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C. J. SULLIVAN, Editor
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1908

Creek Commission
Up a Tree

The creek commission are up a tree concerning the plan of assessment for the Six Mile creek improvement. We can give some advice to the Saint and his allies on the commission that may be of some importance to them in performing their unselfish, public spirited duty. First, place that assessment against the whole city, as there are many houses in the so-called flooded zone which the floods never reached; cannot these property owners swear that that creek improvement is no more benefit to their property than to that of the hill property? Second, if the southern section of the city is benefitted by walling the creek we can depend on our assessors in the future to increase the valuation of property in that part of the city—if it will be possible to squeeze any more taxes out of the flat property. The flats have paid more than their equitable share of the taxes for years, and some who were up to snuff in regard to the inequality moved on the hill. Many of these men are engaged in business on State street and are willing to pay a special tax on the property which they own thereon in order that their very valuable property on the hill would escape such taxation. Take the Parker tract purchased by mayor Newman as soon as he was assured that the creek, drainage and park bill would pass, which will now be improved by the dirt removed from the banks of the inlet. He pays no special tax for that, it is paid by the entire State. That is all right, it will be a benefit to the whole city, and we only wish it would increase the value of that land ten thousand dollars, but where would Mr. Newman's land be if the State paid only one-third and the balance was assessed against the swamp land in the vicinity of the improvements? The city of Ithaca is an incorporated body, each man, rich and poor, is dependent upon each other. "A house divided against itself cannot stand." So we of Ithaca should stand together according to our means not according to our misfortunes. In a collective body we should pay for the creek improvements, and we have as yet to find a man living on the hill, outside of the creek commission, who offers an objection to a general special tax, and if there is a just law in the state of New York we are under the impression the assessment will be made that way.

Alderman Leary and
His Two-Block Avenue

Alderman Leary made a jackass of himself and his constituents when he changed the name of the two-block Whent Street to an Avenue, and instead of the beautiful emblem of the bread of life which once appeared on its street corners there will soon appear the commemoration of a man who, while president of the United States, done more than any other American president to deprive the masses of the bread of life. He was elected president by British money through a promise of free trade which would be

beneficial to that country. He desired free trade in coal with Canada because he was given an interest in a coal mine in that country. He also sent a message to Congress concerning the dispute between Venezuela and Great Britain which awakened great interest throughout the country, but little did the masses suspect that Grover Cleveland's message was in the interest of a gold mine in which he was given an interest in that country, and was ready to sacrifice the lives of thousands of American soldiers to protect that gold mine; which also accounts for his being an ardent gold standard man. This same Grover Cleveland whose name now disgraces the corners of Wheat street was charged with selling \$50,000,000 worth of U. S. bonds to J. P. Morgan at private sale at less than they were worth in the public market, and that deal netted some one \$16,000,000 of good, clean American money. Hot, isn't it? And this same Grover Cleveland is the man who sent the federal troops to Chicago at the command of the corporations and against the protest of the governor of that state. It is not for the best interest that he should be held up to the youth of the nation for a model either as a man or as a statesman. His one great utterance is, "To the victors belong the spoils." By the grace of the minister Barchard's famous "Bum, Romanism and Rebellion" utterance he occupied the White House the last four years. By the grace of God may he rest in peace.

Plan of Assessment Considered

At a special meeting of the creek, park and drainage commission August 10 to consider the question of assessments for Six Mile creek improvements there were present Messrs. Newman, St. John, Burdick, Clapp, Driscoll and Treman. A general discussion ensued on the scheme heretofore submitted by the chairman and city attorney. Chairman St. John reported the previous schedule had been revised to include all properties on State street between Cayuga and Geneva, with assessed valuation amounting to \$170,000. Mr. Clapp approved of the general plan of grouping properties in zones but suggested passing upon the properties individually as affording a more accurate and equitable basis of assessment. Mr. Treman advised the extension of the area to be assessed and would increase the rate per foot frontage abutting on the creek, suggesting that the percentage assessment be on the basis of land values rather than improved values, or a combination of both. Mr. Driscoll favored increased creek frontage rate of assessment and the establishment of two zones for percentage assessments. Mr. Burdick suggested the application of the frontage assessment on properties immediately adjacent to properties abutting on the creek as being exposed to substantially the same danger. Mr. St. John deemed that assessments based upon land values would be more equitable than on improved or assessed valuations. Mr. Newman favored combining land values with assessed valuations in fixing values for the percentage assessment. On motion of Mr. Treman, resolved, that a schedule of assessments be prepared against properties abutting on Six Mile creek easterly from Cayuga street, upon the basis of frontage and 25 per cent. of the dike wall, and on the same basis from Meadow street westerly. Carried. By Mr. Treman seconded by Mr. Newman, resolved that the limits of the area to be included in the percentage assessment be extended as follows: Both sides of Aurora street north to the center of Seneca, both sides of Tioga north to the center of Seneca, both sides of Cayuga north to the center of Seneca, both sides of W. State between Cayuga and Geneva, north on Corn street to Buffalo, thence on Buffalo to Washington, thence on Washington to Cascadilla, thence west to the inlet. By Mr. Newman seconded by Mr. Clapp, resolved, that two competent real estate men be employed to appraise the actual land values of the properties in the district to be assessed, and thereafter they and the city assessor review and revise the

same, that they report such revision to chairman St. John and that he cause the assessment so made together with the assessment of the same properties on the tax roll to be classified by blocks or zones or as he see fit, and furnish copies to each member of the board.

