

# THE PALATKA NEWS

and Advertiser.

RIES VOL. XXV. NO. 14.

PALATKA, FLA., FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1917.

\$1.00 Per Year.

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PALATKA, FLORIDA

## PALATKA'S PATRIOTISM FINDS EXPRESSION

### In Public Flag Raising Ceremonies Last Tuesday Morning.

Judge Jas. T. Wills' Eloquent Oration Sprang From the Heart and Found Echo in Every Soul.

By proclamation of the mayor and the ready acquiescence of every citizen, business was halted, the schools closed and the wheels of private industry stopped between the hours of 8 and 10 a. m. last Tuesday morning while the people gathered on the court house lawn to take part in ceremonies incident to the raising of the Stars and Stripes on a new pole which had been provided by the county commissioners near the front entrance of the court house.

It was a beautiful morning; the heavens declared the glory of it from out the sky; the sun, the breeze were in perfect harmony with the occasion.

There was the procession up Lemon street headed by the band, followed in order by the Boy Scouts, the Ladies of the local Red Cross, and then the Home Guards, the ranks of each filled and numbering all told some 450 marchers with flags.

Arriving at the court house the companies turned in and took positions on the lawn. There was a short wait, then came the boom of the cannon; the girls' Band played the "Star Spangled Banner" as the flag was pulled to the top of the pole by Sheriff Hagan; the crowd uncovered and the guards saluted. It was a solemn occasion; all felt that it was.

The flag was secured and then Mayor Merriam advanced to the front of the Court House steps and introduced Judge Wills. It would be futile to attempt to reproduce this wholly impromptu address from memory or to attempt a synopsis. Just look a moment:

This patriotic judge who traces his ancestry back to the revolution stood and looked down over the children seated on the court house steps, the ladies of the Red Cross ranged in front of him, the men of business, the professional men, clerks, machinists, laborers with their families stretched out over the lawn even to the street boundaries. His look was only for a moment. If you had looked closely you would have noted a few tears steal out from under his eye lashes. Then he spoke; he told of the inspiration that had come to him in that brief look over his audience. And then from out the depths of his patriotic heart there flowed a stream of patriotic utterances such as few men are privileged in a life-time to hear. He told of the horrors of war, of our president's patience, our duty now that the congress had decided that honor demanded that the nation enter the world war in defense of the principles of liberty for which the United States was the first and chief exponent. It was a question of the triumph of democracy, or autocracy and the divine right of emperors and kings to rule. War was an awful thing, but there were worse things than war; national degeneracy was one of them. Our duty, no matter how we may have felt concerning the advisability of the declaration, was to support the president.

Judge Wills was interrupted at every period in his eloquent address by tremendous applause. Every heart in that vast throng beat in unison with these heart sentiments of the speaker. They were made to understand the full significance of his utterance that in America patriotism was the inheritance of every citizen, and that according to one eminent Georgian that "in its last analysis it was the blood of the people."

Then he closed, overcome with the deep emotions that welled up from his great patriotic heart. The applause was deafening. Then the band played "Dixie." Yes, it is a sectional song, but the tune—that is American. It stirs in all corners of our beloved land now.

The crowd reluctantly melted away. The ceremony was over; the struggle is on. But—

Every man, every woman within the sound of that man's voice is better fitted for the struggle. They are better Americans; they have a better appreciation of the responsibilities of citizenship; it has a higher value.

"My Country, 'tis of Thee."

## "BONE DRY" BILL BECOMES THE LAW.

Hon. W. G. Tilghman advised The News by telegram on Wednesday afternoon that the house had passed that day the Wells "Bone Dry" bill by a vote of 52 to 20.

The bill prohibits lockers in clubs in city territory and limits the amount of booze one can legally have shipped to him at one "full" quart a month. This bill 'tis said will even prohibit the keeping of liquor for amusement purposes and Old Lang amusement clubs in dry counties. The bill had already passed the senate and is now in the hands of the governor.

## CITIZENS DEMAND "RETRENCHMENT AND REFOR-RUM"

### On Part of Council—Taxes Too High—Demand Fewer Sinecures.

Some 40 or 50 citizens met in the board of trade room last Monday night in response to a call for a mass meeting to protest against city council extravagances in the management of municipal affairs.

