

The Lexington Intelligencer.

LEXINGTON, LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1902.

No 3

THE WATERWORKS QUESTION

Report of Special Committee Unanimously Adopted.

SPEAKS IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS

For Relief From Existing Conditions—The Ball Set to Rolling.

Another mass meeting of citizens was held at the lower court room Thursday night for the purpose of hearing the report of the committee named Thursday night of last week on the question of securing better water service for Lexington. The meeting was well attended and the report of the committee, which was read by Hon. W. H. Chiles, was adopted by a unanimous vote. This report follows and will be found self explanatory:

1. We find that the City of Lexington under its present charter has substantially the same power to construct water works and to issue bonds for such construction as it would have were it incorporated under the general law, and recommend that no action be taken to obtain a new charter on that account.

2. We are of the opinion that whether the city should construct waterworks or make a contract with some company to furnish it water for rental, the city contractors can act more understandingly and to better advantage, if a plan for suitable waterworks with the desired specifications were first procured for that purpose, and we recommend that the city council first procure the necessary plans and specifications, and when that is done and bids obtained, we will act on the question whether we will construct waterworks for municipal ownership or contract with some company for a water supply as we have been doing in the past.

3. That pending the consideration of the question as to whether the city should construct and own waterworks, or they be erected by contractors at their own cost for purpose of rental, we recommend that the council advertise immediately for bids from contractors to construct said waterworks for and to be the property of the City of Lexington, according to such plans and specifications procured by the city, privilege being reserved to reject any and all bids.

4. That the council also immediately advertise for bids from contractors to erect, construct and operate at their own cost, waterworks for the use of the city and the people on a contract to furnish said city and private consumers at the lowest annual rental rates, pure filtered water taken from the current of the Missouri river above all drainage of the city, for a term of twenty years, and contractors to erect within the corporate limits of the city seventy-five fire hydrants for the use of the city and for which the city is to pay rent, and also one public fountain and four watering troughs free to the use of the public. Bid to be executed by the successful bidder, with approved security for the faithful performance of any contract made with the city. Said waterworks to be constructed according to plans and specifications drafted and furnished by the successful bidder without cost to the city, a copy of such plans and specifications to be filed with the council and to become a part of the contract.

5. We report also the Lexington Water Company has by telegraph outlined the following proposition: A 20-year contract with a 20-year franchise; 10 additional hydrants; 84,000 hydrant rental. Private rates to remain same. Water from the Missouri river. Will furnish bond, if any first class surety company will issue a bond, mutually satisfactory to both parties.

This proposition does not meet our favor and we recommend that it be rejected.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Z. M. WILLIAMS, Chairman.
J. G. Gamble, Secretary.

commendation to the effect that the chair appoint a committee of six to act in conjunction with the city council in consideration of this matter, which was adopted along with the report. Later however, on motion of Prof. Cook of the Baptist college, it was decided that the committee submitting report be continued for this purpose.

This committee is composed of the following citizens: Prof. Williams, Prof. White, Col. Sellers, Hon. W. H. Chiles, Judge John Weiborn, Judge John E. Burden, Judge Richard Field, E. M. Taubman, Jesse Crenshaw, Oswald Winkler and Louis Graiz.

This water works matter is now in tangible shape and the people of Lexington are to be congratulated on the probable satisfactory settlement of this much vexed question, made so by the water company itself, through its unfair treatment of the city government and the people generally of the town. Had the company lived up to its contract this trouble would never have been brought upon it.

A Sudden Death.

Mrs. J. J. Bishop received a telegram Sunday morning bringing the very sad news that her husband had died suddenly at St. Louis Saturday night.

Mr. Bishop was a traveling man and was 43 years of age. He was well known in Lexington, having lived here at one time. He had many friends here who learned with deep regret of his death, which was caused by heart failure. He leaves a wife and four children—Abba, Cathrine, Marie, and Master Warner. The remains will arrive here tonight (Monday) and the funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon, though definite arrangements have not been perfected.

Mrs. Bishop is a daughter of Mrs. Lew B. Gordon and has hosts of friends here who sympathize with her in her bereavement. The INTELLIGENCER extends sympathy.

Will Sell Davis Home

Mrs. Jefferson Davis has submitted a formal offer to the Mississippi Legislature, through Mrs. Kimbrough of Greenwood, to sell the old Davis home at Beauvoir, to be used as a home for indigent Confederate Soldiers, for \$10,000. The place is said to contain 116 acres and much feeling in favor of its selection for the soldiers home has been worked up on sentimental grounds. A number of the legislators and prominent ex-Confederates are of the opinion, however, that the home should be more centrally located, Beauvoir being somewhat isolated. The selection of the home is optional with the commission created by the Georgia bill, which has passed the Senate and has been sent to the House for consideration.

