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PROTECTING CITY LAND.

The New Charter Will Prevent a Repetition of the City Hall Lots Scandal.

No Sale May Be Effected Without the Consent of All the Supervisors and the Mayor.

STREET RAILWAY FRANCHISE LAW.

Privileges Will Revert to the City After Twenty Years—Board of Health Favoritism to Be Stopped.

The most important work accomplished by the Board of Freeholders yesterday was that of incorporating in the proposed charter sections providing that the Board of Supervisors may not sell public property except by unanimous vote, and then only with the consent of the Mayor, and that no franchise shall be granted to a street railroad for a longer term than twenty years.

On both of these propositions there was much discussion.

Chairman Britton started the controversy when the section as proposed by the committee giving the majority of the Supervisors the privilege of disposing of city property was read by the Secretary.

"What is the matter with keeping the public lands we now have?" asked Britton. "What do we want to sell any of it for? The city wants all the land it can get hold of. That is the policy of Chicago and other progressive cities. Let the land in like, of necessary; the city don't have to pay taxes on it. Let it alone and the town will grow up around it, making it more valuable every year. And I'd like to know why we should issue our title lets at public auction, as this report provides. I move that we strike out all reference to the sale of public lands."

SALES MAY BE NECESSARY.

To this proposition Mr. Clement objected vehemently on the ground that urgent necessity for the sale of public lands might arise, and power to dispose of them should be given to the Supervisors.

Somebody spoke of the sale of the City Cemetery to the Federal Government and asked if that was not proper.

"The Government condemned that property and took it in spite of the city," explained Mr. Britton.

"It is not right that the Supervisors should be given authority to sell the city's lands," urged Mr. Truman. "We all know what some of the Boards of Supervisors we are likely to elect may be expected to do. They might sell the Lincoln School property for half its real value. We should not give unlimited servants such opportunities for steals and scandals. No such power should be placed in the grasp of nine Supervisors."

A suggestion that no city property be sold without the proposition first having been submitted to the people at a general election was made. It was laughed out of consideration, the Freeholders evidently deeming the suggestion too ridiculous for serious thought.

THOMAS OFFERS A SUBSTITUTE.

Mr. Marye was in favor of giving the Supervisors a little latitude in the premises.

"It often happens," said he, "that necessity arises for the removal of a fire engine-house from one locality to another. In such cases it is wise to sell the property from which the removal is contemplated and buy the new site. Would you take it out of the power of the Supervisors to do this?"

Mr. Umbsen, the real-estate dealer, thought he saw a way out of the difficulty.

"I move that no sale of city property be permitted except upon the unanimous consent of the Board of Supervisors accompanied by the approval of the Mayor," was the way Umbsen expressed his idea.

Even his caused a grumble from those who favored the city holding its property, but it was the suggestion that was finally accepted.

Mr. Gibson objected to any sale whatever being allowed, because he said the money so received was invariably placed to the credit of some fund in which an extravagant city official had invested a deficit, and in the end it would be dissipated. He cited the case of the New City Hall lots on Market street, which he said had been sold at a ridiculously low figure and were now devoted to the occupancy of a few ramshackle buildings.

"And on this site," concluded Mr. Gibson, "a beautiful park might have been laid out—something that would have been an everlasting delight to our citizens."

The discussion resulted in the adoption of Mr. Umbsen's motion, so that in future no real estate owned by the city may be sacrificed unless the entire Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's office are filled with rascals.

THE LEASING OF CITY LANDS.

Then they took up the subject of leasing public lands. It was decided that the Board of Supervisors might be permitted to lease ground for two years by the customary vote, but not for a longer period unless nine members vote in favor of the proposition and it receives the approval of the Mayor.

Captain Lees of the detective force had been watching the proceedings, and at this juncture he called Mr. Britton aside and held a conference with him. The result was seen when Mr. Britton moved that the Supervisors be given power to transfer the use of lots and buildings from one department of the city government to another

MR. TRUMAN LOOKS OUT FOR THE CITY'S INTERESTS ON LAND QUESTION. [Sketched by an "Examiner" artist.]

by the usual ordinance. This proposition, which was adopted, should bring joy to the heart of Chief Crowley, who for many years has been pleading for additional police stations. If the charter is adopted the city will have power to let the Police Department have the use of such lots as are now designed for the sole use of the Fire and School Departments, and for which those branches of the government have no immediate necessity.

FRANCHISES FOR TWENTY YEARS ONLY.

They next struggled with the question of the length of time a street railroads should be allowed to operate before their roadbeds revert to the city. At present the franchises run forty years, but the committee reported in favor of reducing the time one-half. Mr. Marye brought the matter up by moving to let it remain at forty years.

"You will not be able to induce capitalists to invest their money in street railroad bonds if you only permit them to draw interest for twenty years," argued Mr. Marye. "Then the city will be left entirely at the mercy of the present companies, which, as you know, have a monopoly of the business. The outlying districts which are not yet built up will also suffer because the capitalists will know that if they build ten sparsely populated districts their franchises will lapse just about the time people have commenced to build houses along their lines."

Mr. Gibson said that railroads were given too many privileges now in this city. He combated Mr. Marye's argument by citing the case of Toronto, Canada, a town not half as large as San Francisco, which has the best street railway service in the world, even though the city takes back the franchises in ten years, makes the railroads carry workingmen and school children at cut rates and exacts the payment into the city treasury of a liberal percentage of the receipts.

