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A LOOK BEFORE THE LEAP.

Citizens All Interested in the City Hall.

FARNAM STREET THE CHOICE.

Recent Speeches and Opinions From Prominent Lawyers Condemning the Jefferson Scheme as Illegal.

It Violates the Law.

Congressman W. J. Connell was interviewed yesterday with regard to the validity of the Jefferson square scheme. He said: "I have very grave doubts as to the right of the city to use this square for anything except a park, because it has been dedicated for that purpose and so used for a good many years. The attempt on the part of the council to ignore its contract with the board of education is manifestly illegal. No court in this country will ever decree that contracts may be set aside either by ordinance or by vote of the people. Nobody can call into question the legality of the contract between the city and the board of education. The school board has complied with their part of the contract by paying over the greater part of the money stipulated to be paid, That money has been expended on the building, and the council cannot legally either annul the contract by its own vote or by any vote submitted to the people."

With reference to the ordinances as submitted, Mr. Connell said: "I drew these ordinances myself, but I was not permitted to carry out my own idea in drawing them. In drawing the ordinances to submit the question of re-location I proposed to insert a proposition so as to clearly show that the location was to be changed from Farnam street to Jefferson square. Mr. James Creighton insisted that I must draw the ordinances so as to leave out the word 'change.' He said that many people would vote against the proposition as I wanted to make it, because they were opposed to a change, and he wanted Jefferson square put on a footing with Farnam street in this contest. I told him that under existing circumstances Farnam street had the location, and that a change from Farnam street to Farnam street would scarcely be a compliance with the orders of the court; but he persisted in having his own way, and I drew the ordinances as he wanted them. I doubt very much whether they would hold water in case of a contest in the courts."

City Attorney Webster was also seen and requested to express his views on the legality of the ordinances as drawn. He said that he did not draw the ordinances, and that he entertained doubt of the validity of the proposition as submitted, but that, as he had not been consulted on that point by the council, he had not rendered an opinion.

Hon. J. M. Woolworth, who is perhaps as great an authority as there is in Omaha on questions of title and valid legislation, expresses the most decided doubts as to the legality of the whole scheme of city hall re-location, and is very emphatic in saying that, in case the Jefferson square advocates should succeed on Tuesday, and a contest in the courts follow, it might be ten years before a final decision in the United States supreme court could be reached.

Mr. John D. Howe was also seen. Mr. Howe is one of the ablest attorneys at the bar, and goes even further than any of the preceding gentlemen in his opinion on the city hall re-location. He holds that the authority to locate was exhausted when the people voted on the propositions in 1885, and confidently asserts that the city must use all diligence to exercise this authority before it can propose any change. In other words, the building projected in 1885 must be erected and the bonds used in compliance with the wishes of the people expressed through the ballot box; that if the city hall had been completed and in use for years and another location was desired, a change might be made by the people, but that as long as the will of the people as originally expressed has not been carried into effect, an exercise now of relocating powers would be in violation of fundamental principles. In conclusion, Mr. Howe said. "If you can relocate before the basement of the city hall is fairly up, you can do the same thing on Jefferson square before that basement is fairly up, and keep on locating and relocating inducing people to invest money, and when you have sold your property, move the public building to some other place."

In the Ninth.

There was a meeting at Twenty-ninth and Farnam streets last evening to discuss the city hall question. William I. Kierstead was chosen chairman and Charles J. Johnson secretary.

After some short speeches by Mr. Christensen, Mr. Johnson and others, Mr. Kierstead addressed the meeting as follows:

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: We meet here to-night to discuss the relative merits of Eighteenth and Farnam streets and Jefferson square as the proper place to build the city hall. I am in favor of Eighteenth and Farnam because it has already been located by an almost unanimous vote of the people, and to change it now would be robbery and repudiation, and robbery by the ballot is robbery in its worst form. It would be robbing every man who has bought a dollar's worth of property in the vicinity of Eighteenth and Farnam in the past three years. It would be robbing W. A. Paxton, a man who of all men the citizens of Omaha ought to respect and honor. It would be robbing the New York Life Insurance company which has spent nearly $1,000,000 on Seventeenth and Farnam, and it would rob Mr. Rosewater, who has had the courage to erect that magnificent building, the pride of the city, not with the expectation that the city hall might be built on Eighteenth and Farnam, but with the knowledge that it was being built there. Why this election? I tell you, gentlemen, this whole scheme to change the location was conceived in a spirit of hatred and revenge. Because Mr. Rosewater has had the courage to speak his honest thoughts he has made enemies, and these men now are trying, by making cats' paws of the people, to satisfy their personal revenge. Mr. Rosewater has enemies. He has made them by protecting the city's interests, by using the influence of his paper for honest city government.

