

ESTABLISHED 1914

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THE CITY'S FINANCES

Annual Financial Statement Shows It Takes a Lot of Money to Run the City for a Year.

On page two of this issue will be found the tabulated financial report of the City of Leon for the year ending April 1, 1916. It is the first statement which has been published for several years, although the law requires it to be published at the close of each fiscal year. The report contains some interesting things, and citizens will do well to study it carefully. The report shows that a total of \$16,933.40 was collected in taxes. Of this sum the largest part, \$5,077.38 was for the payment of municipal bonds. For corporation purposes the tax was \$3,072.80, cemetery \$279.92, park \$600.05, electric light \$1,592.18, library \$648.69, sewer fund \$1,308.98, water works \$1,592.16, sewer outlet \$377.01, improvements \$1,167.08, road \$839.39, grading \$377.76. The report shows there are \$47,000 worth of city bonds outstanding, but there is on hand in the bond fund \$7,294.80. There are also outstanding warrants amounting to \$6,779.55, and city sewer certificates outstanding in the sum of \$19,600. Study this report carefully and you can inform yourself just how the finances of the city stand. The report also shows that the revenue from the city waterworks during the year amounted to \$3,176.62.

Auto Killed a Horse.

Last Saturday afternoon about three o'clock an auto containing four men which was enroute from Donnellson, Iowa, to Brush, Colorado, struck a horse a few miles east of Leon, and the animal sustained a broken leg and other injuries so that it was necessary to kill it. The auto was owned by a man living at Brush, and the others were going there with him to look at some land. On account of the mud they were running slowly, when they met a couple of boys on horseback, who were galloping their horses along at a pretty lively rate. Just as they met the car the horse ridden by Raymond Mullin, son of Joe Mullin, who lives a few miles east of Leon, jumped right in front of the car. Raymond was thrown clear over the car and was not injured, but the car caught the horse and dragged it a short distance. The car was only slightly damaged, a broken lamp and bent fenders constituting the damage, and the men proceeded on their journey the following day.

Decatur County May Have Exhibit at State Fair.

Mr. A. E. Cotterill is in receipt of an encouraging letter from Secretary A. R. Corey of the Iowa State Fair, in regard to perfecting an organization for the purpose of making a suitable exhibit of agricultural products raised in Decatur county at the State Fair this year. Mr. Cotterill is a leading spirit in the matter. An exhibit showing what Decatur county can raise would be a mighty good thing, and we hope the effort of Mr. Cotterill will be successful. It would give Decatur county a lot of splendid advertising for the exhibit would be seen by many thousands of people, and the county exhibits at the State Fair this year will be made a feature.

Rescinded Fire Limit Ordinance in Regard to Depot.

At the regular meeting of the city council held last Thursday evening the council voted to rescind that part of the fire limit ordinance applying to a freight depot, which required that such building be a fire proof structure. It is reported that the railroad company will now go ahead and erect a new freight depot just northwest of the passenger station, and that work will be commenced on it in the near future. There has been nothing but a box car for a freight depot in this city for several years, ever since the old freight depot was destroyed by fire.

Took Poison Tablets By Mistake.

Mrs. Henry Wilson had a narrow escape from death Tuesday night. She had been suffering from a very severe headache, and after retiring for the night got up and took what she supposed were two headache tablets, but by mistake she took a couple of bichloride of mercury tablets, which are very poisonous. The mistake was discovered shortly and a physician was called and at the time The Reporter went to press she was getting along as well as could be hoped for, although all danger from the poison will not pass for several days.

Base Ball Sunday Afternoon.

The first game of the season for the reorganized Leon city base ball team will be played on the grounds south of Leon Sunday afternoon, when Osceola comes for the opening game. A new grandstand has been built, and the grounds are in good shape. Everybody come out and see a good game.

Had Snow in Nebraska.

We are in receipt of a letter from Osmer Sissel, a former resident of Decatur county, now living at McGrew, Nebraska, saying they had six inches of snow last Sunday. That accounts for the cool weather we have been having here in Iowa.

Suffrage Meeting at Woodland.

There will be a suffrage meeting held at Woodland on Friday evening, May 19th. Everybody invited to attend.

