

COUNTY BOARD PAYS NO NEED TO PAVING PROTEST

County Commissioners Complete Awards for Bitulithic—Injunction Petition Will Be Filed.

Chamber of Commerce and attorney for the committee, "Honest men's word is as good as their bond. We expect this agreement to be carried out."

Contract is illegal. "Further, it was this signed pledge of the commissioners" which made possible the holding of the special election. Had it not been for this pledge, 30 progressive property owners of the county would not have agreed to bear the expense of the special election in case the bonds failed to carry. You couldn't have voted on paving bonds until the regular election of November, 1920.

County Commissioner Unitt, in defending his action, declared that he didn't think a spirit of controversy ought to prevail over a few miles of "bitulithic." "This is only 10 miles out of a total of 115," he argued. "A man said to me today, 'If this contract goes through we will get some new county commissioners.' I am at your service, gentlemen. But I don't think this spirit ought to prevail. The county commissioners reserve the right to act on their own initiative sometimes and this is one of those times."

"Off on Wrong Foot." George Wolz of Fremont declared that Douglas county has "gotten off on the wrong foot on this paving deal."

"In Dodge county," he said, "the owners of the abutting property pay one-third of the total cost of the paving. This is only right because they receive the greatest benefit. There are other counties in which this system prevails. If you had such a rule in Douglas county your paving problem would be simplified greatly."

The meeting continued from 10:30 in the morning until nearly 2:30 in the afternoon. It was nearly 5 when the county commissioners placed their signatures to the contracts and bond approvals.

Early in the meeting W. B. Cheek, president of the Omaha Automobile club, read a telegram from the Paving Brick Co., Calverton, Ill., bearing on the alleged shortage of brick. It said: "Have contracts for 35,000,000 brick. Providing we can get the empty cars, will be able to deliver 25,000,000 this year."

Jamin B. Root of the South Side declared that brick was the paving even discussed prior to the bond election.

"I am one of the taxpayers who signed the bond for the special election," he said, "and I hope God will wither my right arm if I knew on the day I signed it that you had anything in mind but brick."

"No man can put up an argument against brick. Such a paving would be a monument to this generation long after we have passed on."

Towle Defends Stand. John W. Towle, president of the Allied Contractors, Inc., the concern which secured the contract for the 12 miles of "bitulithic" paving in controversy, declared that in his judgment bitulithic asphaltic concrete will last longer than brick paving.

He referred to the "self-constituted committee." "This committee represents only a small proportion of the taxpayers," he said, "and has no more right to come in here demanding brick than some other committee might have to come in and demand bitulithic."

"The people of this county have selected five men to transact their business. These men have acted in good judgment as well as in good faith in awarding this contract for bitulithic paving."

County Commissioner C. J. Unitt, who offered the market at the time of the award of the bitulithic contract, defended his rejection from brick, asserting that it is time to show the brick men that they do not hold Douglas county by the throat, and he added that the controversy was confronted by a situation of brick bids being boosted from \$35,000 to \$40,000, as originally estimated, to \$55,000 to \$60,000 per mile.

Convinced of Combine. Sophus Nebel, county commissioner, in an impassioned statement, explained that he broke his signed pledge for brick only when he was convinced of a brick combine.

"I am going to protect the taxpayers of Douglas county," he said. "Why wasn't there specifications for asphalt pavement, except the Warrenite, which is a patent?" F. A. Brogan, president of the Chamber of Commerce, asked State Engineer Johnson.

"I specified sheet asphalt," the engineer replied. "Why didn't you specify asphaltic concrete?" was Mr. Brogan's next inquiry.

"Asphaltic concrete won't stand up under truck traffic," Mr. Johnson replied.

"It is nothing in the world but a brick trust and they make nothing but slaves of the contractors, and we refuse to be a slave of this brick trust," said John W. Towle, to whose company was awarded the bitulithic contract. "The brick people will not keep their promise. We made our bid in good faith. We can build for this county only five miles of brick roads this year."

Referring to a statement made by John A. Bruce, city engineer, that asphaltic concrete could be laid for about \$1 per yard less than the Towle county bid on bitulithic, Mr. Towle explained that there are various factors of expense incident to county road work, which do not enter into the expense of a city contract.

