

THOMAS LECTURE DELIGHTS HEARERS

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uncrowned king of Arabia, the man who rose from the obscurity of the British military offices in Egypt to become probably the most outstanding figure of the war, the man who, after organizing singlehanded native rebellion that succeeded in cutting the territory of the Central powers in two, refused military promotion, the Victoria Cross, and a title.

"During the period of the World war, years crammed with epic events, among others two remarkable figures appeared," Mr. Thomas said. "The dashing adventures and anecdotes of their careers will furnish golden themes to the writers of the future, as the lives of Ulysses, King Arthur, and Richard the Lion-Hearted did to the poets, troubadours, and chroniclers of other days.

"One is a massive, towering, square-jawed six-footer, that smashing British cavalry leader, Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby, commander of the twentieth-century crusaders, who gained world fame because of his exploits in driving the Turks from the Holy Land and bringing to realization the dream of centuries.

"The other is the under-sized, beardless youth whom I first saw absorbed in a technical treatise on the cuneiform inscriptions discovered on the bricks of ancient Babylon, and whose chief interests in life were poetry and archaeology.

Tremendous Achievement
"The spectacular achievements of Thomas Edward Lawrence, the twenty-six year old Oxford graduate, were unknown to the public at the end of the World war. Yet, quietly, without any theatrical head-lines or fanfare of trumpets, he brought the disinherited nomadic tribes of holy and forbidden Arabia into a unified campaign against their Turkish oppressors, a difficult and splendid stroke of policy, which caliphs, statesmen, and sultans had been unable to accomplish in centuries of effort.

"Lawrence placed himself at the head of the Bedouin army of the shereef of Mecca, who was afterward proclaimed king of the Hedjaz. He united the wandering tribes of the desert, restored the sacred places of Islam to the descendants of the Prophet, and drove the Turks from Arabia forever. Alleghy liberated Palestine, the Holy Land of the Jews and Christians, Lawrence freed Arabia, the holy land of millions of Mohammedans.

A New Arabian Knight
"Until the day I met him in the palace of the governor of Jerusalem I was unable to picture Lawrence as a real person. He was to me merely a new Oriental legend—a new Arabian knight. I had come to the conclusion that Lawrence was the product of Western imagination overheated by exuberant contact with the East. But the myth turned out to be very much of a reality.

"The five-foot-three Englishman standing before me wore a kuffieh of white silk and gold embroidery held in place over his hair by an agal, two black woolen cords wrapped with silver and gold thread. His heavy black camel's hair robe or abba covered a snow-white undergarment, over which was a wide gold-brocaded garment fastened at the waist by a wide belt in which he carried the curved sword of a prince of Mecca. This youth had virtually become the ruler of the Holy Land of the Mohammedans, and commander-in-chief of many thousands of Bedouins mounted on racing camels and fleet Arabian horses. He was the terror of the Turks."

Thrilling Story
Many of the stories and anecdotes connected with the Eastern campaign were related by Mr. Thomas. He told how this young Britisher, Lawrence, gained the confidence of the Arabs, how he united the tribes that had been for centuries hostile to each other, and how, having amalgamated the rag-tag and bob-tail of Arabia into a remarkable army, he succeeded in driving the Turks ever westward and northward until he was able to join forces with Allenby and assist in the capture of Damascus, the death blow to the Central powers in the Orient.

Mr. Thomas' talk was illustrated with motion pictures and stereopticon slides. Among the pictures were some of the ancient city of Petra, at one time the center of a great civilization, now a mass of rose-tinted ruins, forgotten by the world for more than a thousand years.

Battle in Deserted City
"One of the most colorful and romantic episodes of the war in the land of the Arabian Nights was a battle fought in an ancient deserted city that had been asleep for a thousand years, only to wake to the booming of big guns and the spirited clash of Turks and Arabs. To the few travelers who have ventured into that hidden corner of the Arabian desert-Petra is known as a 'rose-red city, half as old as time,' carved out of the enchanted mountains of Edom. It lies deep in the wilderness of the desert, not far from Mount Hor, where the Israelites are believed to have buried their great leader, Aaron.

"After pushing our way through a gorge for more than an hour, we suddenly rounded the last bend and stood speechless. There, in front of us, many miles from any sign of civilized habitation, deep in the heart

of the Arabian desert, was one of the most bewildering sights ever revealed to the eye of man—a temple, delicate and limpid rose, carved like a cameo from a solid mountain wall. It was even more beautiful than the Temple of Theseus at Athens or the Forum at Rome.

"It was the first indication we had that we had at last reached the mysterious city of Petra, a city deserted and lost to history for fourteen hundred years and only rediscovered during the last century by the famous Swiss explorer, Burkhardt."

