

# EVENING STAR

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## GRADUATING EXERCISES

The graduating exercises of the Ocala High School class last night at the Baptist church aroused an interest in that institution that was indeed gratifying. The crowded house demonstrated anew the deep interest the patrons and friends have in our local university. The church was literally jammed to the doors and the anxious crowd stood out on the sidewalk to try to listen.

The ushers, Messrs. Marion Pelot, Phil Robinson, Clarence Meffert, R. L. Anderson, Jr., Holmes Walters and Carlisle Izlar, were kept on the keen jump devising means to get more seats and seat more people until what a standing room left them guardians on the steps of the church.

The scene within the building was one to interest and inspire. The ladies and children were there in force, even to several mothers with babes in arms, who behaved admirably. The ferns and flowers on the elevated platform, the bright look of expectancy on every face, the friendly greetings and social commingling of the audience made a picture that it is indeed a pleasure to dwell upon. The program as published in last evening's paper was carried out to the letter, except in the presentation of the gold medal, Rev. C. C. Carroll was detained at home by sickness and Dr. W. H. Dodge was substituted. The singing by the pupils of the school was fine. All those on the program acquitted themselves handsomely and won much applause, while the five graduates, Messrs. Ralph Robinson, Lawrence Price and Misses Annie Atkinson, Genevieve Smith and Mary Gates were literally overburdened with presents and bouquets.

### Program

- Invocation—Rev. G. H. Harrison.
- Piano solo, "Waltz Concert" (Weinlawski)—Jean Teague.
- Oration, "The American Indian"—Ralph Robinson.
- Chorus, "Morning Invitation"—(Veazie).
- Essay, "Forestry"—Annie Atkinson.
- Piano solo. (a) "The Flatterer" (b) "The Fauns" (Chaminade)—Ellen Clarkson.
- Recitation, "The Painter of Seville"—Mary Gates.
- "Class History and Prophecy"—Genevieve Smith.
- Violin solo, "Cavatine" (M. Meyerbeer)—Robert Clarkson.
- Address—Dr. Andrew Sledd.
- Chorus, "The Kerry Dance"—(Malloy).
- Presentation of Diplomas—Mr. Isaac Stevens.
- Piano solo, Waltz (Moscowski)—Sara Davis.
- Presentation of medal—Rev. W. H. Dodge.

Judge W. S. Bullock presided most acceptably and made a few pertinent remarks on the importance of the public school to the common good. He referred to the fact that in the days of long ago Ocala was deemed an educational center, the East Florida Seminary being then located here, but public indifference concurrent with reconstruction times caused it to be razed away for \$5,000 and Gainesville secured the rich prize, which fostered a spirit of education and public pride that finally won for that beautiful and model town the state university, over which Dr. Andrew Sledd so ably presides and who was on the program for an address on "Public Education a Public Trust."

Judge Bullock, in introducing the first speaker, Ralph Robinson, whose oration "The American Indian" appears elsewhere, facetiously referred to the fact that they too, had been boys in Ocala and that their fathers had fought the Indians on these very grounds, which was almost literally true so far as it referred to Judge Bullock's father, the late General Bullock, who in his day was a model Indian fighter, while the forefathers of Mr. Geo. K. Robinson no doubt did valiant service in making good Indians in Rhode Island.

Dr. Andrew Sledd began his address very humorously by remarking that as there was no limit set to his address and there was four hours and a half before the departure of his train, the little ones could fall asleep and cry and it in no wise would inconvenience him. In substance this eloquent orator said there was no question about the school trust and its uses. He first spoke of the amount of money collected for school purposes and those using it. He said there were four hundred millions of dollars expended every year in the United States for education. He then told what an immense monument this amount of money would make if piled dollar on top of dollar and that it would take a bank teller twenty-five years to count it all at the rate of 100 a minute. He showed how every person in this land was intensely interested in this educational proposition and that eighteen million people were directly interested because they constituted the school force of our land. The character of the youth of the country was bound up in the success or failure of this paramount public institution.

He said the walls of Sparta hung on the spears of its youth, and the men and women of this land of ours today determine the efficiency of our civilization as it was graded from our public schools. The upper or higher institutions of learning are doing little for the general public by comparison with the results obtained by our public or common schools, for these are our true institutions of learning. Of the eighteen million school children only two million are taught in private schools and the percentage in the latter is growing smaller year by year. The public instruction of our youth is the hope of the nation. There is only one pupil in eight who attends a private school, and in making this statement it was in no sense a reflection on this mode of instruction, but showing the worth of the public institution.

