants. I answered that I did not understand it.

Q 177 Did you write or say to Mr McConnell that it was not right for you to loan the \$15,000 to the county for that

purpose, but that if he would take up the teachers warrants in that way, and hold them until they amounted to \$15,000 that he could give you those warrants in the place of the \$15,000.

A No, I never saw the letter, I never wrote the letter.

Q 178 Did you consult the board in making this loan?

A No.

Q 179 Now in regard to the Citrus county \$3,000. Did you loan that in the same manner?

A Yes, in the same manner, and sent the money to N. Barco, treasurer for Citrus county. And if it had not been for the trouble coming up, I expect I would have loaned Hernando county some.

Q 180 Do you consider that it was right to do this without consulting the Governor and Comptroller?

A That would be a mere matter of opinion.

Q 181 How could you have deposited on July 13, 1896, the tax redemption money that you did not receive until September 30, and December 31, 1896?

A Well, that does look like it would be impossible, but it was only a question of what account it should be charged to in making the transfer of the money from the regular account to the tax certificate account.

Q 182 You charged the bank of Ocala on your books with an item of \$9,404.76; they have no record nor have they placed any such amount to your credit. Have you any evidence or a receipt from the bank for that amount?

A I guess I can show it up.

Q 183 Can you state what it was?

A \$5,000 of it was certificate of the bank, and 4,404.76 was Ocala scrip which was returned for collection.

Q 184 How did you get the Ocala scrip in your possession?

A McConnell sent it to me amounting to that sum as security. Afterwards I sent it to him for collection, and I instructed him to credit my regular account.

Q 185 Have you any receipt or acknowledgment from McConnell as evidence to this fact?

A I hope I will be able to find something of the matter as it never came to my attention until to-day.

Q 186 Is it a fact that you have checked up your monthly statement from that bank to see if they were correct?

A I think I have, there were several of them missing, the regular account I did not check personally.

Q 187 In checking these statements, would not this dis-

crepancy as large as \$9,404.76 appeared in one or the other of these accounts?

A Most assuredly it would.

Q 188 Have you as a matter of fact kept your bank statements whether special or regular accounts checked up?

A I have.

Q 189 Up to what time?

A I have the last statement made up to the 1st of November.

Q 190 Have you compared these statements with your books and found them correct?

A I think my tax certificate statement to the 1st of June was correct, I think it was, but I won't be positive.

Q 191 Do you not think as a business man that you would have been very particular to see that they were correct?

A I tried to be, but you know I was sick from October nearly to April.

Q 192 But I am not alluding to that period. I am alluding to the year 1895 when you were not sick, when you could have compared your statements rendered on your counts?

A I think so. I most certainly endeavored to do so.

Q 193 Why was not the check for \$22,000 drawn in favor of Stockton of the National bank charged to the National Bank of the State?

A It was not charged because it was simply sent for collection.

Q 194 Did any instructions follow that check?

A Yes.

Q 195 Then Mr Stockton acted under your instructions in taking those securities?

A Yes.

Q 196 Why did you appoint Mr Stockton your trustee; why did not you attend to your own business?

A He was very familiar with these matters, in dealing with National banks, he had been receiver for one, was president of another, and was very familiar and better qualified than I was to attend to it.

Q 197 Did you instruct Mr Stockton to give the \$15,000 loan by him to McConnell precedence over the \$22,000 in the matter of security?

A Yes. He was to hold all securities for the \$15,000.

Q 198 And you acknowledge that that indebtedness of \$15,000 was an indebtedness from the State funds?

A I do not acknowledge it was a debt against the Merchants National Bank.

Q 199 Going back to the monthly statements from the

bank, you have received from the Merchants National Bank of Ocala each month a statement of your account. Were those statements when received, checked and compared?

A Yes.

Q 200 One of these statements, which you have evidently checked for the month of August, 1896, shows a balance of \$11,176.25. You also have another statement from the same bank for the same period of time in which they place your balance at \$2,588.80. Will you please tell us what action you took in that matter?

A I never saw these statements, I knew nothing of them, no action was taken in regard to them, until I came home in October.

Q 201. Then as a matter of fact you did not check it?

A No, not until I came home, and then there was a world of business on my shoulders.

Adjourned.

EXHIBIT 14.

(Copy.)

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, STATE OF FLORIDA.

TREASURER'S OFFICE,

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., January 12, 1897.

Gov. W. D. BLOXHAM,

Capitol:

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to report the names of banks, and the amount of money deposited in each on December 31, 1896; also securities with this department to secure such deposits.

1. National Bank, State of Florida.....	\$147,508	86
Duval county bonds	\$90,000	
Baker, Bradford and Columbia...	10,000	
2. First National Bank, Pensacola	33,252	03
Pensacola city bonds.....	\$25,000	
3. Savings and Trust Bank, Jacksonville.....	15,000	00
Tampa city certificates..	\$15,000	
4. State Bank of Florida, Jacksonville.....	5,000	00
Tampa city certificates.....	\$5,000	

5. Putnam National Bank, Palatka.....	\$5,000 00
Jacksonville city bonds.....	\$5,000
<hr/>	
6. Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Tampa..	5,000 00
Tampa city certificates.....	\$5,024
<hr/>	
	\$210,755 89

The foregoing banks are paying interest under their bids for public money.

As Treasurer, and upon my own responsibility, I have deposited with the following banks, viz:

National Park Bank, New York.....	\$ 9,245 33
Exchange National Bank, Tampa.....	10,000 00
First National Bank, Tallahassee.....	8,334 10
Capital City Bank, Tallahassee	37,482 76
<hr/>	
	\$65,062 19

Yours truly,

[Signed]

C. B. COLLINS,
State Treasurer.

EXHIBIT 13.

LEDGER BALANCE, JANUARY 31, 1897.

State Treasurer.....	\$127,779 12	
National Bank State of Florida..	127,478 51	
F. N. Bank, Pensacola.....	30,111 92	
National Park Bank.....	15,523 61	
General Revenue.....		\$191,751 33
One mill school tax.....		21,469 41
State board of health.....		14,190 90
School fund principal.....		11,217 94
Experiment station fund.....		4,074 41
School fund interest.....		39,966 85
Agricultural College fund.....		474 03
Morrill fund, white college.....		8,103 39
Morrill fund, black college.....		8,488 71
Seminary fund principal.....		568 76
Sinking fund, bonds 1873.....		547 68
Sinking fund, bonds 1871.....		39 75
<hr/>		
	\$300,893 16	\$300,893 16

GOVERNOR W. D. BLOXHAM:

DEAR SIR—I hereby certify that the above is a correct statement of balances in said funds.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) C. B. COLLINS,
State Treasurer.

EXHIBIT 20.

(Copy.)

STATEMENT OF TREASURY BALANCE.

February 28, 1897.

DEPOSITS.

National Bank State of Florida.....	\$134,633 91
First National Bank, Pensacola.....	27,890 70
New York.....	3,841 36
Capital City Bank.....	26,577 03
Savings and Trust Bank, Jacksonville.....	15,000 00
Putnam National Bank.....	5,000 00
Citizens S & D Bank, Tampa.....	5,000 00
State Bank Florida, Jacksonville.....	5,000 00
Exchange Bank, Tampa.....	5,000 00
First National Bank, Tallahassee.....	229 32
Marion County School Vouchers.....	15,000 00
Capital Grounds advance.....	360 00
Jurors and witnesses.....	8,056 50
Receipts and vouchers in drawer.....	5,135 11
Florida State Bonds.....	6,300 00
Currency and small change, check.....	4,687 82
Silver.....	500 00
Agriculture College advance.....	235 76

Total.....	\$268,447 51
Less State Board of Health.....	4,342 06

\$264,105 45

The foregoing list is true and correct.

(Signed) C B COLLINS,
State Treasurer.

TAX CERTIFICATE FUND.

January 31, cash.....	\$3,833 20
February 28, cash.....	3,853 82
	<hr/>
	\$7,687 02

(Copy.)

CONDITION OF TREASURY.

March 31, 1897.

