

CITY COUNCIL MEETING.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AUTHORIZING ERECTION OF ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

Proposition to Build Fire Department Headquarters, City Office and City Prison on East Liberty Street Won Out by Narrow Margin—City Hall To be Discarded as Municipal Headquarters.

From the Daily Item, Jan. 27.

City council held a lengthy and important session last night—important in that a resolution was adopted committing the city to the plan to erect a new three story building on East Liberty street in which quarters will be provided for the fire department, offices of city officials, council chamber and city prison. The discussion of the plan was quite lengthy and exhaustive, all phases of the matter being reviewed in detail. A hard fight against the combination building was made by those who oppose the plan, but when the issue came to a test they lost out by one vote. As will be seen in the detailed report of the proceedings, the architects estimate that the cost of the proposed building will not exceed \$12,000, but as this estimate takes no account of the furniture, fixtures etc., it is apparent at a glance that the final cost of the proposed municipal building must of necessity involve an outlay considerably in excess of the estimate, assuming that a contract can be made for the construction of the building at a price within the architects estimate. It is an ambitious undertaking to which the city is committed, and while the judgment of a majority of council is worthy of great consideration and deference, there is still many and strong arguments to be urged against the plan, not the least of which is the financial condition of the city at present as a result of the cost of the sewerage system and the prospective condition in consequence of the abolition of the dispensary. Another objection is the emphatic opposition of the members of the volunteer fire department, who decidedly and outspokenly object to being quartered in a combination building containing the city prison. This objection on the part of the firemen is so decided that there is strong talk of the disbandment of the volunteer department if council persists in the plan.

Council met at 8 o'clock with all members present and was in session until after midnight.

Mr. Barnett for the Finance Committee reported approval of all claims referred to them except the claim of the First National Bank of \$104.50 for plumbing work in their offices, on which the advice of council was desired. The report was confirmed and the bank claim was referred to the Opera House Committee.

Messrs. T. H. Sidal and E. P. Rutledge appeared on appeal from sentence of the Recorder's Court for unnecessary blowing of steam whistles. They maintained that whistle blowing is necessary to notify their hands to come to work in starting and stopping work, and in shifting hands, and that managers of mills should be allowed to have whistles blown as they think necessary, although the ordinance forbids blowing to call hands. Alderman Stubbs and Wright were in favor of removing restrictions to the blowing of whistles. Alderman Ligon, R. F. Haynsworth and Finn thought it should be restricted to actual necessity. After full discussion the fines imposed by the Recorder were remitted and the matter was referred to the Police Committee for regulation.

Mr. Finn for the Committee of Public Works submitted report of the superintendent of streets, showing work accomplished in past two weeks and cost of same, which was \$337.15. Number of laborers, 33, number of carts 9. Four of the mules were driving the road machine one day.

Mr. Ligon for committee submitted reports of lights not burning in December and reports of police work for December, showing 99 arrests, \$304.75 fines and 390 days on the chain-gangs.

Mr. Bultman for the Opera House Committee reported lights installed on fire escape and boiler room at a cost of \$5 which was approved. Mr. Finn was authorized to substitute cartridge fuses for link fuses in switch board for opera house.

Mr. Stubbs for the Railroad Committee, reported that the railroad company would provide the necessary earth and cinders to grade the crossings on East Liberty and South Hargy streets. The city to do the hauling.

Mr. Ligon reminded council that the contract for lighting streets will expire next October and moved that an advertisement be inserted in the Manufacturers Record for bids on a new contract. And it was so ordered.

On motion of Mr. Ligon a resolution was adopted requesting the legislative representatives from Sumter County to enact a law, whereby property owners may be required to bear half the cost of sidewalk and street paving.

On Mr. Ligon's motion, it was ordered that the garbage carts be provided with larger bodies or racks.

On motion of Mr. Stubbs, the chief of police was directed to require public vehicles to be provided with lights on which their numbers shall be printed.

Mr. Finn for the Police and Fire Department Committees recommended that sketches of both the fire and consolidated house be obtained and also estimates for building same. And that council immediately enter into negotiations for the purchase of a steam fire engine and hook and ladder truck. Mr. Finn also submitted plans for a two story fire station at a cost estimated from \$7,936 to \$9,000. And for a combination fire station, police station, and city offices, three stories, to cost about \$12,963. Mr. H. C. Haynsworth moved that the matter be referred back to the committee, with instructions that a fire station only be designed. Mr. Wright moved as a substitute, that the matter be referred back for the committee to decide what is wanted and report to council. Mr. Wright's motion prevailed. Messrs. Wm. Dunne, Johnson and Eason, architects, were present and explained the several plans prepared by them. Mr. Ligon suggested that council should decide upon the kind of building to be erected and moved that the combination building be adopted and his motion was carried. Messrs. P. P. Finn, R. F. Haynsworth, J. R. Ligon, R. L. Wright and the mayor voting for the motion. Messrs. E. D. Barnett, Wm. Bultman, H. C. Haynsworth and W. G. Stubbs, voting against it.

