

THE PALATKA NEWS

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Woman's Club Meetings.

A meeting of the literary department of the Woman's Club last Friday afternoon was intensely interesting and instructive. The subject "The Kingdom Comes," with E. L. Mann leader for the afternoon. Mrs. S. J. Hilburn read a prepared and intensely instructive paper on "Saul, the King." George W. Bassett read a paper on the "Music of David," which read in splendid style. Mrs. T. Barnett gave the "Life of Johnna" and brought out many fine extracts on "David." Mrs. J. E. Lucas read interesting extracts on "David." A round table discussion was as helpful, after which the meeting adjourned. A meeting this afternoon will be held by a business session in all the members of the club are to be present so that they express their views on the subject of the new club house. S. C. Ives and E. M. Earnest will be in and will give helpful hints on building idea. After the business session the meeting will be turned into a valentine social and a good time will be enjoyed. Every member should attend. The next Friday will be under the leadership of Mrs. S. C. Stallings who present the book of Esther. The date of the next musical under the direction of Mrs. J. E. Lucas, Friday evening, March 2nd, 8 o'clock. Fine talent from Jacksonville has been secured and the program is well under way. Tickets 50 cents for the series of four concerts of which this will be the second.

FORMER PROMINENT PALATKAN ENGAGED

To Wed a Prominent Kentucky Lady—Wedding Yesterday.

The New York Herald of last Saturday announced the engagement of Mr. Robert Raymond Reid, a former well-known Palatkan, as follows: "Announcement was made yesterday by Mrs. James Lewis Grigsby, of Winchester, Ky., of the engagement of her daughter, Miss Gertrude Grigsby, to Mr. Robert Raymond Reid, of this city. It came as a surprise to Mr. Reid's many friends at the St. Nicholas Club, No. 7 West Forty-fourth street, where he has lived several years. He showed Mrs. Grigsby's announcement to them at a bachelor luncheon yesterday, and last night started for Winchester, where the wedding will take place next Thursday. The Rev. Dr. M. McNeal will officiate at the house of Miss Grigsby's mother. Mr. Reid is the grandson of one-time Governor Robert Raymond Reid, of Florida. He passed his boyhood at Palatka, Fla., but has lived in New York for twenty years. He is a member of the Ardsley and St. Nicholas clubs. After their wedding trip Mr. Reid and his bride will live at the Plaza Hotel. Miss Grigsby's father was the late Dr. James Lewis Grigsby, of Winchester."

GENERAL WHEELER'S PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL

Was One Requiring Nerve—Impossible Also of Acceptance.

