

The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1916.

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PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting for the Month of March

TRANSACTIONS IN BRIEF

Pension Claims and Notary Bonds Approved—Bids for Various Works Considered—Several Public Roads Were Granted.

The County Commissioners met in regular session at Arcadia, March 8th.

Minutes of the previous meetings were read and after corrections were made, same were duly approved.

Pension claim of Mrs. Sarah Jane Carson was presented and duly approved.

The hour having arrived for opening bids for the purchasing of rock for Punta Gorda special road and bridge district, it was found that the following bids were submitted: R. L. Nunn, by H. P. Porter; A. H. Durraent & Son, West Coast Fish Company, and Floral City Rock Company.

It was moved and carried that the bids submitted by the above parties be referred to the engineer of the Punta Gorda special road and bridge district to be tabulated, and that he report back to the board at 8 o'clock p. m. this date.

Pension claim of Sarah J. Marsh was presented and duly approved.

Notary bonds of J. A. Dugger, Jennie Waychoff, B. S. Johnson and F. O. Ready were presented and approved.

T. S. Barrow was allowed a reduction on assessment from 100 head of cattle to 20 head.

The hour having arrived for the opening of bids for the construction of bridges in special road and bridge district No. 1, it was found that three bids were submitted, as follows: Converse Bridge and Steel Company, Cornwall Construction Company, and the Lut-en Bridge Company.

It was moved and carried that the bids, plans and specifications submitted by the above bidders be referred to the engineer for special road and bridge district No. 1, to be compared and tabulated and reported back to this board at 4 o'clock p. m., March 9th.

The following resolution was unanimously passed:

Resolved, That the time fixed for the trustees of the Zolfo drainage district to make their report be extended to April 5th.

Formal condemnation proceedings were begun for the purpose of straightening the Buchanan-Crewsville road and also for the purpose of widening the Zolfo-Crewsville and the Avon Park-Wauchula roads.

L. D. Nobles was leased to Dr. H. P. Bevis for \$5.00 for entire term of sentence.

The engineer reported a tabulated statement of all bids received for crushed rock or shell to be used in Punta Gorda special road and bridge district.

Upon motion seconded and carried, all bids for hard surfacing roads in Punta Gorda special road and bridge district were rejected, and the clerk is directed to return bidders their checks.

J. S. Lanier was granted a reduction from a valuation of \$300 on his personal property to a valuation of \$200, said reduction being for the 1915 taxes.

Voting precincts were established at Lake Branch and Lakeport.

Mrs. M. A. Boney was placed on the pauper list at \$5.00 a month.

Road petition signed by R. L. Hill and others was received and filed and laid over for future consideration.

It was moved and carried that the bid of Davis & Webb for 20,000 square yards of pavement in Punta Gorda special road and bridge district be rejected and their check returned to them.

A quit-claim deed to the county's title to the old poor farm that was sold Aug. 5th, 1901, was ordered made to the new owners,

Albert E. Bennett and Fred S. Gore.

The report of the state auditor as to the manner of keeping and condition of the various county offices was received and ordered published, as required by law.

Miss Alice Payne, of Kuhlman, was placed on the county pauper list at \$5.00 per month.

It was moved and carried that the clerk be and he is hereby authorized to have constructed across the commissioners' room a suitable fence or railing which shall divide the public from the table around which the said board hold their business sessions.

The road petition signed by C. Crews and seven others for road on the range line dividing ranges 25 and 26 from the Wauchula-Crewsville road, south to Zolfo-Crewsville road was received and action on same was deferred for reason of communication received objecting to said road being granted.

Road petition signed by S. P. Durraent, Norton T. Smith and others, was submitted to the board and upon motion the said road granted and declared a public road.

Moved and carried that the Franz Safe and Lock Company be and they are hereby employed to prepare plans and specifications on all necessary repairs of the county jail as listed to the board, and that the clerk of this board be instructed to advertise for bids for the construction of said work; said bids to be received at our next regular meeting in April. The county agrees to pay 10 per cent. of cost of said repairs for plans and specifications.

Advertisement for sealed proposals for furnishing 250 tons of asphalt cement f. o. b. Punta Gorda for use in the Punta Gorda special road and bridge district, was ordered published in the Punta Gorda Herald. (See notice in advertising columns of this paper.)

Road petition of E. B. Crews, J. B. Albritton and others; also of J. F. Skipper, J. Ed Raulerson and others, were granted.