I once applied for a position. I said I was well acquainted and had no enemies. I was told I was not needed. I was told that a man who has no enemies is a passive man of no account and never had been. It opened my eyes. I began to realize that a man to do good must be an aggressive man who would fight for the right and make enemies. Such a man is Mr. Rosewater, and this is the man whom the Jefferson square gang asks us to assist in ruining—a man who has, by his own personal efforts, lifted THE BEE from a small beginning to rank with the most influential journals of the day. But, gentlemen, we must protect the honor of Omaha. We will win this fight, because we are in the right, and in right there is might, and on election day the Farnam street site will win, because the voter will not sell his honor.

Now, as to the most central location: Jefferson square is on one edge of the city. We cannot grow towards the river; we must grow west, northwest and southwest. Fifteen years ago the center of values of the city was Tenth and Farnam. Five years ago it was Thirteenth and Farnam. Now it is Seventeenth and Farnam and moving eastward. How many of us can remember when the center of values in New York City was down Broadway near the battery? The city could grow but to the north, and year by year, and block by block it moved upwards, until now the center of values is three miles from the battery and still traveling northward. The great trouble with us is we don't look ahead far enough. We are too apt to think we have done so well we will stop growing, but do you know that the larger we are the faster we grow? To the mossbacks and crockers that are forever looking on the dark side of prosperity, I say when the world stops turning Omaha will stop growing, and not before; and to the people west of Sixteenth and north of Jefferson square, would say, look into the future. Don't think you will always have to travel down Sixteenth street to get to the center of the city, turning corner after corner and winding in a zigzag way. The horse car has had its day. The cable and electricity are the coming motors and the less corners they turn the better, and I will say to all those people who pass down Saunders street that in less than five years, instead of turning corner after corner to get to the center of the city you will be carried straight to Farnam street without a turn. You have got the longest and the straightest street in the city. It runs from Fort Omaha to South Omaha, and there is an ordinance now pending to straighten the only jog in it between California and Cuming. When this is done and the horse and cable companies are consolidated, and an act to that effect has passed the legislature, you will have a cable line from Fort Omaha on the north to South Omaha on the south, a distance of ten miles without a turn. Look into the future and vote for the site which is not only the most central now, but always will be.

Now, gentlemen, we are on the eve of the election. The race is almost run, and almost won. We are gaining votes every minute. The men who were disinterested and passive a week ago are up in arms. They are arguing on every corner trying to protect their honor. We are going down the home stretch at a two-minute gait, twenty lengths ahead, and Tuesday night when the ballots are counted the distance flag will be flung in the faces of the Jefferson square boomers. And in the future when they try to enter for some other race the people who are the judges now will say, "No, you are ruled off the track and forever barred out." Gentlemen, I thank you.

Misrepresenting the Brotherhood.

Several members of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, No. 58, express great indignation that they should have been quoted in the Jefferson square boomers' pamphlet as passing a resolution in any way favoring, by implication or otherwise, the location of the city hall on Jefferson square. Such a thing, they state, never entered their heads, and they are very emphatic in their refusal to be placed in a false light on the matter.

Trouble In the Jeffersonian Camp.

There is trouble in the Jeffersonian camp. It is not a little bit of trouble either.

At Ed Maurer's, late last night, considerable surprise and alarm was shown by several prominent politicians from the Third ward, with Councilman Ford in the group. Two of the busiest, most energetic and influential of that ward's bosses have deserted the park standard, and are now lustily encouraging their whilom foe. Frank Solon, who always cuts somewhat of a figure at election times, is now waving the Farnam street banner. Dave Helseley stands shoulder to shoulder with his brother-in-law, Solon. Guesses and wagers were made on the "price," for the park boomers cannot realize that anything can be done without boodle, a weapon which they fully appreciate.

These two are credited with "influence," and their defection, with that of many followers, is heartily deplored by the "Poor Man's Benefactors," the Jefferson park boomers.

Furay's Pretense.

"I don't want to talk to you fellers at all on this subject."

"But you see that Mr. Furay says you are responsible for all this city hall trouble."

"That's all right, but I don't want to have anything to say about it. When I was in the council my record shows what I did and apart from that I don't want to say anything."

Then Ed. Leeder began to color up around the collar. He paced up and down his saloon at Saddle Creek, where he has just started in business.

"What did Furay say?" he finally said.

"Furay says that you are responsible for all this city hall fight."