SUES FOR \$15,000 DAMAGES.

W. C. Starr, Former Leon Printer, Sues Des Moines Property Owner.

W. C. Starr, who was for a number of years employed as foreman of The Reporter office, moving to Des Moines the first of the year, last Saturday brought suit for \$15,000 against Emma G. Sperry, owner of a building at the southwest corner of Walnut and West Second streets, in Des Moines, alleging he was crippled for life when a radiator weighing a thousand pounds fell on him on the morning of April 1st, crushing his foot. At the time of the accident Mr. Starr was passing through a hallway on his way to work in the office of the National Printing Company, which occupied the second floor of the building. A big radiator with a broken leg had been set up against the wall in the hallway, and as Starr was passing it fell over and caught him, breaking the bones of his foot.

Fayette Township Committeeman.

To Whom It May Concern, but Especially to the Democrats of Fayette Township:

While grateful for the support received at the caucus Saturday last, when I received the nomination for committeeman I wish herewith to respectfully decline. This will make Mr. Frederick W. Newcomb the nominee of the caucus as he received the next largest number of votes. I am glad to retire in his favor as he was my choice and received my support at the caucus. I think I was also the first to ask him to accept the position.

There is to my knowledge no point that would be gained by my continuing but what will be gained by his service in that capacity. He will receive my unreserved support and I believe, and hope, the loyal support of every man who supported me at the caucus. We will thus enter the campaign in harmony and with fair prospect of success, an end more to be desired than the honoring of any man.

In my long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Newcomb I have found him not only an honorable man, but a constant hard working democrat. He is worthy of your support, and I am in a position to know that he will be acceptable to the county, district, state and national committees, a very necessary thing to insure harmony and to enable us to contribute our part toward the victory we hope for.

This does not mean that I shall retire or be less active. Any assistance that I can render Mr. Newcomb I am at his command. I am for Newcomb and for an unbroken organization.

Heman C. Smith.

Former Leon Lady is Candidate for County Superintendent in Oklahoma.

Mrs. Edith McCoy Layton, of Darlington, Oklahoma, is a candidate for the office of county superintendent in the democratic ticket of Canadian county, and her many friends in this city and county are hoping that she may be successful. For several years Mrs. Layton was employed as a teacher in the Leon public schools, and she is a mighty fine lady, and well qualified for the position she is seeking. Her father was a prominent worker in the democratic party in this county for many years, and we are hoping that later in the campaign we may be able to inform our readers that she has been elected.

Center Township Democratic Caucus.

At the township caucus held last Saturday by the democrats of Center township, the following township ticket was nominated and will appear on the primary ballots: trustees, M. F. Springer, Frank Gittinger and John Chastain; clerk, Ralph Ridgeway; assessor, John Dale; Justices of the Peace, Walter Snyder and Walter Smith; constables, Clem Jenkins and L. E. Bright; committeeman, M. F. Springer; delegates to county convention, Aaron Goodman, Thomas Jackson, L. E. Bright, James Baker, W. H. Snyder, Floyd Brown, C. W. Hoffman, Charles Piercy, Joe Hamilton, Leo Hoffman and W. T. Coons.

Democratic Caucus in Court Room Tonight.

The democrats of Leon will meet in the court room tonight (Thursday) at 7:30, to name 22 delegates to the county convention and to nominate two candidates for the offices of justice of the peace and two for constables.

The importance of this last caucus before the primary, June 5, demands that every Leon democrat who has the good of his party at heart should be on hand at 7:30 sharp.

F. A. Bowman, Frank Gardner, J. W. Hurst, Com.

Attention Farmers!

There will be a meeting held at the court room in Leon on Saturday, May 20th at 2 p. m., for the purpose of organizing a County United Tax-Payers League.

If you are interested in lower taxes come out and help.

L. G. Jamison, L. D. Garber, W. H. Snyder, Ed C. Smith, Com.

You Can Fish Legally Now.

The open season for fishing in Iowa began on Monday of this week, May 15th, but owing to the fact that all the creeks and rivers in this part of Iowa were running bank full as the result of the heavy rains the latter part of the week, the local disciples of Isaac Walton have not yet been indulging in their favorite sport.

