

A REMARKABLE DOCUMENT.

Judge Neville Substitutes Personal Abuse for Argument.

THE POSTOFFICE LOCATION.

Judge Dundy is by Innocent Charged With Corruption--The Supervising Architect Threatened With Opposition From the Council.

An Ingenious Man is James.

WASHINGTON HERALD, THE OMAHA BEE, 513 FOURTEENTH STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 18.

There is on file with the supervising architect of the United States treasury the following letter, which appears to be a duplicate of another letter filed by Judge Neville with the secretary of the treasury, and which letter had upon its back the endorsement of Senator Manderson, certifying to its correctness in all essential particulars.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 5, 1889.--Hon. Mr. Windrim, Supervising Architect: We wish to state some facts as to the merits and demerits of the two sites, one proposed and recommended by Mr. Linton, officially and unofficially, which is on the level and in the business center, and the other recommended by Governor Saunders and E. Rosewater, which is situated on the hill, and as District Judge Dundy or Mr. Rosewater says in his letter recommending it, "in the quiet repose of the city."

There are some facts which make it almost impossible to locate the postoffice building on the hill, viz.: From Farnam street to Douglas on Eighteenth street there is a rise of about 90 feet, it may be more. From Fifteenth street, present postoffice, to Douglas on Eighteenth, there is a rise of about 100 feet, and west of middle of block proposed by Rosewater is still more of a rise, amounting to quite over a hundred feet rise on Douglas.

Douglas street must be brought to a level, or near it, with Farnam on Eighteenth street, to meet the usual demands of United States supervising architects of the past, and presumably of the present one.

If not brought to a level with Farnam it will be quite impossible to get the mail transported to the rear of the building. How will this immense amount of grading be done?

Under our statutes this established grade cannot be changed without first an assessment and allowance of damages to all the building owners on Douglas and Eighteenth streets affected thereby, or by a waiver of damages by all such owners.

There are numerous citizens owning where the cut will be made, and on cross streets near by, who never will waive this damage as a mere obstruction, because they own business property below the business level affected by the removal of the postoffice building on the hill. Then the city council must proceed to assess and allow the damage for this change of grade and pay for the grading. This cannot be done at all, I think; but if effected, will be with such delay as will be denominated by reason of the delay.

We have in our city council L. S. Hassell with his friends arrayed against E. Rosewater upon old political feuds. These men will never permit this grade to be changed, if for no other reason than to defeat Rosewater. This is not pleasant to say, but public interest calls for the saying. All parties interested have waived damages as to change of grade. This is utterly untrue and nothing out the water in writing filed with you property sworn to, will, I think, satisfy you as an official.

2. There is an alley twenty feet wide and 664 feet in the block proposed at Eighteenth and Farnam.

Now this must be condemned. It will not be vacated and given by the city council for some reasons which have related as to change of grade.

Knowing the war between these contending factions, made more intense by the property affected in business center, an ordinance vacating the alley cannot be had, and it cannot be done except by ordinance approved by the mayor.

Under our charter of Omaha, the mayor wanting the site on Thirteenth and Harvey, and there interested. (See his letter on file for block 50.) So you see condemnation is inevitable except it be block 50, or some other block without an alley. The difficulty of condemnation is more intricate than they are taken because it springs some legal questions under our law upon condemnation, which must be followed under the act providing for the proposition. The condemnation as to 56, which Mr. Linton recommends, is void of these troublesome questions, as there is no alley, all other owners in the block having agreed to take the appraised value as I am informed. The same conditions apply to 58, as there is no alley and no grading to do, and block 58 is just one block east of present postoffice building, and perfectly satisfactory to a great majority of the business people, I think.

One other subject in grading: Block 11b on the hill now has a perpendicular bank about twenty to thirty feet high on Farnam street, running out to nothing on Douglas street. Several of the business people on Farnam, if Douglas street is cut, (assuming it possible), then the whole block proposed by Mr. Rosewater will stand all round the square twenty to thirty feet perpendicular above the surroundings.

Now the excavation for the foundations must be 30 feet in height, and 30 feet in width from 30 to 50 feet to start this building.

One more thought. I understand that in locating postoffice sites, the supervising architect in the past have been known to cut a hill or rise for the reason that the cities can cut the street in front of the postoffice if they wish and inconvenience the United States service and in some instances the government has been almost compelled to abandon her costly buildings. This is a potent reason for a level or nearly level site, especially in an established business center, where all interests demand a permanency of grade. This question of change of grade has almost universally been considered by the citizens, as they did not wish to subject their costly work to the ravages of a city council, and especially a western one with many hills cut and where they have cut four or five times the value of the site at the same place.