There were motions to let the franchises live thirty years and thirty-five years, but the board adhered to the report of the committee, and the period stands for twenty years.

CERTAIN STREETS TO BE RESERVED.

On motion of Mr. Scott it was resolved that franchises may be granted on all

CHAIRMAN BRITTON MAKES JOYFUL THE HEART OF CAPTAIN LEES. [Sketched by an "Examiner" artist.]

streets not otherwise reserved. Mr. Scott announced that he would later move to reserve Sutter street in place of Devisadero street, which has already been gobbled by the railroad, Golden Gate avenue and other thoroughfares for driveways and boulevards.

Mr. Boyd grumbled at this on the ground that so many streets may be reserved that new lines would not find a thoroughfare along which to build. This, he thought, would be playing right into the hands of the consolidation monopoly.

On motion of Mr. Heintz they agreed to strike out Section 8, which would have given the Supervisors the right to regulate franchises at their pleasure. Even Mr. Boyd said this would be too big a club to hold over the railroad companies.

The board resolved that railways entering San Francisco may be granted permission to use the streets provided they have fifty miles of road in actual operation. They must be required to keep in repair the streets along which their lines extend.

DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Mr. Gibson introduced some amendments to the present charter provisions relating to the Board of Health. They were referred to Dr. Anderson. One of the amendments provides that four or more visiting physicians and four or more visiting surgeons to the City and County Hospital shall be appointed in equal numbers from the University, Cooper, Hahnemann and California Medical Colleges. This will give the Hahnemann and California Colleges a privilege they have never enjoyed before. In giving his reasons for this amendment Mr. Gibson says:

"It is a class legislation, un-American and unjust, to grant special privileges to the two colleges, and exclude the others. There are medical students in attendance at the various colleges of this city, 35 per cent of which attend the Hahnemann Hospital College and the California Medical College.

"These two schools, in all reason, are entitled to a representation on the hospital staff. It is known from the fact that heretofore all boards of health have repeatedly refused students of these colleges admission to the City and County Hospital, and we have no reason to believe that future boards will experience a change of heart. If a true, practical system is made for all students to attend the hospital, but students from one college would receive but scant courtesy from a professor of another school, even for teaching them received no compensation."

DIRECTOR CORNELY.

Now in Charge of the Foreign Department of the Mexican Exposition.

Vicente Rocafuerte Cornely, Assistant Director-General of Midwinter Fair fame, arrived in the city Friday evening from the City of Mexico. He is now Director of the Foreign Department of the proposed bi-centennial Exposition to be held in the City of Mexico in the month of September next year. He said yesterday that the Mexican exposition would be opened April 2, 1896. Mr. Cornely has been intrusted with the management of the Foreign Department.

The Mexican Government has made to the following suggestions to the Board of Directors: All foreign goods and exhibits will be admitted free of duty, but will be bonded; all materials necessary for the construction of the buildings, etc., will be admitted free of bond or duty; vessels laden with exposition goods or exhibits will be admitted free of port dues and taxes; the grounds of the exposition, the capital of the occupancy of the buildings, will be declared free ports of Federal taxes. The Mexican Government will erect a public building and will cause to be published something of a national character. The special police protection, as well as the sanitary regulations, will be under the control of the Government alone.

The Management has devised a lottery design which will be submitted to the Board of Lenders, with the understanding that all prizes are to be in articles which must be purchased from exhibitors at the Exposition.

He explained that the foreign department would be organized so that every trade or occupation would be represented, and that he and administer its own affairs, paying tribute only to the general laws of the Government of Mexico.

The Exposition Company has established an office in the room of A. R. Conrey, Consul General of Mexico.

Daughters of the Revolution.

Phoenix Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was entertained last night by the Misses de Fontaine at the residence of the Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. Elwood Brown, 2021 Pacific avenue, on Thursday last. Mrs. Joseph L. Moody, Regent, in the absence of Mrs. Henry Wetherbee, presided. This society was organized December 10, 1892, has a large membership, and is affiliated in every way with the State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution at Washington, D. C. Among those present were Mrs. Henry Gibson, Secretary State Board; Mrs. H. D. Bacon, Mrs. Charles Bulkley Hubbell, Mrs. W. Hollady, Mrs. Charles Mc L. Ritchey, Mrs. Sedden S. Wright, Mrs. A. B. Maynard, Mrs. Frank Pixley, Mrs. Frank Bacon, Mrs. Frank Bacon, Mrs. Frank Bacon, Mrs. Frank Bacon, Miss Mathilde Miss E. S. Jones, Miss Mary Hamilton, Miss Mary Hamilton, Miss Pacific avenue, on Thursday last. Mrs. Joseph L. Moody, Regent, in the absence of Mrs. Henry Wetherbee, presided. This society was organized December 10, 1892, has a large membership, and is affiliated in every way with the State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution at Washington, D. C. Among those present were Mrs. Henry Gibson, Secretary State Board; Mrs. H. D. Bacon, Mrs. Charles Bulkley Hubbell, Mrs. W. Hollady, Mrs. Charles Mc L. Ritchey, Mrs. Sedden S. Wright, Mrs. A. B. Maynard, Mrs. Frank Pixley