PRIZE ESSAY WRITER

Phillip Little, of Hamilton Township Wins Free Trip to the Iowa State Fair This Year.

The report of the judges on the Boy's Prize Essay Contest, is now in the hands of the county chairman, Mabel Horner. The first prize is awarded to Phillip Little, of Hamilton township, with Frank Matteson, of Burrell, and Arthur Sipherd, of Grand River, close seconds. The subject on which the boys wrote this year was "How Good Roads Benefit the Farmer." The prize is a trip to the State Fair. A number of very excellent essays were written on the general subject of "Good Roads," which did not conform to the conditions of the contest. The judges in the contest were E. D. Moore, of Lamoni, C. C. Dye, of Woodland, and Jas. F. Harvey, of Leon. The following is the prize essay:

The good roads question is very important and people should give it careful consideration because of the relation of the roads to the development of the country. The people should be grateful to the road builders of the past for they made it possible to conquer and settle the country. Had it not been for roads neither Iowa nor any of the other western states would have been settled because provisions had to be hauled here from the east.

By having good roads the Iowa farmer can haul his grain and other farm products to market at any time. Prices vary considerable on produce during the year, and are generally the highest when the roads are in such condition that the farmer cannot get to market. If the roads could be traveled at any time the prices would be more nearly governed by supply and demand.

The farmer could also haul larger loads on the good roads with the same energy that is used to pull smaller loads on poor ones. Strength thus wasted in pulling through mud holes and over rough places could be well spent in improving the roads.

By hauling larger loads there would be fewer loads; furthermore, when the roads have been systematically graded and dragged they will dry sooner, making it possible for the farmers to travel over them soon after a rain and before the fields are in condition to work. During the farming season, time is very valuable to the farmer. His crops will well repay him for these extra days saved which he spends in the fields.

Farm lands are more valuable when located on a good road on account of the improvements made by their owners. Each would try to make his place the most attractive along the road. With better roads and their autos, farmers could go often to the agricultural exhibits where they would discuss plans for management and improvement with experienced farmers and farm experts. They would see the results of these experiments which would be more convincing than mere theories. This would be an incentive to raise larger crops and better live stock, which would make them more prosperous.

The farmer could take his family in the auto and visit their friends and relatives miles away and much of the cause of young people's going to the city would be removed. The young people could visit each other and have entertainments and they would not think of leaving the farm to go to the city.

Centralized schools will not be an entire success until we have good roads because transportation is poor and expensive on poor roads. As good roads will make it possible to have centralized schools, the land within range will be bought by people desiring good homes. People in these communities will then have the same school advantages for their children as those living in towns have at the present time.

Considering the benefit of good roads to a country and its people, we should remember the advantages of well built roads for the transportation of troops, munitions and provisions in time of war, and their use as roads will unite the whole country. I believe we all agree that we need better roads even though we do not agree as to financing or building them.

So let us, as the future road builders of this state and nation, give the question our careful study, that we may be ready to build roads suited to each locality as to cost, durability and advantages.

Over Four Inches of Rain.

We had over four inches of rain the last three days of last week, to be exact according to the government gauge kept by Mayor Morris Gardner, 4.21 inches. From Friday evening at 6 o'clock until Saturday evening at 6 o'clock, a rainfall of 3.97 inches was recorded for the twenty-four hours. That is a pretty heavy rain, and will do a world of good for pastures and the hay crop, but it is a little hard on some of the early planted corn, especially on the low lands.

We'll Have to Write It In.

On account of the nomination papers filed from Adams and Taylor counties for M. H. Wilson of Seymour for presidential elector from the 8th district, being short one name each, of the required number, under the law it will be impossible to place his name on the June primary ballot. Arrangements have been made in the different counties in the district to have the voters to write M. H. Wilson in the blank space left for that purpose.

Decatur County Improved Stock Breeders Association Meeting.

Saturday, June 3rd.

The subject of making a county exhibit of agricultural products at the Iowa State Fair in August, will be taken up at the next meeting of the Decatur County Improved Stock Breeders Association meeting on Saturday, June 3rd, at which time an association will be formed and some person selected who will take charge of the exhibits and look after the display while at the fair.

