

WHERE THEY SHONE AS STARS

Paris Taken by Jacobson and Edwards in a Gas Deal.
WOULD HAVE TAKEN MILLIONS FROM CITY
Gave Earnest Support to a Measure Which Went Through the Council to be Knocked Out by Public Sentiment.

One of the most notorious of the numerous jobs which a corrupt council has sought to saddle upon the taxpayers of Omaha during recent years is the ordinance which was passed by the city council on November 14, 1895, and which granted to the Omaha Gas Manufacturing company the exclusive privilege of supplying gas to the consumers of Omaha for fifty years at exorbitant rates and under conditions which left the victims no manner of relief from the burdens it imposed. This was an ordinance which contemplated the fleecing of millions of dollars in excessive rates from the pockets of Omaha home owners and business men, and it was an extraordinary fact that when this outrageous measure came up for passage, such was the hold of the corporations on the council that only one member had sufficient backbone to oppose it. Two members were absent. The other members, without exception, supported the ordinance until public sentiment became so thoroughly aroused that they were compelled to reluctantly defer to the interests of the people.

The ordinance, known as No. 3729, granted to the Omaha Gas Manufacturing company the right to maintain and operate gas works in this city for a period of fifty years, at a fixed price of \$1.75 per 1,000 cubic feet, with a sliding scale to be in force when the consumption should reach 800,000,000 cubic feet per year. Even then there was no provision to protect the interests of the city at any future time.

KEPT FROM THE PUBLIC. When this ordinance was introduced it was promptly referred without reading, and the chairman of the committee lost no time in concealing it in an inside pocket. It was a question he simply replied that it was an ordinance relative to the gas franchise, but he refused to make any of its provisions. Every effort was made to prevent any reading of the real character of the ordinance. It was not until the public until it was published among the official advertisements in The Bee. Then there was an immediate renegeing of the ordinance.

The ordinance was passed. Among those who voted for it were now candidates were Jacobson and Edwards. It was well known that Mayor Bemis intended to veto the ordinance, and as the week passed it became evident that some of the councilmen who had voted for it on its passage would not dare to vote for it on a second time. Its champions feared that they could not muster enough votes to pass it over the veto, and in order to carry their point they resorted to a subterfuge worthy of their cause.

The next regular meeting of the council was held on October 22, and the ordinance was brought up for a vote. The council chamber was turned twenty minutes ahead of the council. The council chamber was turned twenty minutes ahead of the council. The council chamber was turned twenty minutes ahead of the council.

This scandalous conduct brought out such a storm of popular indignation that the officials who had engineered the scheme realized that they had trespassed too far on the patience of the people. The Real Estate Owners' association, and citizens in general, headed by such men as W. S. Poppleton and John L. Kennedy, took the matter in hand. Several indignation meetings were held. These were packed with the employees running too high to be checked off. The general expression was of unmeasured indignation, and injunction proceedings were instituted to prevent the execution of the obnoxious contract.

PROFITS OF THE CONTRACT. At this point in the proceedings Mayor Bemis called a news conference, and presented the officials of the gas company, engineer, inspector, city attorney, city engineer and several councilmen, as well as Messrs. Poppleton and Kennedy, with other interested citizens. At this and subsequent conferences, an agreement was reached by which a new ordinance was drafted, in which the most obnoxious clauses of the previous measure were amended. A new sliding scale was arranged by which the price was fixed at \$1.60 per 1,000 feet as long as the consumption did not exceed 200,000,000 feet. Then the price decreased by a regular scale until the consumption should reach 600,000,000 feet, when the price was fixed at \$1.25. A clause was also inserted which provided for the furnishing of fuel gas at \$125 per ton, or an annual royalty of 5 cents on each 1,000 feet of gas sold. The term of the franchise was reduced from fifty to twenty-five years, and a purchasing clause was inserted which provided for the selection of three appraisers to fix the value of the plant, exclusive of the gas works, at the expiration of the franchise. The new ordinance was introduced December 4, and the previous ordinance was passed.

SOME IDEA OF THE PROFITS THE GAS COMPANY expected to reap can be gained from the reductions made in the recent ordinance from what was asked in the earlier fifty-year franchise ordinance. Accepting 140,000,000 cubic feet as the private consumption of gas during the current year, the immediate reduction of 15 cents per 1,000 cubic feet and a payment to the city of 5 cents per 1,000, represents \$25,000 gained annually for the city and citizens even should the consumption remain stationary. During the time the franchise is to run this would reach a total of \$700,000, and had the fifty-year franchise ordinance been adopted it would have meant at the least \$1,500,000 transferred unnecessarily from the pockets of the people to those of the gas company. All this on the assumption that there would be no increase in gas consumption.