Mr. H. C. Haynsworth then moved that council select an architect. This motion was adopted. Messrs. Dunne, Eason and Johnson were nominated. The vote resulted in favor of Mr. Johnson. Mr. H. C. Haynsworth moved that a building committee be appointed, consisting of the mayor and three aldermen. This motion was adopted. The mayor asked for time in which to appoint the committee, which request was granted.

GROWTH OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Nearly 23,000,000 Children Are Now Studying the Bible.

Whether in city or country, housed in its own magnificent building or pinning in a dilapidated mountain shack, with thousands of children or with barely a baker's dozen, the Sunday school is today considered the strategic centre of the great church militant. The Sunday schools of the United States alone are attended by about 11,500,000 pupils and 1,500,000 teachers. Given a voice in affairs of church or state, this would represent no mean influence. The latest statistics of the Sunday schools of the world show 22,729,323 little Christians working their way through the grades of Bible study, learning the needs of the mission field and being graduated into church membership.

BACON SECRETARY OF STATE.

Successor to Root Confirmed by Senate and Sworn in as a Cabinet Officer.

Washington, Jan. 27.—The senate today confirmed the nominations of Robert Bacon to be secretary of state and John Callen O'Laughlin to be assistant secretary of state. The nominations were acted upon by the committee on foreign relations today and were unanimously reported.

Mr. Bacon took the oath of office late today.

Mr. O'Laughlin will take the oath of office tomorrow morning.

COTTON EXPERTS TO MEET.

Secretary Wilson Announces Personnel of Classification Committee.

Washington, Jan. 28.—The personnel of the committee of expert cotton classifiers which will meet here on February 1 to establish an official standard for the various grades of cotton, in conformity with an Act of congress, was announced today by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson as follows:

James A. Aalrey, New Orleans, La.; J. S. Akers, Atlanta, Ga.; Clinton B. Baker, Lowell, Mass.; F. M. Crump, Memphis, Tenn.; John Martin, Paris, Texas; George W. Neville, New York City; Lewis W. Parker, Greenville, S. C.; Nathaniel Thayer, Boston, Mass., and Chas. A. Vedder, Galveston, Texas.

The committee will be assisted in the actual preparation of the official grade by Jules Mazerat, of New Orleans; F. C. Millett, of New York, and James R. Taylor, Dallas, Texas.

"The committee, composed of leading members of cotton firms in various parts of the country," says the secretary, "is serving without compensation, generously giving its services for the benefit of the entire cotton industry."

Every time a woman changes her mind she also alters her views.

PANAMA FRAUD EXPOSED.

SENSATIONAL CHARGES AGAINST CROMWELL AND ROOSEVELT ADMINISTRATION.

Congressman Rainey Declares That Present Administration and Next President Have Aided in Railroad Fraud in Central America.

Washington, Jan. 26.—Charging that William Nelson Cromwell, Roger L. Farnham, Charles P. Taft and others are parties to the "most infamous railroad proposition ever submitted to any government," and that they "are being permitted not only to rob the republic of Panama but indirectly the treasury of the United States," Representative Rainey of Illinois today directed the searchlight of publicity upon affairs in the canal zone in a startling speech in support of his resolution providing for an investigation by congress of the Panama canal purchase. "In their efforts in this direction," he continued, "they have had so far the complete cooperation and active assistance of the present administration and of the next president of the United States."

Mr. Rainey traced the history of the proposed canal 400 years back and warned that we have already started in the direction of the rocks upon which the French companies were wrecked.

Referring to the government's libel suit against the New York World and the grand jury investigations now in progress in this city and in New York, Mr. Rainey said:

"If we are to carry this project through to a successful conclusion, we must avoid graft. It is not the part of wise statesmanship to dispose of resolutions asking for an investigation of any phase of the canal question with the sweeping and absolutely unsupported official declaration that there is nothing to investigate. It is not the part of sound statesmanship and true patriotism to attempt to revive the obsolete common law remedies of 200 years ago and to employ all the tremendous agencies of the government in attempting to crush newspapers which have had the courage to call attention to a questionable transaction in connection with the canal."