National Park Bank.....	\$ 29,896 47
First National Bank, Pensacola.....	25,899 67
National Bank State of Fla.....	108,625 68
Savings and Trust Bank Fla.....	15,000 00
Citizens Bank Tampa.....	5,000 00
State Bank Fla.....	5,000 00
Putnam National Bank.....	5,000 00
Capital City Bank.....	19,732 64
First National Bank Tallahassee.....	229 32
School Warrants.....	15,000 00
Receipts.....	8,405 15
Currency and coin.....	15,793 82
Juror and witness vouchers.....	8,621 50
Capitol fund overdraft.....	360 42
Agricultural College overdraft.....	302 42

Total.....\$260,524 61
 Tax certificate fund cash..... 13,161 95

The foregoing is a correct statement of amount and location of moneys belonging to the the Treasury of Florida.

(Signed) C. B. COLLINS,
 State Treasurer.

List of Bonds as Security. County and Municipal.

National Bank State of Fla.....	\$ 75,000 00
Savings and Trust Bank.....	15,000 00
First National Bank Pensacola.....	25,000 00
State Bank Fla.....	5,000 00
Putnam National Bank.....	5,000 00
Citizens Bank.....	5,000 00

EXHIBIT 16.

(Copy.)

January 16, 1897.

HON. C. B. COLLINS,
 State Treasurer.

DEAR SIR—I have the honor to request that you will at the earliest possible day, give me the exact amount of public

moneys you had deposited in the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, at the time of its suspension, stating how much of said moneys belonged to the State and how much to the counties.

Be kind enough also to furnish me an itemized list of collaterals you stated you had taken from said bank as security.

Allow me to express in this formal manner what I have said to you in conversation that I would strongly advise you not to have a dollar in any bank, that did not give you convertible collaterals for every dollar deposited. The treasury can hold the funds, and is the proper place for the moneys unless you are secured beyond any possible contingency. I hope you will have all banks where you have moneys and hold collaterals, enter at once into a written agreement, under our laws, to dispose of said collaterals in case of any default upon the part of said banks.

I leave Monday morning for Tampa, and will be gone several days, hence write you this note to-night. Mr W M McIntosh Jr will draw at my request, a contract for disposal of collaterals, and hand you. Please consult Comptroller and Attorney-General and have it perfected, and send to all banks whose collaterals you hold and require immediate execution.

With kind assurances, I am,

Most truly yours,

(Signed) W. D. BLOXHAM.

EXHIBIT 17.

(Copy.)

TAMPA, FLA. January 21, 1897.

HON. C. B. COLLINS,

Tallahassee, Fla.:

MY DEAR SIR—I spent Monday night in Jacksonville, and came through Ocala on Tuesday. I heard much that was discouraging as to the prospects of getting anything from the suspended Merchants National Bank of Ocala, which I will discuss when we meet. I feel this matter very deeply. While of course the bank, as you informed me, could not return the money last fall, and consequently was suspended then so far as your account as Treasurer was concerned, yet the development of the fact the first week of this administration is a source of great grief to me.

I wrote you as I left Tallahassee, urging you to get the State's money in the treasury unless you could get convertible collaterals from the banks where deposited. I urge it

again, as the present outlook is not one of rest and confidence in financial circles.

Under my view of the law, you have no authority to place moneys in any bank except where deposited at interest secured by collaterals approved by the Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer; and no greater amount in any bank, than you have collaterals for.

I write you freely for I feel great apprehension, and fear you allow your friendship for individuals to carry you beyond the bounds of financial prudence. When it comes to the moneys of the State, you should have no friends, and have every transaction upon safe business principles.

I have heard things since I left that have caused me more anxiety, and I hope you will at once take steps to have no moneys in any bank except where it is covered by a convertible collateral.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) W. D. BLOXHAM.

EXHIBIT 18.

(Copy.)

HON. C. B. COLLINS,

February 17, 1897

State Treasurer,

Tallahassee, Fla:

DEAR SIR—During your absence, I received from the clerk in the Treasurer's office, what is designated as the ledger balance, giving the amount of money in the State Treasury. This is a statement up to the 31st of January, 1897, and represents that there is cash in the Treasury, \$127,779 12.

Under section 123 of the Revised Statutes, I have the honor to request that you will give me an itemized statement of what these moneys consist if they are in the State Treasury; if they are not actually in the vaults of the State Treasury, please be kind enough to state where the moneys are in what banks, the different amounts in each bank, and everything connected with the deposit of the same, for my information.

I would respectfully call your attention to the fact that this ledger balance presented is signed by your clerk, while the law requires that it should be certified and signed by the Treasurer, officially.

In addition, permit me to request that you will embrace in your monthly statement under said law, the amount of

money on hand for tax certificates, and where such money is also deposited.

By reference to the law, you will see that in these monthly reports, it is the duty of the Treasurer to report in detail the amount in currency, coin, drafts, checks, orders, receipts, bonds, coupons and other credit memoranda which he may have representing cash, etc. I think upon reflection, you will appreciate my position and my duties at such a time as this.

I have the honor also, again, to request that you will give me an itemized list of the collaterals you state that you had taken from the Merchants National Bank of Ocala when depositing public money in said bank, as per your published statement.

I should have called your attention to the deficiency as to details in the certification of the itemized ledger balance handed me, immediately upon its reception, but your absence of course precluded my doing so.

I now take the earliest opportunity, after your return, to ask information which I have no doubt you will cheerfully give.

The more thought I give to the matter the more I am convinced that the spirit of the law does not authorize the Treasurer to place any amount in the banks selected by the Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer, larger than you have collaterals for in accordance with the actions of the said officials; and if you have any excess in such banks, I would again earnestly urge upon you the propriety of demanding additional collaterals at once, or withdrawing the money and placing the same in the State Treasury.

With assurances of kind regards, I beg to remain,

Most truly yours,

(Signed) W. D. BLOXHAM.

EXHIBIT 19.

(Copy.)

March 5, 1897.

Hon C B Collins, State Treasurer, Capitol:

DEAR SIR—The Constitution directs that the "Governor shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

Our laws recognize but two methods of depositing moneys in banks.

Section 2189 of the Revised Statutes authorizes the Comptroller to designate certain banks, under certain conditions, to be depositories of public funds.

Chapter 4157, Laws of Florida, authorizes the Governor, Comptroller and Treasurer to place the public moneys in banks, and what moneys are not so deposited have to remain in the treasury.

In performance of my duties, therefore, to see that the laws are faithfully executed, I have to direct that what moneys are not deposited in banks under one or the other of these laws, be at once placed in the treasury of the State.

If in your judgment additional watchmen are required, I will at once have reliable guards employed.

The fact that the law has been violated is no reason why it should not be enforced, and your unfortunate experience with the Merchants National Bank of Ocala should be an incentive to a prompt compliance.

I have the honor to remain,

Very Respectfully,
(Signed) W D BLOXHAM,
Governor,

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., July 23, 1896.

H. C. WRIGHT, Cashier,

Merchants National Bank, Ocala, Fla.:

DEAR SIR—To-day I charge your bank with transfer from Capital City Bank, as per telegram, \$7,500, also expense of telegram in making transfer, \$3.64; total, \$7,503.64.

The State Treasurer has no incidental fund to draw against, and as I do not think the State should pay for this, I charge to you.

Yours very truly,
CHAS. MUNROE,
Chief Clerk.

(Copy.)

STATE OF FLORIDA, }
LEON COUNTY. }

I hereby certify that this copy of letter is a true copy of original in my possession. Signed this the 6th day of May, A. D. 1897.

G. C. STAPYLETON,
Receiver of Merchants National Bank of Ocala,
Ocala, Fla.

Filed with the Investigating Committee on May 5, 1897.

EXHIBIT 11.

\$2,500.00.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 17, 1896.

Ninety days after date we promise to pay to the order of C. B. Collins twenty-five hundred dollars at the National Bank of the State of Florida, Jacksonville, for value received, with interest at the rate of eight per cent. per annum until paid.