"Well, John B. Furay would walk four miles to tell a lie, while he could stand still and tell the truth. Now I'll tell you about the city hall and Furay. When I was sent to the city council, I was sent by the workingmen. I went their to serve them to the best of my ability, and I did it. My record shows exactly what I did, even to the matter of putting whisky in my coffee, as Furay recommended, when I went with the firemen to New Orleans. When I went into the council the firemen were paid $65 a month, and I introduced an ordinance to raise their salary to $70. Furay opposed it, but it went through all right. Then a resolution was offered to raise the policemen's salary from $65 to $70. That passed also. Councilman Furay opposed it. Some time later I offered a resolution to place a market house on Jefferson square. Furay opposed it because he claimed that it should be kept for working men. Besides that, he said that it was a good thing to break a fire in case one broke out in that locality. All cities have their little parks, of course, and Omaha with a few, ought to keep what they've got.

Now when the question of putting a market house on Jefferson square came up, in addition to other opposition, the working men were against it so that it was not passed, and as I tried to represent the working men, I didn't urge the matter. Soon after that it was decided by the council to erect a band stand on Jefferson square. That was done at the request of the Union Pacific band, which offered to play there at least once a week for the public. Well, that passed and $300 was spent to erect the grand stand. On the night of its opening Colonel Chase went down there. He got up and made a speech and told how glad he was to see the park preserved, and also how glad he was that it was to be preserved for what it was originally dedicated, Furay was there too. Why he was the chief mourner. He walked around with his arms folded in prayer, as if thanking God that the city had not lost its only park. Now he comes out like a hypocrite and wants to see the city hall on the very spot he opposed when he was in the council."

"Now I didn't wan't to say anything," continued Mr. Leeder, "but your talk about Furay makes me mad, when I know him as well as I do. All the time I was in that city council I tried to serve my constituency. If I didn't do what was right the record of the council will show it. I'm not ashamed of anything I did there, and that's more than Furay can say. I'll leave it to Fred Bechel or Fred Behm, or any other man who was in the council when I was there, what my record was. Furay talking about the workingmen! He never was a friend of the workingman, and he always opposed anything going on Jefferson square, which shows the two-sided character of the man."

"Well, what's all this talk about your being the cause of the change in the city hall site?"

"It's just this. When the question came up first I opposed the thing because I thought the plans ought to be furnished by Omaha architects. Meyers, of Detroit, furnished the original plans, but I claimed that we had architects in this town who could furnish the plans. I always went in for home labor. I thought the work should be all done by Omaha men. Afterwards I found out that it was better to have it done by outside men—that is, the furnishing of the plans, so I changed my vote on it. There are men here who will bear me out in what I say, and the records show it. The result was that when I found out we had to have the plans drawn up by outside persons I changed my vote and instead of its standing seven to five, as it did on the original vote, it stood eight to four. That's the whole thing that Furay is talking about."

"Don't you think Furay is honest in what he says?"

"Honest! When the city wanted a horse he sold us a plug for $250. The first run it made in the fire department it took the blind staggers and fell down. Then when they needed a team he went west and bought a carload of bronchos for less than what he charged for one of them. He sold the span for $250 but they were no good. Oh, I tell you Furay was not in the council for his health and when he talks about doing something for the workingmen he always opposed them."

"As to Mr. Rosewater calling me a deadbeat, I don't believe he said so, and I don't blame him because he opposed me for sheriff. I he did so it was because he didn't think I was fit for that place. That's his own affair, but notwithstanding what he did in that affair I know that in the council I did what was right and that is more than Furay can say. I am in favor of the Farnam street site and I am willing to meet John B. Furay, Jim Creighton, or any other Jefferson square agitator and discuss the question with them in public."

In the Seventh.

Seventh ward voters were out in force last night to hear the discussion on the proposed re-location of the city hall. The Scandinavian element was largely represented and selected O. Weisman as chairman, with M. Nilsson as secretary. The hall was well filled before the hour named for commencing, and after paying the closest attention to the speakers, there was a unanimous expression in favor of the Farnam street site.