Some time ago a special committee composed of citizens and Aldermen McNally, Austin and Pursley, and of which committee Dr. Geo. E. Welch was chairman, set out to make sentiment in the city among tax-payers, favorable to the purchase of the old Palatka Water Works. The committee sent some of the water to an analytical chemist of known standing and that gentleman reported that it was deserving of the highest consideration for beverage purposes. Its integral parts were all of a character calculated to quench thirst and at the same time contained nothing but what would assimilate perfectly with the human system. In other words, it was found perfectly healthful. Of course this report was directly contrary to that of the State Board of Health, which had pronounced it unfit for beverage purposes. The committee wanted to buy the old works; it believed conscientiously that the city of Palatka ought to own the works instead of a Boston corporation. The committee entered into a correspondence with the Boston owners, and after some letters had passed it was certainly the impression of committee that it could buy the physical plant and real estate of the old company for \$60,000, plus the value of supplies on hand at the time of sale; that the disputed question of hydrant rentals aggregating \$25,000 be left to the determination of the suits brought for the enforcement of this claim. With this understanding the committee, it is understood, hired experts and made this investigation as to the quantity and wholesomeness of the water and went to some considerable expense to the city. The arrangements for completing the details for the purchase were to be made upon the arrival of Gen. Wheeler in the city. Gen. Wheeler came a little over a week ago, but instead of carrying out the ideas or plans tentatively agreed upon, or as understood by the committee, broke off the negotiations for a sale of the property on a basis of \$60,000, with settlement by the courts of the hydrant rental claims and made a very different proposition. In other words, killed all chance of selling the property to the city, at least for the time being. Gen. Wheeler's latest proposition was reduced to writing. The News said above it was nery. It is more than that, considering the fact that he wanted the city to confess judgment to his company's claims at a time when the suits are pending. Here is Gen. Wheeler's proposition made to the council on Tuesday night: Palatka Water Works John D. Points, Supt. Fry Block, Cor. Lemon and Front streets. Palatka, Feb. 6, 1917. Dr. Geo. E. Welch, Chairman Special Committee on Water Works, Palatka, Fla. Dear Sir: In compliance with your request that we submit in writing the proposition verbally made to your committee this afternoon, we beg to confirm same as follows: We propose to turn over the plant and all physical property of this company in Palatka and Palatka Heights for the sum of Eighty Thousand (\$80,000) Dollars, said consideration to include full and final settlement of all matters in controversy between the city and this company. This proposition, as stated to you, is based upon its acceptance by the city PRIOR TO FURTHER PROGRESS OF THE LITIGATION NOW PENDING AND contemplates THE WITHDRAWAL OF DEFENSES AND THE ENTRY OF JUDGMENTS AT THE PRESENT TERM OF COURT IN THE TWO CASES PENDING TO THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, the proceeds of said judgments when paid to be credited upon the purchase price above named. We assume, in view of the discussion relative thereto, that it is unnecessary to repeat herein the considerations which have led up to this proposition as affecting our respective interests. If any further information is desired we will most gladly furnish it. Very Respectfully, ELBERT WHEELER, Treasurer. In the first place the city could not pay \$60,000 for the plant without first getting legislative authority. It now has authority to pay \$30,000 and no more for it. Added permission might be obtained. It was the unanimous opinion of those present at the council meeting and who heard the proposition, that the tax-payers would never ratify a proposition involving \$80,000 as the purchase price of this plant. The Council very properly declined to order the City Attorney to surrender and confess judgment. The proposition of Gen. Wheeler that it do so was audacious.

MAN WHO BID HIGH THREATENS TROUBLE

Proposes to Enjoin Commissioners from Building Road.

Last week The News told of the postponed or recess meeting of the county commissioners to be held on the 21st inst for the purpose of further considering the contract made with the Cornwall Construction Company of Tampa for the construction of the special tax road to Orange Springs, a contract made in accordance with the alternate bid of this company, and which provides for the building of a road of material differing from that in the advertisement. While the road to be built is of a cheaper grade than that on which bids were called, it is the only kind of a road that can be constructed and come within the limits of the bond issue. After the contract was let, Mr. Bryson, who also made an alternate bid which was some \$20,000 higher than the bid of the Cornwall people, made "a holler." He wanted another chance. And he made certain of the commissioners believe that their act was illegal. That is a question for their attorney to settle. But Bryson threatens an injunction. He lives in Duval county, and is a professional road builder. Being a professional road builder he is also acquiring a reputation. Here is the sort of reputation he is getting in Clay county. We clip the following from the Clay County Times of last Friday. "Is this road district buying a 'gold brick'?" "We hear a great many complaints from those who have traveled over it relative to the hard road being constructed by the McCreary Company from Orange Park to Green Cove Springs. It is claimed by many that the road as it is being constructed will not last for any length of time, and that the construction is exceedingly poor. Enough money is being spent on the road to build a good road, but many claim that is not what we are getting. "One serious complaint is that the road has already worn out in places and has been patched. The contractors claim this is due to the asphalt surface not being hot enough when it was first put on. If the contractors know their business they should know how hot the asphalt should be in the first place and heat it to the proper temperature. A patched job is never a good job, and it should not be. The district is putting a lot of money into this road and it should be a good road when completed." This road is being built by the sub-contractors, who are Bryson & Bryson of Jacksonville, the high men in the Putnam county bidding, and the men who are making the "holler" and threatening an injunction.