Mr. Cheek referred to a recent bid of \$3.95 at Albion, Neb., for asphaltic concrete, on specifications similar to those on which the Douglas county bid was made. Mr. Towle offered evidence from other states to prove the wearing qualities of bitulithic.

Can't Budge Wilson in Stand on Treaty

(Continued From First Page.) that, because I knew that senators did not agree among themselves about the reservation, and also that they did not know the view of the president, which they wanted to get before they acted.

No Excuse for Delay. "I understand they now know the president's views, and there is therefore no excuse for delaying things longer. If the president is satisfied with the Lodge reservations, then the treaty can be ratified. If he will not take the Lodge reservations, then the question is whether the democrats will break away from him and ratify the treaty anyhow."

"There will be plenty of opportunity over Sunday for democratic senators to make up their minds what they are going to do. If no one else will do it, I give notice that on Monday I will move to proceed at once to the consideration of the reservation on article 10. We are ready to vote on it now."

Senator Borah then read what he said was a "reliable account of the president's views." It quoted "an official close to the president" as saying that the president regarded further discussion of reservations with democratic senators as needless; that he had made his views known to Senator Glass two weeks ago and saw no need to reiterate those views daily; that he was adamant against nullifying reservations, and that it should be remembered that the president had submitted the treaty and therefore was in no position to discuss proposals for changing it, and that he would prefer having democrats try to persuade Senator Lodge to the Wilson view, rather than to try to convert the president to Mr. Lodge's program.

Senator Glass Angered. Senator Glass took exception to Senator Borah's use of his name and said he resented espionage upon his movements. He did not like to have his comings and goings reported upon the floor of the senate, Mr. Glass said. Referring entirely to his most recent call at the executive office, which occurred two or three days ago, Mr. Glass said that he did not then seek an audience with the president and did not see him. He said he regarded it as a gross breach of propriety for one senator to stand on the senate floor and discuss the actions of other senators. Mr. Glass said that his latest call at the White

House was on business not even remotely related to the treaty. But he did not say anything as to his former visit, upon which occasion, according to White House officials, the president gave Mr. Glass a clear view of his position on the article 10 reservation.

"It doesn't make any difference what the senator from Virginia says," Mr. Borah retorted. "Everybody knows the fate of this treaty depends on the president's attitude. He asked Senator Simmons whether he knew the president's views."

"Not from him," replied Mr. Simmons. "The senator has read something which would indicate that if I had gone to the White House I would have attempted to persuade the president to accept the Lodge reservations. This is not the case. I should not have done so."

Irreconcilables Ready. Mr. Borah said that the attitude of Senators Glass and Simmons more than ever convinced him that article 10 should be taken up at once. "We are ready now," he said. "Whom do you mean by 'we'?" asked Senator Hitchcock.

"The irreconcilables," said Mr. Borah. "How many votes have you?" continued Senator Hitchcock.

"Well, if you have as many as you said you had the other day we have enough to prevent ratification," replied Borah.

One reservation was adopted today. It covered the payment of the United States' share of the league's expenses. Senator Hitchcock and other democrats urged rejection of the reservation, saying that congress must appropriate in any case before the American share could be paid.

Senator Lodge explained that the reservation was intended to give notice that the United States declined to assume a moral obligation to pay any sum that might be assessed for any purpose. The reservation was finally amended so that the United States assumes no obligation to pay any portion of the league expenses, except the office expenses and salaries of employees of the secretary-general, and was adopted, 46 to 25.

Take Precautions to Keep Flyers From Crossing Line. Washington, March 6.—To enable army aviators to avoid crossing the international boundary into Mexico, a radio compass station has been erected at Ream Field, Imperial Beach, Cal., and pilots patrolling from Ream Field to Calexico are ordered to check their position every five minutes.

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- MISCELLANEOUS Heavy Blue Denim Bib overalls, \$2.98. very special \$2.98. Khaki Unionalls, \$2.98. Special at \$2.98. Silkline Khaki Handkerchiefs, two for \$2.98.
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