The meeting was organized by electing Col. H. M. de Montmolin chairman and J. V. Walton, Esq., secretary.

A motion was made by H. L. Miller that the meeting ask the council to abolish the office of city attorney and city engineer. This motion was however not supported. But several talks were made all in line with the motion and the consensus of opinion seemed to be that the city engineer was paid a salary all out of proportion to the value of his services, and that if he was retained he ought to be required to do more work.

Mr. Walton on being called upon explained the relationship of the city attorney to the city and the reason for the heavy delinquent tax lists. He also made it clear that the present city attorneys were not in employ of city when retained to defend the cases of the old water company against the city. He explained that the city attorneyship was not an office, but that attorneys were simply employed by the council. Mr. Walton threw light upon city affairs which tended to dampen the ardor of those who were demanding the abolishment of this work.

A committee of ten was appointed by the chairman on motion of R. Lee Kennerly to draft certain demands looking to a more economical administration. This committee was made up of the following gentlemen: R. L. Kennerly, F. J. Fearnside, A. L. Trombley, R. C. Howell, W. W. Tilghman, Dr. H. A. Johnson, Chris. Stanton, J. D. Points, Dr. A. M. Steen and Dr. Geo. E. Welch, most of whom were present at the meeting.

The following day the committee got together and drafted the following resolution which was presented at the council meeting on Tuesday night by Dr. A. M. Steen, who was chosen chairman:

### The Resolution.

Palatka, April 17, 1917.

To Honorable City Council: Gentlemen—This committee, representing the tax-payers of the city, do hereby request your honorable body to abolish the office of City Engineer, and also that of the young man who collects the water rents, and instead establish the office of Superintendent of Public Works, at a salary not to exceed \$100 per month; that he be compelled to give his undivided attention to the city and that he be required to give a good and sufficient bond for the faithful performance of his duty.

We also ask that the city judge's salary be reduced to \$25 per month; that the cleaning and sprinkling of the streets be let out at private contract, and that the contractor be compelled to give a good bond for the faithful performance of his duty;

Also that the city attorney be fully instructed in his duties, that he collect all taxes due the city promptly and attend to the legal work of the city.

We also ask that all supplies used by the city to the amount of over \$25 be let out for bids, and that our local merchants be given first privilege.

We feel that we are justified in asking your honorable body for this reduction at this time owing to the serious condition of affairs that our country is now facing and the additional taxes we may be called upon to bear.

A. M. Steen, Chairman.  
R. C. Howell, Secretary.  
T. A. Johnson,  
Walter W. Tilghman,  
R. L. Kennerly,  
A. E. Trombley,  
John D. Points,  
F. J. Fearnside,  
C. Stanton, Committee.

### School Entertainment.

The public generally should be interested in and patronize the school entertainment to be given next Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock on the shady side of the Court House lawn for the benefit of the piano fund. The lower grades will present a good, snappy program of minnets and drills and the primary department will give play songs and folk dances. Come and see these interesting children, and bring a generous silver offering, which will apply for the primary grade.

### Mullis Acquitted.

It will be remembered that J. R. Mullis, a prominent resident of Palatka Heights was some weeks ago arrested on a charge of breaking into the pound and releasing some of his hogs; he was bound over to the circuit court for trial. Mullis later became candidate for mayor of the Heights, and there was a division of sentiment on the hog question which entered into the campaign. Mr. Mullis was defeated by a few votes. The case is now settled. The grand jury failed to find a true bill. The States Attorney thought the case too frivolous for serious consideration.

## CITY COUNCIL NOT IN FULL SYMPATHY

### With Tax Payers' Plan to Curtail Municipal Expenses.

At the meeting of the city council on Tuesday night the chief business was the election of the subordinate city offices.

The following were elected: City Clerk—A. K. Hutchinson, unanimously.

City Assessor—G. W. Lansing, unanimously.

City Treasurer—H. F. Leeks, unanimously.

Chief of Police—C. M. Livingston over John Barber by a vote of 10 to 4.

Messrs. Barber and Cannon were elected patrolmen on first ballot over Messrs. Minton, Bennett and Wilkinson.

