

THE LAKELAND EVENING TELEGRAM

Published in the Best Town in the Best Part of the Best State.

VOL. 1

LAKELAND, FLORIDA, MONDAY, NOV. 6, 1911.

NO. 5

GRAND JURY PRESENTMENT

Body Completed Its Labors Saturday and Adjourned.

The Grand Jury made its final report and presentment on Saturday morning, Nov. 4, and was discharged by the court with thanks and warm commendation for labors well performed. Judge Whitney took occasion in his final remarks to the Grand Jury to strongly approve of the recommendation looking to the establishment of a Criminal Court of Record in this county. "It is impossible," said Judge Whitney, "for this court to keep up with the Circuit Court work in this county with the immense amount of business coming before the court for attention. I have been spending from eight to ten hours a day in your court room, presiding over your court and expediting the trial of cases as much as possible, and have been working every night until eleven o'clock and sometimes until two, and yet I shall have to leave this county with a large number of criminal cases untried and civil and chancery matters undisposed of, and therefore I earnestly second your recommendation for the establishment of a criminal court of record for this county."

General Presentment of the Grand Jury for Fall Term of A. D. 1911.

The grand jury called and empaneled for the Fall Term of the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Polk county, Florida, having completed our labors of this session by a thorough investigation of all matters coming before us, now, at the close of our session, make this our general presentments:

We have examined the county jail and find same in fairly good condition.

We recommend that the county commissioners appoint a suitable road man in each voting precinct to keep our public highways open and passable.

We endorse the effort made by our county commissioners in the equalization of taxes and recommend that they look further into the matter.

We recommend that the county commissioners employ a detective to look after the sale of intoxicating liquors, as we see same is the cause of most of the crime committed.

We recommend to the several justices of the Peace to bind witnesses in each case to appear as prescribed in Statutes for same.

We find the number of criminal cases arising in our county which are within the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court so great as to render it impossible for those accused to have a speedy trial, and we most earnestly recommend that this condition which we look upon as incident to the growth of population and business of the county, be provided for by the establishment of a Criminal Court of Record for Polk county as soon as can be done. And it is our opinion that in this way the labors of the Grand Jury can be lessened, the same speedily cleared and the necessity which now exists for keeping a large number of witnesses in attendance upon court for long terms of years be obviated. A great measure be obviated. The work of trying these cases be done at a less cost and inconvenience to our people, and at the same time more fully observe the letter of our law by giving a speedy trial to the accused.

We desire to express our thanks to Judge F. A. Whitney for his extended us, also to States Attorney J. B. Singletary for his

courteous attention and valuable assistance rendered our body.

W. T. Denham, foreman; Harry Heim, clerk; B. T. Heap, C. G. Fletcher, J. D. Moore, W. R. Claxton, J. E. McGraw, Phillip Hicks, C. C. Gresham, R. E. Gandy, W. R. Hutchinson, W. H. Chestnut, J. C. Farrell, L. Glover, W. J. Davis, Harley Morse, G. W. Anderson, James Dossey.

CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNS TO MEET TOMORROW EVENING

The City Council, which was to have met last Wednesday evening and which adjourned to meet Saturday evening on account of the lack of a quorum, met Saturday evening and adjourned until tomorrow (Tuesday) evening, owing to the fact that there was not a sufficient number present to constitute a quorum. Providing that a quorum is raised tomorrow evening, the regular monthly meeting will be held, at which time bills will be paid and all matters of interest and importance dispatched.

Disgraceful Act of Vandalism At Lakeland School.

Sometime between Friday evening and this morning vandals entered the room of Miss Cora Griffin at the Lakeland school and maliciously destroyed everything they could place their hands on, the school room this morning presenting almost a complete wreck.

All paraphernalia which Miss Griffin had accumulated since coming to Lakeland was entirely destroyed, the floor being strewn with the wreckage; chairs and tables had been overturned, and everything was in great disorder generally. Several handsome vases worth several dollars each, were thrown on the floor and broken, in fact, everything that could be destroyed was given due attention by the marauders. Damage to the room is estimated at between \$75.00 and \$100.00.