Moved and carried that blazers' report of F. M. Cooper, J. F. Githens and Charles Waltmire be and the same is hereby accepted, and the said road is hereby declared a public road as reported, as follows:

Begin at the northwest corner of section 17, township 41 south, range 23 east, and run west on line between sections 7 and 18 in the same township and sections 12 and 13 and 11 and 14 and 10 and 15, of township 41 south, range 22 east, to Charlotte Harbor bay. Said road is hereby viewed and marked out at a width of forty feet.

The committee appointed to examine the books and records of the various county officers reported that they had examined said books and, in so far as they were able to ascertain, same are kept neatly and correctly.

The following resolution was by motion unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this board, it is expedient and to the best interest of this county, that bonds of the Fort Ogden special drainage district in the sum of twenty-eight hundred (\$2,800.00) dollars, be issued and sold for the purpose of paying the expenses that may be incurred in the construction of canals "A" and "B," as the same have been established by this board upon the petition of C. C. Morgan and others for drainage of lands in sections 7, 17, 9 and 19, township 39 south, range 24 east, and sections 12 and 13, township 39 south, range 23 east, and constituted and known as the Fort Ogden special drainage district.

Said sum of \$2,800.00 being the total amount, less the interest charges, assessed against the several parcels of land benefitted by the construction of said work, as provided in section 956, of the general statutes of the state of Florida.

Said bonds shall bear date May 1st, 1916, and shall bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, on the 1st day of July and January of each year, with interest coupons attached thereto, and shall

THE ACCEPTED THEORY OF MODERN MEDICAL SCIENCE

Humanity Would be Free Forever of Certain Diseases

WHEN ONCE STAMPED OUT

Man is Man's Worst Enemy in Ignoring a Mutual Responsibility that Rests Upon all in Health Matters

Man is man's worst enemy! We are responsible for our brother's wellbeing, whether we admit the fact or not, or whether it is mutually agreeable. We have it in our power to injure him and he has a like power over us. We may be mutual menaces, and the worst of it is that we don't realize it, or knowing it, we don't care.

With rare exceptions the diseases and distempers that afflict us are communicable by germ carriers from one human host to the next victim. If we fail to recognize the fact and act accordingly by protecting others from ourselves, we are guilty of a moral wrong.

The accepted theory of modern medical science asserts that if tuberculosis, yellow fever, malaria, smallpox, typhoid fever, even colds, bronchitis and many other diseases could once be stamped out everywhere, humanity would be freed from them for all time, because they are communicable only by the transference of germs and the germ of each disease can carry only that particular disease and no other. But so long as these various germs continue to exist, there is always the danger of their spread to new victims.

This declaration of science is not Utopian, because where proper and intelligently administered precaution is observed, there follows a reducing of the disease, even of the commoner diseases, absolutely stamping them out within prescribed sections or territories.

But to reach such results scientists and sanitists are powerless to do more than to point out the way it rests with individual men and women, the people themselves, to bring about the ideal conditions of universal healthfulness.

The germ of tuberculosis makes the patient the source of infection, and it is evident that to reduce the danger of infection, to prevent the spread of disease, the germ must be kept from reaching (Continued on third page)

be issued in denominations as follows, to-wit: Five bonds of \$500 each and three bonds of \$100 each, said bonds to mature as follows, to-wit: One \$500 bond January 1st, 1918; one \$500 bond January 1st, 1919; one \$500 and one \$100 bond January 1st, 1920; one \$500 and one \$100 bond January 1st, 1921; one \$500 and one \$100 bond, January 1st, 1922. The principal and interest of said bonds shall be payable at Arcadia.

The clerk was directed to publish in the Punta Gorda Herald a notice calling for bids for the purchase of said bonds. (See notice in advertising columns.)

Road petition of James Carlton and others was granted.

The engineer reported back to the board the tabulation and report of the bids submitted by the Cornwall Construction Company and the Lut-en Bridge Company for the construction of bridges over Payne's creek and Little creek, in special road and bridge district No. 1. After due consideration it was moved and carried that the bid of the Lut-en Bridge Company be and the same is hereby accepted. The Company agrees to furnish all materials and labor and construct, complete, ready for the fill of the roadway, the following named bridges in special road and bridge district No. 1:

Bridge across Little Payne's creek, 65 foot span, 16 foot roadway, for the sum of four thousand, one hundred and ninety-five dollars (\$4,195).