JACKSONVILLE TELEPHONE CO.,

By A. H. KING, Prest.

Due June 18.

No. 11,768.

(Endorsed on back.)

C. B. COLLINS:

Pay National City Bank, New York, for credit account of the Merchants National Bank of Ocala.

R. B. McCONNELL, Prest.

For Collection account of National City Bank, New York City.

GEO. O. MEEKER, Cashier.

Paid June 18, 1896, National Bank of the State of Florida, Jacksonville, Fla.

DEPOSITED IN THE MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK OF OCALA.

PLEASE LIST CHECKS SEPARATELY.

	Dollars.	Cents.
Bank Notes.....		
Gold.....		
Silver.....		
Checks.....		
N. D.....	2551	67
Int.....	51	67

Deposited by

C. B. COLLINS, Treasurer.

March 31, 1896.

Filed with the Investigating Treasury Committee on 5th day of May, 1897.

E. M. GREGG, Clerk.

STATE OF FLORIDA, }
LEON COUNTY. }

I hereby certify that this note and attached deposit check are true copies of originals now in my possession.

Signed this 6th day of May, A. D. 1897.

G. C. STAPLETON,

Receiver Merchants National Bank of Ocala.

Ocala, Fla.

TALLAHASSEE, May 2, 1894.

MY DEAR MCCONNELL—Your letter of the 29th regarding the check in favor of the Treasurer of Lake county is received. I regret to tell you that you made a sad mistake in refusing it and one that has hurt you—also bringing my paper into disrepute. I hand you the letters of the parties which speak for themselves. The endorsement on the check reads: "Pay to Bank of Eustis, J W Dyches, Treas. Lake County," and I am of the opinion that you must have overlooked something in your hurry. Please be more careful in future.

Answering your letter of the 30th, I will give you all the time possible. Just continue to be frank with me and you know you can depend on me to stand by you.

I am quite feeble, having been in bed several days and only dragged down to the office this morning by an effort. I was warned last Friday that you were in trouble but did not let it worry me. I did not credit it.

Yours truly,

[Signed]

C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, April 9, 1895.

R. B. MCCONNELL, Esq.,

Ocala, Fla.:

MY DEAR SIR—Your letter concerning your neighbor A—troubles me no little. The bank has \$15,000 of my money on deposit, and I don't feel easy. I trust you will keep down the storm and do what you can to see me safe. I appreciate your kind letter. Everything about the Treasury is in elegant shape but that, and it does not appear being protected by funds out of the regular business. You may rely upon me to keep up my balance with you to the best possible figure, but those items I sent were better credited on account as you well

can see. I do not fear any investigation, in fact I want it to come, so I can show the State a clean set of accounts.

With high regard, I am,

Yours very truly,
(Signed) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., April 11, 1895.

MY DEAR MCCONNELL:

I want you to strain every nerve to protect me in the First National Bank matter. Do not present but one of the certificates at a time, and if you get one I will feel one-third easier. I want you and Stockton to put your heads together to save me, for you both know if I have been a friend to you. I do not want the public to know that I have any money with Agnew if it can be avoided. The loss of this money will ruin me politically as well as financially, but I must meet it like a man. So many good friends urged me to keep some with Agnew's bank and felt hurt at my not doing so that last year when tax checks on them came in I tried to be kind and make it easy as possible.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed)

C. B. COLLINS.

TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS FILED WITH THE
COMMITTEE.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., 4, 13, 1895.

R B MCCONNELL

See Agnew's telegram to me and arrange as you deem best; give time if secured; I do not wish to press matters if State is made safe.

C B COLLINS

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., April 20, 1895.

R B MCCONNELL, Esq

At Jacksonville.

MY DEAR SIR—I cannot well come over to Jacksonville just now. In fact I think it best for me to remain here at my post and not seem to be troubled about matters at Ocala. I feel so relieved since you got the money from Agnew's bank

that I almost want to shout. I will depend upon you and Stockton to keep the ship floating.

Keep me posted as to any new developments and use my name as little as possible in money matters.

Very truly yours,
[Signed] C B COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, April 22, 1895.

MY DEAR McCONNELL—I hand you my renewal note as requested. Please pardon me for not attending to this promptly—it was an oversight.

I trust that all will work well with you during these troublous times and that you will sail smoothly.

I will hit you for that \$15,000 in May and I want you to keep prepared. I will have to pay out over \$150,000 in May.

Yours truly,
(Signed) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, May 18, 1895.

MY DEAR McCONNELL—Your letter of the 14th is received. Hold the school warrant \$5,000 until next month as you suggest and let me have the money then, or rather you may pass it to credit my special fund and I will draw against it in July. Please accept my congratulations upon the excellent statement you make. I always rejoice at your success. It will be necessary for me to cut down my general account with you, but I will keep the special at the best possible figure. You know I can not keep money with you if so doing I am forced to cut down the interest bearing deposit with banks having bonds. For instance, I must keep \$25,000 with Pensacola because they have that much under contract with the board, and so for others. This year will be a serious one with the Treasury, and since the collection of taxes has been stopped I am fearful of great stringency.

With best wishes and regards to your good wife, I am

Yours very truly,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 22, 1895.

R. B. McCONNELL, Hotel Coquina—I can spare five just now.

C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 24, 1895.

R. B. McCONNELL—I will write you fully by mail.

C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, May 24, 1895.

MY DEAR McCONNELL—I hate not to give you the other \$5,000 of New York exchange, but I can not spare it just now, for I am getting none and have drawn very heavily. In this connection let me suggest that it might be better not to use the wire so much, because such matters get out and may do us both harm. You know how politics enters into everything now, and our enemies are tireless. What seems to be the matter just now, and why not pay my check to Stockton in currency? You made a fine showing recently and ought to have plenty of cash. Now, my dear boy, you must keep in trim to meet the call for State money, but of course you know I will be as easy as possible. I must have the \$15,000 spoken of just as soon as possible, and that \$5,000 check was for the first installment. At the risk of being tiresome, I must beg you to stop loaning. Let me hear from you often.

Yours truly,

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, Sept. 25, 1895.

MY DEAR McCONNELL—I want you, or you and Mr. Stockton, to assist me in getting \$5,000 for a purpose whereby I can make some money. The facts are simply these:

I am one of three incorporators of the Jacksonville Telephone Company, and it will be necessary to put in a portion of the plant before we can get funds to finish it. I shall require about \$25,000 in all, but \$5,000 will be enough to start on. I am thoroughly convinced that there is good money in it. Now, if I can meet you and Stockton in Jacksonville we can discuss the matter when I disclose my plan with its details. Please let me know when I can meet you there.

Very truly yours,

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, Sept. 25, 1895.

MY DEAR McCONNELL—I have your letter of the 23d. I am not prepared to think that Messrs. Anderson and Green would condemn me for doing my duty to the State. The

board has a right to fix any price it sees proper upon lands, but it fixed upon "taxes, interest and costs," and I can not vary this in the absence of the Commissioner and Comptroller. If any clerk down stairs promised the land for less, he acted without authority. I would be glad for our friends to make a good thing out of this, of course, and anything I may lawfully do, consistent with my duty to the State, I will gladly do, but I am quite sure they do not fully appreciate my position and motive in the matter. It would humiliate me if I thought they expected me to do other than I have done in the premises. When an appeal is made to the board to reduce the price, there must be some good and sufficient reasons shown why such reduction should be made. We always try to accommodate the owner of any property who may wish to redeem it, and we have reduced the rate in some instances; but only because we thought it best for the State as well as the owner. If speculators have gotten any reduction at any time, there was either a misapprehension of the facts, or the board erred in its judgment. At all events, the determination of the board is to make no reduction except for good cause shown. If you think proper, you may show this letter to these gentlemen, and if they will indicate wherein I have erred, I will gladly listen to reason.

Very truly yours,
 (Sd) C. B. COLLINS,
 State Treasurer.

 TALLAHASSEE, Sept. 27, 1895.