Officers are at work on the case, but as yet no clue has been ascertained as to the identity of the vandals. It is thought that the damage was done last night about 10 o'clock, as Mr. D. A. McRae, who lives near the school building, stated this morning that he had heard a commotion in that vicinity last night just before retiring but not thinking that Lakeland possessed such maliciously inclined individuals, he thought nothing of the disturbance. It is thought that entrance to the room was gained by a rear door, which had evidently been left unlocked.

DAUGHTERS TO CONVENE AT RICHMOND TOMORROW

Richmond, Va., Nov. 6.—With over 700 delegates in attendance the Eighteenth annual Convention of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, will open here Tuesday evening. Representatives will be sent from 32 states of the Union and the National Convention promises to be the most enthusiastic gathering of women of the Southland ever yet held.

The convention will be formally opened Tuesday night at the Academy of Music, with addresses of welcome by Governor Mann, of Virginia, Mayor D. C. Richardson, of Richmond, and high officials of the Virginia division of the Daughters.

Mrs. V. A. Faulkner McSherry, President-General of the Daughters, will respond to the addresses.

Delegates will consider the question of erecting a home for the Confederate women and appoint a permanent relief committee. Biennial election of the president-general will take place at the last business meeting, the minor officers being elected next year.

PETITION FOR BOND ELECTION

PRESENTED TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BY ATTORNEY BLANTON TODAY.

Today Attorney J. K. Blanton, of the firm of Rodgers & Blanton, presented to the County Commissioners the petition published in Saturday's issue of this paper, asking that an election be called within a certain special road district, including the Lakeland district and some territory in the Auburndale section, as specified in said petition; said election to be on the question of bonding the district thus described for \$225,000 for the purpose of building eighteen miles of vitrified brick highway.

The Commissioners accepted the petition, but it will, as is customary in such cases, have to lie over until the next regular monthly meeting before any definite action is taken. At the end of that time, if there is no satisfactory reason for doing otherwise, an election will be called, to be held after the necessary advertisement has been published for thirty days.

The Commissioners informally discussed the proposition but there was no objection to it, and it is very probable that if investigation shows the petition to have the required number of signers, and is in other respects regular, that it will be acted upon favorably.

PLANT CITY KILLING STILL A MYSTERY

In Saturday's issue of The Telegram we gave an account of the killing at Plant City of John Aiken. It is rumored that he at one time lived in Lakeland, but this we have been unable to verify. The latest particulars in regard to the case are in this morning's Tampa Tribune, which we produce:

Who killed John Aiken at Plant City is today as much a mystery as it was last Friday at 8 p. m., when the man was found unconscious at the back of the C. M. Sparkman saloon in Plant City. Three hours later, never regaining consciousness, he died. Three physicians were unable to do anything for him.

Then it was apparent that he had been hit in the back of the head with a blunt instrument. There is no justice of the peace at Plant City, so Justice T. L. James, of Tampa, was summoned. He impaneled a coroner's jury, but this jury, with Representative R. R. Tomlin, of the Florida Legislature as its foreman knew no more at the end of the inquest than was known before the jury was impaneled.

Two white men were arrested in order to assure them giving evidence, but their testimony was worth no more than that of any one else. The jury brought in a verdict that "Aiken came to his death from a blow delivered from a blunt instrument held by some one unknown to the jury."

Officers continue hunting for a clue, but thus far no success has attended their efforts. Aiken was forty years old and is only known to have had two relatives. These are two nephews, one, Luther Aiken, resident of Tampa, and the other said to be employed at Bradley Junction, ten miles from Plant City, on the Charlotte Harbor & Northern Railroad.

Arcadia will ship some 250,000 boxes of oranges and grapefruit this season from the six packing houses in operation now. Oranges in this section ripen earlier than those in more northern latitudes—consequently the packing and shipping season is now fully open.—Arcadia Champion.