Bridge across Payne's creek, 60 foot span, sixteen foot roadway, for the sum of three thousand, seven hundred and ninety

THE GUARDIANS OF LIBERTY FROM OFFICIAL SOURCE

A Member Contributes Article to Pensacola Journal

NAMES FIVE SUCH ORDERS

Says When Their Attitude and Motives are Understood Will Not Lack for Respect and Good Will of Americans.

So much is being said about the Guardians of Liberty and other secret political organizations that some authoritative information about them will undoubtedly prove interesting. The Herald, therefore, reproduces from the Pensacola Journal the following contribution from a correspondent who claims to be the state lecturer for the Guardians. Most of the people of Florida have doubtless read or heard what Senator Bryan says about them and it is but fair that they be accorded the privilege of speaking for themselves.

The Herald has no positive knowledge of the objects of these secret organizations and, therefore, can neither condemn nor commend them. Whatever criticism The Herald has made on them amounts simply to saying that, these secret political organizations appear to have selected and agreed to vote for the most objectionable of the five candidates for governor.

But here is the communication to the Pensacola Journal:—

The Guardians who read your paper desire space for the expression of a few sentiments that we believe to be our due.

The Guardians are commonly considered a political organization. Our movement is supposed to be of recent origin.

I desire to show that both of these impressions are wrong. The parent of all the patriotic societies is the American Mechanics. This society was organized over sixty years ago, and numbers over half a million members in the United States, and has nearly as large a membership in Florida as the Guardians.

The P. O. S. A., Knights of Luther and "P's" all have large memberships and are represented in the state at the present time.

What brought these five orders into existence?

A consciousness that we have in America an increasing foreign population that is less assimilable

Or, both bridges under one contract for seven thousand, nine hundred dollars (\$7,900.)

Report of the committee upon the assessment of lands in the Fort Ogden Drainage District was received and filed and notice given that the board, at the regular meeting in April, will hear any complaints that may be made about said assessment. Said notice ordered published in the Punta Gorda Herald. (See notice in advertising columns.)

Report from the comptroller of the receipts and expenses of the various county officers was received and ordered published according to law.

The clerk was instructed to advertise for bids for approximately 399,620 cubic yards of excavation or grading in special road and bridge district No. 5.

The clerk was instructed to advertise for bids for one or two motor trucks of not less than sixty horse power.

Bond of Winfred C. Clark, trading as Florida Crushed Rock Company for the faithful compliance of his contract with DeSoto county, was received, approved and filed.

Petition of J. M. Miller, F. G. Jones and others for change of road running northeast from Heard Bridge, across Peace river, was received and was ordered filed, and said petition to be taken up at the next regular meeting, and Commissioner Skipper is instructed to confer with parties concerned and ascertain if a more direct route cannot be agreed upon.

Board adjourned to convene at next regular meeting in April.

as they multiply and segregate.

And for the reason that many (not all) of these foreigners cling tenaciously to the hyphen, men of unquestioned loyalty to the old American ideals felt that a systematic propaganda on American was necessary, and these five cultural movements automatically came into being.

At times these societies have championed the candidacy of a candidate, but it has been the rare exception, not the rule.

I am state lecturer for the Guardians and have some knowledge of the attitude of our contemporaries in the patriotic field, and, so far as I can learn, not one candidate has official support from any of the societies this year. We vote our convictions and are under no obligations to support no one.

What we stand for: Our slogans will tell the story best: "free school," "the American flag free school," "the American flag on every school house" and "the Bible in every school," "every child a ward of the state," "every child at the public school from 7 to 14 years of age."

Many members of the five great orders stand unreservedly for "injection of closed institutions."

Negroes are not eligible so far as I know. I have administered the obligation (which is an iteration of the sentiments expressed in our slogans), to thousands of men in several states and not one negro was in evidence.

At a national convention a resolution was passed which required separate jurisdiction if they were ever taken at all. We tried to be white in this matter, as we hope to do in all of our undertakings.

If we cared to strike back, we might retort that some of our critics are not altogether white, for a yellow streak is in evidence occasionally. Of this I am reasonably sure. The man who gets our support must conduct a constructive campaign and leave his "little hammer" at home.

When our attitude and motives are fully understood, we will not lack for respect and good will from all true Americans.

Respectfully,
S. E. BROCK.