MY DEAR McCONNELL—I expect to go to Atlanta about next Saturday, the 5th of October. I judge from your letter that you are going off somewhere, and possibly it is to that point. I will not be able to leave the office next week at all on account of the press of work requiring my personal atten-

tion. I am to be in Atlanta especially on the 7th, 8th and 9th of October as delegate to the Southern Immigration Congress, about which I don't know a blamed thing, but possibly I am not too old to learn.

Yours truly,
 (Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

 TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 28, 1895.

MY DEAR McCONNELL—My wife and I expect to leave to-night for Jacksonville. I am improving apparently every day,

but am yet far from well. Don't know exactly where I shall go, but think Palm Beach is the present objective point. Will not work for a long while. Think I have drawn on you to cover the \$10,000, and will draw no more soon. Keep yourself in good shape, for if anything should happen to me no telling who would fill the place. I hope to hold it myself, God willing.

With much regard, I am

Your friend,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TAMPA, Jan. 30, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL, Ocala, Fla.:

MY DEAR SIR—I trust that I did not offend when I wrote to Stockton to help you out. I relied upon our well established friendship and intimacy and did what I deemed the best. Unfortunately I found S. almost as hard up as you were and my Treasury cash alarmingly low. The board has \$150,000 at interest, and that must not be touched so long as I have a dollar available elsewhere; so you see my predicament. I was very glad when S. showed me your letter, for I was really troubled about the matter.

I am still improving and hope to beat you fishing when I turn my face North again. Tampa is very dull. I caught about 70 fish yesterday and went, on an excursion today. My headquarters will be here some time yet.

Yours truly,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

Box 171.

TAMPA, Feb. 3, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL, Esq., Ocala, Fla.:

MY DEAR SIR—I have your letter. Mr. Stockton will assist you in the matter of the amount falling due. It will be impossible for me to do it even if I were at Tallahassee. I shall be here but a few days longer, when I expect to visit some other points in South Florida, and will come by Ocala later. The News spoke without any authority from me. I am a candidate for re-election. Of course I would like something better but I will not throw away the substance for the shadow.

Yours very truly,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

ANTHONY, March 7, 1896.

CAPT. H. C. WRIGHT, Cashier, Ocala:

DEAR SIR—Will you kindly tell me by tomorrow's mail how my Treasurer's accounts stand with your bank? Do this at once please. Just state balances. When do you expect Mr. McConnell back? I have just learned that he is absent. Kindly let me know how the bank is doing now and what the outlook is. I want to come down Monday afternoon if I am well enough.

Very truly yours,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, March 31, 1896.

H. C. WRIGHT, Cashier, Ocala:

DEAR SIR—In July last you charged my special account with check No. 7, Thom. P. Denham, cashier, \$5,000, which should have been charged to my regular account. Check was dated July 11, 1895.

Please make the needful change and oblige

Yours truly,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

Please send statements every month and it will save trouble.

TALLAHASSEE, March 31, 1896.

MY DEAR McCONNELL—I see that the Banner has come out for General Dickinson and I suppose that I will have to get to work. Of course you will do what you can, but do not let it seem like a bank fight for me. You must work quietly through others. Bob Anderson is doing all he can to injure me, but I don't want him to know that I have found him out, so be careful. Suppose you sound Weathers to find out what he will do. If you can secure Ocala for me the balance of the county will be all right—a majority of it. Get in your work at McIntosh and also Grahamville. Let me know how you are progressing "out West," as I feel anxious for you there. Your last statement in Free Press is not the best you ever put out.

You must be prepared for my defeat at the convention and be ready to have the account drawn out with the end of the year, but we will hope for better things than defeat.

Yours truly,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, April 4, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL, Esq., Ocala:

MY DEAR SIR—I hand you a statement of the conditions of the Welshton lots you wanted, showing against them \$135.10 up to sale of 1893. I will hold them until I hear from you. You might have Louis Brumby announce with a kindly comment the fact that I am a candidate for re-election and that there is practically no opposition. Also have the News give me a friendly notice. It has seemed much more disposed to be nice toward me. Old man Ditto will work for me with a certain element, and can do good work. I do not wish anything unkind said about the old General. Of course we must look out for Marion county, but I do not look for trouble elsewhere. Do what you can in Citrus and Hernando, also Sumter, but be careful to keep the bank out of the fight.

Now, about your Fuller's Earth venture—

Would it be possible in working up the business to give Chester a job? The poor fellow is worrying because he has nothing to do, and I know that he would be very active in working up any outdoor business. He could go out West if necessary, and I should be very glad for him to get a chance.

Keep me posted as to how the matter progresses.

Yours truly,

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, April 23, 1896.

H. C. WRIGHT, Cashier, Ocala:

MY DEAR SIR—Kindly obtain my tax receipt from Mr. Pooser and charge to my special account the amount, \$11.47, as per enclosed card.

Tell McConnell I am still waiting for his letter.

Yours truly,

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, May 11, 1896.

MY DEAR McCONNELL—Please have your bookkeeper hurry up the statement and vouchers. A letter of inquiry from the bank examiner is waiting an answer from me. Of course I can make it; but I want to compare the statement with my books.

Yours truly,

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, June 9, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL, President Merchants' National Bank,
Ocala, Fla.:

DEAR SIR—Statement for May received, showing to my credit \$3,696.85. This agrees with my books.

Yours very truly,

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS,
State Treasurer.
M.

TALLAHASSEE, June 26, 1896.

DEAR MR. McCONNELL—No doubt you are beginning to think very strange at not hearing from Mr. Collins, and I know you will feel equally grieved when you learn how very ill he has been. I have indeed had a most trying week. He expected to have gone to Jax Monday night to meet you there, and when he could not do so I telegraphed to Mr. Stockton to let you know that he was very sick and thought that I would hear from you, and I sent the message to Mr. Stockton because I did not know where to find you. He lay in an unconscious condition from Sunday until Wednesday, and we entertained very little hopes of his recovery. He was very much astonished upon coming to himself to learn that he had been sick, and could not credit it at first. He is very much better tonight and perfectly rational, but yesterday he had a rise of fever in the afternoon and lost his head again. He is still quite sick and so weak. We have had two doctors with him all the time. He has not been well for many weeks, and was real sick the week before the convention at Ocala, but got out of bed and ready to go that night with the delegation, but when the carriage came for us (for I was going with him) he was too nervous and sick to start, and that is why we wrote to Capt. Wright. I firmly believe that the annoyance and suspense of that time and the falseness of some pretended friends and supporters had much to do with his illness. The doctors think he had a slight hemorrhage on the brain, caused by the breaking of a small blood vessel, producing partial paralysis, for all the muscles of his body were in that condition. It was with great difficulty that he could swallow his medicine. All of that is over now, and he is so much better that I trust now with care he will soon be up. He expected very soon to have gone off somewhere on a trip for a much needed rest and change; can't say now when he will do so, and I know as

soon as he can get off it would do him a wonderful amount of good. I appreciate, and so did he, your kind thoughtfulness for his health and your generous offer in one of your last letters. He will write to you as soon as he is able or I shall write for him at his dictation. He has been too sick and really could not understand anything about business, so that matter of \$5,000 was necessarily delayed a few days, but Mr. Monroe sent it to Capt. Wright this morning on Jax.

I trust your business venture in the far Northwest will turn out far better and more profitable than you could possibly anticipate. I wish it for your sake, and then, too, for Mr. Collins', for then it will give him the necessary cash to take the long needed rest and enable me to accompany him. Now that seems very selfish of me to express it that way, but I know you will appreciate how I feel about it.

With kindest regards and best wishes, believe me, very sincerely your friend.

(Sd) MRS. C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, June 26, 1896.

MERCHANTS' NATIONAL BANK—Send you check on Jacksonville today.

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS,
Treasurer.

NASHVILLE, TENN. July 16, 1896.

MERCHANTS' NATIONAL BANK, Ocala—I place ten thousand with City and send five thousand in currency.

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS,
State Treasurer.

TALLAHASSEE, Sept. 5, 1896.

