MR. WILLARD'S GIFT

Donates $1,000 for Oldest Inhabitants' Home.

IN HIS FATHER'S MEMORY

Given Unconditionally in Support of Any Building Plan.

PROGRESS MADE AT MEETING

Various Plans Discussed for Securing Permanent Quarters—Fourth of July Celebration.

Material progress toward the securing of a permanent home for the organization was made last night at the monthly meeting of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District, when H. K. Willard announced a contribution of $1,000, made in memory of his father, the late Henry K. Willard. This amount, he said, would be placed at the disposal of the association at any time it was desired to use it, and the $1,000, he stated, would be given unconditionally in support of any building plan which might have the approval of the membership of the association.

Because the "permanent home" and the plan for the celebration of the Fourth of July were scheduled for discussion, there was an unusually representative gathering of the members of the association in the assembly hall of the old engine house at 19th and H streets northwest, when President Theodore W. Noyes called the meeting to order. Mr. Willard's generous announcement was made toward the close of the meeting, and it was hailed with enthusiastic applause. In connection with his contribution to start the fund for the association home, Mr. Willard voiced greatest appreciation of the marks of sympathy accorded to him by the members of the association at the time of the death of his father, as well as at the more recent death of his friend and business associate, the late Henry Willard Reed.

Mr. Willard also entertained the association by a description of some of the interesting sights encountered on his recent tour of Europe and northern Africa.

Given Rising Vote of Thanks.

In signifying its acceptance of his gift toward the "permanent home fund" the association tendered a rising vote of thanks to Mr. Willard.

A comprehensive review of the work already done in the matter of a permanent home for the organization was laid before the meeting by Chairman Charles S. Bundy of the committee appointed September, 1909, to investigate various propositions. This report included a statement of the inquiry into the availability of the former home of the Jewish Club in I street between 9th and 10th streets, and of one other structure, both of which were rejected by the committee as unsuitable. Chairman Bundy also reported on one suggestion which came before his committee and which called for the acquisition of a lot on which the association should build its own home. This, it was stated, would cost $50,000, and the committee submitted a plan for polling the association by mail, so that the views of every member might be secured. Upon motion it was ordered that this poll should be made, and it was agreed that four propositions should be submitted to the membership, in brief, as follows:

Questions Asked Members.

"Would you take an active part by contributing in cash to a fund of $50,000 for the purpose of providing a home for the association, and, if so, how much would you agree to pay on or before January 5, 1911? * * * In event these pledges do not amount to $50,000 by December 1, 1910, all pledges given will be null and void, and in case they exceed that amount contributions will be pro rata.

"In case the cash cannot be raised by donation, as in first proposition, would you take an active part in a bonded proposition to the amount of $50,000 for the same purpose, the bonds to be at par $100 each, bearing interest at the rate of 2 per centum per annum, and secured by deed of trust on the whole property purchased with improvements and payable in full January 5, 1960, unless sooner bought up by the association?

"In a home provided by either of these methods there would be increased cost of maintenance. Would you consider favorably the increase of your dues from $1.50 to, say, not to exceed $10 per annum, to meet this expense?

"Would you, rather than undertake any of these propositions, prefer to improve and utilize our room in the Corcoran building; and to improve the old engine house at the corner of 19th and H streets northwest, for our monthly meetings, and to continue to hire a large hall for our special numerously attended meetings for which the engine house would be too small?"

The committee stated it would cost approximately $350 to improve the Corcoran building room, and about $2,815 to make alterations in the old engine house, the cost of electric lights, electric fans and an electric heating plant being included.

Title to Engine House.

Chairman Bundy's report included a statement of an investigation into the ownership of the old engine house, together with a reading of the act of Congress of January 20, 1909, by which the Commissioners of the District were authorized to grant the association the use of the engine house, as co-tenant with the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association. Title to the property, it seems, is vested in the United States.

It was stated as a conclusion of the committee that it would be eminently proper for the association to extend its aid in preserving the engine house, one of the landmarks, with its quaint exterior and its collection of fire apparatus, from the march of improvements. It was recommended, however, that some recognition should be secured from the District Commissioners of the equity of the association in the old engine house before any money is spent on its improvement, so that the organization might not be dispossessed in later years.

The Proposed Changes.

Briefly stated, the improvements suggested in the old engine house include the construction of a six-foot two-story addition, by which the twenty-four-foot by forty-four-foot floor space would be enlarged to thirty by fifty feet; the removal of all of the relics of the Firemen's Association, and the meeting place of that organization, to the lower floor of the building, and the fitting up of the assembly hall as the permanent home of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants. The enlarged assembly room, it was estimated, would accommodate 350 persons.

Before the adjournment of the meeting William L. Hickey of 200 I street northwest was elected a member of the association, and several interesting reminiscences were given by J. D. Cathell and Maj. George A. Armes.

On motion it was agreed to leave the determination of the plans for the association's celebration of the Fourth of July to the entertainment committee.

Senate Confirms Gen. Henry.

The Senate yesterday afternoon, in executive session, confirmed the nomination of Gen. Nelson H. Henry as surveyor of customs of the port of New York. He succeeds Gen. James S. Clarkson.

Harry E. Savage, a former street railway man and lately a saloonkeeper, was found dead in his bed at Norfolk, Va., with a bullet hole through his head. He is supposed to have killed himself because of financial troubles.

NURSES TO GRADUATE.

G. W. U. Hospital School Commencement This Evening.

The commencement exercises of the School for Nurses of the George Washington University Hospital will be held, beginning at 8 o'clock this evening, in University Hall, 15th and H streets.

The program will include prayer by Rev. Robert Talbot; "The Bird and the Rose," Mrs. Otis D. Swett; address to graduates by Col. Louis A. La Garde, Medical Corps, U. S. A.; "Villanelle," Mrs. Otis D. Swett; presentation of graduates by Mary Belle Struble, superintendent of nurses; awarding of diplomas by President Needham.

Those who will graduate are Leonora Pearl Mushaw of Maryland, Anna Kate Herbert of Maryland, Freda Fanetta Feidt of West Virginia, Martha Du Val Quinn of Virginia, and Ida Mary King of Maryland.

COWS ISSUE IN ELECTION.

Question of Street Grazing Excites West Point, Va., Citizens.

WEST POINT, Va., June 2.—Mayor A. W. Eastwood, who has been mayor of this town for eighteen years, is being opposed for the office this year by former Mayor Albert Robinson. The election takes place June 14, and Mayor Eastwood, who is a distinguished Confederate veteran, serving under Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, is in danger of defeat by adverse legislation as to whether or not cows be allowed to graze on the streets.

The council prohibited it, and as a result the cow owners are supporting Mr. Robinson.

Prof. W. R. Grose, superintendent of schools at Richwood, W. Va., and his son, thirteen years old, were knocked unconscious by lightning which struck their home.

PEDDLER LEFT $10,000.

Money Goes to Farmer, Who Had Befriended Him.

WASHINGTON, Pa., June 2.—George White, a farmer and rural mail carrier at Rea, has delivered to himself a letter from a lawyer in a western state informing him that one Patrick Sullivan has left to him in his will $10,000. White, who first took it as a joke, has remembered that fifteen years ago he befriended a peddler whose name was Patrick Sullivan. He had often given him meals or lodging. White is now negotiating for the $10,000 which is said to have been left him by the old peddler.

Dr. E. T. Willis, pastor of the Union Avenue Christian Church of New York city, has accepted the Bible chair in Virginia Christian College at Lynchburg. He has held his New York pastorate nearly twenty-one years.