



ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE. PUBLISHED DAILY. The Alexandria Gazette Corporation Gazette Bldg., - - - King Street. ROBERT S. BARRETT, President and General Manager.

HOWARD W. SMITH, Secretary and Treasurer.

TERMS:—Daily, 1 year, \$5.00. Six months, \$2.50. Three months, \$1.25. One month, 43 cents. One week, 10 cents.

Entered at the Postoffice of Alexandria, Virginia, as second-class matter.

THE RED MEN HERE

The Grand Council of the Improved Order of Red Men began its session in this city today. About three hundred representatives of the organization from nearly every city and town in the commonwealth are present and a cordial welcome is extended them not only by members of the order but by citizens generally. The council will be in session two days.

The informal reception at the Young People's Building last night tendered by the Red Men of Alexandria was an interesting and pleasant feature which will long be remembered by all who were present.

Many orders have waxed and waned in this city during the past three quarters of a century, but during all these years tribes Red Men have survived. Old Osceola Tribe has long been an Alexandria institution, and at times there have been other tribes in the city. Seminole Tribe organized a few years ago, manifested vigor at its birth, and is now flourishing. Like old Osceola Tribe, its members compose representative and useful citizens.

The Silver Moon Council of the Degree of Pochontas, a woman's auxiliary to the Red Men was established here three months ago.

The Improved Order of Red Men is distinctively an American institution, having its inception in patriotism. A century and a half ago, when our great republic was about to be brought to its birth, Indians in our streets were as common as are colored people today. And our forefathers plotting to cast off the British yoke, often masqueraded as Indians in order to escape the espionage of red coats. Patriotic Americans, attired as sons of the forest, gathered around camp fires and smoked pipes, but not those of peace. It will be remembered that white men dressed as Indians threw the tea overboard in Boston harbor previous to the breaking out of the revolutionary war. Tammany Hall in New York is still termed a wigwam, the head of the organization the grand sachem and the members braves.

After the close of the conflict with Great Britain these tribes continued to exist as beneficial and social organizations. They still use the vocabulary of the aborigines.

Two French journalists fought a duel the other day and actually drew blood. The duel was not a success.

A St. Louis man wants a divorce because he has to eat fried eggs every morning. Casting pearls, etc.

The steps of Washington street cars are to be made lower. A victory for the hobble skirt, clearly.

Boston is declared rich in Greek vases. Also in Greek faces.

VOLUNTEERS IN IDLE ARMY.

It is not at all surprising to learn that many thousands of Chicago's army of unemployed are volunteers. The complete muster is estimated at 125,000 and the commission appointed by the mayor to investigate conditions has already reported that it has found many demands for workmen unmet by the soldiers within these lines. For instance, a call for 25,000 men to clear railroad tracks and other property of snow fell upon deaf ears. In another case 1,500 men were advertised for in the morning newspaper and 350 responded. No impatient zeal for work evidently animates thousands of these soldiers of idleness. Others, no doubt, would like a chance to earn an honest living, but there is the unanswered call for the 25,000, says the Omaha Bee. Macedonia is not saved that way. We ventured to suggest before that a large proportion of this vast army of unemployed consisted of the professional tramp and these early findings of the commission seem to justify our belief. They put a very different aspect upon the situation and will go to discredit any attempt to make political capital out of a condition apparently grave.

Physicians tell us that 65 per cent of the children in the public schools of Boston are physically defective says the Boston Globe. The trained nurses who attend the pupils have performed good service in correcting temporary defects. Now it is proposed seriously to not only feed the hungry but to furnish medicated baths for children suffering from skin troubles. It is also urged that more attention should be paid to school clinics by teachers and parents co-operating for that purpose. A wise medical suggestion is made that there should be less competitive work in the schools and that the pupils should be relieved of some studies, home lessons abolished and children promoted or graduated with more regard to their actual mental capacity as shown by their daily efforts.

Nine people were killed in January and nearly forty maimed by automobiles in the streets of New York. In every city of any size a toll of either life or limb is demanded as the price of carelessness or speed mania on the part of motor car drivers. It is time that strict laws guarded the right of way of the pedestrian and put the burden of care on the vehicle. It is a hardship not to be tolerated in these times of law, order and equal rights that the pleasure of a few should exact this toll from the many.

As the output of real gold was \$500,000,000 in 1911, it seems strange that some men should care to buy the imitation article in bricks, says the Chicago News. But the trouble is that if these men get \$25,000 worth of real gold they have to put up \$25,000 for it; while the alleged \$25,000 of gold bricks can be had for a beggarly \$500.

The California man who expects by eating nitroglycerin tablets to live 100 years should be careful not to walk about in the dark, and it might be well for him to refrain from keeping a goat.

A wealthy soap manufacturer addressed the hobo convention in Cincinnati. But evidently the hoboes are not afraid of Cincinnati soap or they wouldn't have been there.

Airships without crews, to be propelled around the globe by wireless power, are predicted by Nikola Tesla who long ago won a reputation as the Champion Predictor.