COUNCIL MAKES NEW LIGHTING CONTRACT

And Passes Ordinance Amending Franchise—Mr. Bailey Wins.

Alderman Austin chairman of the lighting committee introduced an ordinance amending the city's lighting franchise at the meeting of the city council last Tuesday night which passed immediately and received the signature of the mayor. A new contract was also made with the lighting company which extends for two years from February 15th, 1917. By this new contract and under the provisions of the amended franchise, the city will get its 636 candle power street lights for \$51 per annum each. Up to the present time the city has been paying an annual rate of \$75 per light for this service, a rate that was not permitted under the franchise. Mr. G. Loper Bailey, in a published statement on Dec. 6th, pointed out that the lights for which the city was paying \$75 per annum, did not measure up in brilliancy, or candle power, to the specifications. Perhaps no one else noticed the difference in candle power; anyway no one else called attention of the authorities to it. Mr. Bailey's was scorned. That very excellent gentleman, who was only doing his duty as a taxpayer, was not shown the deference due to one of his expert knowledge and tax paying interests. It is possible the council did not fully understand the position taken by Mr. Bailey, anyway they O. K'd the bills and paid at the rate of \$75 each for lights of 650 candle power, when under the franchise that was the price of 2,000 candle power lamps. But Mr. Bailey has won. He hasn't been given credit by the council, but all the same, he has won. At the council meeting last Tuesday night Mr. Weldon Hendly of the Palatka Public Service Company in detail explained lighting matters, and all was satisfactory. The contract was made and the ordinance amended. The lights that have been costing \$75 per annum each will not be changed. They will simply be mentioned in the regular bills for service as 636 candle power lights at \$51 per annum, instead of a much higher brilliancy at \$75 per annum each. It is unfortunate that the council didn't give Mr. Bailey the credit he deserved, but as long as it has followed his suggestions, that gentleman ought to be happy enough to overlook any little omission of that sort.

HERR VON ENGELKEN STILL MINTING MONEY

Bank Presidency Depends on Action of Directors.

Last week The Palatka News printed a story sent out from Washington, and part of which was an interview with Mr. von Engelken himself, to effect that he had resigned from the directorship of the United States Mint, and that on the 15th inst he would leave for Columbia, S. C., to take over his new duties as president of the Farm Loan Bank. A week later comes the news from Washington, published as an Associated Press dispatch, that Mr. von Engelken had not resigned. The dispatch says: "Although the appointment of Raymond T. Baker of Reno, Nev., to be director of the mint, succeeding F. J. H. von Engelken, has been sent to the senate by the president, it was disclosed today that Mr. von Engelken has not yet resigned and will hold office for nearly four and one-half years unless he voluntarily tenders his resignation or is removed for cause by the president. "It has been understood that Mr. von Engelken expects to tender his resignation in the event of his selection as president of the farm loan bank at Columbia, S. C., but the directors of the bank, who will select its officers, have not yet been appointed by the farm loan board. It is understood that the men under consideration are favorable to Mr. von Engelken's election as president of the institution. "The appointment of Mr. Baker was said by officials tonight to have been made with the intention that he would take office immediately upon Mr. von Engelken's resignation."

WATER WORKS' SUIT TO RECOVER DAMAGES

Against City of Palatka Falls to Pieces—Will be Appealed.