Death of R. F. Cobb.

R. F. Cobb, one of Lafayette county's best citizens, died Tuesday night at the home of his sister, Mrs. Maggie Barnes, about six miles south of Ojessa. Appendicitis was the cause of his demise.

Deceased was about 80 years of age and was a native of this county. His wife preceded him to the grave, his children had all married off and he was residing with the sister at whose home he died. He was a Christian gentleman and his death is greatly deplored by a large circle of relatives and friends.

Mr. Cobb was a brother-in-law to Judge Green, of the Lafayette county court.

A Suggestion.

EDITOR INTELLIGENCER.—Lexington could sell \$100,000 of 5-20 four per cent bonds at par, and with \$75,000 a first class water plant can be established. The private water rentals will pay the interest on the whole issue and a much less than 40 cent tax provide a sinking fund to meet the principal. With the other \$25,000 the property on the east side of Ninth street from Franklin avenue to the alley north of it can be bought, the houses torn down, and a good, respectable city hall, prison and fire station made.

CITIZENS.

Col. Geo. Patton, of Higginsville, representing the Silver Dime Oil Company, was a Lexington visitor Thursday.

GENERAL PRICE'S OFFICIAL REPORT

Of The Battle of Lexington Made to Claiborne F. Jackson, of Missouri.

HE TELLS OF HIS MARCH TO LEXINGTON.

Money Taken from Local Bank Returned by Confederates—Fruits of the Victory.

The INTELLIGENCER last week published a story clipped from the columns of a Virginia newspaper, purporting to be an interview given out by Col. Mulligan agent the battle of Lexington.

We this week give the report of Gen. Price to Gov. Jackson, made shortly following that memorable conflict. The report is dated January 23, 1861, and bears the caption: "Official Report of the Battle of Lexington."

The report is appended: To the Hon. Claiborne F. Jackson, Governor of the State of Missouri: I have the honor to submit to your excellency the following report of the actions which terminated on the 20th inst. with the surrender of the U. S. forces and property at Lexington to the army under my command.

After chasing the armies of Lane and Montgomery and driving them out of the state, and after compelling them to abandon Fort Scott, as detailed in my last report, I continued my march toward this point with an army increasing hourly in numbers and enthusiasm.

On the 10th inst., as we were about to encamp for the day, a mile or two west of Rose Hill, I learned that a detachment of federal troops and home guards were marching from Lexington to Warrensburg to rob the bank in that place and plunder and arrest the citizens of Johnson county, in accordance with Gen. Fremont's proclamation and instructions. Although my men were greatly fatigued by several days' continuous and rapid marching, I determined to press forward so as to surprise the enemy if possible at Warrensburg. Therefore, after resting a few hours, we resumed the march at sunset and marched without intermission until two o'clock in the morning; when it became evident that the infantry, very few of whom had eaten a mouthful in twenty-two hours, could march no farther. I then halted them and went forward with the larger part of my mounted men until we came, about day-break, within view of Warrensburg, where I ascertained that the enemy had hastily fled about midnight, burning the bridges behind them. The rain began to fall about the same time. This circumstance, coupled with the fact that my men had been fasting for more than twenty-four hours, constrained me to abandon the idea of pursuing the enemy that day. My infantry and artillery having come up, we encamped at Warrensburg, whose citizens vied with each other in feeding my almost famished soldiers. An unusually violent storm delayed our march the next day until about ten o'clock. We then pushed forward rapidly, still hoping to overtake the enemy. Finding it impossible to do this with my infantry, I again ordered a detachment of men to move forward and, placing myself at their head, continued the pursuit to within two and a half miles of Lexington, when, having learned that the enemy were already within town, and it being late, and my men fatigued by a forced march, and utterly without provisions, I halted them for the night. About day break the next morning a sharp skirmish took place between our pickets and the enemy's outposts. This threatened to become general. Being unwilling, however, to risk a doubtful engagement, when a short delay would make success certain, I fell back two or three miles and awaited the arrival of my infantry and artillery; these having come up we advanced upon the town, driving in the enemy's pickets until we came within a short distance of the city itself. Here the enemy attempted to make a stand, but they were speedily driven from every position

and forced to take shelter within their intrenchments. We then took our position within easy range of the college, which building they had strongly fortified, and opened upon them a brisk fire from Bledsoe's battery, which, in the absence of Capt. Bledsoe, who had been wounded at Big Dry Wood, was gallantly commanded by Capt. Emmett McDonald, and by Parsons' battery under the skillful command of Capt. Guibor.