Feather trimmings for the shoe have gained a foothold in the world of fashion. They are said to be popular among high flyers and high step pers.

New Yorkers who are afraid of hold-up men are wearing imitation jewels. Also some who are not afraid of hold-up men.

Somebody has written an article saying that man should walk on all fours. And have corns on his hands, too? Never.

New York is excited over recent hold-ups in the financial district. Evidently some rank outsiders are butting in.

The chief value of the dictograph lies in the fact that it knows when to keep quiet and when to talk.

The young Indian prince, son of the Gaskwar of Baroda, has left Harvard because he could not get along there on his allowance of \$250 a week. Even Oriental lavishness, apparently, cannot live up to the standard of the American money kings' sons. And this must rather puzzle the European and eastern minds to reconcile with all that has been told them about the simplicity of our republican institutions.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

Board of Aldermen.

At a regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen of the city of Alexandria, Va., held May 14, 1912, there were present:

F. F. Marbury, Esq., president; and Messrs. Hill, Brill, Ballenger, Field, Fitzgerald and Summers.

A law imposing taxes on persons, property, income, etc., for the year commencing June 1, 1912, and ending May 31, 1913, was read the second and third time and passed by a unanimous vote.

A law imposing licenses upon persons conducting business in the city of Alexandria, 1912, and ending May 31, 1913, was read the second and third times, and passed by a unanimous vote.

A communication from W. C. Baggett calling attention to the unsanitary condition of Hooff's run, was referred to the Committee on Streets.

The Finance Committee reported that according to an opinion of S. P. Fisher, Corporation Attorney, that should the City Council pass an ordinance amending section 55 of the license law, imposing a tax of \$20 upon non-resident peddlers of green groceries, it would be declared unconstitutional. The report was adopted.

A resolution appropriating \$1,850 additional for the fire department, courts and jail, chain gang, and poor and work house, was adopted.

A petition of G. E. Price & Co., concerning the present condition of Fish-town wharf, was referred to the Committee on Finance and Public Property.

A resolution appropriating \$375 to lay cobble gutters with vitrified brick centers on Payne street from Queen to Princess was referred to the committee on Streets.

A resolution appropriating \$1,200 to lay terra cotta sewer pipes on Princess street from Patrick 40 feet east of Columbus, was referred to the Committee on Streets.

A resolution appropriating \$1,200 to lay terra cotta sewer pipes west on Gibbon street from Washington street to Columbus and thence southward to Columbus to Franklin, was referred to the Committee on Streets.

A resolution appropriating \$50 to construct a cement sidewalk in front of the Friendship Engine House was referred to the Committee on Streets.

A resolution appropriating \$3,550 for grading and paving North Peyton street, was received from the Common Council and laid over.

The following were received from the Common Council and their action concurred in, by unanimous votes:

Report of the Committee on Streets on a petition of sundry persons for the removal of the pump at Gibbon and Alfred streets.

Report of the same Committee on a petition of W. E. Johnson for permission to remove house No. 1019 Oronoco street, 18 feet back from the building line.

An ordinance to provide for granting a franchise for laying a single track railway on Royal street from King to Franklin.

An ordinance regulating the width of Washington street from Queen to Duke.

Resolution appropriating \$200 to lay gutters on Wilkes street from Royal to Pitt.

Resolution providing for an electric light at the intersection of Prince and Fairfax streets.

Resolution for repair of gutter on the south side of Princess street, between Patrick and Henry; also to have a pump removed at 1117 Prince street.

An ordinance that the fire department, beginning June 12 next, be under the control, supervision and management of a committee of city council, to be known as the Committee on Fire, composed of two members of the Board of Aldermen and three members of the Common Council.

The Board then adjourned. F. F. MARBURY, President. Tester: LUTHER H. THOMPSON, Clerk.

Common Council.

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the city of Alexandria, Va., held May 14th, 1912, there were present:

Howard W. Smith, Esq., Vice President; and Messrs. Leadbeater, Lambert, Burke, Brumbaek, Graham, Williams, Birrell, Monroe, Brockett, Harrison, Swan, Marshall and Spinks.

Mr. Birrell read a letter from the Corporation Attorney in regard to election of President of the Board, and moved that Council proceed to elect a President.

Mr. Graham nominated Mr. Smith, and he was unanimously elected.

Mr. Birrell nominated Mr. Marshall for Vice President. Mr. Williams placed in nomination Mr. Brumbaek.

The ballot resulted as follows: For Mr. Brumbaek—Messrs. Lambert, Leadbeater, Brockett, Graham, Williams, Monroe, Brockett, Harrison, Swan (9). For Mr. Marshall—Messrs. Burke, Smith, Birrell and Spinks (4); not voting, Mr. Marshall (1).

Mr. Brumbaek was therefore declared elected.

The Committee on Finance reported favorably an ordinance to provide for the granting of a certain right or franchise for an electric railway track on Royal street from King to Franklin, and the report was adopted.

Ordinances to amend and revise the laws of the city with reference to health and sanitary improvements, and for collecting licenses for the year commencing June 1, 1912, the latter having been received from the Board of Aldermen, were read, and it was decided to hold a special meeting of Council on Tuesday night next, at 7 o'clock, to consider the same.