Parker, Fla., March 13, 1916.

In an article headed "Just for Comparison" published in The Herald last week, there was an erroneous statement in reference to the Belmont road in this special district. The grading at a cost of \$100 per mile, which is contrasted with a grade being made on the Fort Myers-Marco road variously estimated to cost up to \$1400 per mile, is on the Willow Pens road. The cost on the Belmont road is higher than on the Willow Pens road, being in the neighborhood of \$600 per mile, but it is a different work and at the same time the grade is being thrown up a fine drainage system is being provided. And even at this higher figure, the cost is considerably less—about \$800 less than the work with which the comparison was made.

Candidate Knott, probably the leading man in the race to be Florida's next chief executive, says in his platform that, if elected governor he will use his best efforts to have the legislature amend the present libel law, which vitally restrains the freedom of the press. He believes in a free press, and the legal right of editors in a freer, and fuller expression upon all matters affecting the state, its people and society. The press of Florida has for years tried to get the present libel law amended, but without success. If Mr. Knott is elected, the papers will have his powerful influence as governor to give us a libel law that will permit some freedom of expression.—DeLand Record.

A. B. Tucker, C. A. Waltmire, A. F. Dewey and H. C. Goldstein, after voting for the bridge and roads proposition in Tuesday's election, left in Mr. Tucker's automobile for Ocala to attend the convention of the Central Florida Highway Association and look after Punta Gorda's interests in such matters as were to come up at that meeting.

NAVAL VESSELS IN A BATTLE ON BELGAIN COAST

British and German Destroyers in Brief Clash

STILL FIGHTING AT VERDUN

Small Section of French Trench Taken by the Germans—The Russians Defeat Austrians in the Czernowitz Sector

London, England—An engagement occurred Monday off the Belgian coast between four British and three German destroyers. Two of the German vessels were hit. Four men on the British boats were wounded.

The official account states that four British destroyers sighted three German destroyers off the Belgian coast. The German destroyers at once turned and ran for Zeebrugge, chased by the British destroyers. Shots were exchanged during this short running fight. Two enemy boats were observed to have been hit. British casualties were four men wounded.

The French war office statement announces that the German forces again made violent attacks against French positions in the Verdun sector west of the Meuse. The Germans gained no success except that they obtained a slight footing southwest of Malancourt wood. East of the Meuse the night was calm. Since there has been the usual intermittent bombardment carried on by both sides the remainder of the west front is without notable incident.

Russians Enter Ispham

A Reuter dispatch from Tehran, Persia states that the Russian forces entered and took possession of Ispham, the old capital of Persia, on March 19.

There is little other news from the Turkish-Russian front, or the British-Turkish arena of operations in Mesopotamia. There has been no decisive fighting in that section the past ten days. The Turks continue to fall back before advance of the Russians who are drawing near to Bagdad and bid fair to come to the relief of the British forces in Mesopotamia soon.

Russians Thrust Austrians Back

The Austrian official statement admits the loss of a bridgehead in the Czernowitz sector to the Russians, and have resumed their activity along the Galician front and are hammering away at the Austrian defenses before Czernowitz. The Russians have been keeping up a sporadic attack in that sector, harassing the Austrians day and night. A more general attack by the Russians is indicated. In the northern sector of the Teuton-Slav arena, around Riga, there has been little but detached fighting of late, but activity in that zone may be expected with the general return of warmer weather.

Who would have thought that the tin can is a menace to the public health? The expert malaria investigators of the U. S. Public Health Service have found, however, that discarded tin cans containing rain water are breeding places for the mosquito, which is the sole agent in spreading malaria. A hole in the bottom of the empty can might have resulted in the saving of a human life. Certainly it would have assisted in preventing a debilitating illness. Empty tin cans have no business about the premises anyway, but if we must so decorate our back yards, let's see to it that the can has a hole in the bottom.

Senator F. M. Cooper was very agreeably surprised on his birthday, Sunday, by the arrival the night previous of all his absent children, who came to celebrate the happy occasion. They were: Mrs. W. W. Jarratt of Marianna; Frank M. Cooper, jr., and James Cooper of Tampa. The last named was accompanied by his wife. They had a joyous re-union and a big feast Sunday. Next evening, the two sons and Mrs. James Cooper returned to their homes in Tampa. Mrs. Jarratt remains here and will doubtless stay till the end of next week.