Democracy had not yet vindicated its completeness while the public school has shown its worth and potency. In the consideration of government in all its ramifications good citizenship was only an incident in its growth and development. He then showed plainly how perverted was our process of education, when forty per cent of our people were engaged in agricultural pursuits. Yet about all our education was the opposite of teaching our people the uses, properties and conditions and appliances to the soil. Properly speaking four per cent of our people were engaged in professional work of various kinds, while thirty-five per cent were distinctly agricultural. In the state of Florida forty-four per cent devoted their lives to agricultural pursuits and three and a half per cent to professional, yet in all this preparation for a life's vocation, there was only one institution that taught scientific agriculture.

In our high schools a hundred hours a year were devoted to classics and not a moment to imparting agricultural information. He deemed this kind of education a misnomer or misfit. This kind of education went on the assurance that one style of coat or pants would conform to every form in the land and yet the mere thought of it shows its abnormal absurdity.

He said his years of experience demonstrated to him that Latin learned in a high school course was almost a total waste of time. He admitted it conduced to some mental training, but was not of enough benefit for the time devoted to the study.

He laid great emphasis on the fact that school trustees should make their schools to the uses of the community. He also laid much stress on the fact that moral conviction is a prerequisite of good citizenship. All education that fails to lay this down as a maxim and fundamental principle is a failure in real results to good citizenship. In illustration of this phrase of his subject he instanced the lives of Aaron Burr and John Marshall. Probably Burr was the superior of Marshall in natural acquirments, but his perverted life uncontrolled by moral ties and convictions of duty to all was a miserable failure, while Marshall living in the doctrine of the golden rule lived a life of usefulness and power to his country. A strong moral purpose in life ever seeks an end worthy of the living. The greatest men of all ages were born and bred in a moral purpose.

He said the greatest menace of the present day was the superficial—or living on the surface—and here came the greatest task of the teacher to shape the lives of his pupils. The speaker did not have much faith in preaching, but all power lay in practice. He didn't wish to rail at wealth but there was something radically wrong in our land and government, when in the great city of New York a poor woman worked seventeen hours a day and seven days a week to earn barely enough to feed seven orphans, while several blocks away a woman spent \$500 in the adornment of her pet dog and \$5,000 on a garment. When our institutions and laws enabled a Carnegie to amass enough wealth and give it away that was equal to all the wealth of real estate and person property in the state of Florida, there was something radically wrong somewhere.

He took up the immigration question. He said one trouble lay with our educated men. They do not do their duty as citizens. In the language of Kossaath, when he visited this country years ago, who saw at a glance that people prefer their personal interests to public duty. He closed his magnificent address by presenting the almost perfect man in the person of Robert E. Lee, whose highest personal obligation was duty, who said after Appomatox, a human virtue shall equal human calamity, and in his own person and life he exemplified these grand, noble and heroic sentiments. A gentleman in the audience said the address of Dr. Sledd was the grandest thing ever spoken in that building.

Mr. Isaac Stevens as chairman of the board of public instruction of Marion county, then in a few appropriate words, presented the diplomas to the graduates, prefacing his remarks with words in the text used by Dr. W. H. Dodge in preaching the commencement sermon, "think of these things." He said we had one of the best schools in the state and he urged the graduates to not rest now but press on to higher and greater attainments.

Dr. Dodge then announced the names of the merit pupils. Carl Lytle, of Stanton, received honorable mention with a record of 95 to his credit and Robert Anderson 94, while Ellen Clarkson scores 96-833.2064 and the medal winner was Helen Brown, the studious, diligent and persevering daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jake Brown, who won the trophy with an average in scholarship of 96-1016.2064, which

was received with a burst of applause, as she won the medal last year with equal scholastic brilliancy 96-57.60. Dr. Dodge said in presenting the beautiful trophy, "You seem a mettlesome girl, as you won the medal last year."

The benediction followed, but not before Judge Bullock said our people would be called on for private subscription to erect the primary department building in the second ward. After the audience was dismissed the church was crowded with friends and well wishers to congratulate the graduates and Dr. Sledd on his address.

Mrs. D. E. McIver played the accompaniment to the singing of the school. Those seated on the stage were Revs. Harrison, Dodge, Barnett, Trustees W. T. Gary, Isaac Stevens and Geo. W. Martin, Dr. Sledd, Judge Bullock, Principal Workman and the graduates.