He submitted for record various papers and documents in support of many allegations contained in the speech.

Mr. Rainey was particularly bitter in his denunciation of Mr. Cromwell, general counsel for the New French Panama Canal Company and counsel and a director of the Panama railroad, which is owned by the United States government. He charged that "through the manipulations of Mr. Cromwell the French canal company was permitted to steal from the United States government \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000" and that after he "had become an officer in fact of the United States, he became a party to an attempt to collect from the United States a fraudulent claim on the part of the canal company of \$2,200,000."

He also was unsparring in his attack upon Don Jose Domingo De Obaldia, president of Panama, who, he said, represented "as no other Spanish-American statesman in his generation all that is corrupt in Spanish-American politics."

"Without Obaldia," he stated, "Cromwell's career would have been impossible. Without Cromwell, Obaldia would have been impossible."

Against President-elect Taft, now en route to the canal zone, Mr. Rainey directed the accusation that on the occasion of his last trip to Panama in May "he did nothing on the isthmus except to openly push the candidacy of Obaldia for the presidency." He asserted that a very thinly veiled threat to seize the republic if Obaldia was not elected was contained in a letter written by Mr. Taft to the then President Amador and that to prevent this, Arias, Obaldia's opponent, withdrew.

Reference to President Roosevelt's recent attack on Senator Tillman was made by Mr. Rainey in asserting that Senator Lodge of Massachusetts was responsible for the expenditure on January 1, last, of over \$1,000,000 for the purchase of the steamships Shawmut and Tremont for the Panama Railroad company, which the canal commission did not want and did not need, but which were bought because "the constituents of the senior senator from Massachusetts wanted to sell them." He said: "For some weeks the secret agencies of the government had been at work investigating the senior senator from South Carolina. They have discovered that he used his frank inadvertently in private correspondence, and so deprived the government of revenue to the amount of 2 cents, and the matter was considered important enough to be embodied in a special message from the president to congress. The senior senator from Massachusetts, I believe, is still invited to the White House dinners, is the president's friend and adviser and the cabinet maker for the incoming president. I have not heard of any secret service agents disturbing the senior senator from Massachusetts

and yet he is directly, individually and solely responsible that there was taken out of the treasury of the United States over \$1,000,000."

"A year or two after the independence of Panama," continued Mr. Rainey, "the officials of the little republic commenced to absorb ideas of patriotism peculiarly distasteful to Mr. Cromwell. Mr. Cromwell determined to displace Dr. Amador and the other leaders of the Constitutional party of Panama and put in as president some more pliant personage, less devoted to high ideas and, of course, in such an emergency as that his attention was directed to his old friend and ally, Obaldia. He was a man after Cromwell's own heart. So it was determined that Obaldia was to become president of Panama. Cromwell and his friends had developed certain methods for despoiling and robbing the little country, and they did not propose to be interrupted in any way by the awakened public patriotism and honesty of Dr. Amador and his friends."

"Subsequently," he said, "Obaldia's opponent withdrew on account of the interference of Secretary Taft in the elections and Obaldia was elected. In President Amador's farewell message to the general assembly," said Mr. Rainey, "he directly charged Mr. Taft with forcing the election of Obaldia."

"The plan of Mr. Cromwell and his associates," he declared, was to "absolutely appropriate to their own use the revenues of the republic and to steal the forests and the public lands. The necessity for Mr. Taft's interference and for the election of Obaldia becomes now as plain as day."

Mr. Rainey referred to the fact that there was pending and about to be adopted in the general assembly of Panama, "the most infamous railroad proposition ever submitted to any government," by which Randolph G. Ward of New York was to be largely the beneficiary. He called attention to what he said was the failure of Arnold Shanklin, the American consul general at Panama, to make a report requested by the bureau of forestry last year because "he evidently feels he owes his position there to William Nelson Cromwell," and charged that certain interested parties were seeking to levy tribute upon the people of Panama and indirectly the people of the United States in connection with these timber land deals.

"It will be interesting to know who the gentlemen are who are attempting this in a way to impoverish the republic of Panama," he said, and he mentioned William Nelson Cromwell, Roger T. Farnham, W. S. Harvey and Charles P. Taft.

"Since the election of last November," he continued, "under the shadow of the dome of the capitol a bread line appears daily, constantly increasing in length. If we permit the scheme of William Nelson Cromwell, Roger T. Farnham, Charles P. Taft and others to go through on the isthmus of Panama, this government will have there a bread line containing 400,000 people." If we "permit these men who are attempting to steal and to appropriate to their own use the revenues of this republic," we place upon the United States the burden of caring for those people, he said.