One of the rules is that the products shall be collected from forty farms in the county represented. Therefore it will be necessary to get as many farmers as possible to select samples of grain and vegetables in order to make a creditable display.

The following persons are asked to assist in collecting the exhibits in the different sections and report at the meeting what they can get: C. M. Kline, Weldon; E. J. Blair, Van Wert; Wm. Sipherd, Grand River; W. H. Campbell, Grand River; M. C. Reestone, Decatur; F. A. Garber, Leon; C. C. Dye, Woodland; Henry Perkins, Lineville; S. P. Rogers, Pleasanton; Wm. Ashbach, Davis City; W. T. Shakespeare, Davis City; C. R. Piery, Kellerton; M. J. Powers, Decatur; L. A. Durrell, Leon. Any assistance from others will be appreciated by the committee, as we wish to have all of Decatur county represented.

The following is the committee on organization: Fred Woolley, Garden Grove; Wm. Crichton, Leon; A. E. Cotterill, Leon.

Decoration Day Program for Decatur, Iowa, May 30, 1916.

Meet at G. A. R. hall at 1 o'clock and form in line as follows:

W. R. C., colors, Color Guard, band, G. A. R., children and citizens, march to cemetery and form about the unknown grave.

The exercises will be as follows: Return to M. E. church in same order as marched to cemetery.

Music.

Invocation.

Reading of orders by the adjutant.

Music.

Reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg address.

Music, America.

Benediction.

Band Concert Was Given Tuesday Evening.

The K. of P. band concert could not be given last Saturday evening on account of the rain, so it was given on Tuesday evening of this week, and a large crowd was out to hear the splendid music. A feature of the program was a vocal solo by C. B. Simpson, and a chorus composed of Forest Hazan, Frank Farquhar and Dewey Long, and the boys had to respond to a hearty encore. Remember that whenever the weather will not permit of the band concert being given on Saturday evening it will be given on the following Tuesday evening.

See Mary Page Today.

The ninth episode of the thrilling serial, "The Strange Case of Mary Page," will be shown at the Idle Hour theatre at the regular 3 o'clock 5 cent matinee, and three shows in the evening. Some astounding developments appear in this episode. Langdon is convinced that Mary is guiltyless. Daniels, the theatrical manager, Dan Page, even Langdon himself have been under suspicion. The "Accusing Eye" rest upon one of the characters. Which one? Startling twists in the story furnish thrills and thrills a plenty. Don't miss the "Accusing Eye."

Thornton Has Applied for a Pardon.

Andrew Thornton, of Morgan township, who was sentenced to life imprisonment a few years ago on his plea of guilty to making a criminal assault on an aged lady of this county, has made application to the state board of parole for a pardon. The board will take action on his case together with a number of others at their meeting which will be held during the week beginning May 22nd, and will report their findings to Governor Clarke for his approval.

Stood Third in South Half of Iowa.

Pease & Pease, the Leon agents of the Farmers Insurance Co., of Cedar Rapids, have been notified by D. H. Crowley, superintendent of agencies, that they stood third in the amount of business written by agents in the south half of Iowa during the month of April. As there are over 200 agents in this territory it shows that Pease & Pease are sure hustlers when it comes to writing insurance.

Against Woman Suffrage.

Miss Lucy Price will speak in Leon Friday evening, May 26, in the court room. She will tell why the women of Iowa, with Mrs. Simon Casady of Des Moines as a leader, have organized against Woman Suffrage.

Miss Price is a Vassar College woman and a Chautauqua lecturer.

Again Defeated Graceland College.

For the second time this season the High School base ball team defeated Graceland College nine from Lamoni, in a game played on the Leon grounds Tuesday afternoon, the score being 12 to 0 in favor of Leon High.

Gospel Team Meeting.

The weekly meeting of the Leon Gospel Team will be held on Sunday afternoon at the Presbyterian church at 3 o'clock. This will be High School Day. The services will be in charge of the High School boys.

"Meet me at Cherrington's."