H. C. WRIGHT, Cashier Merchants' National Bank, Ocala, Fla.:

DEAR SIR—Your statement of my account received for August, showing to my credit \$8,175.60. This does not agree with my books.

Your statement to June 15th agreed with mine. On that date my account showed to my credit \$1,552.88. Remittances to you have been as follows:

June 15th, balance as per your statement.....	\$1,552 88
June 26th, remittance as per my books.....	5,000 00
July 6th, remittance as per my books.....	2,777 48
July 9th, remittance as per my books.....	3,750 00

July 17th, remittance as per my books..... \$7,500 00
 July 17th, remittance as per my books..... 7,503 64

\$28,084 00

Deduct check out..... 6 01

Balance as per my books August 31, 1896..... \$28,077 99

Yours very truly,

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS,
 State Treasurer.

M.

I have been notified of no credit of any of the above amounts to "special" account by Mr. Collins,

(Sd) MUNROE.

CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 7, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL, Jacksonville—I am utterly unable to do more. Remember your promise. Leaving for Amite City, Louisiana.

C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Oct. 13, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL—Letter not received. Will come this afternoon probably.

C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Oct. 13, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL—Will sell the land. Everything lovely. Will write fully.

C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Oct. 14, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL—I will come.

C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Oct. 14, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL, Ocala—Meet me tomorrow morning in Jacksonville.

C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Oct. 15, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL, Ocala—I will come.

COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Oct. 15, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL—Missed my train by accident. Must I try again.

COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, Oct. 22, 1896, 7 P. M.

DEAR McCONNELL—I have just gotten a telegram from Jax to the effect that you have sent barely enough paper to cover the money Stockton let you have.

I hate to think that you are trying to deceive me, but it looks like it. I do not understand you, and am sorry that you failed to keep your word with me. If you are determined to break your promise I can not help you further. I feel grieved and hurt at your action.

Yours truly,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Oct. 23, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL—Stockton will be here today. I depend upon you.

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Oct. 23, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL—Trade is consummated; everything will be lovely.

(Sd) COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Nov. 23, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL, President, Ocala, Fla.:

MY DEAR SIR—I would not refuse to advance the money (\$2,000) to the Citrus county school board until I could hear from you. I would like to accommodate that people when I can do so with no risk to the State, and also, if so doing would be of any benefit to your bank. If you want to do this and will get their note in usual form at ninety days and transfer same to me, I will furnish the money. I know those people are hard up and need the money. The board must know, however, that I hold the note, and must expect to pay

the money to me at maturity, and they must understand that there can be no claims or offsets against said note. The State will want $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, as the banks pay. Understand me, I don't like to do this unless I could do the same for every county, and do not positively promise it until I hear from you again. Please let me have my vouchers, as I wrote for them some time since. Take time and get them up. Also tell me about your condition and keep me posted. I expect to go to Tampa soon, and will call by to see you. Don't telegraph so much in business matters. You never can tell when a matter will be "given away" by some operator. Tell me how matters are with you in New York and also that phosphate affair of Arentz.

Don't forget the vouchers.

Yours truly,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS,
State Treasurer.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Dec. 10, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL—I think the matter can be arranged. See my letter.

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Dec. 16, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL—Citrus and part of Marion mailed today.
C. B. COLLINS.

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 16, 1896.

R. B. McCONNELL, President, Ocala:

MY DEAR SIR—I hand you herein at request of N. Barco, Treasurer of Citrus county:

No. 8,579, Capital City Bank, N. Y.	\$2,000 00
No., State Treasurer on you.	1,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,000 00

Please credit N. Barco, Treasurer, Citrus county. I have written him of my action.

Yours truly,
(Sd) C. B. COLLINS,
State Treasurer.

TALLAHASSEE, Jan. 2, 1897.

MY DEAR MCCONNELL—I got home yesterday afternoon from Tampa. Was sick down there and did not enjoy my trip. In response to your telegram of today I have mailed you the balance of the \$15,000 for Stevens. Now I want you to write me fully and frankly the condition of affairs. How do you stand with Griffin and where will he keep his account? I shall have to draw some more checks in favor of Treasurer in tax certificate money. The amounts will not be large this time, I hope.

Don't fail to send my vouchers at once. I must have them to close up my old business. Please don't delay in this matter, for you don't know how it bothers me.

Don't use the wires so much; it is dangerous.

Yours truly,

(Sd) C. B. COLLINS.

State of Florida, }
Leon County. }

I hereby certify that the foregoing copies of letters and telegrams, numbering 1 to 36 pages inclusive, are true copies of originals in my possession. Signed this, the 6th day of May, A. D. 1897.

G. C. STAYPLETON,
Receiver Merchants National Bank, Ocala, Fla.

[File No. 9,844.]

WARRANTY DEED FROM R. B. MCCONNELL, PRESIDENT MERCHANTS' NATIONAL BANK, TO J. N. C. STOCKTON.

The State of Florida, }
Marion County. }

Know all men by these presents—

That the Merchants' National Bank of Ocala, a corporation existing under the laws of the United States, of the aforesaid county and State, for and in consideration of the sum of \$15,000, to us in hand paid by John N. C. Stockton of the county of Duval, in the State of Florida, the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, have granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey unto him, the said John N. C. Stockton, all that certain lot, piece, tract or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in

the city of Ocala and county of Marion, State of Florida, particularly known and described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the northwest corner of block numbered sixty-six (66), old survey of said city of Ocala, and lying southeast from the Court House square, and from thence run south sixty (60) feet; thence run east one hundred (100) feet; thence run north sixty (60) feet; thence run west one hundred (100) feet to the place of beginning, and being a part of lot two (2) of said block sixty-six (66) of the old survey of said city of Ocala, containing by estimation ——— acres of land, more or less, together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wise appertaining.

To have and to hold the same unto him, the said John N. C. Stockton, and to his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, in fee simple absolute. And we, the said Merchants' National Bank of Ocala, a corporation existing under the laws of the United States, do hereby covenant and agree to and with the said John N. C. Stockton that they are lawfully seized in fee simple of the property herein and hereby conveyed, and that they have good and lawful right to sell and convey the same; that the same is free from all encumbrances of any kind whatsoever, and that they will and their administrators shall and will forever warrant and defend the same unto him, the said John N. C. Stockton, and to his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, against the lawful claims and demands of any and all persons whomsoever, now claiming or hereafter to claim the same.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hand and affixed our seal on this 24th day of October, A. D. 1896.

THE MERCHANTS' NATIONAL BANK OF OCALA. [Seal.]

By R. B. McCONNELL, President. [Seal.]

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us as witnesses:

S. V. NEELEY, { Corporate }
T. E. JORDAN. { Seal. }

The State of Florida, }
Marion County. }

Before me personally appeared R. B. McConnell, to me well known as the President of the Merchants' National Bank of Ocala, who acknowledges that he executed, signed, sealed and delivered the foregoing deed of conveyance for the uses and purposes therein contained and expressed.

R. B. McCONNELL.

Acknowledged and subscribed before me this 24th day of October, A. D. 1896.

{ Notary } T. E. JORDAN,
 { Seal. } Notary Public.

A true copy. Filed January 14 (7:15 a. m.), 1897, and recorded at 9:30 a. m., January 14, 1897.

S. T. SISTRUNK, Clerk.
 By D. A. MILLER, D. C.

State of Florida, }
 Marion County. }

I, Simeon T. Sistrunk, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for Marion county, do certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the deed as same appears on record in the public records of Marion county, to-wit: In Deed Book 94, at page 409.

Witness my hand and seal of our said Circuit Court this 3d day of May, A. D. 1897.

S. T. SISTRUNK, Clerk. [Seal.]

Mr. Gaillard moved that the report be received and the committee be discharged;

Which was agreed to.

Mr. Hartridge moved that 200 copies of the committee report be printed in pamphlet form.

Mr. Chipley offered as an amendment that 500 copies instead of 200 be printed.

Mr. Hartridge accepted the amendment.

And the motion as amended was agreed to.

