

Thanksgiving Proclamation

IT has pleased Almighty God to bring the American people in safety and honor through another year, and in accordance with the long unbroken custom of our forefathers, the time has come when a special day should be set apart in which to thank Him who holds all nations in the hollow of His hand for the mercies he has vouchsafed to us.

During the century and a quarter of our nation's life, we as a people have been blessed beyond all others, and for this we owe humble and heartfelt thanks to the Author of all blessings. The year that has closed has been one of peace within our own borders as well as between us and all other nations. The harvests have been abundant, and those who work, whether with hand or brain, are prospering greatly. Reward has waited upon honest effort. We have been enabled to do our duty to ourselves and to others. Never has there been a time when religious and charitable effort has been more evident. Much has been given to us, and much will be expected from us. We speak of what has been done by this nation in no spirit of boastfulness or vain glory, but with full and reverent realization that our strength is as nothing unless we are helped from above. Hitherto we have been given the heartiest strength to do the tasks allotted to us as they severally arose.

We are thankful for all that has been done for us in the past, and we pray that in the future we may be strengthened in the unending struggle to do our duty fearlessly and honestly, with charity and good will, with respect for ourselves and with love toward our fellow men.

In this great republic the effort to combine national strength with personal freedom is being tried on a scale more gigantic than ever before in the world's history. Our success will mean much not only for ourselves but for the future of all mankind; and every man and woman in our land should feel the grave responsibility resting upon him or her; for in this last analysis, the success must depend upon the high average of our individual citizenship, upon the way in which each of us does his duty by himself and his neighbor.

Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, do hereby appoint and set apart Thursday, the twenty-fourth day of this November, to be observed as a festival and thanksgiving by all the people of the United States, at home and abroad, and do recommend that on that day they cease from their ordinary occupations and gather in their several places of worship or in their homes, devoutly to give thanks unto Almighty God for the benefits He has conferred upon us as individuals and as a nation, and to beseech him that in future His Divine favor may be continued to us.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this first day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and four, and of the independence of the United States one hundred and twenty-ninth.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

By the President:

John Hay, Secretary of State.

The Library Site

AS I am asked nearly every day "where we are at" as respects the library site, I write this note. The last of September I called a special meeting of the board to decide on a site. After some discussion and informal voting the members present all voted for the Erskine lot, so called; that is, on the corner diagonally across from the depot. The first choice of two of the seven members present was the Hammond lot, between Mrs. Hammond's and Brand Bros.' block. When the matter came up in the Council, all present except Mr. Everett, two aldermen voted against the board's selection and so defeated the measure, as six votes were necessary to carry it. Later the same evening the vote was reconsidered and put over till later meetings, and by vote of the Council it was to come up last Tuesday evening.

On canvassing the Library Board I found some of the members strongly opposed to the Hammond lot. Monday I went to Chicago and saw Mr. Patton, the architect already selected for the new building, and told him of the condition of things; how some of the aldermen wanted the Hammond lot while some of the Board opposed it, and asked him to come out Tuesday afternoon, look the two lots over carefully, and tell us which lot, in his judgment, was the better one for the library site. I saw nearly all the members of the Library Board and got their consent that I tell the Council that the Board would accept Mr. Patton's decision.

Tuesday afternoon Mr. Patton came out and we looked at both lots very carefully, he taking special care to see the Erskine lot from every point of view. On going to the Hammond lot, as soon as we passed the Brand block and I pointed out the lot, he spoke instantly and said, "a fine lot in itself, but this business block will kill the library building. A library building should never be among business houses, or in the same block". As we looked at the Erskine lot, when we returned from the Hammond lot and walked down St. Johns ave. to go down to his brother, Robert W. Patton, he asked what objection people had to the Erskine lot, and I told him, first, it was so low, and second, it was so near the trains, and he replied that they were not serious objections at all, the earth from the necessary excavations would fill in all that was necessary, and as to the noise and dust, buildings so located in other places showed that it was not a serious difficulty. He examined the surroundings with great care to see how the building would "show off" from the trains, from people on the east side of the tracks and the more he looked the more he spoke in its favor. He thanked me for inviting him out here, for he said, his firm would dislike putting a building up on an undesirable site. In some of the nearly sixty Carnegie library buildings they had erected, the people had decided on an unsuitable site and put the building on it, and after it was too late saw their mistake, and he wanted to save Highland Park, if possible, such a calamity. I asked him no questions and in no way sought to influence his decision. I wanted, as I knew the members of the library board wanted, an honest, unbiassed, judicious opinion of an expert, whose opinion, from this training and extensive knowledge would be of inestimable value to us as a city, for this building is to last for years.