"I do not charge that the gentleman who will be inaugurated president of the United States on March 4 is a party to this infamous scheme for robbing this little country. His friendship for Cromwell, Farnham and E. A. Drake, as members of the board of directors of the Panama railroad, his continued indorsements of both Cromwell and Farnham, his interference on the isthmus of Panama, which compelled the election of a corrupt statesman, absolutely under the control of Cromwell, as president of that republic, all these things and other things for which the present administration is responsible made possible the signing of a contract by Obaldia which may bring to the gentlemen interested therein riches beyond the dreams of avarice. It will not be long if this scheme goes through, before the campaign contributions made by some of the gentlemen interested in this enterprise will be returned a hundred fold."

Mr. Rainey charged that Mr. Cromwell and Mr. Farnham have been actively engaged here for two or three weeks prompting treaties affecting Colombia and Panama, pending before the senate. He said that if the plans of Mr. Cromwell and his associates go through, and if these treaties are confirmed, there will be no revenues in Panama out of which to pay the \$1,000,000, or more, indemnity to Colombia, payment of which is guaranteed by this country.

"The United States government will be called upon to pay it all," he predicted, "and if these plans for the spoliation of Panama proceed to a successful conclusion, it will not be long until immense burdens of a different character connected with Panama will be imposed upon our treasury."

"These patriotic gentlemen," said Mr. Rainey, in conclusion, "therefore are being permitted not only to rob the republic of Panama, but indirectly to rob the treasury of the United States and in their efforts in this di-

Protection For Public Grounds.

Editor Item:

At a recent meeting of the County Board, the preceding of which appeared in your columns, it was resolved to beautify the grounds, and in accordance with this resolution the County Supervisor and Clerk of the Court were instructed to have the work done. The offer of the writer to supervise the work was also accepted. The work of arranging the grounds will begin this week and be pressed forward as rapidly as is possible with works of this kind.

It is concerning this work that the writer wishes to make a few suggestions in regard to the duty of the people in reference to it, which suggestions, he trusts will meet the approval of all who take any pride in the city and who would like to see its public places made as beautiful as possible. The county authorities propose to beautify the grounds surrounding the Court House, without asking any financial assistance from the city or from any private citizen, but in doing this they have a right to expect that the police and citizens generally will give all possible assistance in the way of protecting the plants and flowers, that will be planted. For unless this be done it is well nigh useless to attempt the work of improving the grounds. Ever since the grounds have been turned over to the County it has been the custom for everyone, who feel like it, to gather as many flowers as they wanted, and this inexcusable custom has resulted in very serious damage to some of the plants. There are two large Japonica shrubs on the grounds and these have been badly mutilated by children breaking off the branches. These plants grow very slowly and when the blooms are removed they should have very little stem taken off, or otherwise, they are badly injured. On Sunday afternoon the writer saw two little boys with a quantity of blooms, to which were attached from 12 to 18 inches of the branch.

It is perfectly obvious that if we are to look for any beauty on the Court House grounds that this practice must stop, and it is clearly the duty of parents to prohibit their children from taking flowers from any public place. To do this is really more reprehensible than to take them from private gardens, for the reason that the owners can take better care of them than it is possible to do with public grounds. To this rule, that the flowers in public places are not to be gathered, there should be no exception, for the reason that if the privilege is accorded to one person it must be given to all. In 1893 while the writer was at the Exposition in Chicago he spent a part of one day in one of the beautiful parks that make this great city so attractive. There were great beds of beautiful and truly gorgeous flowers, and while children were playing on the grass, and all classes of people strolling about the flowers were untouched, every one, even the children, seeming to understand that they must not be disturbed. It is a very common practice in some places to even take flowers from the cemeteries, but the writer has never heard of anything of this kind in Sumter.

While writing on this subject the writer begs to direct attention to another inexcusable annoyance to which those who cultivate flowers are exposed, and that is the practice, on the part of a great many people of allowing their chickens to run at large. Nothing is more exasperating than to have a fine seed or flower bed ruined by chickens, and yet it is a very common occurrence; so common as to deter a great many people from planting either vegetables or flowers. Horses, cattle and hogs are not allowed to run at large and the same rule ought to apply to chickens. The person who knowingly allows his chickens to invade the garden of his neighbor deserves just as much censure as if he were to pull the flowers himself; in fact it would not be quite so bad for him to make the raid as he would leave something, whereas the chickens make a clean sweep of everything. If the city council would pass an ordinance requiring people to keep their chickens confined to their own premises, it would enable a great many, who now find it impossible to cultivate flowers, and in addition to this make it possible to remove a great many unsightly fences. One of the writer's lady friends told him, just a day or two ago, that she had a high wire fence to keep her chickens confined, yet despite this her flowers were often ruined by the chickens of her neighbors.