At a meeting of the commission July 14 Mr. Treman suggested that they formulate and adopt some policy looking toward the drainage and redemption of the marsh land.

The southern part of the city will not stand for the secession of the other sections when it comes to paying a little tax. The separation of the city for any purpose whatever weakens the desire as well as the power to accomplish important improvements. We invite our aristocratic friends to come back into the union and keep their slaves. What say you, major Burdick?

Tid Bits

We saw resolutions two columns in length as to what district attorney Kent was going to do in the Hotchkiss case. Now what has he done? What will he do? What dare he do? Simply nothing. We said then it was hot air. We say so still.

We see by the Journal that "Babe" Reed got drunk in the Tompkins county jail, for which he received the limit in the Monroe county penitentiary; but when Ward Fulkerson got drunk in jail last year and furnished intoxicants to the other inmates, he did not get punished for the reason that he claimed to have gotten his booze from the basement of the court house where a few extra sessions were held by the county officials of Tompkins county.

Last Monday Andrew Toat was fined one dollar each for ten cucumbers taken from Bradford Almy's garden. The question of title to the garden was not raised. Now that deed has all the elements of stealing, to-wit:—A poor, hungry, ignorant, friendless foreigner, an ex-mayor, and officials over zealous to pimp and pander to notoriety.

Poor Andrew Toat's name was published, but the name of the man with a little money who tapped the city's water mains and unlawfully appropriated the water was not published and the affair has been hushed up.

Section 651 a, subdiv. 3 of the penal code of the state of New York:—"Makes or causes to be made any connection by means of pipe, conduit or otherwise with the water main or service pipe of any person, corporation or company furnishing water to consumers, in such manner as to take water from said main or service pipe without its passing through the meter or other instrument provided for registering or measuring the amount or quantity of water taken from said main or service pipe, is guilty of a misdemeanor."

Since the district attorney is so busy shaking hands for a living, Mr. Cobb, we ask you if you will see that that section of the penal code is enforced.

State Convention Here?

Attorney Murray E. Poole, state committeeman from this district, is making a strenuous effort to secure the state convention of the Independence Party for this city. He has addressed several letters to members of the state committee urging them to come to Ithaca, and he believes he will be successful. It is said Mr. Poole will be a candidate for some important office in the Independent party. Mr. Poole is perfectly competent to fill any of the state offices, having graduated from Cornell in 1880 with the degree of A. B., and having heretofore been elected to important offices as well as having received the appointment of special county judge from governor Hill. The many in this city whom Mr. Poole has often befriended will be pleased to see the Independence League confer any honor within their power upon our fellow citizen, and it will be sure to call an increased vote for that party in Ithaca and Tompkins county.

FOR RENT.—Six pleasant rooms, city water, toilet, \$10 if rented at once. W. T. KELLOGG, 522 W. State St. Ithaca phone 408-x.

To Debate

Our fellow-townsmen, attorney J. J. McGuire, will engage in a public debate in this city, Wednesday, September 16, with J. Wanhope of New York, assistant editor of Wilshire's Magazine on some question of industrial and political economy, the definite subject of which, together with the hall where the debate will take place, will be announced later. If Jerry don't down his opponent it will be only because he may happen to get on the wrong side of the case.

Correspondence.

A RHAPSODY

Our street has got the "bunniest" name.—
Though trees are nil, 'tis Linden;
Our fathers named it Hazen Street,
But Hazen's now Hazbindeu.

Some seem to think bad character
By changing names to lose;
But lindens still are basswood trees,
And "booze" continues "booze."

Now "Linden" sounds so charmingly
With liquid N's and L,
We must forget that basswoods are
As buddy'n' buggy's—well—

They say they're going to plant a tree,
And basswood, in the gloam,
Is good enough to lean against
When "boozy" coming home.

—One who appreciates the satire in the name.

LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN.

EDITOR OF INDEPENDENT:—

The editor of the Ithaca Chronicle has always treated your paper with silent contempt till now when he characterizes you as a "bantam."

You see you can't rise to his plane of thought in boosting the city to the highest pinnacle of fame.

Of course, the editor does not pay very heavy taxes but that makes no difference so long as he can spend the money for improvements.

An editor who can associate with a Congressman is certainly more eminent than one who associates with only the common people.

I knew that you would be taken down in your pride just as you were swelled up with importance and now it has come and by one of the "city fathers" whose civic extravagance you have denounced.