3. As to the value of this property reaching \$400,000, I must say that I have seen twenty-one years familiar with real estate values in Omaha, and let me assure you this whole block will not be appraised at more than \$75,000. But to be sure for continuing the owners about this block under the hill executed a bond in the sum of \$50,000, the consideration of which is the benefits of locating the postoffice on the hill.

Further, some of the parties who signed it are several times over millionaires. But in addition to this, indemnity bonds were executed by other citizens interested, to these men, who signed this bond to the United States. These indemnity bonds are conditioned that if these makers of the first bond to the United States shall pay any money to the United States or property owners, on account of appraisal over the \$400,000, they will make it good, save the little portion due for original bondmakers. Can it be said that these indemnity bonds are not good if the money shall be paid over by the original bondmakers. No good lawyer will say they are not good. But the original bondsmen are interested deeply in the location and will pay the money over rapidly and that would bind the indemnity bondsmen.

In addition, a subscription of many thousands of dollars was raised as a precaution to meet any over appraisal.

This appraisal and condemnation matter is over and over provided for, and as you will have to condemn any way, it appears best to take that on a level and suited to the best interest of the government and the citizens of Omaha.

District Judge Dundy, or Mr. Rosewater says in his letter favoring the site on the hill, that he would like to get the United States business in a place of quiet and repose. A thought who postoffice for a place of quiet and repose of business, at least it soon becomes such a place if not located in one being. United States business is nearly nine years old and constantly before the old judge, I became familiar with his peculiar decisions, similar to this, where the United States and private individuals were interested. I may have been prejudiced, but I thought he was for the individual first, last and all the time.

4. The citizens owning property fronting near the present postoffice building bought and gave the site to the United States. They do not ask a return of values but simply equity. That is, that all things being equal, their property should not be depreciated. From the private parties who gave nothing to the United States for the present building.

A government demands equity and justice from her subjects, shall she not do equity? Yours truly, JAMES NEVILLE.

It is Genuine. Probably thousands of people in this section of the country, and in this section is no exception to any other in this respect in the United States, have read the report said to have been written by Prof. S. A. Lattimore, Ph. D., LL. D., Analyst of Foods and Medicines, New York State Board of Health, and Professor of Chemistry in Rochester, N. Y., University, stating that all of the Safe Remedies manufactured by H. H. Warner & Co. were pure and wholesome, nor did any of them contain any mercury or deleterious substances. To shorten the controversy, however, we will give Prof. Lattimore's report entire:

THE PROHIBITION POW-WOW.

Close of the Cold Water Conference in Lincoln.

PLANNING FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

Papers, Songs and Speeches Consumed Most of the Time--A State Official Railway Map to Be Issued.

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1029 P STREET, LINCOLN, APRIL 18.

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There were probably three hundred delegates in attendance. Aside from them the good women of the city, who were invited, spoke their piece when called upon, and added much to the general entertainment. A temperance convention would be nothing without the women. Their presence, and their stormy sea without a rudder. Mrs. King, of Lincoln, talked and was cheered. Mrs. Holmes, of Tecumseh, read a very interesting paper. The women of the city were in force and captured the convention. This was the reason the third party follows took a leading part in the conference. It was a good reason on earth. The story of the conference is told when it is said that from three hundred to six hundred people attended the sessions of the conference. They were papers and speeches. They all related to temperance and temperance work. Major Hilton, of Washington, D. C., addressed the concluding session of the conference. He was greeted by a large audience.

The committee on plan of work recommended "that the prohibition party, the Good Templars, the W. C. T. U., the anti-social republicans, democrats and united labor men use the best means to carry out the agitation for the passage of the prohibition amendment to our state constitution. We further recommend that in each county and precinct organization be organized and that all people, of whatever political opinion, as far as possible, co-operate with the laudable for carrying the amendment. Smith is of opinion that the rightfully constituted officers of the aforesaid organizations confer together to provide for an economy in the carrying of the amendment. The greatest good may be accomplished with the least expenditure of time and money. We would further recommend that a number of county meetings be held in each county of the state for the purpose of creating public sentiment in favor of the amendment.

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DRAWING TO A CLOSE.

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