Mr. Edward Rosewater was the first speaker. He reviewed the situation from the outset, refuting the statement that he had received a bona fide offer from the city council for the lot upon which the new BEE building now stands. At the time the alleged offer was made there was not a dollar in the city treasury, and the board of education had to advance the money necessary to commence the building as it now stands. It had been claimed by the opponents of the present site that there was not sufficient room to erect a suitable building and that the city hall would have to be built up to the lot line, but that was no drawback, as the public building now going up in Philadelphia, and others in Chicago would show. The proper place for public buildings was on the elevated portions of the city, and it was the rule in all large cities. Why was Creighton college not built near the corner of Eighteenth and Chicago streets, where the Creighton family owned considerable property? Why was it, and the Convent of the Sacred Heart, built on the top of the hill? Because there they appeared more sightly, and showed the city to the best advantage. Where there is a city with hills the public buildings will be found on these hills. In order to further their own selfish ends, there are those who wish to put the city hall within two blocks of lumber yards, within three blocks of the Union Pacific yards, which have more than once been overflowed. The location of the city hall on Jefferson square would not enhance the value of the lots on Cuming street $5. Every city has one great thoroughfare, and as the property increases in value on it, the relative values of property all over the city increase likewise, but when the public buildings are scattered over the city as they are in Lincoln, the reverse is the case. The government building there is situated away from the others, but it has been of no value to the surrounding property, which has, if anything, deteriorated in value on account of the falling off in business that follows its erection.

J. P. Breen was next called upon. He said that if he was to consult his own selfish interests, he would vote for Jefferson square. He was interested in property on Cuming street and on Twentieth and Cass, but he would rather see Omaha have a city hall than have his personal property benefitted. The need of a city hall was admitted, and as he knew the selection of the Jefferson square site meant endless litigation, he was willing for that, if for no other reason, to waive all personal benefits for the welfare of the city, which he knew meant his own welfare in the future. The unseemly delay was creating a bad impression abroad, and upon eastern capitalists. He had a client who resided in Pennsylvania, and had determined to invest in Omaha real estate. A year and a half ago he looked the city over, and on learning that the people by vote had chosen the corner of Eighteenth and Farnam streets for their city hall, he purchased the opposite corner, intending to improve it. A week or two ago he wrote to know if the city hall was completed yet, and the answer had to go back that it was just as he had left it. That naturally led to inquiry, and lengthy explanations were necessary, but that man will not attempt to build until the question of whether or not Omaha will keep good faith is decided. His influence will be felt in the east, and it is the baneful effect on men of his stamp and capital, that will injure the bright future of Omaha, if the citizens now repudiate the action that led these same men to invest here.

Mr. Breen then spoke from a legal standpoint, and traced Jefferson square from its original dedication to the city, as it appears on the first official map, down to 1872, when the council of that year ratified all former dedications, and set it apart "as a public square and park forever." He stated that it was his belief that not even by legislative enactment could it be used for other than park purposes. He cited a number of supreme court decisions in exactly similar cases, which all bore out the statement, and left it in the power of any one property owner to restrain the city from making any other use of it than a park. He urged all to vote to have a city hall built on the spot where it could be built at once—the Farnam street site. C. E. Bruner was on hand to represent the Jefferson square gang, and several times interrupted the speaker by asking questions. The answers were always to the point, and in order to give the questioner a chance to express his views he was called upon to speak, but declined.

Ex-Councilman Kierstead was the last speaker. He made a telling address.

Is There Something In It?

To the Editor of THE BEE: It has been intimated to the writer that the Farnam street city hall site was originally deeded to the city for city hall purposes only, and that in case the location of the hall were changed the title would resort to the original owners. It was further intimated that two of the most prominent and active of the Jefferson square boomers were these original owners, and that their disinterested zeal for Jefferson square was simply an attempt to filch the Farnam street lots from the city. I do not pretend to vouch for the accuracy of these statements, but if true the city should certainly be informed on the subject.

CURIOSITY.

Omaha, February 2, 1889.

LAST NIGHT'S FIRES.

J. J. Hardin's Store Damaged to the Extent of $2,000.

Last night was prolific of fires. There was three, but only one of the conflagrations did serious damage, and that was to J. J. Hardin's gun store, Thirteenth and Dodge streets.

At 2.30 o'clock this morning Jim Brady, a block watchman, while walking down Dodge street heard an explosion in the gun store. Then he saw smoke and knew that some powder had exploded, and that there was a fire in the basement of the store. He immediately turned in an alarm and the fire department responded. The fire originated in the basement, but was extinguished before the building got into flames. The loss is about $2,000, and is fully covered by insurance.

There were some roomers in the Gruenig block, just over the store, and among them was Dave Pendergrast, a bookkeeper for the Turf Exchange saloon. He was sick in bed, and his friends had some difficulty in getting him out.

The other two fires occurred earlier in the night, and were frame residences. One was at Thirty-second and Webster and the other at Thirteenth and Nicholas.

He Pulled a Knife.