The Palatka Water Works' suit against the city (of which there were two) aggregating claims for damages to amount of \$25,000, and the first of which, claiming damages to amount of a little more than \$8,000, has occupied the attention of the circuit court from Monday till a late hour yesterday afternoon, was decided in favor of the city. The jury said by its verdict that the water works company was not entitled to any damages. The second suit will not be brought to trial—at least not now. But the case lost in the circuit court yesterday will be appealed to the supreme court of the State. If the judgment of the lower court is affirmed it is not likely that the second suit will ever be pushed. The case has excited considerable attention and has been bitterly contested by Messrs. Hilburn & Merryday, attorney for the city. The water works was represented by Messrs. Axtell & Rinehart of Jacksonville and J. V. Walton of this city. They are some lawyers, too, and they let no point escape them. The Palatka News certainly congratulates the city on the successful termination of this suit, and for the brilliant way in which its chosen attorney handled the case. The jury was one of the most intelligent seen in the court in some time, and was composed of Messrs. T. J. Powers, R. A. Tillis, L. W. Fennell, John Price, W. G. Merriam and M. A. Fowler. The suit was for rental of hydrants. Immediately following the disposition of this case the court took up the case of S. A. Baker vs. The Atlantic Coast Line R. V. Mr. Baker claims damages from the company for loss on a car load of peaches sent from his place near Seville to Tampa and which he claims was a loss because of improper refrigeration. The Coast Line is represented by C. D. Landis of DeLand and J. V. Walton of this city. Hilburn & Merryday are representing Mr. Baker.

Meeting of "W. G." Club.

The regular meeting of the "W. G." Club was held Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. Stewart Worden, Australia being the subject for discussion. Instructive papers were read as follows: "The Live Stock," Mrs. J. E. Lucas; "Animals," Dr. Sarah M. Davis; "Amusements," Miss Estelle McKenzie; "Industries," Mrs. Worden; "Plant Life," Miss Griffin; "Birds," Mrs. J. N. Walton; "Population," Mrs. M. T. Haw.

Asked For Copy of Contract.

The Palatka city officials yesterday sent over to City Manager Miller for a copy of the new lighting contract recently closed here. This city is keenly watched by other towns of the State and requests similar to the one mentioned are frequently received.—St. Augustine Record.

Presbyterian Church.

The pastor, Rev. C. M. Alford, D. D., will conduct the services in the Presbyterian church at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. At the morning service there will be the ordination of elders and deacons. Evening topic, "Love, But Lacking." Sunday school, with F. T. Merrill, superintendent, will convene at 9:45 a. m. Midweek prayer service Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock. The public welcome to all services.

Church Men's Club.

The Men's Club of the Presbyterian church will hold its February meeting in the Wilson Boat House on Monday evening Feb. 19th at 7:30 o'clock. The theme for discussion will be "The Commercial War After the War." All men are cordially invited.

The Baptist Church.

Rev. R. L. Bonsteel, pastor, will preach at the 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. services at the Baptist church on Sunday. The Sunday school meets at 9:45 in the morning, and the Baptist Young People's Union at 6:30 in the evening. A cordial welcome is extended to all.

"Birth of a Nation."

This wonderful picture play, seen at the Howell Theater on Wednesday night and on Thursday at matinee and night, drew three packed houses. All seats were sold. People came from all over the county to see it. They all, at least all whom we talked with, said it was worth the money asked for the vision.

To Nominate Mayor in Primary.

On the initiative of Alderman Jarrett the bland and unassuming alderman from one of the most dependable wards in all the city, the council at its next meeting will consider and probably pass an ordinance requiring that in future all citizens who aspire to the dignity and emoluments of Mayor of Palatka, must secure that honor through an appeal to the people. This ordinance is also to be made to include members of the city council.

Gov. Hanley to Speak Here.

Gov. J. Frank Hanley of Indianapolis, Ind., will speak to a mass meeting of men and women at the Grand Opera House in this city on Sunday evening March 4th. The lecture is given under the auspices of the W. C. T. U. of Palatka, as well as the local churches.

Gov. Hanley was formerly governor of Indiana, is a lawyer of marked ability and as a platform speaker ranks with the most brilliant in the country. He was the prohibition party candidate for the presidency in the last general election.

He has given up his profession to enter the campaign for nation wide prohibition, and on such an errand The News is glad to extend him a welcome to Florida. We want the people of this county and city to know more concerning the benefits of a saloonless country; of a country where every boy has a chance to grow to an unlighted manhood. Nation-wide prohibition is coming and will soon be here, thanks to the patriots of the Frank Hanley type.

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