SAVING TO CONSUMERS. But the consumption of gas in every growing community is bound to increase with constant strides. Assuming that the consumption of gas will increase regularly during the twenty-five years which the franchise is to run, the total saving during that period reaches over \$1,000,000. On the same basis of increase the royalty which would be paid to the city by the gas company during the twenty-five years will amount to some \$500,000 additional. Then taking the same rate of increase for the next twenty-five years, during which the franchise would have been extended if the original ordinance had passed, the aggregate saving to the taxpayers will approximate \$2,000,000. This is exclusive of the minor concessions in the fifty-year franchise ordinance, which were admitted to be worth to the company thousands upon thousands of dollars. It is also exclusive of the immense profits which the company will have derived from the sale of gas at the present reduced rates. It is safe to say that the fifty-year franchise ordinance which the council combine tried to force upon the people of Omaha, contemplated imposing a needless burden upon the taxpayers amounting approximately \$2,000,000. This is the ordinance for which both Edwards and Jacobson worked and voted.

OMAHA TO MEET MINNEAPOLIS. Oratorical Contest to Be Arranged Between the Two High Schools. Miss McHugh and Ralph S. Connell have returned from Minneapolis, where they went to arrange an oratorical contest between the High schools of the two cities. The following agreement was settled upon between the Omaha representatives and the principal of the Minneapolis High school, assisted by the contest committee of three seniors: City, to be decided upon by Minneapolis High school, to be in an open house; date, some Friday in January, 1896.

Effort to Show that the Appointments Were Not Confirmed by a Legal Board of Police Commissioners. The case of Martin Shields against the city of Omaha, wherein Shields sues for his wages for services as a special policeman on August 2 and 3, was on trial before Justice Cockrell yesterday. This is the first of fifty-seven cases, and according to the present situation, each case will be tried separately. The assistant city attorney tried to induce the attorney who appeared for the plaintiffs to try one case and let the others abide by the issue in that case. This the attorney refused to do, and the task of trying all the cases separately was begun.

TESTIMONY IN SPECIAL POLICE SUITS. The proceedings yesterday afforded substantial proof that the records of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners had been tampered with. The issues raised by the defense was that these special policemen were appointed at a meeting held at 6 o'clock on the evening of August 2, 1895, presided over by W. J. Broatch, A. C. Foster and Paul Vandervoort as commissioners were approved by the city council late in the afternoon and it was therefore set up that the appointments of Shields and the others as special officers were not legal, since they had not been confirmed by the legal Board of Fire and Police Commissioners. In support of their claim they pointed to the records of the board, in which it appeared that the specials were confirmed at 6 o'clock.

IN THE MINUTES, as compiled by Clerk Brown, the words "at 6 o'clock" were inserted and had evidently been put in after the minutes had been written. Mayor Bemis testified that to the best of his recollection the meeting at which the specials were appointed and confirmed was held in his office between 11 and 12 o'clock in the forenoon. He could not remember the date, but he testified that the men were appointed before the bonds upon the city council.

RECORDS WERE INTERLEAVED

Deaver and Mostyn Swear Against Clerk Brown's Minutes.
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Mr. Mostyn and Thomas Ormsby, who were captain and sergeant respectively of the police force at the time, testified that Shields was regularly appointed and that he served as a special police officer as alleged.

By way of argument the attorney for Shields set up the proposition that it made no difference whether it should appear that the specials were appointed on the evening of August 2, 1895, or on the morning of August 3, 1895, inasmuch as the law plainly declared that de facto acts of public officials were binding so far as they concerned the rights of those who were affected thereby.

The hearing was completed in the afternoon, and Justice Cockrell took the case under advisement. Clerk Brown was called by the defense and he contradicted the previous witnesses, who had sworn that the specials were appointed in the forenoon. He stated positively that they were appointed at 6 o'clock. When he was asked how it could be that these officers whom he said had been appointed in the forenoon, he stated that he had been appointed at noon, and sworn in at 5 o'clock. He explained that he believed that they were appointed in the forenoon, but that he had sworn to the contrary, and the final appointment was made in the evening.

THERE WAS A GOOD DEAL OF CONTENTION between the attorneys as to the time for hearing the remaining cases. Attorney Thomas asked Mr. Corbish to consent to file a stipulation of facts in the case, and he refused to do so without trial, but Mr. Corbish refused to consent to the proposition. He said that he had already prepared a petition which he would submit to the district court, in which he would ask for an injunction restraining the plaintiffs from bringing any more cases.

ON ACCOUNT OF A SMALL BILL. Mullen Brutally Assaulted at His Home by an Expressman.
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Mr. Mullen, a resident, is now lying in a precarious condition at the home of his wife, at the corner of Cummins street, as the result of an assault at the hands of L. W. Tope, an expressman. Tope has a stand at the corner of Capitol avenue and Sixteenth streets, and lives at 1123 North Nineteenth street. Mullen has been injured internally and is suffering from cerebral hemorrhages which have caused him to grow weaker daily from the time of the assault, which occurred on October 11. The trouble arose over a business transaction in which Mullen agreed to paint a wagon for Tope. The work was performed and Tope paid the bill by moving Mullen and his family to a house boat and has been playing his accounts in that manner. It was found that Mullen 75 cents in Tope's debt and this amount was immediately demanded by him. Mullen promised to pay as soon as he received his money from some work that he was doing, but this did not satisfy Tope. He went away with the money, but he called again with Mullen in a different manner.