TWENTYFIVE YEARS AGO

Items Taken from the Files of The Reporter Published a Quarter of a Century Ago.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Ketcham are rejoicing over the arrival of a son at their home last Monday morning.

But one marriage license has been issued the past week, that being to George McGahuey 39 and Miss Ada Bryant 16.

A United States post office inspector has been investigating an alleged fraud against the government. It is claimed that John C. Newton, the owner of the Des Moines & Cainesville railroad, shipped a large quantity of worthless mail to various stations on his line of road, and arranged with the party to whom they were addressed to remain them to other points. The contract for carrying mails was about to expire and it is claimed Newton was padding the mails carried over his railroad in order to secure large sums from the government for carrying the mails for a period of years.

Billy Ellis went to Des Moines to take a course of treatment at the Keely Institute.

A serious mad dog scare is exciting the residents of Lamoni and vicinity. A shepherd dog belonging to J. R. Smith went mad and bit a number of dogs. Two children living west of Lamoni and also a son of Mr. Smith were bitten by dogs. All have been taken to a town near St. Joe to have a mad stone applied, and many are anxiously awaiting the result.

The graduating exercises of the Leon High School will be held on May 27th. There are five graduates this year, all young ladies, Misses Nora B. Hamilton, LaNelle Hoffines, Ophie Clark, Clella Bashaw and Grace A. Morrill.

Mrs. S. A. Gates died at her home in Leon on May 17th, at the age of 38 years, 3 months and 16 days.

Mrs. Will Ledgerwood came down from Chariton Monday to visit a few days with relatives in this city.

Samuel Bowman sr. is reported to be seriously ill at his home near Davis City.

Billy Mills and wife, of Des Moines, are here for a few days visit with his parents.

A large crowd attended an Alliance meeting at Woodland Saturday night, Samuel McDaniel being the speaker.

The second eight wheel engine ever run over the Chariton branch, passed through Leon last Saturday, and attracted considerable attention, as it is much larger than the ordinary engines.

K. of P. Convention at Corydon Next Monday.

The annual Knights of Pythias convention of the 10th district, composed of the counties of Appanoose, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas and Wayne, will be held at Corydon on next Monday, May 22nd. The Leon K. of P.'s are arranging to attend the convention in large numbers, going over by autos, arrangements having been made so there will be cars sufficient for all who desire to go. The cars will leave Leon promptly at 1 o'clock, returning after the convention is over that evening. Arrangements are being made by the Corydon Knights of Pythias for a fine time.

Blanche Sweet in "Stolen Goods."

The special Paramount feature production of "Stolen Goods" with Blanche Sweet in the leading role, will be the attraction at the Idle Hour theatre on Friday evening, May 19th. The play is a picturization of Margaret Turnbull's emotional drama of justice and romance, and Blanche Sweet is supported by an unusually strong cast, including House Peters, a popular actor. It is a thrilling drama with many exciting climaxes. Matinee at 3 o'clock, first night show at 7:15. Prices 10 and 15 cents.

Lost a Fine Stallion.

S. W. Barry, who lives a few miles east of Leon, has had seven of his horses sick with influenza, but all are recovered except the fine Shire stallion, Eastwood Field Marshal, which died. Mr. Barry purchased the stallion only a few months ago and his death is a heavy loss to him, as he was one of the best stallions in southern Iowa, and the sire of many fine colts owned by Decatur county farmers.

Well Pleased With Settlements.

We have recently received settlements on insurance policies written for us by Pease & Pease, of Leon, covering losses by lightning and wind, and desire to state that our losses have been fully and satisfactorily settled through them, and we are well pleased with the manner in which they adjusted our losses.

C. M. Akes, Rolla Chastain.

New Court Cases.

Stephen Varga vs. Martin Still. Suit is brought to foreclose a mortgage given to secure a note for \$205.40. Francis Varga, attorney for plaintiff.

Stephen Varga vs. James Miller et al. Suit is brought to foreclose a mortgage given to secure a note for \$385.00. Francis Varga, attorney for plaintiff.

Senator Clarkson Will Speak Saturday Evening.

Senator Clarkson, of Albia, will speak for the suffrage movement at Leon on Saturday evening, the speaking being arranged to be held just previous to the band concert. If you want to hear him be on hands early.

