RATE OF TAXATION.

Recommendation to Raise It One Mill Over Last Year.

LAWSON'S BOODLE RESOLUTION.

Kelsey, the Boulevard Promoter, Hotly Scored.—Benson Withdraws His Franchise Application.

The City Council met in an adjourned session last night, President Lodbourow in the chair. The members in attendance were Folland, Kartrick, Horn, Kelly, Evans, Beardsley, Woolland, Hess, Lawson, Bell, Moran, Hardy.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

H. L. Driver and fifteen others asked that the canal on Seventh East between Second and Third South streets be covered over. Committee on Jordan canal and irrigation.

HARRY OUT FIRST.

The recorder submitted a bond from the Salt Lake Steadamant company as a guarantee for the proper paving of the intersection of State and Fifteenth streets. He said it was given to him by Henry McCallum, secretary of the company, who declared he didn't give a d—n what became of it as long as it was made a matter of record. Laid on the table.

BENSON WITHDRAWS.

Wendell Benson sent in the following communication withdrawing his application for a gas and electric light franchise:

Gentlemen—Some seven months since I presented to your honorable body a petition asking that a switchboard be granted me to manufacture and sell gas in this city, whereby I agreed to light the city buildings free of charge and to furnish gas at a per cent not to exceed $1.75 per 1,000 (thousand) feet. I also agreed to build an exclusive plant upon which work should be commenced within ninety days, and completed within eighteen months after the acceptance of franchise or cause should be forfeited.

I further verbally agreed to file a bond for city protection said that the faithful performance of the conditions of said franchise, bond to be filed and accepted before the franchise was delivered to me. Had this franchise been granted to me it would have resulted in the expenditure of some $100,000 and given employment to many of the citizens of the city. It would also have saved the city corporation some $400 or $500 per year now paid for lights in the city buildings and would have saved from $60,000 to $70,000 per year to the consumers of gas.

My petition upon one point (or another) has been referred to various committees, laid upon the table and put off from time to time up to the present date. In the meantime you have seen fit to grant to a foreign corporation what is virtually a new franchise, covering twenty-five years which allows them to charge $1.75 per 1000 thousand cubic feet for gas, and an exorbitant price for electric lights. This franchise and the city's contract with the English company compels the city to pay three times per month for lighting, and only buildings which I offered to light free.

Any private corporation would have gladly availed themselves of my proposition as a strictly business one. By not granting other franchises you have virtually given the present company a monopoly of the gas and electric light business in this city, at an advance of twenty-five per cent in the price of gas over the price of which I offered to furnish it, and you are making the gas consumers pay a portion of the amount paid by the city corporation for lighting buildings.

You were elected by the people of this city to look after their interests; do you consider you have done so in this matter?

Being encouraged that I cannot receive fair treatment at your hands, I beg leave to withdraw from the files my application for a franchise and close your consideration in the judgment as to whether you have acted for their best interests or not.

Some of the councilmen winced visibly under Mr. Benson's arraignment and denied that they had discriminated against him. The matter was finally referred to the committee on municipal laws.

FOR AN ESTIMATE AS TO COST.

The committee on streets recommended that the petition of A. M. Nelson and others asking for the improvement on Seventh East street be referred to the city engineer for an estimate of cost.

STAGNANT POND.

In regard to the stagnant pond near the intersection of First South street and Jordan river the committee on sanitary rules and quarantine regulations, reported that it was not possible to drain the pond into the river, and recommended that it be filled up. Adopted.

WANT TO INCREASE THE TAXES.

Councilmen Kelly and Beardsley presented the following as members of the committee on ways and means:

To the mayor of the rate of taxation for the present year, we would respectfully follow: From the fact that the county assessor, in an official communication, informs us that the assessment for this year only amounts to $14,000,000, a decrease of some $9,000 from last year's assessment, we find that it will be necessary to raise the rate one mill above last year's rate, making six mills to raise the amount of our tax receipts to the amount made last year. We have consulted several of our largest property owners, and they are of the same opinion as your committee, that it would be impossible to get along with a less amount and carry out the contracts already entered into. The county rate is ten mills and with the city's rate six mills, will make a total of sixteen mills, the same as last year, as a few calculations. We therefore recommend that the rate of taxation for the year 1890 be fixed by the council at the rate of six mills on each dollar upon the assessed valuation within the corporate limits.