Fire Chiefs—First—A. G. Phillips; Assistant, Emmett Simms; 2d assistant, Earl Simms.

City Physician—Dr. Martin.

It was at this meeting that the petition of tax payers for curtailment of city expenses was presented by Dr. A. M. Steen (petition published in another column) and the questions therein raised caused the council to put over the election of a municipal judge and the selection of a city engineer until the following night, consequently a recess was taken till Wednesday night.

### The Wednesday Night Meeting.

The council chamber was filled with citizens on Wednesday evening when President Gay rapped for order. He immediately called up the business in hand—that of considering the petition of tax payers as presented by Dr. Steen on Monday night. Dr. Steen stated that his committee had secured Judge Haskell to represent them and asked that he be heard.

Judge Haskell then addressed the council. The judge is smooth; he went into no details; he simply pointed out the necessity of cutting out every unnecessary expense in the administration of city affairs as the duty of councilmen; the judge made an excellent impression; its effect on those councilmen who were unsympathetic in their attitude toward the petition was not unlike that of King Agrippa who heard Paul's eloquent address in his own defense, and who was moved to exclaim: "Almost thou persuadest me to become a Christian."

Judge Haskell almost persuaded some of these councilmen that there was something in this demand for retrenchment. But it was only a passing impression. Their minds were really "set."

At the conclusion of Judge Haskell's address, President Gay asked the clerk to read another petition from those who opposed that of the "tax payers."

### This is the petition:

Palatka April 18, 1917.

Honorable City Council.

Gentlemen: We, the undersigned, understand that a petition was presented to your meeting April 17th, suggesting certain changes in the management of city affairs, among which is the abolishment of the office of city engineer.

We, as tax payers of the city of Palatka, wish to protest against the abolishment of this office. Furthermore, we do not believe it good judgment or economy to make any radical changes in the present management of the city, especially in the management of the water, streets and sanitary departments.

(Signed) Wilson Cypress Co. by A. E. Wilson, vice pres.; Selden Cypress Co. by F. H. Wilson, Pres.; R. H. Cooper; G. M. Davis & Son by R. H. Cooper, sec and treas.; Palatka Development Co. by Howell A. Davis, pres.; Palatka Public Service Co. by R. E. L. Mann, m'gr.; Cochran Company by F. C. Cochran; Palatka Stationery Co. by F. C. Cochran; Geo. E. Gay; Estate Henry Strunz, by Wm. E. Strunz; W. A. Merryday Co. by H. O. Hamm, vice pres. and m'gr.; Teaff-Ramsey Fur Co. by L. A. Teaff; F. H. Wilson; W. P. Merriam; H. F. Leeks; Howell A. Davis; F. D. Watters; D. M. Kirby; L. A. Smith; J. H. Houghton; East Fla. Sav. & Trust Co. by R. F. Adams, pres.; R. F. Adams; L. K. Tucker; D. W. Rumsaur; Browning-Fearnside Co. by H. M. Fearnside; Earnest Company by Ed. M. Earnest; W. T. Hamm; Weaver Furniture Co. by May H. Purdon; J. H. Yelverton, Jr.

Mr. J. H. Yelverton, Jr., was called on to address the council. He made a clear exposition of the present arrangement and defended it. He was not adverse to a curtailment of expenses—there might possibly be a chance to cut somewhat in them, but he defended Mr. Stallings and maintained that the city could ill afford to dispense with his services.

Mr. Yelverton was followed by Mr. Howell A. Davis, who spoke somewhat in the same line. He opposed the abolition of the office of city engineer.

Judge Walton followed, urging the necessity of cutting expenses; he called attention eloquently to the perils under which the country was now entering—the perils of war. "These gentlemen who have just preceded me," said Mr. Walton, "tell us of the past and argue that we must govern our future by the past, but I want to say to you that the future on which we are now entering has no past; that there is nothing in all the past by which we can measure the demands of the future. He asked no specific remedy, except the necessity of economy."

After some discussion among the

## USINA POUNDS THE SEPARATION PETITION

### Before County School Board and Prevents Action.

At a meeting of the Putnam County School board on Tuesday the petition which has been industriously circulated in this city and asking that the East Palatka section be cut off from the Palatka special tax school district, was presented.