Finding after sunset that our ammunition, the most of which had been left behind on the march from Springfield, was nearly exhausted, and that my men, thousands of whom had not eaten a particle in thirty-six hours, required rest and food, I retired to the fair grounds and encamped there. My ammunition wagons having been at last brought up and large reinforcements having been received, I again moved into town on Wednesday, the 18th inst., and began the final attack on the enemy's works.

Brig. Gen. Rains' division occupied a strong position on the east and northeast of the fortifications, from which an effective cannonading was kept up on the enemy by Bledsoe's battery, under command, except on the last day, of Capt. Emmett McDonald, and another battery, commanded by Capt. Churchill Clark, of St. Louis. Both of these gentlemen and the men and officers under their command are deservedly commended in the accompanying report of Gen. Rains.

Gen. Parsons took a position southwest of the works, whence his battery, under command of Capt. Guibor, poured a steady fire into the enemy. Skirmishers and sharpshooters were also sent forward from both of these divisions to harass and fatigue the enemy and to cut them off from the water on the north, east and south of the college, and did inestimable service in the accomplishment of these purposes.

Col. Congreve Jackson's division, and a part of Gen. Steen's, were posted near Gen. Rains and Gen. Parsons, as a reserve, but no occasion occurred to call them into action. They were, however, at all times vigilant and ready to rush upon the enemy.

Shortly after entering the city on the 18th, Col. Rives, who commanded the fourth division in the absence of Gen. Slack, led his regiment and Col. Hughes' along the river bank to a point immediately beneath the west of the fortifications. General McBride's command, and a portion of Gen. Harris's, having been ordered to reinforce him. Col. Rives, in order to cut off the enemy's means of escape, proceeded down the bank of river to capture a steamboat which was lying just under their guns. Just at this moment a heavy fire opened upon him from Col. Anderson's large dwelling house, on the summit of the bluffs, which the enemy were occupying as a hospital, and upon which a white flag was flying. Several companies of Gen. Harris' command and the gallant soldiers of the fourth division, who have won upon so many battle-fields the proud distinction of always being among the bravest of the brave, immediately rushed upon and took the place. The important position thus secured was within 125 yards of the enemy's intrenchments. A company from Col. Hughes' regiment then took possession of the boats, one of which was richly freighted with valuable stores. The divisions of Gen. McBride and Gen. Harris meanwhile gallantly stormed and occupied the bluffs immediately north of Anderson's house. The possession of these heights enabled our men to harass the enemy so greatly that, resolving to regain them, they made upon the house a successful assault.

The position thus retaken by them was soon regained by the brave men who had been driven from it, and was thenceforward held by them to the very end of the contest.

The heights to the left of Anderson's house, which had been taken as before stated by Gens. McBride and Harris, and by part of Gen. Steen's command under Col. Boyd and Major Winston, were rudely fortified by our soldiers, who threw up breastworks as well as they could with their slender means. On the morning of the 20th inst I caused a number of hemp bales to be transported to the river heights where movable breastworks were speedily constructed out of them by Gens. Harris and McBride, Col. Rives and Major Winston and their respective commands. Capt. Kelly's battery (attached to Gen. Steen's division) was ordered at the same time to the position occupied by the force of Gen. Harris and quietly opened a very effective fire under the direction of its gallant captain upon the enemy. These demonstrations, and particularly the continued advance of the hemp breastworks, which were as efficient as the cotton bales at New Orleans, quickly attracted the attention and excited the alarm of the enemy, who made many daring attempts to drive us back. They were, however, repulsed in every instance by the unflinching courage and fixed determination of our men. In these desperate encounters, the veterans of McBride's and Slack's divisions fully sustained their proud reputation, while Col. Martin Green and his command, and Col. Boyd and Major Winston and their commands proved themselves worthy to fight by the side of the men who had by their courage and valor won imperishable honor in the bloody battle of Springfield.

About 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the 20th, and after 52 hours of continuous firing a white flag was displayed by the enemy on that part of their works nearest to Col. Green's position, and shortly afterwards another was displayed opposite to Col. Rives. I immediately ordered a cessation of all firing on our part and sent forward one of my staff officers to ascertain the object of the flag and to open negotiations with the enemy, if such should be their desire. It was finally, after some delay, agreed by Col. Marshall and the officers associated with him for that purpose by Col. Mulligan, that the U. S. forces should lay down their arms and surrender themselves as prisoners of war to this army. These terms having been made known to me were ratified, and immediately carried into effect.