THE PARENTS OF Mullen state that on the evening of October 11, Mullen called at the house and again demanded his money. He was not forthcoming and he then asked to see her. It is alleged that as soon as the younger Mullen appeared in the room in front of the house, Tope sprang upon him and struck him in the head. Mullen was taken into the street and his car was called. After making an examination they said that some of the blood vessels of the brain had been ruptured.

PRIEBLE'S DIVORCE SUIT AGAIN. The Priebble divorce suit has bobbed up again in the courts, this time in the shape of affidavits as the father and mother of the Priebble, the plaintiff in the suit. It will be remembered that the wife is fighting the suit hard and has obtained some concessions from the court. One of these was the possession of the ring and pinion which belonged to the couple.

THE PARENTS OF Priebble live in Oak Oak, La. They swear that when Mrs. Priebble's attorney came to them for the horse and pinion, which was in their possession at the time, he told them in a conversation that his client would be willing to trade the horse and pinion for \$250 or \$300. This is intended to show that Mrs. Priebble has only a mercenary purpose in view in fighting the suit.

CREDITORS ASK FOR A RECEIVER. The unprotected creditors of the Davis & Cowell Iron works have begun an action in the district court for the appointment of a receiver for the property. They allege that just before the company failed, it gave mortgages on its property to a few preferred creditors for the purpose of shutting out others and that the receivers are now proposing to sell the property at a price not exceeding the amount of their claims. Louis Wetling is proposed as receiver for the property, which is located in the city of Omaha. The property and then distribute the proceeds to all the creditors alike.

AWARDED HIGHEST HONORS—WORLD'S FAIR, DR. CREAM. WOODS' WOLF SOAP. MOST PERFECT MADE.

A pure Graft Cream of Tartar Powder. Free from Ammonia, Alum or any other adulterant. 40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

LAURENCE—Laurie, died October 21st. St. Joseph hospital, of spinal meningitis. Funeral tomorrow (Thursday) at 2 o'clock from 1314 and 13th and Central. Interment Forest Lawn.

HAZEN BROD' ADD IS ON PAGE 2.

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William H. Mallory has begun a suit in the district court to protect his business, so he alleges. He says that for the past two years he has been a member of a firm known as the Omaha Boiler Compound company, which has never been incorporated.

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DUFFY'S PURE MALT WHISKEY. FOR MEDICINAL USE. NO FUSEL OIL. Will give you days of comfort, nights of peace. No more coughs, backache nor raw throats. NO FEAR OF GRIP. To be had of grocers and druggists. Book with pictures sent by Duffy Malt Whiskey Co., Rochester, N. Y.

\$4.75 Dress Overcoat Kersey, Velvet Collar. Speaking of all wool, what a pity that a merchant of today could not be prosecuted for misrepresentation. Everything is wool in many a store nowadays, but not here. When we say all wool, it's so.

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NEBRASKA CLOTHING CO. THE GREAT HUDYAN. This extraordinary discovery of the age has been discovered by the man of Europe and America. Hudyan cures Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, Headache, Stomach, Liver, Hydrocele, Varicocele, Stricture, Weak Men, Seminal Discharge, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, and all other diseases.

For Your Home. We have some choice selections in Framed Pictures that will make those barren places on the wall replete with life and beauty. Prices are within easy reach of the most economical. Fine Imitation Pastels, with white and gold frames, at 99c; worth regularly \$2.00.

Framing a Specialty-- Hundreds of styles of Moldings to select from. The 99 Cent Store. 1319 Farnam Street.

DOCTOR Searles & Searles. 119 S. 14th St. We cure Catarrh, all Discharges, all Ulcers, all Diseases of the Chest, Stomach, Liver, Hydrocele, Varicocele, Stricture, Weak Men, Seminal Discharge, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, and all other diseases.

Picked Up In Church. It's in the Air on all social occasions. You cannot go to the opera without going with a whiff of IMPERIAL CROWN PURPLE AZALEA. THE FASHIONABLE PERFUME. Flowery, refreshing, delicate and lasting.

A Few Advantages. Offered by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, the short line to Chicago. A clean trip made up and started in Omaha. IRYA MERCANTILE. THE MERCANTILE IS THE FAVORITE TEN CENT CIGAR. For sale by all First Class Dealers. Manufactured by the F. R. RICE MERCANTILE CIGAR CO., Factory No. 304, St. Louis, Mo.