Besides the members of the county school board, Messrs. Stephens, Owen and McRae, the trustees of the Palatka district, Messrs. Earnest, Houghton and Leeks, were present.

Mr. Antonio Usina was also present to oppose the granting of the petition. He was unaided; his fight was single handed; but he won. The petition was turned down. Mr. Usina contended, and not without reason, that if the East Palatka people were anxious to get out of this special tax district, it was their place to ask to get out, and not the business of the Palatka people to "put them out." He called attention to fact that during the past year East Palatka had been provided with an excellent school building; that the cost of the building had been largely borne by Palatka tax payers; that the proposed new high school in this city would be as much the property and for the benefit of East Palatka people as for those on this side of the river.

The board took the Usina view, and will wait at least until it is definitely known that East Palatka wants to get out, before putting them out.

### Red Cross Benefit

There will be a cabaret dance at the Putnam House Tuesday, April 24th, at 8 o'clock, for the benefit of the Red Cross society. General dancing will alternate with cabaret numbers. Refreshing drinks, cigars and cigarettes will be sold throughout the evening. Admission 50 cts. Tickets on sale at Ackerman-Stewart.

### Party For Guests.

Mrs. J. J. Johnson was hostess for a delightful bridge party Tuesday afternoon in honor of her sister, Mrs. Ponder of Ocala. Ferns and cut flowers were artistically used in the rooms. Four tables were used, and the following guests were present: Mesdames F. T. Merrill, J. H. Milligan, Thomas Shinn, Hickman Collins, E. Ferrell, A. H. Graham, Barr L. E. Tenny, Walter W. Tilghman, Leon Jones, E. Perkins, Warner T. Hamm, T. J. Reese, E. C. O'Connor, A. M. Probst, E. L. Mann; Misses Susie Lee Walton, Fannie Walton and Mrs. H. M. Fearnside were later guests. A salad course, iced tea, sherbert and wafers were served.

### Henry-Sands Wedding.

On Monday afternoon at 4:30, at the home of the bride's father, J. C. Sands, occurred the marriage of Bernard James Henry of Pittsburg, Pa., and Miss Katherine Mary Sands. The ceremony was performed by Rev. C. R. D. Crittenton, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal church, in the presence of the family and many friends. The home was prettily decorated with evergreens used profusely with roses and cut flowers. After the congratulations, the happy couple left for an extended tour through Texas and California. Mr. and Mrs. Henry will locate in Texas. Palatka is the loser by the departure of this family. Miss Kitty was genuinely loved and appreciated by a large circle of friends and they regret to have her leave Palatka. Mr. Henry has been connected with the Sands Brothers for some time, coming here from Pittsburg, and is a young man well liked for his genuine manhood. The well wishes of the community go with Mr. and Mrs. Henry.

council it was decided to proceed with the election of a city judge, but Mr. Merryday pointed out that if there was to be any change in the salary of this official, it must be changed before the election, otherwise the salary as at present would have to stand. Mr. Coughlin of the Third ward moved that the salary of the city judge be fixed at \$25 per month. A vote was taken and this motion was overwhelmingly defeated. Mr. Coughlin then tried to get it reduced to \$40 per month, but there was no second to his motion. The salary remains at \$50 per.

Then came the applications: There was one from C. P. Phillips, one from Geo. B. Everson, one from John Marshall and one from Henry L. Miller. It took three ballots to decide, and on the third ballot J. N. Blackwell received eight votes and was declared elected. Mr. Blackwell led in every vote.

Then the spirit of the "plutes" cropped out in an oration by Alderman Pursley of the Second. He spoke of conscience; of duty to constituents; the best interests of the city whom all loved; of the unbiased minds of councilmen; of his lack of fear; his independence. Pursley was vigorously applauded.

Alderman Merrill moved that a committee of nine be appointed by the chair to investigate expenses in the engineering department, four of whom were to be of the council and five citizens who were tax-payers. This motion prevailed and the president named the following, who will report at the next regular meeting: Ald. Merrill, Cochran, Pursley, McNally and citizens J. H. Yelverton, H. A. Davis, E. E. Haskell, F. H. Wilson and W. W. Tilghman.