

AGAIN, THE GOVERNOR.

A rather interesting story comes through the office of the federal food administration at Orlando, interesting because it gives an instance of the peculiarities of the governor of this state, whose idiosyncracies have caused more talk than those of any executive who has ever preceded him, not excluding Harrison Reed, who came very nearly to being impeached.

It seems, and readers of The Herald will remember the incident, that a certain member of the Florida legislature, living in Okeechobee county, got into difficulty with the food administration. It was alleged that he had made incorrect returns as to the amount of flour substitutes he had on hand, in order to obtain more flour, at the time the restrictions on the use of flour were in effect. The misunderstanding, or whatever it was, led to a personal encounter, which landed the Okeechobee representative in the federal courts on a charge of having assaulted a federal officer.

According to the administration office, the governor exerted himself to have the case settled without recourse to the courts, but the administration was obdurate and an examination on the charges was held in this city. Just about that time the accused began to realize the seriousness of the situation and offered apologies to the administration official, which were accepted and the case was finally withdrawn.

That is one part of the story. Here is another. The director of transportation, in the office of the state food administrator, recently asked the governor to assist in having some of the Everglades drainage work pushed, for the purpose of helping to relieve the food situation.

But the governor has a long memory, and he declined to help, in a communication a part of which is as follows, as quoted by the food administrator, who says that the governor did not bite his words or choose any exceptionally grammatical or rhetorical style "in telling the food administration where it gets off."

The governor's letter contains this illuminating paragraph, in his own words: "I cannot see what your department, when I asked them to help me get rid of a law suit, in which Mr. Coat, a representative from Okeechobee county was interested before the federal courts and you turned me down coldly, keep pushing your plans upon me to help your food administration when you would not lift a hand to help me in getting Mr. Coat's case thrown out of the federal courts. What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and if you want Florida to aid you you should aid us. * * * So, if you desire me to help you, you will have to have other policies in your department, for the state of Florida is amply able to take care of itself, and we can leave your department to do the same, unless you co-operate with us better."

In other words, because the governor cannot secure the release of his friends from charges made against them for violation of the law, he will not help in the drainage movement in the section of the Everglades where the monstrous outrage against his peace and dignity occurred.