W. D. WOODS.

The uncommon opportunities for heroism are often in the common duties of life.

rection they have had so far the complete cooperation and the active assistance of the present administration and of the next president of the United States."

From the very outset of his remarks Mr. Rainey claimed the absolute attention of the house and he was frequently applauded.

FARM LOANED THE STATE.

DEMONSTRATION WORK ON EXTENSIVE SCALE PROJECTED.

Mr. Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., Pays 5,000-Acre Plantation in Aiken at Disposal of Agricultural Commissioner Watson and the Federal Authorities for Demonstration Purposes.

Columbia, Jan. 26.—Last night Commissioner Watson and Prof. Ira Williams, in charge of the United States farm demonstration work in South Carolina, returned to the city, after having appeared before Mr. Taft in Charleston, and having spent Monday with Mr. Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., at Aiken. A short time ago Mr. Hitchcock wrote Mr. Watson saying that he owned an extensive estate in Aiken county; that he was anxious to make it of some value to South Carolina farmers; that he wanted to invoke the aid of the Federal and State Governments in the matter of the direction of operations upon this extensive property, and that he was willing to meet all the expenses necessary to make this a farm that would be an educational agency in that part of the State.

Mr. Watson immediately accepted Mr. Hitchcock's invitation, realizing that such a farm conducted upon such a scale meant much to the people of this State. Mr. Watson immediately realized that this was a proposition well worth his closest attention, and Mr. Williams was likewise interested. Just as soon as these officials were through with Mr. Taft in Charleston, they went to Aiken and had a full conference with Mr. Hitchcock, going over the 5,000-acre plantation that Mr. Hitchcock has bought there. The result of the conference will be that the United States Government will immediately undertake to put in operation on Mr. Hitchcock's place a series of practical demonstrations intended to be of value to the farmers of the surrounding country, that have not been excelled in any given locality in this country. The visitors found Mr. Hitchcock thoroughly aroused on the subject, and returned to Columbia feeling that they had discovered a situation that meant more to the future of the sand hill country in this State than anything that had developed in the last decade.

The gentlemen representing the State and the Federal Government, who went to Aiken, were much impressed by Mr. Hitchcock's sincerity in this matter, and express their belief that they will be able through Mr. Hitchcock's offer to inaugurate maintain a work of far more value to the agricultural interest of the State than any other line of work now being prosecuted.

The offer of Mr. Hitchcock undoubtedly marks an advance in the cause of intelligent agriculture, and if what is proposed does not obtain results that both Messrs. Williams and Williams and Watson expect it will not be their fault. They will leave no stone unturned to make the experiment a conspicuous one from the standpoint of results. Mr. Watson said today that he regarded this whole matter as something of more real import to the cause of agriculture than almost anything that had come his way since he had been in office.

HOUSE FAVORS SILVER SERVICE.

Columbia, Jan. 27.—In the house yesterday a favorable report was made on the resolution introduced by Mr. Bryan of Charleston, providing for the purchase of a suitable silver service for the battleship South Carolina. The resolution appropriates \$6,000 for this service and it is not thought that there will be any opposition from either house.

The house and senate met in joint session at noon for about two minutes to announce the result of the separate ballot the day previous for the election of E. D. Smith as United States senator. This formality being complied with, Mr. Smith is now the junior senator from South Carolina and will assume office in March.

Senator Tillman's Bad Break.

"When Mr. Tillman talks about being prepared for 'even the knife of the assassin,' he descends to tommy-rot. Character assassins do not use knives. The pen is their favorite weapon," says the Philadelphia Record. No one believes that Senator Tillman intended to convey the idea that President Roosevelt would attempt to use the knife upon him; the senator, no doubt, merely meant that he was ready for those who might descend to such depths.—Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

Hexamethylenetetramine.

*The above is the name of a German chemical, which is one of the many valuable ingredients of Foley's Kidney Remedy. Hexamethylenetetramine is recognized by medical text books and authorities as a uric acid solvent and antiseptic for the urine. Take Foley's Kidney Remedy as soon as you notice any irregularities, and avoid a serious malady. W. W. Sibley.