The following message from the Governor was read:

STATE OF FLORIDA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
 TALLAHASSEE, May 7, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—I have the honor to inform the Senate that I have to-day approved the following bill, which originated in that body, and have filed same with the Secretary of State:

An act abrogating citations of appeals in chancery causes from the Circuit Courts to the Supreme Court, and making the record of the entry of such appeals notice in such causes

Very respectfully,
 W. D. BLOXHAM,
 Governor.

Also the following:

STATE OF FLORIDA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
TALLAHASSEE, May 8, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—I have the honor to inform the Senate that I have to-day approved the following bill which originated in that body, and have filed the same with the Secretary of State:

An act to amend an act entitled an act to abolish the present municipal government of the city of Sanford, Orange county, Florida, and organize a city government for the same, and provide its jurisdiction and powers.

Also,

An act to abrogate the writ of Scire Facias ad Audiendum Errores in appellate proceedings to the Supreme Court, and to provide a substitute therefor in civil causes.

Very respectfully,

W. D. BLOXHAM,

Governor.

Mr. Carson, Acting Chairman of the Committee on Education, submitted the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER, }
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 7, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—Your Committee on Education, to whom was referred—

Senate Bill No. 188:

A bill to be entitled an act to repeal section 3 of chapter 4332 of the Laws of Florida, entitled an act requiring the Boards of Public Institutions for the several counties of this State and treasurers of county school funds to make and publish itemized financial statements of their dealings with county school funds, approved May 30, 1895.

Have had the same under consideration, and recommend that the same do not pass.

Very respectfully,

C. A. CARSON.

Acting Chairman Committee on Education.

And Senate Bill No. 188, contained in the above report, was placed on the calendar of bills on second reading.

Mr. Gaillard, Chairman of the Committee on Commerce and Navigation, submitted the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER, }
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 8, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—Your Committee on Commerce and Navigation, to whom was referred—

Senate Bill No. 205:

A bill to be entitled an act to declare navigable West Putman creek in Holmes county, and to fix a penalty for obstructing the same.

Have had the same under consideration, and recommend that the same do pass.

Very respectfully,

H. GAILLARD,

Chairman Committee on Commerce and Navigation.

And Senate Bill No. 205, contained in the above report, was placed on the calendar of bills on second reading.

Mr. Carson, Chairman of the Committee on Mining and Phosphate, submitted the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER, }
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 7, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—Your Committee on Mining and Phosphate, to whom was referred—

Senate Bill No. 187:

A bill to be entitled an act establishing a geological survey of the State of Florida.

Have had the same under consideration, and recommend that it do not pass.

Very respectfully,

C. A. CARSON,

Chairman Committee on Mining and Phosphate.

And Senate Bill No. 187, contained in the above report, was placed on the calendar of bills on second reading.

Mr. Chipley, Chairman of the Committee on City and County Organization, submitted the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER, }
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 8, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—Your Committee on City and County Organization to whom was referred—

Senate Bill No. 169:

A bill to be entitled an act to establish the municipality of Belleair, provide for its government and prescribe its jurisdiction and powers.

Also,

Senate Bill No. 193:

A bill to be entitled an act to amend sections 1 and 2 of an act entitled "an act to provide for municipal officers of the city of Jacksonville, a municipal corporation existing in Duval county, Florida, to prescribe their terms of office, provide for their election and appointment, and to regulate their compensation, and to repeal chapter 4301 of the Laws of Florida," approved May 27, 1895.

Also,

Senate Bill No. 194:

A bill to be entitled an act to define the powers and duties of the Board of Public Works and Bond Trustees of the city of Jacksonville.

Also,

Senate Bill No. 195:

A bill to be entitled an act to amend section 5 of chapter 4498 of the Laws of Florida, entitled an act to provide for municipal officers of the city of Jacksonville, a municipal corporation existing in Duval county, Florida, to prescribe their terms of office, provide for their election and appointment and regulate their compensation, and to repeal chapter 4301 of the Laws of Florida, approved May 27, 1891.

Beg leave to report that they have carefully considered the same, and recommend that they do pass.

Very respectfully,

W. D. CHIPLEY,

Chairman Committee on City and County Organization.

And Senate Bills Nos. 169, 193, 194, and 195, contained in the above report, were placed on the calendar of bills on second reading.

Mr. Barber, Chairman of the Committee on Engrossed Bills, submitted the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER, }
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 8, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—Your Committee on Engrossed Bills, to whom was referred—

Senate Bill No. 87:

A bill to be entitled an act to regulate the catching or taking of fish in the waters of the State of Florida.

Beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the same, and find it correctly engrossed.

Very respectfully,

CHAS. F. BARBER,

Chairman Committee on Engrossed Bills.

And Senate Bill No. 87, contained in the above report, was placed on the calendar of bills on third reading.

Bills on Second Reading.

Mr. Palmer of 11th moved that Senate Bill No. 24, the first on the calendar, exchange places with House Bill No. 80; Which was agreed to.

And,

House Bill No. 80:

A bill to be entitled an act providing for the appointment of official samplers of phosphate at the several ports where phosphate is shipped in the State of Florida, defining the duties of such official samplers of the railroad, terminal and other companies and persons, fixing the fees and the manner of collection and payment thereof, forbidding sampling of phosphate at ports by other persons, empowering the appointment of deputies and prescribing penalties for a violation of the provisions of this act,

Was taken up and read the second time in full.

Mr. Palmer of 11th moved that the rules be waived, and that House Bill No. 80 be read the third time and put upon its passage.

Which was not agreed to.

And House Bill No. 80 was placed on the calendar of bills on third reading.

Senate Bill No. 66:

A bill to be entitled an act to abolish the present corporation of the town of Clear Water Harbor, Florida, and to provide for a municipal government for the town of Clear Water, and to define the boundaries thereof,

Was taken up and read the second time in full, and referred to the Committee on Engrossed Bills.

Senate Bill No. 100:

A bill to be entitled an act to extend the time for the completion of the entire main lines of the South American International Railroad,

Was taken up and read the second time in full.

Mr. Fuller offered the following amendment to Senate Bill No. 100:

In the title strike out the words "a bill to entitle an act," and substitute therefor the words "a bill to be entitled an act."

Mr. Fuller moved the adoption of the amendment;

Which was agreed to.

And Senate Bill No. 100, as amended, was referred to the Committee on Engrossed Bills.

Senate Bill No. 115:

A bill to be entitled an act to amend section 2516, Revised Statutes of the State of Florida,

Was taken up and read the second time in full, together with the amendments offered by the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Myers moved the adoption of the Judiciary Committee amendments;

Which was agreed to.

And Senate Bill No. 115, as amended, was referred to the Committee on Engrossed Bills.

A message was received from the Governor.

The following message from the Governor was read:

STATE OF FLORIDA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 8, 1897.

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—I have the honor to inform the Senate that I have today approved the following bill which originated in that body, and have filed the same with the Secretary of State:

An act to provide for the regulation of railroad schedules, freight, express, sleeping car and passenger tariffs, and build-

ing of freight and passenger depots in this State; to prevent unjust discrimination in the rates charged for the transportation of passengers and freight, and to prohibit railroad companies, corporations, persons and all common carriers in this State from charging other than just and reasonable rates, and to enforce the same, and to prescribe a mode of procedure, and rules or evidence in relation thereto, and to provide for the appointment and election of commissioners, and to prescribe their duties and powers.

Very respectfully,

W. D. BLOXAM,
Governor of Florida.

A message was received from the House of Representatives.

Mr. Palmer of 14th offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 19:

Whereas, The Joint Committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's office in regard to loss of the State's funds in the Merchants National Bank of Ocala, have made their report to the Senate, and directly charges that J. N. C. Stockton owes the State of Florida \$15,000; and

Whereas, The said Stockton has been continuously in the city as a member of the Legislature, and has not been called by said Joint Committee to give his evidence; therefore be it

Resolved, That Senators Thomas, Adams, Gaillard and Blich of 20th be appointed a committee to examine the said Stockton, and such other witnesses as may be produced before them, and report the evidence of said Stockton to this Senate, and that it be made a part of this report.