The first three middle seats of the church were set aside for the teachers and those who participated in the musical program. It was deeply regretted that Lawrence Price from Citrus county, one of the graduates, was taken sick a month before school closed and confined in the hospital and in consequence was unable to win the gold medal, as his standing up to his illness was 97, and his physical condition to weak to prepare an oration, for which he is well qualified in scholarship. One thing is certain Mr. Price has the respect and love of every pupil and teacher in the school, won by his high sense of manhood and quiet, gracious manner. It was an eventful evening and intensely enjoyable to all. It was 11 o'clock when the audience dispersed.

## MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Marion County Democratic Executive Committee met this morning in the city council chamber and was called to order by Chairman John M. Graham. The following committee-men were present:

Jack McCully, J. A. Freeman, Tom Pritchett, Graham, Fort McCoy, proxy for J. W. Steveris, Lee Grantham, Sparr, Charley Lucius, Levon, Will Nix, D. A. Clark, M. L. Payne, D. R. Zetrouer, Drew Mathews, Flemington, Hickson, McIntosh, New Williamson, Lake Kerr, Judge Wynne, Eastlake, proxy for W. Allsop, J. W. Jordan, Orange Springs and Jordan, Heideville, Jim Hudgens, Joe Davis, Dr. Snow, Clarence Smith, Mr. Forbes, Anthony, Andrew White, Citra, representing W. J. Crosby, and Will Henderson. Drew Mathews was made secretary and the work began.

The chairman stated that in precinct 30, Gallipeau and Ausley ran for committeeman and the latter's name was written on the ballot, also the case of Luffman vs. Grantham for justice of the peace. It seems the committeemen paid no nomination fee and the justice did. On motion of Jim Hudgens the face of the returns as printed count. Carried. M. L. Payne moved a committee of five be named to tabulate the returns at 12 o'clock, also that two official reports of the returns be made out for the press of Ocala and the maker be paid for same. Payne said he believed in publicity and it was the least the executive committee could do was to favor the press to this extent. He said he had every return of primary election from the day it was inaugurated.

Clarence Smith of Weir Park, opposed Payne's resolution, insisting the work should not be put on a few but all of the committee should bear the burden. All are paid and all should stay and do their duty to see that no injustice be done to any candidate, however small his interests. He believed in all working, instead of a few leaving the others to saunter around town and enjoy themselves.

Payne replied and resented the imputation of the committee for fairness and honesty to every candidate. He made a grandiloquent speech and the rafters of the city hall fairly rattled with his profound eloquence, relating the unique history that he had been a committeeman from his district since 1876 to the present time. He was not mercenary. He would serve without pay and let his salary go to charity. He said he didn't need it as he left the plow handles in corn twenty-five feet high, to attend the meeting. A standing vote was called and Payne's mo-

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tion prevailed. The chair appointed the following tellers or committee to count: McCully, Zetrouer, Payne, Joe Davis and Lee Grantham. Payne declined in favor of Clarence Smith but all shouted no, and he took up the burden.

There were several irregularities in returns of several precincts in matter of tally sheets but it was quickly corrected and the count began at 11 a. m. Up to noon Cotton Plant had only been reached.

Among the candidates present and spectators were Edwards, Light, Carn, Phillips, Beck, J. L. and Dow, Joe Mathews, H. W. Long, Galloway, A. Frank, Joe Bell, Carlos L. Sistrunk, Will Sinclair, Henry Sistrunk, Mr. Froctor of Levon, and M. L. Townsend of Martin.

### Still Counting

As the Star goes to press, the count is still going on, and will probably not be concluded before six o'clock.

### For Representative

The following figures are given in regard to the legislative candidates: Carn . . . . .955  
Light . . . . .808  
Bittinger . . . . .591  
Griffith . . . . .585  
Martin . . . . .530

J. M. Mathews for county commissioner from the Flemington district was eight ahead of his three competitors excepting the vote in the Dunneil precinct for Dow Beck and Bob Ferguson, and he is waiting at this writing for the final vote.

### THE RESULT IN LEVY

Gus Morton fell by the wayside in the senatorial race in Levy county. J. A. Williams and Jno. R. Willis will have to run it over. W. J. Epperson, of Williston, won out over three competitors for the house of representatives. T. W. Price defeated Phillips for superintendent of schools. Mr. P. held the position for twenty years. O. J. Farmer, editor of the Levy County Democrat, Bronson, who was a candidate for county treasurer, will have to run it over again with William Sheppard. Phillips' defeat was one of the surprises of the campaign.

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