CITY ELECTION TOMORROW

H. D. BASSETT AND S. L. A. CLONTS WILL TRY STRENGTH AT THE CITY POLLS.

Tomorrow a second primary for Mayor of the City of Lakeland will be held, no candidate having received a majority of all the votes cast in the first primary last Tuesday.

The election for Councilmen resulted in a decisive vote, and there will, therefore, be no second primary for these officials.

Mr. S. L. A. Clonts and Mr. H. D. Bassett were the two "high" men in the first primary, and they are, therefore, the only contestants in tomorrow's race. They are both popular gentlemen, either of whom would make a good Mayor, and the race promises to be exceedingly close. Much interest is being manifested by the respective friends of the two candidates, though no mud-slinging has been indulged in, and no hard feeling engendered.

The polling place will be at the City Hall.

BIG IMPROVEMENT FOR LAKE MIRROR WATER FRONT

A realty deal, which augurs well for the further beautification of one of the most desirable residence sections of the city, was consummated a day or two ago when the Sessoms property, located at the foot of Lemon street and bordering on Lake Mirror, was purchased by the realty firm of John F. Cox and G. E. Colman, the latter of Auburndale.

This property, which consists of a small grove, will be cut up into a sub-division and lots will be placed on the market at once.

The new owners contemplate making a number of marked improvements in this property, which when completed will be the first attempt ever made to beautify Lake Mirror's waterfront. They will build a paved driveway along the lake front, this being a continuation of Lemon street, build a sea wall, and in other ways make of this a very attractive and desirable place of residence.

When these improvements are under way we feel sure that it will only be a short time before Lake Mirror will have a paved driveway entirely around it.

CREATOR'S FAMOUS BAND COMING TO LAKELAND

The treat of the season, as far as musical attractions are concerned, will be Creator and his band of fifty musicians which will appear at the Herron Theatre here on November 24. Those who have been fortunate enough to hear this band have already sent in their application for tickets and many others have been added to the list.

Signor Creator, as usual, has been holding large audiences under his wonderful spell en route to Lakeland. From the reports received at times his audiences are all but moved to tears, roused by the tender sympathetic strains, while at other times they seem ready to stand on their feet and shout to relieve the pent up something produced by the thrills from the wonderful crescendos which peel from his band.

During one of the band's long sojourns in New York the "Herald" gave the following as part of a very lengthy notice: "Seldom has such enthusiasm been seen in a New York theatre. After the sextette from 'Lucia,' the applause was deafening and the people climbed upon their chairs to cheer. The 'Tannhauser' overture and several other numbers evoked equally exuberant signs of approval."

CONTRACT FOR BASSETT BUILDING SOON TO BE LET.

Editor Evening Telegram: Noticing the item in a late issue of The Lakeland Evening Telegram, which reads that the H. D. Bassett building has been let already to contractors, this statement was premature.

The plans for this building are at this time under construction in my offices and will not be finished for a period of two or three weeks, and at that time they will be out for bids to all reputable local contractors.

GUY PLATT JOHNSON, Architect.

The Sanford Herald by a publication of statistics shows that celery is no longer king in the rich lands surrounding that prosperous little city. The best results last season came from several other crops than celery.

Lecture on Sewerage at Theater Tonight.

Mr. C. F. Raymond, Sanitary Engineer of Hartford, Conn., will address the citizens of Lakeland tonight at 7:30 o'clock at the Herron Theatre on the subject of sewerage, a matter in which every public-spirited citizen is interested.

Mr. Raymond has spent years in this work and will be able to convey to his hearers some splendid ideas on this subject. Lakeland is progressing in many lines and there is no improvement she needs more than a good sewerage system. How to get this system and what kind to put in, will be threshed out thoroughly in Mr. Raymond's address this evening, and it is hoped he will be greeted by a large audience.

