

LINCOLN'S SEWERAGE FIGHT.

Objecting Citizens Meet and Kick on the Proposed Changes.

BUT THE COUNCIL WILL STICK.

Engineer Rosewater Offers Explanations—The Mendota Carpenter Talks to Soldiers—To Organize a National Guard.

(FROM THE BEE'S LINCOLN SPECIAL.)

There was a public meeting at the assembly of music Saturday evening that extended to the early morning hours of Sunday. The meeting was to consider the sewerage question, and judging from the tone and spirit evinced by its promoters it sought to undo all that the council has done to push construction work and give the city sewerage.

The meeting was attended by some two or three hundred, and prominent among the instigators and movers in the business was the State Journal company, with its representatives scattered conveniently around the room to catch each speaker for speeches. The State Journal for once in its long and its useful career, had evinced life and activity enough to partially combat itself through its columns without waiting until the cat had jumped, and all this added to the interest of the meeting.

Said a prominent member of the city council, as he gazed at the gathering from standing room in the rear of the hall: "If the city engineer of Omaha, whom we have hired to engineer our sewerage system, was not named Rosewater, much of this hostility would be wanting. The name Rosewater is a name which is like a red rag in a bull's face. This was one opinion, and it had numerous endorsements. Another factor in the meeting was the 'Holmanian'—to borrow an expression from the State Journal—those who hold forth in every town and are the great objects whenever opportunity arises. Lincoln has these as well as other localities, and they were present at the meeting. The hostility of the assembled audience were interested spectators, and when Austin Humphrey was called to preside all seemed to be in a state of excitement, and became interested listeners.

John R. Clark stated the object of the meeting to be the discussion of the sewerage question, and Mr. Bullock, the chairman of a committee of citizens, had been created some months since to act in conjunction with the city council on the matter of sewerage, took the floor and made a long, rambling and desultory speech, advising the council for their change made from the specifications made by Mr. Waring and the ones voted upon. The argument was a question, "Have I not asked and urged you on many different occasions in the past three weeks to get you to get our committee together and confer with me on the sewerage question, and the mayor, and Mr. Bullock admitted that he had, and sat down. Mr. Hathaway then was called to the floor, read from the specifications as changed by the proposed contract, thought that the changes might invalidate the bonds themselves, and thought that the work should not be in the hands of the sewerage committee of the council and the engineer. He didn't like the looks of it, and intimated that it looked like crookedness. [Applause in the corner.] Mr. Wheeldon took the floor and read a letter from Mr. Waring that he stated had been read to the council and not read, in which Waring criticized the changes made and criticized the pay that the engineers were to get, saying that he would do it for \$2,500, instead of \$5,000 that the city engineer of Omaha was to have. It should be interjected here, however, that Mr. Waring's specifications that he proposed himself called for \$18,000 for engineering.

Mr. Wheeldon then discussed the contract with the proposed engineer at length. At this stage in the proceedings, Mr. Waring, who had been sitting in the audience, stood up and read the specifications published in the morning Journal. Mr. Brook seconded it heartily and was adopted. But they were not published in the morning Journal, and the changes made by the council, all of which he proved were no departure in principle from the Waring system, and were all for the better, and that the changes were intelligent, and were for the better; that the city was building for the future, and that if the Waring size of pipes, six inches, were followed, Lincoln would be like Omaha in a few years, tearing out such small pipes and relaying with larger ones. As to the plea made that the bonds would be invalidated by minor changes in the work, Mr. Webster replied to an interrogatory that emphatically they would not be invalidated. At this stage in the proceedings Mr. Webster criticized the Waring specifications and demonstrated the same to be unsatisfactory, and a high point debate followed when Engineer Rosewater, who came to fight over pipes, took the floor, took the floor and explained in detail the changes proposed, the works he proposed doing, and that all changes did not interfere with the Waring specifications. When the meeting finally came to a close the sentiment of opposition still existed, and the members of the city council seemed to possess just as rigid spinal columns as they have at the commencement. The position of the council in a nutshell is this: That they propose to change the size of drain pipes in the populous part of the city to something larger than a six-inch pipe, that in this matter they propose to profit by the experience of Omaha, which has been digging up six-inch pipes and laying larger mains, in order to do work satisfactorily. The city council further propose to lay the pipes twelve feet deep, instead of eight, so that an eight-foot basement can be drained, and so that the sewerage pipes will not be above the level of cellars; and further, manholes will be put in, instead of the pipes called for in the Waring plans. The council, in the matter of having an engineer, has secured the city engineer of Omaha at a price one-half that which Mr. Waring estimated to do the engineering work, and they seem to be satisfied that they have done that which is for the best of that matter.

In the light of the fact that the city of Lincoln has, by a practically unanimous vote, decided in favor of sewerage, the council propose to go ahead in the matter under the powers delegated to them, and if injunctions are to be served, and the work stopped, and the matter taken into court to fight over pipes, giving people employment, and the people that which they decided for, the city government expresses a willingness to meet the issue before the people with those who may be so stupid as to object to it. A citizen who has taken no sides in the matter dropped the remark that to the boom this city is now enjoying, and to the

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"About a year ago, in the case in which Paul bore a prominent part happened to the officials of the land department of one of the railroads, and a prominent attorney of the state, named Telus, who was a man of professional integrity, and the facts were so far beyond question, that at the time it happened comment was free and censure severe. It seems that several years ago John Telus, a resident of the Telus Caucasians, in Russia, purchased land in Sherman county, this state, some thing like 2,500 acres. He entered into an agreement with a certain man named Hahn, which provided for the improvement of the land. Telus gave Hahn \$8,800 in cash, which was to be used in building a farm house, barns, sheds, and stock the land, and to erect a mill on the premises in stock raising and farming. The terms of agreement between the men was, in effect, that in consideration of the loan of \$8,800, Hahn was to manage and keep the premises in order and do such other things as might naturally be expected. Also, he was to pay the taxes, and his labor was to be such as would give the profits, while the other share was to go to Telus. Hahn paid the taxes for one or two years and then quit paying. During all the time that Telus owned the land he never received a cent from Hahn, although he was still in possession and making good use of the land. He allowed taxes to be appropriated to the benefit of the land, and became delinquent. About three years ago Hahn sued Telus for what he termed 'other expenses,' and salary for running the farm, claiming \$100 per month.

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