Thursday evening he went to the council and made his statement, giving his reasons in full for his preference for the Erskine lot, nearly all of which were entirely new to me. After his speech I went with him to the train, and on our way thither he told me his partner, Mr. Miller, also has been out here many times looking at sites and conferring with the board, told him just before he left Chicago that the Erskine lot was much the better site, thus reinforcing his opinion. I had told the Council before Mr. Patton spoke that most of the Library Board had agreed to accept his decision, whatever it might be. After Mr. Patton left, the Council went

through its usual business and about 10.30 o'clock adjourned, without saying a word or doing a thing about the Library site, though the matter had been adjourned to that particular meeting, why the ignored it I know not.

That's "where we are at". The Library Board has performed its full duty as required by law; it decided by a unanimous vote of all the seven members present on the Erskine lot, and now awaits the action of the City Council. The members of the Board have sacrificed their own personal preferences for the sake of unity and harmony and for the best interests of the entire city. As honest men and women they could do no less. The Board has done just what the law specifies as its duty, and it can do no more, unless it turns over its duties to others, for which there's no provision or permission in law, it waits on the City Council. As soon as the Council acts, the Library Board will go forward with its work according to law.

Service at the Post

Order of services, lectures and entertainments of the 27th Infantry, and 14th and 21st Batteries Field Artillery at Fort Sheridan, Ill., for the week beginning Sunday morning, November 20th, 1904.

Sunday morning Nov. 20th at 8 o'clock, service in the mess hall of the Post Hospital, for patients. Subject of the sermon, "A Royal Thanksgiving", and reading of Governor's proclamation. Sunday morning, Nov. 20th, at 10 o'clock, service in the Post Chapel, in Company "C" Barracks, to which all are invited. Subject of the sermon, "A Royal Thanksgiving" and reading of Governor's proclamation. Sunday evening, Nov. 20th, at 7.30 o'clock, service in the mess hall of the Guard house for prisoners. Subject of lecture, "Beyond the Seas" illustrated with views. Tuesday evening Nov. 22nd at 7.45 o'clock, Thirteenth entertainment and lecture, in the Amusement room in Company "C" quarters, to which all are invited. Subject of lecture: Paris and Versailles, courtesy of Mr. Frasier. Halsey Gavitt will present Indian Lore songs assisted by members of the band. Mr. Schneider will sing. Corporal Pritchett will recite. Seats free. Thursday evening, Nov. 24th, at 7.30 o'clock, "The Soldier's Thanksgiving" illustrated with views in the mess hall of the Hospital.

George D. Rice,

Chaplain 26th Infantry.

From Lake County Papers

Uncle Andrew Oaks of Waconda was 84 years old recently, and is in good health, Mr. Oaks, his wife, and his sister-in-law, Aunt Levina, are three of the oldest people in one family in Lake county.

The largest single deal in farm property in the history of the county was closed last week by John Griffith.

Following is the acreage bought and the prices paid for it: Patrick Farrell, 40 acres, \$4,000, Richard Kennedy, 80 acres, \$40,000, Martin Melody, 323 acres, \$38,000, Thomas Steele, 80 acres, \$34,000, Patrick Bradley, 179 acres, \$20,000, Patrick Fallen, 40 acres, \$4,000, The Burns Estate, 40 acres, \$6,000. The contracts were all made to John Griffith, but the real purchaser is J. Ogden Armour.

The land purchased lies west of the city, and extends west across the C. M. & St. Paul railroad. It is designed by Mr. Armour for a model farm. A large residence for Mr. Armour will be erected on the ridge near where the home of Mr. Kennedy now stands, and suitable farm buildings with homes for the farmer and farm help will be put up. It is proposed to make the whole property into one large farm, which will be stocked with blooded stock, and every thing fixed in keeping with the ideas of a gentleman farmer who has enough money to have things according to his own ideas.

Another project of the deal which is now under way is the changing of the roads. It is proposed to vacate the present Diamond Lake road west to the point where it intersects the town line, and from that point run the road straight east on the town line. Also to continue Deerpath avenue west from its present terminus to the road west.

The total transaction embraces 782 acres for \$140,000, a fair price to pay for a farm.