Washington, Nov. 6.—The weather Bureau has the following report on weather conditions in the United States, which shows that another cold wave will have the country in its grip within the next few days.

In the United States the coming week will be one of pronounced weather changes. Disturbances that now cover the Rocky Mountains and British Columbia will advance slowly eastward and be preceded by unsettled weather, local rains and mild temperatures, the first half of the week in the Middle West and the Southern and Eastern States.

"Rains are also probable Monday and Tuesday in the north Pacific States."

Following these disturbances the pressure will rise rapidly and decidedly colder weather will overspread the Northwestern States Tuesday and Wednesday and advance eastward over the Middle West Wednesday and Thursday, and the Eastern States the latter part of the week. It is probable that this cold change will be attended by snows in the Northern States."

RETURNED FROM THEIR SUMMER OUTING

Mr. C. G. Memminger went up to New York a few days ago for the purpose of accompanying home Mrs. Memminger and Miss Christine Memminger who have been in that and other Eastern cities for the past month. Prior to that time they spent about three months most pleasantly in Asheville and other resorts in the mountains of North Carolina, Mr. Memminger being frequently with them, as his business interests would allow. They had a pleasant summer, and not the least pleasant feature of their trip was their return to their beautiful home here, one of the most elegant in Florida.

HALE CASE ON TRIAL

Jury Secured Saturday and Case Being Considered Today.

The jury in the Ben Hale case was completed today, the two additional Jurymen having been secured. The completed list is as follows: Henry Tandy, R. H. Peoples, B. H. Gray, M. G. Merritt, J. K. Futch, Jesse Stevens, T. E. Hays, S. F. Parker, J. A. Hicks—Hancock (of Kathleen), A. O. Graddy, and Mann Raulerson.

Testimony in this case is being taken at the hour of going to press.

The following indictments have been returned by the grand jury during the last few days of its labors:

State vs. Samuel N. Powell, for unlawfully taking and using the vehicle of another.

Frank Jones, assault with intent to commit murder of Julian Williams.

John Taylor, assault with intent to murder one John Reed.

There were several other indictments returned which we are not at liberty to give on account of the fact that the ones indicted have not yet been apprehended. A few persons in jail and a few out on bond were not indicted because of the inability of the sheriff to get witnesses.

The court spent all of Saturday in trying to get a jury in the Ben Hale case, and at the close of the day ten men had been accepted on the jury by both sides. These men will be required to stay here together under an officer.

In selecting the jury, most of the regular and special venire for this week were challenged for cause, and on Saturday afternoon a second special venire was summoned and exhausted. Most of the jurors on the special venire for the week were from Lakeland and vicinity, and on that account had heard all about the case, and having formed an opinion, were challenged and excused for cause. Then, too, quite a few expressed themselves as opposed to capital punishment upon circumstantial evidence, and for that reason were excused.

This case will be very hard fought. Dayton & Dayton, of Dade City, represent the defendant, and it appears from their questions addressed to jurors that they will rely on the plea of insanity, and if they can keep out Hales confession, on the slight circumstantial evidence connecting Hale with the crime. The State will be represented by State Attorney Singletary, assisted by Judge Boswell.

The following men have been drawn to serve on the regular venire for the third week of court: Will Kinney, J. P. Combes, W. S. Clark, John Bishop, Bentley Lantz, E. G. Gardner, Harvey N. Powell, Hampton H. Fortner, W. P. Daugherty, T. A. Goode, C. L. Morrison, A. H. Sloan, J. P. Costline, A. B. Godwin, C. E. McMullen, J. W. Willis, D. L. Merck, and M. A. Dossey.

A GOOD PROMOTER CAN'T ALWAYS IMPRESS A VOTER

Col. T. J. L. Brown, the great fair promoter of Tampa, has announced that he will be in the race for congressman at large. He is a well-known man and may gain strength, but a man may be a fair promoter and still not take so well with the people when it comes to an important office like a congressman.—Fort Myers Press.