Mr. Palmer of 14th moved the adoption of the resolution.

In response to an enquiry during the discussion of the resolution, Mr. Gaillard was allowed to have the following inserted in the journal:

Mr. Stockton told me he would personally guarantee the \$15,000 in question, and he also told me he did not care to come before the Investigation Committee. It was the opinion of the committee that Mr. Stockton should come before us, and we sent out one of the clerks to ask Mr. Stockton to come before the committee on two occasions, but he returned and reported that he could not find Mr. Stockton.

In connection with the subject of the \$15,000, Mr. Stockton further told me that there was some misunderstanding about the loan of the \$15,000; that his understanding of the matter was that Mr. Collins made the loan, and he was only acting

in the matter as trustee or agent for Mr. Collins in the matter.

There was no disposition on the part of any one of the committee to prevent Mr. Stockton coming before us, and I do not oppose this resolution for any other reason than that the House has appointed a committee for the same purpose, and I think a committee from the Senate unnecessary.

Pending the consideration of Senate Resolution No. 19—

A committee from the House of Representatives announced that the House was ready to receive the Senate in joint session, and to proceed to the election of a United States Sen-

The hour of 12 o'clock having arrived, the Senate proceeded in a body to the hall of the House of Representatives.

12 O'CLOCK M.

JOINT SESSION, May 8, 1897.

At 12 o'clock the Senate entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and was received by the House.

President Perrenot in the chair.

The President ordered the Secretary of the Senate to call the roll of the Senate.

Upon call of the roll, the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President, Messrs. Adams, Bailey, Barber, Blitch of 20th, Blitch of 21st, Broome, Bynum, Carson, Chipley, Clark, Crosby, Daniel, Darby, Dimick, Dougherty, Fuller, Gaillard, Hartridge, Hendley, Hooker, Myers, McLin, Palmer of 11th, Palmer of 14th, Peacock, Phipps, Reeves, Roberts, Thomas, Wadsworth and Williams—32.

A quorum present.

The President ordered the roll of the House called.

Upon call of the roll, the following Members answered to their names:

Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Ayer, Baggett, Baker, Ballentine, Bates, Bethel, Blanton, Bunch, Burnsed, Cauty, Carlisle, Carter, Chaires, Christie, Cobb, Cox, Crumpton, Dees, Dyal, Ellis, Frisbee, Fielding, Fulton Harris, Hendry of Lee, Hyer, Lamar, Lewis, Linton, McCall, McCreary, Mobley, Morgan of Hamilton, Morgan of Putnam, Owens, Pelot, Pedrick, Pope, Potter, Rawls, Register, Rice, Richbourg, Robertson, Rouse, Shepard of Liberty, Shepard of Orange, Sloan, Spencer, Stanford, Stockton, Street, Thayer, Turner, Wall of Bradford, Ward, Watson, Whitner, Williams, Wilson, Wolff, Young and Zewadski—63.

A quorum present.

The Journal of yesterday was approved.

Mr. Palmer of 11th offered the following resolution:

Whereas, The Democratic party in convention assembled at Chicago during the year 1896, promulgated a platform of principles, each and every of which meets with the unqualified endorsement, approval and earnest support of this joint assembly.

And whereas, we the members of this assembly fully recognize and steadfastly believe said platform to be no less than a second declaration of American independence, one which when enacted into law will culminate in the emancipation of our toiling millions from the terrible thralldrom of selfish greed and pernicious avarice; and

Whereas, It is a matter of the utmost importance that the United States Senator to be elected by this assembly should fully understand our position on this most important subject, and should fully realize our earnest zeal in the support of the vital principles enunciated in said platform.

Therefore be it resolved by the joint assembly of Florida, That the senator hereafter elected by this assembly, be and he is hereby instructed, and it is hereby demanded of him, that he at all times during his term of office as such United States Senator, and under all circumstances that may arise during said term, shall constantly and persistently strain every nerve and bend every energy to the accomplishment of the great purpose of enacting into laws of the United States, each and every plank of said Chicago platform, and especially the all important one which demands the free and unlimited coinage of both silver and gold at a ratio of sixteen to one, by this government, independent of and regardless of the consent of the other nations of the world.

Be it further resolved, That the acceptance of the office of United States Senator by the successful aspirant, and at the hands of this assembly shall be recognized and construed by this assembly to be a direct and positive pledge, and solemn promise on the part of said successful candidate to stand to abide by, and perform all the obligations imposed upon him by this resolution.

Mr. Turner moved the adoption of the resolution.

The yeas and nays were demanded.

Upon call of the roll of the Senate, the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. President, Messrs. Adams, Bailey, Barber, Blitch of 20th, Blitch of 21st, Broome, Bynum, Carson, Chipley, Clark, Crosby, Darby, Dimick, Dougherty, Fuller, Gaillard, Hendley, Hooker, Myers, McLin, Palmer of 11th,

Palmer of 14th, Peacock, Phipps, Roberts, Thomas, Wadsworth and Williams—29.

Nays—Messrs. Daniel, Hartridge, and Reeves—3.

Upon call of the roll of the House, the vote was:

Yeas—Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Ayer, Baggett, Baker, Ballentine, Bates, Bethel, Blanton, Bunch, Burnsed, Canty, Carlisle, Carter, Chaires, Christie, Cobb, Cox, Crumpton, Dees, Dyal, Ellis, Frisbee, Fielding, Fulton Harris, Hendry of Lee, Hyer, Lamar, Lewis, Linton, McCall, McCreary, Mobley, Morgan of Hamilton, Morgan of Putnam, Owens, Pelot, Pedrick, Pope, Rawls, Register, Rice, Richbourg, Robertson, Rouse, Shepard of Liberty Shepard of Orange, Sloan, Spencer, Stanford, Stockton, Street, Thayer, Turner, Wall of Bradford, Ward, Watson, Whitner, Williams, Wilson, Wolff, Young and Zewadski—63.

Nays—Mr. Potter—1.

So the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Adams moved that the joint session proceed to vote for a United States Senator;

Which was agreed to.

And the joint session proceeded to vote for United States Senator.

The roll of the Senate was called, and the vote was:

For Stockton—Messrs. Adams, Barber, Blich of 21st, Broome, Crosby, Palmer of 14th, Roberts, Thomas and Williams—9.

For Chipley—Mr. President, Messrs. Bynum, Clark, Dougherty, Fuller, Gaillard, Hartridge, Hooker, Palmer of 11th, Peacock, Reeves and Wadsworth—12.

For Raney—Messrs. Bailey, Carson, Daniel, Darby, Dimick, Hendley, Myers and Phipps—3.

For Hocker—Mr. McLin—1.

For Burford—Mr. Blich of 20th—1.

Total number of votes cast, 31.

Mr. Chipley was passed.

The roll of the House of Representatives was called, and the vote was:

For Stockton—Messrs. Ayer, Baker, Bates, Bethel, Blanton, Bunch, Burnsed, Canty, Carlisle, Carter, Crumpton, Dyal, Frisbee, Lewis, Linton, McCall, McCreary, Morgan of Hamilton, Pelot, Pope, Rawls, Rouse, Shepard of Liberty, Wall of Bradford, Ward and Wilson—26.

For Chipley—Messrs. Baggett, Ballentine, Cobb, Cox, Ellis, Fielding, Harris, Hendry of Lee, Hyer, Owens, Pedrick, Potter, Richbourg, Robertson, Shepard of Orange, Spencer, Stanford, Street, Thayer, Turner, Watson, Williams and Young—23.

For Raney--Messrs. Chaires, Christie, Fulton, Lamar, Mobley, Morgan of Putnam, Register, Rice, Whitner and Wolff--10.

For Hoeker--Messrs. Sloan and Zewadski--2.

Total number of votes cast, 61.

Mr. Dees announced that he was paired with Mr. Hendry of Taylor.

Mr. Speaker (Mays) announced that he was paired with Mr. Wall of Putnam; that if Mr. Wall of Putnam were present he would vote for Mr. Stockton, and he would vote for Mr. Chipley.