Owen Herald Parsons.

Owen Herald Parsons was born in High Point township, December 6, 1891, died May 16, 1916, aged 24 years, 5 months and 10 days. He was converted and united with the M. E. church at High Point in February, 1908. From that time until his death he has been a faithful christian; ever ready to do any christian work that he was able to do. He was elected superintendent of the Sunday school three years ago and was faithful in his duties as long as his health permitted him to attend. He loved the work and often expressed his regret at not being able to attend Sunday school and church services. He was a young man of clean habit, industrious and possessed good judgment. He was always kind in his association with his friends by whom he was highly esteemed. He was one of our model young men and we all were his friends. Through all the months of his sickness he bore his suffering with the true spirit of christian fortitude. He expressed himself as desiring very much to live; but said that if God had work for him in heaven that he could do better than to live and serve Him here. He was willing to submit to God's will and was not afraid to go. He leaves his father, three sisters and three brothers and many friends to mourn his death. He will be missed in the community, the church and especially in his home for he was very devoted to his father and to his brothers and sisters. The family have the sympathy of the entire community. The funeral was conducted from the M. E. church at High Point Wednesday, May 17 at 2 o'clock. Interment in the Woodland-Lentz cemetery west of Woodland where his mother's body lies. Rev. J. G. Duling, his pastor, conducted the services.

Hutchinson—Coder.

Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, at the pleasant home of the bride's parents, Miss Irene Hutchinson and Floyd Coder were united in the bonds of matrimony. The ceremony took place in the presence of the immediate relatives of the bride and groom. Rev. Raoul R. Moser, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church, was the officiating clergyman. The ring ceremony was used in pronouncing them man and wife. Following congratulations an elaborate wedding breakfast was served.

The bride was becomingly attired in a beautiful dress of light silk. She carried bride's roses and lilies of the valley. The groom wore a suit of dark blue.

The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Hutchinson. She is a gifted and accomplished young woman who has endeared herself to many friends since making her home in Leon. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coder. He was born and raised in Leon and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Mr. and Mrs. Coder left on the noon train for a wedding tour of several days. They will visit St. Joe and other points in Missouri and Kansas. They will begin housekeeping in Leon, and will be at home to their friends after June 1st.

Mr. and Mrs. Coder have the best wishes of their many friends in Leon and vicinity for their future success and happiness.

Observed Mother's Day.

Leon, with nearly every other city of the United States, paid homage to mother's Sunday—Mother's Day, last Sunday, and many wore carnations in honor of mother, white for the dead and red for the living.

"Mother's Day" was originated by the late Miss Anna Jarvis of Philadelphia, in 1907. Miss Jarvis had invited a friend to spend the second Sunday in May with her, to commemorate the date of her mother's birthday.

On this date Miss Jarvis announced her plan for a national observance of "Mother's Day." The next year Miss Jarvis' propaganda had progressed so far that Philadelphia celebrated the day in church and home, although Miss Jarvis, when the day arrived, was too ill to participate in the celebration.

She had written thousands of letters to prominent men, ministers, educators and business men. She had said little about it, however, and her friends who did not realize the extent of her work were surprised at the wide observance of the first Mother's Day.

For Miss Jarvis had prevailed on Senator Burkett of Nebraska to introduce a resolution suggesting that the second Sunday in May be created a holiday in honor of mothers, and although other senators derided Senator Burkett when he spoke on the subject, the wires carried the news and many newspapers editorially praised the plan.

Since then governors of many states have issued proclamations asking their citizens to observe the day, and it has become a national day of praise to mother.

The white carnation was chosen as the flower for Mother's Day. Miss Jarvis said, because it grows in every part of the country and can readily be procured in early May.

Two Suffrage Questions.

We have heard a couple of questions in regard to the suffrage question discussed the past few days and we have looked up the matter and are prepared to answer them. The first, does it require a two-thirds vote or a majority vote to carry the proposition. The answer is that a majority of the votes is all that is required. The second was whether in case suffrage carried the ladies would vote at the general election this fall, and the answer is they will be entitled to vote if the suffrage amendment carries at the primary election in June.