Ancient Petra furnished the theme for Dean Burgon's poem on the "rose-red city":
"It seems no work of man's creative hand

By labor wrought as wavering fancy planned;
But from the rock as if by magic grown;

Eternal, silent, beautiful, alone.
All rosy-red, as if the blush of dawn
That first beheld it were not yet withdrawn.

The hues of youth upon a brow of woe
Which man deemed old two thousand years ago.

Match me such marvel, save in Oriental clime;
A rose-red city, half as old as time."

CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD IN SESSION

Continued from page 1

ployment as counsel to represent the city in a proposed suit against Rinaldo Calder in connection with alleged violation of the zoning ordinance, was referred to the corporation counsel.

The bill of P. Ugolini for construction of a sidewalk on north side of Sheridan road, between Deere Park and Lambert Tree avenue was approved and ordered paid.

Committee Report
A letter from Mr. Ralph Bard, a member of the committee to investigate the feasibility of a business manager for the city, was read requesting information with reference to the report of the committee. Commissioner Reay moved that letters of appreciation be written the members of this committee expressing the thanks of the council for their sincere efforts in this committee work.

It is the understanding of the Press that a complete report of the findings of this committee was not made public at the time it was presented by reason of the fact that the report submitted to the council bore only three signatures, as some of the members were absent, but stated that it was the "unanimous opinion of all members of the committee." The list of committee members complete is Mayor Lewis, Ralph Bard, C. H. Witt, E. L. Millard, R. E. Herman, Alfred K. Stern, Howard H. Bede.

The report as submitted was as follows:

"The undersigned committee which was appointed to consider the question of the feasibility of the city of Highland Park employing a city manager, begs to make the following report, which expresses the unanimous opinion of all members of the committee:

"The committee has had several meetings and has given careful attention to the existing organization of the city departments and of the city budget, and has come to the conclusion that it would be impossible legally and inadvisable to consider the operation of the city of Highland Park under the city manager plan as provided by the statutes of the state of Illinois, and we do not understand or believe that this is desired or recommended by any of the city officials or citizens with whom we have been in touch.

"The committee, however, strongly recommends that a capable man, who is a graduate civil engineer, and who has had experience in municipal affairs be employed by the commissioners to function under their supervision and control, with the title of, say—Commissioner of Public Works, City Engineer, Secretary to the Commissioners, or some other satisfactory title, and that such a man at the start be given supervision over the department of public health and safety, department of streets and public improvements, department of public property and put in charge of all engineering work which comes under the city's jurisdiction, including that of special assessments.

"The committee is convinced that such a man as we have described above could save his entire salary from the saving in engineering costs alone, give the city the advantage to be gained from trained engineering supervision in all its departments, and should he prove to have necessary ability, his supervision might, as the commissioners see fit, be extended to other departments of the city, with the idea of organizing to better advantage the detail work of the departments, clerical operations, etc., and consolidating the purchases of the city. The committee is firmly convinced from its investigation that considerable savings can be effected along these lines."

Board Meeting
At the meeting of the board of local improvements contracts was awarded to the Kapschull-Davis Co. for construction of a system of water mains in Northmoor subdivision. Bids also were received and led for the job of installing watermains on County Line road from Sheridan to Deere Park. Other routine business was transacted.

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\$250,000 BOND ISSUE POOR FARM PLAN

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in view of the fact that as late as Saturday several board members expressed opinions against the bond issue. Some of the board members who were against the bond issue last week, said this afternoon that they decided to put the question on the ballot and let the people decide it.

The resolution as passed provides for levying of an additional tax of three cents on each \$100 valuation of taxable property. The new buildings are to be built on approximately the same location as the present ones. The bonds are to bear interest of four and a half per cent. There are to be 250 bonds, each a \$1,000 bond. Retiring of the bonds will start on May 1, 1928, and the entire issue will be paid up in 1947.

At the time of the defeat of the last proposed bond issue for the county poor farm, it was said by those against the proposition that the ground was too valuable for poor farm purposes. Last summer Supervisor Ray Paddock said that a deal was under way for the sale of the farm site which would bring much revenue to the county. He said today, however, that the transaction did not go through and that as far as he knew there were no hopes of making a sale now.

Buildings Are Fire-traps
It has been pointed out for years by poor farm committees that the buildings on the Lake county poor farm were in poor shape, being fire-traps. The present poor farm committee as did other committees reported to the board that for the health and safety of the occupants the buildings should be razed and new ones built.

TURKEY DINNER
at
HOWARD-UDELL CAFETERIA
SUNDAY
12:00 to 2:30

A boy in New York was injured by the exploding of a whiskey still in an apartment house. These moonshiners are getting more careless every day.

"Everybody loves the farmer" says an editorial caption in the New York Times. And the farmer is slowly coming to realize that one of the things that is the matter with him is that he has almost been loved to death by the politicians.

Press Want Ads Bring Results

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