Instead of being a bantam, I thought you was at least a middle-weight champion, but now that your status is fixed we will know where to find you.

Of course, the editor of the Chronicle is not a very heavy weight but that makes no difference so long as he is doing our work satisfactorily.

If you had been more pliable to our wishes you might now occupy an exalted position.

But keep right on doing the work of the people and if you do not get your reward here you can be cheered by the thought that they will erect a nice monument to you—after you are dead.

I see that Pat Conley is going to "kick" you, too. You forget that he belongs to a fighting family.

There used to be a little ditty:

"Ithaca has a slugger,
Mike Conley is his name;
He never gets full on Saturday night
But he gets there just the same."

If he should hold you under a pile-driver a few minutes, he might keep you still.

A GENTLEMAN.

MR. EDITOR:—

When Mr. Crandall was city engineer and surveyor, he did all the work and furnished his own help, figured out the assessments to be made on abutting property, and his bills amounted to about \$30 a month on an average. Now, since we have economy, Stewart has two Cornell men at \$30 a week so we are told, and he gets \$100 a month, and he wants some one to figure assessments. Crandall can do more in one day than that trio can in one week. That is why his bills are so small. But some people have to have pets, you know. The city pays the bills. It is only \$190 per month more and only four months longer when that pair will have a much needed rest.

Disgusted.

Small Boy—Say, mister, dere's a sign in yore winder readin' "Boy Wanted."
Wot kind uv a boy does youse mean?
Merchant—A nice quiet boy that doesn't use naughty words, smoke cigarettes, whistle around the office, play tricks or get into mischief.
Small Boy—Gwan! Youse don't want no boy; youse wants a girl. See?—Chicago News.

SYSTEM BORN OF GREED.

Monopoly is the Inevitable Outgrowth of Competition.

It is proverbial that the tree is known by its fruit. Then what are the fruits of this upas tree of competition which has flourished so luxuriantly for ages? Concentration of wealth and power for the few, industrial bondage, indigence and poverty for the multitude, churches and child labor, prisons and paupers, trusts and tramps, empires, ruins and ashes.

Life in the competitive struggle of today is like a game of chance in which many must lose in order that a few may win. It is mathematically certain that the few can gain only that the many lose. Such a system can lead only to the concentration of wealth on the one hand and poverty on the other. Such a system, being founded on injustice, carries within itself the seeds of its own destruction. Hence, in obedience to natural law, all the empires of history have passed away.

Like causes will produce like effects in any nation on the earth. Either justice must triumph over greed or the fate of modern nations may be truly read in the history of the past. Under such conditions there is no middle ground. The law of competition is relentlessly cruel. It is embodied in the idiom, "Every man for himself, and the devil take the hindmost." Either you must be an exploiter or be exploited. On the field of competitive commercialism you must go down in defeat or march to victory over the prostrate bodies of your vanquished competitors. This vile struggle for the loaves and fishes is not suggested by any religion. It is absolutely anti-christ. Born of greed, it is the very essence of concentrated selfishness, and civilization can never be realized until this competitive struggle for existence is supplanted by co-operation. Under capitalism the job owns the man. Under Socialism the man owns the job.

WHAT SOCIALISTS WANT.

Collective Ownership of the Means of Production.

The work of the world is done today with wonderfully productive machines. The locomotive does as much each hour as the ox team in a month. The child tending modern looms weaves miles where the hand loom wove yards. The steam thrasher turns out carloads where the flail thrashed bushels.

Society is divided into two classes by these machines—those who own and those who do not own them.

The owners do not need to work. They may be wards of a court, infants, insane, in prison, yet their income flows in because of the existence of another class that owns nothing.

The nonowners cannot live unless they use the privately owned machines. They cannot even set foot on the earth without using the land of the owners.

For the chance to use the land and machines long enough each day to produce his subsistence the propertyless worker must agree to keep on producing wealth all day.

The portion of his product which he is allowed to keep is called wages. All of the remainder is kept by the owners as rent, interest and profits.

Since the owners perform no necessary function, the Socialists insist that there is no reason why the workers should not appoint the state as their agent to hold the titles to the property which they must use, just as the capitalists now appoint banks, corporations and trust companies for that purpose.

The workers can do this by making use of their overwhelming numbers to gain control of the government. They would then transfer the title from the present idle owners to the working class controlled government.

Unlike present private ownership, the collective ownership to be established will be inclusive, not exclusive. None will be shut out from ownership. All will be owners and all will be users, and the whole product will go to the producers.

This is what the Socialist party is seeking to accomplish.

The Watchword.

Are you a man of faith, and do you believe in the power of the organization of the many to overthrow the power of the organization of the few? The watchword of this age of combination is unite or perish.—Rev. T. W. Woodrow.

Socialism Defined.

A theory of civil polity that aims to secure the reconstruction of society, increase of wealth and a more equal distribution of the products of labor through the public collective ownership of land and capital, as distinguished from property, and the public collective management of all industries. Its motto is, "Every one according to his deeds."—Standard Dictionary.

