

COUNCIL IS URGED TO SUBMIT MATTER TO VOTE OF PEOPLE

Advocates of Site Attend Meeting in Large Numbers and Turbulent Session Ensues.

BOLT AS MAJOR GUINN IS DENIED THE FLOOR

Friends of Stockade Site Then Hold Own Meeting on the Steps of City Hall.

Resolutions condemning the selection of the stockade site for the Girls' High school were passed last night at a meeting in the Baptist Tabernacle following a turbulent early session which was featured by the withdrawal of a large percentage of those present.

The "bolters" walked out en masse, following Major R. J. Guinn, former president of the board of education and member of the bond commission, who left when he was refused the privilege of explaining why he had voted for the stockade site. This contingent then went to the steps of the city hall where they held a meeting of their own.

Leaders of the anti-stockade meeting claimed that their gathering had been "packed" with residents from the sections of the city adjacent to the proposed site, which was agreed upon by the bond commission and the board of education last week.

Want No Explanation.

Major Guinn asked that "before condemning the action of the two bodies that they be given an opportunity to explain the reason of their decision."

J. A. White stated that he was an instigator of the meeting; that the meeting was called for those who opposed the selection of the stockade site and that they did not desire to hear from anyone else.

Pandemonium ruled when Mr. Guinn rose, extended his apologies for attending and started out, followed by those favoring the stockade site. This contingent went to the steps of the city hall where they held a meeting.

After the advocates of the stockade site had left the building, Dr. Ham led the congregation in prayer and Mayor Pro Tem Cochran, presiding, made the opening speech against the site.

He was opposed to the site, he said, on the grounds that he believed it unfair to locate the school in any outlying portion of the city; that he had opposed in council the selection of the Grant park site and all others which were not near the center of the city.

"Neither do we want to tell our children, starting now to school, that 'when you grow up you'll go to the stockade for school,'" he said.

Mr. White, who had caused the sudden leave-taking of Major Guinn, was the next speaker. "I am a real estate man," he began, "but I do not want to have anything to do with the purchase of a site for the high school.

Hits Other Crowd.

"The people who just left here came for the sole purpose of wrecking and gaining control of this meeting. I came to prevent them. I have talked with Mr. Ashcraft, Mr. Inman and Judge Candler. They all wanted to come to this meeting and tell why, as members of the bond commission, they oppose the selection of the stockade site. But we did not want them

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Battle Promised in Council on Proposed Stockade School Site



Photo by Walton Reeves

a low rumble of hisses was heard from the other and the speaker was unable to make himself heard above the din.

He then said that the next question before the house was the selection of a permanent chairman. J. H. Wentworth, one of the organizers of the meeting, nominated Alderman Cochran. The name was seconded from various portions of the house.

Mrs. Humber, sitting next to Mr. Wentworth, moved that the nominations be closed.

"Mr. Chairman," said John S. McClelland, rising on the other side of the house.

"This meeting is not for your crowd," said Mrs. Humber. "Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order. I object to your recognition of the speaker."

Guinn Introduced.

Then a hubbub arose. Dr. Eubanks, Mr. Cumbea and others climbing to the pulpit and conversing with Alderman Cochran, who recognized Mr. McClelland, introduced Major Guinn.

Loud cheers, stamping of feet and hand-clapping reverberated throughout the hall. When the applause had ceased Mr. White arose and objected to Major Guinn speaking because, he said, the meeting had been called in opposition to the site and as one of its instigators, he did not care to hear any explanations from anyone.

Guinn Leads Schisms.

Major Guinn's retiring speech, which followed immediately, was directed to Mr. White. His remarks contained the essence of irony and as he reached down and took up his coat and hat, simultaneous action on the part of those favoring the site created a jostling crowd heading for the doorway.

After order had been in a measure resumed, Mr. McClelland, following a conference with Alderman Cochran, spoke with special reference to the south side advocates, in which he said that it had been hoped that they would have an opportunity to present their side of the controversy, but that "those in charge of the meeting having made up their minds and appearing unwilling to change them, we will proceed to the city hall steps and have our own meeting."

The meeting was resumed as soon as the crowd had passed out in an orderly manner, with frequent grins on the faces of many. One woman, who refused to give her name, advanced militantly toward Mr. McClelland as he descended from the pulpit, and in a fiery manner told him that he had been horribly rude.

"There are no hard feelings, ma'am," said Mr. McClelland, holding up his hand and backing off.

Crowd Packs Plaza.

The plaza in front of the city hall was packed by the crowd which left the tabernacle and which was augmented as it advanced up Luckie and into Forsyth street. It had increased to several hundred by the time the city hall was reached.

Speakers at this meeting included John P. Haunson, chairman of the city executive committee; Carl F. Hutcheson, member of the board of education, and Charles W. Bernhardt, prominent contractor, and Mr. McClelland.

"A remarkable fact is," Mr. McClelland said, "that the Rosalia or stockade site was selected at a joint meeting of the bond commission and the board of education without a dissenting vote. It was done because of the logic of the facts presented by the expert surveyors who made a several months' study of our school system and its needs.

"The survey demanded a minimum of 20 acres for the school. This acreage in a semi-center section of the city would cost from \$250,000 to \$500,000."

The bond commission and board of education began a study of the site, he said, after city council had tendered it the 100 acres belonging to the stockade site. The site not only affords ample ground for the Girls' Senior High school, he said, but also for the junior high school which will eventually be erected in the same section of the city, as provided for in the survey made.

SCHOOL STOCKADE SITE CONDEMNED

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and neither did we want that other crowd.

"I favor a central location for the site, even though it does cost more money—a site that will make it an equal journey for the children on the north, east, west and south sides of the city."

Frank Weldon voiced his objections because of the inconvenience it would cause teachers and pupils alike. By taking the site, he said, the city might save two or three hundred thousand dollars, but that the additional carfare paid by the children would amount to \$25,000 annually. He asked that it be submitted to the people.

Mrs. George S. Obear, Jr., stated that she could "guarantee that the Atlanta Woman's club would actively oppose the stockade site." She read resolutions adopted by the Moreland Avenue Parent-Teacher association at recent meeting, in which it opposed the selection of the site because of the additional carfare, time and to the fact "that the soil on the stockade site is infected with dangerous germs."

Spoke for Mrs. Boykin.

Mrs. Obear stated that she was present to represent Mrs. B. M. Boykin, president of the Atlanta Woman's club. Mrs. Boykin was not there.

Dr. R. M. Eubanks, education board member-elect, urged the women to lead the fight against the stockade site. He offered to bet \$1,000 to a dime that should the woman's club actively take up the fight "the politicians who have something to gain by its selection would change their cry."

"The odium of the stockade will remain as long as the school is there, despite its removal, even immediately," he said.

"They have the jail, the pest-house, the menagerie and the Georgia railroad shops out there now," Dr. Eubanks said. "What more do they want?"

Dr. Ham then spoke in opposition to the site, giving as his reasons the fact that in his opinion it will alienate both the north and westside children; that it will cause an increasing number of parents to send their daughters to private schools, thus losing a spirit of democracy which he said now prevails in the city system. In conclusion he said that the meeting should resolve itself into a request that the question be submitted to the people.

Heckling Attempted.

The meeting began promptly at 8 o'clock. J. E. Cumbea advanced to the pulpit as temporary chairman. He immediately began a tirade upon the "psychological effect of educating our girls in the stockade." A voice from the opposite side of the house gave the first indication that advocates of the site were in attendance.

"In the stockade?" it asked.

"You keep quiet over there," he answered and continued his address, interrupted for a while with applause from one side of the house. Then