Richard Roberts was arrested last night for creating a disturbance at the dance of the Swedish society at Exposition hall. In a quarrel with a man whose name could not be learned, Roberts pulled a knife, and had it not been for the prompt interference of bystanders a tragedy would probably have resulted. Roberts is said to be an ex-convict, having recently finished serving a term of a year and a half for robbery.

The Oklahoma Boomers.

CALDWELL, Kan., Feb. 2. — Oklahoma Harry Hill and Frank Albright arrived here this evening from the camp of the boomers, near Hunnewell. The object of this visit to the camp was to intercede with Pawnee Bill and persuade him to make no move until the bill had passed the senate, as it was not the object of the colony to antagonize the government if they could possibly avoid it. Pawnee Bill did not like the idea of postponing the raid, but agreed to consider the matter, and in the meantime the raiders will change their post of operations from Kansas City and Hunnewell to this city. It is expected that Pawnee Bill will arrive here on Monday night with a large crowd of settlers, and the citizens are wild with enthusiasm.

Safe in Montreal.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 2.—Joseph A. Moore, the insurance embezzler, has undoubtedly been located in Montreal by the Canadian police. A telegram to that effect was received to-day from Montreal. It states that a woman accompanies Moore. The insurance company, so far as can be learned, has done nothing toward running down Moore. They have not opened communication with the Montreal police or detectives. The lady who is referred to is doubtless Moore's daughter.

A Valuable Mexican Franchise.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 2.—N. A. Haven and John Haddy have received from the Mexican government papers conceding to them twenty years' exclusive privilege to manufacture and furnish water gas to all the cities in Mexico. The company is to be known as the Union Light and Fuel Gas Company of America, with a capital stock of $5,000,000.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

The legislative appropriation bill, as completed by the senate committee, increases the salary of the president's private secretary from $3,250 to $5,000.

Miss Cornelia Carnochan Roosevelt and Baron Clemens Freiherr Von Zedlitz, of the German Army, were married in St. Thomas' church, New York City.

White Caps severely handled two colored men at Harrisonburg, Va., for alleged immorality. The colored people are much alarmed, and many are afraid to be seen on street after dark.

A Mysterious Murder.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 2.—About midnight the body of a woman, aged about twenty-three, well dressed and of respectable appearance, was found in a vacant lot in the northeastern part of the city. On inspection it was found that she had been shot through the head, and that the weapon had been held so close as to singe the face with powder. Residents in the neighborhood heard a shot a short time before, but paid no attention to it. A man named George Fredericks was arrested on suspicion, but no positive evidence was found against him.

Still Balloting For Senator.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 2.—In join session to-day of the general assembly there was but one ballot taken for United States senator, and it resulted: Kenna, 35; Goff, 38; S. P. Hawer (union labor), 3; Judge Brannon, 1. Whole number of votes cast, 81; necessary to choice, 41.

A Mail Steamer Robbed.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Feb. 2.—The mail room of the steamer Sunbeam was robbed Friday night between Hayes and Ben Lomond landings, while the boat was under way and the mail man was asleep. Four registered packages were stolen.

The Six Will Swing Together.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 2.—Six men were sentenced to death by Judge Parker, of the United States court at Fort Smith, Ark. Two of them are white men, two negroes and two half breed Indians, and all are murderers. They will be hanged Friday, April 19.

For Interrupting a Speech.

PARIS, Feb. 2.—Laguerra, a prominent Boulangist deputy, has challanged Deputy Lacroix to fight a duel for offensively interrupting Laguerra's speech in the chamber.

Two Babies Burned to Death.

SPOKANE FALLS, Feb. 2.—Mr. and Mrs. Ballinger left their two babies in the house and went visiting. While absent the house caught fire, and the children burned to death.

A Desperado Shot.

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan., Feb. 2.—A special from Alfred, I. T., says that Charles Stine, who shot Marshal McAllister at Purcell on the 29th ult., and fled, was killed near that place last night while resisting arrest.

Weekly Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Feb. 2.—The weekly bank statement shows that the reserve has increased $1,122,000. The banks now hold $18,873,900 in excess of legal requirements.

Deaths From Smallpox.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Feb. 2.—Two more deaths from smallpox have occurred at the county poor-house. One new case is reported.

Needed No Assistance.

Chicago Tribune: Mrs. Strongmind (accompanied by husband)—Doctor, I have called to get a tooth extracted.

Dentist (stranger to Mrs. Strongmind, and thinking to reassure her)—That will take but a moment. You have brought your husband along I dare say to help you bear the pain.

Mrs. Strongmind—I have brought him along, sir, to pay the bill. Whenever you are read to lift this tooth out you can go ahead.