Our entire loss in this series of engagements amounts to 25 killed and 72 wounded. The enemy's loss was much greater. The visible fruits of this almost bloodless victory are very great—about 3500 prisoners, among whom are Col. Mulligan, Marshall, Peabody, W. Ite, Grover, Major Van Horn and 118 other commissioned officers, five pieces of artillery and two mortars, over 3000 stand of infantry arms, a large number of sabres, about 750 horses, many sets of cavalry equipment, wagons, teams, ammunition, more than \$100,000 worth of commissary stores, and a large amount of other property. In addition to all this I obtained the restoration of the great seal of the state and the public records, which had been taken from their proper custody, about \$900,000 in money, of which the bank at this place had been relieved, and which I have caused to be returned to it.

This victory has demonstrated the fitness of our citizen soldiery for the tedious operations of a siege, as well as for a dashing charge. They lay for 52 hours in the open air without tents or covering, regardless of the sun and rain, and in the very presence of a watchful and desperate foe, manfully repelling every assault and patiently awaiting my orders to storm the fortifications. No general ever commanded a braver or better army. It is composed of the best blood and the bravest men of Missouri.

Where nearly every one, officers and men, behaved so well, as is known to your excellency, (who was present with the army during the whole period embraced in this report) it is impossible to make a special mention of individuals without seemingly making invidious distinctions. But I may be permitted to express my personal obligations to the Hon. John W. Reid, and to my other volunteer aids, as well as to my staff, for their efficient services and prompt attention to all my orders.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, your excellency's obedient servant,
STERLING PRICE,
Major-General Commanding.

A BRAVE SOLDIER WAS HE

Commander of Cobb's Regiment Writes of Valorous Conduct.

"A JOY TO SEE HIM MOVE."

Death Stilled a Brave Heart and Cut Short Brilliant Career.

In a letter to the Rev. Thomas M. Cobb, of Nevada, Mo., Major R. L. Bullard, of the regular army, who commanded the regiment in the Philippines in which Tom Cobb served, and who is now stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, says:

"Your son joined my command at Fort Crook, Neb. His military bearing and self-reliance instantly attracted my attention and I tried immediately to have him promoted to a captaincy, but the law would not permit. I passed a month of the close companionship of an ocean voyage with him and gave him an independent command in the first fight of his regiment in the Philippines, followed by a similar command in the second action, Jan. 1st and Jan. 9th, 1900, at Calamba and Viga bridge. In both these engagements he commanded flanking parties and displayed great daring and dash. He rushed at the enemy. Fight and vigor were characteristic of him and were his to the last. It was a joy to see him move in the enemy's direction. The spirit of war and aggression animated his martial figure and cheered all who saw him, officers and men alike, and filled them with a confidence that won fights. At Calamba his flanking detachment swept from one flank to the other of the retreating enemy; at Viga bridge, his flanking detachment under his personal leadership crossed a river under the enemy's fire from trenches on the opposite bank, clambered up the opposing bluff, turned their flanks and with the aid of the balance of his battalion drove the enemy in confusion into the deep swamps and river where great numbers perished or were captured.

"But, bravery in battle was not his only courage. No less marked was that higher courage with which he faced with a smile, with defiance that was almost disdain, the dreadful, deadly diseases of the tropics, more fearful, a thousand times more fearful than the enemy's bullets and trenchery. He was sick, he was weak, worn out with hard work within and without by the vertical sun of those miserable islands, but he never weakened in spirit, he went on always smiling, always cheerful, always ready to the limit of physical power.

"Such qualities, be sure, won the admiration of all who knew him, of the officers and men, not only of his own, but of other regiments, of who-soever saw him in the field. Be sure that his sad death brought grief and regrets to others than those who were near and dear to him at home. Of late I have heard many expressions of regret from officers who, I thought knew nothing of his character. And the sadness of it all is that he was coming again to his home and loved ones, having defied the treachery of a cruel enemy and deadly, insidious diseases. His death seems inexpressibly hard and I hope that the Father was gentle with him in the beginning of a new life as he laid a grievous burden upon him in the end of this life—to die alone, homeward bound.

"At his last station, camp at Nasugbu, Batangas Province, Luzon, I took this little picture of him. I expect it was the last. Keep it.

"I send you under separate cover the official history of his regiment. See page 97.

"I trust that I shall some day have the pleasure of meeting the father of my poor Tom Cobb. May God deal kindly with you, with his lonely mother and all that was near and dear to his gallant heart.

Watt Aull shipped a car load of eggs and cattle to Kansas City Monday afternoon and a car load of hogs to St. Louis Tuesday morning.