Mr. Stockton was passed.

The Secretary announced that thirty-one (31) votes in the Senate, and sixty-one (61) in the House, making a total of ninety-two (92) votes, had been cast.

The President announced that the following gentlemen had received the number of votes opposite their respective names:

Jno. N. C. Stockton, 35;

W. D. Chipley, 35;

G. P. Raney, 18;

W. A. Hoeker, 3;

R. A. Burford, 1;

And that no one having received the majority of votes cast as required by law, that there was no election of United States Senator.

Mr. Adams moved that the joint session do now adjourn;

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon the joint session stood adjourned until 12 o'clock Monday.

12:40 O'CLOCK.

At 12:40 p. m. the Senate resumed its session.

The President in the chair.

The roll being called, the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President, Messrs. Adams, Bailey, Barber, Blitch of 20th, Blitch of 21st, Broome, Bynum, Carson, Chipley, Clark, Crosby, Daniel, Darby, Dimick, Dougherty, Fuller Gaillard, Hartridge, Hendley, Hooker, Myers, McLin, Palmer of 11th, Palmer of 14th, Peacock, Phipps, Reeves, Roberts, Thomas, Wadsworth and Williams--32.

A quorum present.

By permission--

Mr. Palmer of 11th introduced:

Senate Bill No. 215:

A bill to be entitled an act to limit and define the criminal jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace and County Judges;

Which was read the first time by its title and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

By permission—

Mr. Palmer of 11th introduced (by request):

Senate Bill No. 216:

A bill to be entitled an act to encourage and protect the planting and propagation of oysters and oyster beds within the waters of the State of Florida;

Which was read the first time by its title and referred to the Committee on Fisheries.

By permission—

Mr. Chipley introduced:

Senate Bill No. 217:

A bill to be entitled an act to amend an act concerning county boards of health, and to provide for the disposition of funds and effects in possession of county boards of health, approved May 25, 1893;

Which was read the first time by its title and referred to the Committee on Public Health.

By permission—

Mr. Myers introduced (by request):

Senate Bill No. 218:

A bill to be entitled an act to establish a State Board of embalming; to provide for the better protection of life and health; to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases, and to regulate the practice of embalming and the care of and disposition of the dead;

Which was read the first time by its title and referred to the Committee on Public Health.

By permission—

Mr. Darby introduced:

Senate Bill No. 219:

A bill to be entitled an act to repeal an act entitled an act to authorize railroad and canal companies to condemn land and water rights for terminal facilities;

Which was read the first time by its title and referred to the Committee on Canals and Telegraph.

By permission—
Mr. Chipley, Chairman of the Committee on City and
County Organization, submitted the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER,
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 8, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—Your Committee on City and County Organization,
to whom was referred—

House Bill No. 81:

A bill to be entitled an act to define the boundaries of the
town of St. Petersburg, Fla.

Beg leave to report that they have carefully examined the
same, and recommend that it do pass.

Very respectfully,

W. D. CHIPLEY,

Chairman Committee on City and County Organization.

And House Bill No. 81, contained in the above report, was
placed on the calendar of bills on second reading.

By permission—

Mr. Chipley, Chairman of the Committee on City and
County Organization, submitted the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER,
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 8, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—Your Committee on City and County Organization,
to whom was referred—

Senate Bill No. 137:

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for an election in the
county of Orange, State of Florida, to determine whether
hogs may lawfully run at large in said county.

Beg to report that they have considered same, and sub-
mit herewith at request of introducer a substitute for origi-
nal bill, and report both bills to Senate with recommendation.

Very respectfully,

W. D. CHIPLEY,

Chairman Committee on City and County Organization.

And Senate Bill No. 137, contained in the above report,
together with the substitute offered by the committee,
was placed on the calendar of bills on second reading.

By permission—

Mr Chipley, Chairman of the Committee on City and County Organization, submitted the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER, }
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 8, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—Your Committee on City and County Organization, to whom was referred—

House Bill No. 29:

A bill to be entitled an act to amend section 11 of an act supplementary to an act entitled an act to establish the municipality of Key West, provide for its government, and prescribe its jurisdiction and powers, approved May 16, 1889, and to extend the powers of said municipality, approved May 25, 1895.

Beg leave to report that we have carefully examined the same, and recommend that same do pass, together with amendment submitted herewith by your committee.

Very respectfully,

W. D. CHIPLEY,

Chairman Committee on City and County Organization.

And House Bill No. 29, contained in the above report, was placed on the calendar of bills on second reading.

By permission—

Mr. Chipley, Chairman of the Committee on City and County Organization, submitted the following report:

SENATE CHAMBER, }
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., May 8, 1897. }

HON. CHAS. J. PERRENOT,

President of the Senate:

SIR—Your Committee on City and County Organization, to whom was referred—

Senate Bill No. 206:

A bill to be entitled an act to amend section 31 of chapter 4496 of the Laws of Florida, entitled an act to amend the city charter of the city of Tampa.

Beg leave to report that they have carefully considered the same, and recommend that it do pass.

Very respectfully,

W. D. CHIPLEY,

Chairman Committee on City and County Organization.

And Senate Bill No. 206, contained in the above report, was placed on the calendar of bills on second reading.

The Senate resumed consideration of Senate Resolution No. 19, pending when the body went into joint session.

Mr. Adams offered the following amendment to Senate Resolution No. 19:

Strike out the names "Thomas, Adams and Blich," and insert "Gaillard, Fuller and Darby."

Mr. Adams moved the adoption of the amendment;

Mr. Adams withdrew the amendment.

Mr. Adams offered the following amendment to Senate Resolution No. 19:

Strike out the name "Adams," and add "Gaillard, Fuller and Darby."

Mr. Adams moved the adoption of the amendment;

Which was agreed to.

Senate Resolution No. 19, as amended, was then adopted.

Senate Bill No. 155:

A bill to be entitled an act to provide for the establishing, working, repairing and maintaining the public roads and bridges of the several counties of this State under the contract system, and prescribe rules of procedure in case of default of contractor;

Was taken up and read the second time in full.

Mr. Hartridge offered the following amendment to Senate Bill No. 155:

After section 3 add the following: "Provided that nothing herein shall be taken or held to prevent the County Commissioners of each county from working convicts in such way and through such agencies as they may select for municipal and county purposes."

Mr. Hartridge moved the adoption of the amendment;

Which was agreed to.

And Senate Bill No. 155, as amended, was referred to the Committee on Engrossed Bills.

Mr. Reeves moved that Senate Bill No. 121 be taken from the table;

Which was agreed to.

And,

Senate Bill No. 121:

A bill to be entitled an act to create a board of trustees for the State Normal School for whites at DeFuniak Springs, and to prescribe their duties and powers,

Was taken up and read the third time in full, and put upon its passage.

Pending discussion on the bill—

Mr. Broome, moved that the Senate do now adjourn until 10 o'clock Monday morning.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon the Senate stood adjourned until 10 o'clock Monday morning.

MONDAY, MAY 10, 1897.

The Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

The roll being called, the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President, Messrs. Adams, Barber, Blich of 20th, Blich of 21st, Broome, Bynum, Carson, Chipley, Crosby, Daniel, Darby, Dimick, Dougherty, Fuller, Gaillard, Hart-ridge, Hooker, McLin, Palmer of 14th, Peacock, Phipps, Reeves, Thomas and Wadsworth—25.

A quorum present.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

On motion the reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

The Journal was approved.

Senators Clark and Roberts were excused until Thursday morning.

Introduction of Bills.

By Mr. Dimick:

Senate Bill No. 220:

A bill to be entitled an act to legalize the incorporation of the city of Miami, in the county of Dade, and to declare the incorporation of said city to be valid and of full force and effect;

Which was read the first time by its title and referred to the Committee on City and County Organization.

By Mr. Dimick:

Senate Bill No. 221:

A bill to be entitled an act to extend the time for the commencement of work upon the Titusville Canaveral and Penin-sular railroad;

Which was read the first time by its title and referred to the Committee on Railroads.