Upon motion of Mr. Marshall, the ordinance in regard to Health and Sanitary improvements was ordered to be printed, and copies distributed among the members.

An ordinance regulating the width of the road way of Washington street, from Queen street to Duke, was read the second and third times, and passed: Ayes, 14; Noes, 0.

The Committee on Streets reported favorably an appropriation of \$3,550 to grade and pave North Peyton street, and the report was adopted: Ayes, 14; Noes, 0.

tee on Streets, and adopted.

Petition of Mrs. Sophia A. Smith et als., to remove pump from 1117 Prince street, and to repave gutter on South side of Princess street between Patrick and Henry streets, were referred to the Committee on Streets.

Petition of F. J. Higgins and others to remove pump at southwest corner of Gibbon and Alfred streets, was granted. Petition for an electric arc light at intersection of Prince and Fairfax streets was referred to the Committee on Light.

Resolution appropriating \$200 to cobble gutters on Wilkes street from Royal to Pitt was referred to Committee on Streets.

An ordinance in regard to Committee of Council to be known as the "Committee on Fire," was referred to the Committee on Finance, Public Property and General Laws.

An ordinance for the imposing and collecting of taxes on persons, property, incomes, etc., was reported favorably by the Finance Committee, and the matter was received from the Board of Aldermen, and laid over until the next regular meeting.

The opinion of the Corporation Attorney as to ordinances and resolutions passed on the night of their introduction was received and read. Petition of Samuel E. Smith to add a two-story frame building to 1316 Queen street was referred to the Committee on Streets.

Petition of W. A. Price and others, residents of blocks bounded by Montgomery, Columbus, Wythe and Alfred streets, asking for gas mains, was referred to the Committee on Light.

Petition of John P. Parker to improve lots 816 and 818 Queen street by removing present structures and building two two-story frames, was referred to the Committee on Streets.

Resolutions of Mr. Birrell, appropriating \$500 for the purchase and installation of gas stoves, was referred to Committee on Light.

Resolution of Mr. Swan, appropriating \$575 to pave and curb the intersection of Alfred and Duke streets, was referred to the Committee on Streets.

Resolution of Mr. Birrell as to codification of City Laws was referred to the Committee on Finance and General Laws.

The following were received from the Board of Aldermen and their action concurred in:

Communication from W. C. Baggett, calling attention to the unsanitary condition of Hooff's Run.

Communication from G. E. Price & Co., calling attention to the condition of the Fish wharf property.

Report of the Committee on Finance on an ordinance amending section 55 of the license law.

Resolution appropriating \$1,200 to construct pipe sewers on Princess St. eastward from Patrick, to 40 feet eastward of Columbus.

Resolution appropriating \$1,200 to construct pipe sewers westward on Gibbon street, from Washington to Columbus and to Franklin.

Resolution appropriating \$1,850 additional for fire department, courts, jail chain gang, and the poor and work house.

Resolution appropriating \$375 to lay cobble gutters with vitrified brick centers on Royal street, from Queen to Princess.

Resolution appropriating \$50 to lay cement sidewalk in front of the Friendship Engine House.

The Board then adjourned. HOWARD W. SMITH, President. Tester: N. S. GREENAWAY, Clerk, pro tem.

HOW TALL IS A WOMAN?

One of the curious provisions of the woman suffrage law of California calls for the registration of the height of women voters. Naturally the registrars are having trouble with it. First of all, it has to be decided where the foot of a woman begins and where her head leaves off. Shall French heels be subtracted, or ought the authorities to assume that it is indelicate for them to consider that women have heels? Are puffs, rats and other apparatus of the sort to be taken into account, or must women discard these affairs when they come up for measurement? Artificial hair is said to have gone out of fashion. We are not prepared to speak with authority on that matter, says the Toledo Blade. But supposing that next year, that fashion of the latter part of the eighteenth century, when women had their hair made up with flour and the whole baked, should be the rage. What would the registrar say when a voter came before him? Would he ask her to remove her bun? Or, being a man of experience, would he merely sigh and credit the elector with 10 inches growth in the course of a year?

Most boys have fathers, which is fortunate for the boys themselves and for society. But most fathers perhaps—at any rate, too many of them—fail to recognize fully their obligations in the matter of guiding the thoughts and actions of their sons. They leave too much of that duty to the boys' mothers. Mothers, too, are important, of course, giving the boy a kind of care which they would otherwise lose. But the father, if he be the right sort, can exert an influence which may come from no other source. Is it not worth while? Every boy who goes wrong represents a definite loss to society. To that extent civilization falls. It means a hitch in the plan of the universe which calls for a steady upward climb toward perfection.

The efforts now to save the chestnut trees emphasizes nature's revenge for the needless slaughter of the birds. Bird conservation is one of the important factors in forestry, but if human carelessness or wantonness destroys the natural means of tree defenses, it follows that men are left to their own inadequate devices to repair the blunder. In this case worse than a crime.

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