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OBSERVE 98TH ANNIVERSARY OF ODDFELLOWSHIP

Iredell Meares, Esq., Makes Eloquent Address on "The War of Peace."

The several lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows celebrated the 98th anniversary of the founding of this order with special exercises in their hall at Third and Princess streets Thursday night at 8.30 o'clock.

"We are on the eve of a smashing of the traditional shackles which have handcuffed the thought and action of the world for ages," declared Iredell Meares, Esq., in an address on "The War of Peace."

"We are breaking through the forest to an open field of world democracy. Kings and queens, czars and kaisers, emperors and mikados, must go. Our world will be better; its people happier. We shall yet appreciate and obey, in all its fullness, the divine mandate to love God with all our hearts and soul and mind and our neighbor as ourselves."

A number of selections were rendered by the High School Orchestra, which were followed by an opening prayer by Rev. Dr. A. D. McClure. Mr. S. F. Garrison read the proclamation, and the medal for 50 years' faithful service in Odd Fellowship was presented to Mr. John H. Strauss by Emmett H. Bellamy, Esq.

A very interesting history of Wilmington Lodge for 25 years was read by Wm. C. Smith.

Pleasing features of the evening were citations Misses Fannie Sullivan and Dorothy Boon, and by Master Alexander Boon.

Regular Election on Tuesday.

The regular city election will be held on Tuesday and as there are not many candidates to be voted for there is but little interest in the election. The following are the officers to be voted for:

First Ward—For Councilman: W. A. Sue and L. L. Shepherd.

Fourth Ward—For Councilman: Jas. M. Hall. (No opposition.)

Sixth Ward—For Councilman: Councilman McCaig. (No opposition.)

For Mayor—P. Q. Moore. (No opposition.)

At the same time you vote for city officers you will have the Free Sites Proposition to vote for, which we believe to be a very important matter for our city as it will offer to investors in industries free sites, which will make for greater employment and greater circulation of coin in our section, and absolutely will not cost our citizens one cent in taxes. Study the proposition, fellow-citizens, and cast your vote for free sites, for in so doing you are aiding in bringing about better conditions for working people of Wilmington.

Funeral of Mrs. M. E. McGarrity.

The funeral of Mrs. M. E. McGarrity was conducted from the Church of the Good Shepherd Monday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. W. R. Noe. Mrs. McGarrity was a consistent Christian woman and was much-beloved by all who knew her because of her amiable disposition and purity of character.

The remains were buried in Bellevue cemetery. The following gentlemen serving as pallbearers: J. H. Burriss, Lawrence Kure, John J. Eurlong, K. W. Jewell, E. Poetzelt and John W. Fredericks.

BRITISH AGAIN BEGIN TO FORGE FORWARD IN BATTLE.

ASSAULTS OF HORDES OF TEUTONS REPELLED—FOUR DAYS' BATTLE OF TEUTONS FAILS.

Military Critics Expect Attacks Will Be Renewed—Germans Fighting Desperately to Obtain Positions of Importance—Economic Conditions in Germany Are Serious.

After withstanding all the violent attempts of the Germans to drive them from the commanding positions they have taken on the Arras battlefield, the British have again begun to forge ahead, yesterday's reports showing advances of British troops in two of the most important sectors of the front.

On the two and one-half mile line between Roeux and Gavrelle important positions have been captured, driving still further the wedge into the German lines. Similar inroads have been made in the German defense system in Monchy-Guemappe region near the Arras-Cambrai road.

The French armies along the Aisne front are also employing their infantry to good effect. Gains of ground in the Hurtebise region, where German possession of Craonne is being menaced, are reported from Paris. The French position near Cerny, west of the Vauclare plateau, also have advanced near Moronvilliers and elsewhere in the Champagne.

The British campaign in Mesopotamia continues with marked progress. General Maude has followed the Turks northward from Samara, from which they have retired several miles, and now reports the British in touch with them along the foothills of the range between the Diala and the Tigris, where they are intrenching.

Suit against the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company for the recovery of penalties totaling \$48,500 for 97 alleged violations of the Federal Hours of Service Law, was filed in the local United States Federal Court yesterday by District Attorney J. O. Carr, for the United States government. The cases will not be tried until the fall term. The case was worked up by government inspectors.

GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, MAY 1st.

Free Factory Sites Proposition to be Voted On—Proposition, if Carried, Will Absolutely Cause No Increase in Taxes.

Ten Reasons Why Wilmington Should Offer Free Factory Sites:

- 1.—Because the offer will induce manufacturers to invest in our city and thereby create more employment for our working men and women.
- 2.—Because it will give an increased circulation of money which will stimulate business generally.
- 3.—Because the number of payrolls of the workers of the city and vicinity will be greatly augmented and thereby enable them to give greater support to our religious, educational, social and other institutions.
- 4.—Because it will show to the industrial world that the citizens of Wilmington are a thrifty, progressive community.
- 5.—Because it will increase the amount of taxable property (in due time) and thereby reduce the burden of other investors proportionately.
- 6.—Because, if Wilmington continues to lag as she has for years, in industrial progress, the population will be gradually weaned to more prosperous sections.
- 7.—Because, if we do not take advantage of this opportunity to boost our city we will virtually declare to the world that we do not wish to progress.
- 8.—Because it will not cause an increase in taxation.
- 9.—Because it will sustain itself by selling enough of the plot of land purchased to defray the whole expense.
- 10.—Because it means a better Wilmington; a bigger Wilmington and a Wilmington that offers opportunity to its merchants, workmen and professional men to progress with the growth of industry; and because every citizen should boost, buy and trade in Wilmington.

SHE PLAYS HER PART VERY WELL.

Florence Davidson Has a Line on Negro Convict.

"It's the Man With the Cap, Doctor, Take Him Away," She Cries, As He Is Put on Parade Once More.

The corner's jury, after several days recess has reconvened, this time deciding to go to the hospital to hear Florence Davidson give the same statement that has been dished out by her attendants and physicians as coming from her in their testimony before the jury in the early stages of the investigation, which has been published repeatedly by the daily press.

After examination of the witness was concluded a "ruse" was attempted in which three negroes were brought before the Davidson woman for identification as the slayer of Walton and her assailant on the night of the tragedy. She failed on the whole outfit to find the man, but when the sheriff shows up with the negro Johnston, who seems to have been selected to throw the responsibility of this murder upon, and who has been paraded before her enough that she should know him from other negroes, she immediately cries out "That's him, doctor, the one with the cap, behind the other one, Oh, my God, take him away," and shrieked, "Neal, Neal!" and fades away in stifling sobs on the doctor's shoulder.

All this is said to have had its effect on the jury as being very pathetic, but when the fact that the trusted keepers of the county stockade swear Johnston was in his cell at the time of the murder is presented in rebuttal it puts it all to naught.

There's a "negro in the woodpile," gentlemen, but the county superintendent of roads has no control of said woodpile.

If kept in pure atmosphere a while it is probable the Davidson woman will get the proper "scent" and "hit a new trail."

Rotarians Boosting Free Sites Proposition.

Tonight at 8 o'clock the Rotary Club will hold an open air meeting at Front and Market streets, for the purpose of discussing the merits of the Free Sites Proposition, which is to be voted on at Tuesday's election. Following this meeting there will be a similar meeting at Front and Chestnut streets at 8.30 p. m. Every citizen should be interested in this matter as it promises much for our city, and absolutely will not burden the taxpayer. Be on hand and get the "straight goods" handed out by the Rotarians. In an article on this page appears an article with ten reasons why the citizens of Wilmington should offer free factory sites. Read them and we believe you can see that the proposition deserves the support of every progressive citizen.