FROM FOLLAND.

Folland filed the following minority report:

"I have not had an opportunity of meeting with the balance of the committee to canvass the rate, but am of the opinion that the rate should not be raised over last year, and reserve the right to file a further report in this matter."

The matter was laid over until Tuesday evening, as a special order of business.

THE SEWER BOWL.

The committee on sewers recommended that the petition of Henry Siegel et al for sewer connection on the south side of Second South street, between Fifth and Ninth East be granted. Adopted.

COPPER PLANT PUBLICITY.

The committee on police recommended that the petition of Stallmann, Kinney and others asking for the appointment of C. A. Rust as policeman at the copper plant be granted.

SEWERAGE MONEY REFUND.

In the matter of the petition of George A. Lowe et al asking for a refunding of monies upon sewer extension, the committee on sewerage recommended that the mayor appoint a time at its earliest opportunity to review an equitable basis for the refunding of monies upon all sewers constructed during the administration. Adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

The recorder sent in a communication announcing that the council would sit as a board of equalization and review on sewer assessment on Monday evening next. Heretofore five members have acted in that capacity at $5 each. Under the Mayor's construction of the law the whole council—fifteen members—must do this work at $3 each.

ONE SEWER VETO BY MAYOR.

The Mayor sent in a veto message on the claim of the board of equalization and review on sewer assessment for five sewers. The speeches delivered were: Kelly, Horn, Lawson, Folland and Sim Bell—and their claims aggregated $115.

Referred to the committee on municipal laws.

SCHOOLING ORDINANCE.

The city attorney submitted an ordinance levying a tax and for the assessment of property on both sides of all the streets in sprinkling districts No. 1 and 2, for the purpose of paying for the sprinkling of said streets, estimated at seven cents per linear or front foot. Passed under a suspension of the rules.

Kartrick offered a resolution instructing the Mayor to publish a notice of intention to sprinkling in district No. 3, at an estimated cost of $1100. Adopted and returned to the Mayor.

THE BOODLE BUSINESS.

After a series of unsuccessful attempts Lawson launched the resolution published in Wednesday evening's NEWS as the prerequisite of granting the franchise to the Salt Lake, Ogden Gas and Electric Lights company.

Before the presentation of the resolution Hansen said he wanted to know what it was for.

Kelsey—Mr. Simonds would send the DESERET NEWS to some keep quiet. Last night, if I mistake not, a read that resolution in that paper.

The reading of the resolution precipitated a hotly contest, in which sentiments, even insinuations and offensive generalities were freely indulged in. Finally, Moran continued hotly: Not long ago Mr. Lawson sat on the floor of this council chamber "that money rules the world and money rules this franchise. Now, that was a nasty insulting sentiment, and I want to resent it. Mr. Lawson wants somebody investigated, I suppose. He is never satisfied unless he brings about an investigation once a month regularly. Altogether the resolution is the most contemptible paper ever presented to this council. I move that it be laid on the table indefinitely. This idea of Mr. Lawson saying that we want secret letters on our mind! Gents, slightly rough, don't suit me by a long shot.

Horn (angrily)—Put it under the table.

Beardsley—I move that it be referred back to Mr. Lawson for a more specific statement of the case.

Horn—I am opposed to the paper with all its moral, base and cowardly insinuations, and the rottenness contained in which it came before this body, not appearing to the public press.

Beardsley's motion then carried.

KELSEY CALLS THEM LIARS.

Moran offered a resolution requiring the street superintendent to commence work on the "Sally's part of the boulevard" in City Creek canyon (on the east side) and that the street commissioner be instructed to draw men from his present force to do the work.

Beardsley—As first I was in favor of doing this work but now I am not. Mr. Kelsey has been indulging in some high-sounding and caustic remarks. He says that we are malicious; that we are all d—d liars and didn't mean what we said in the first place. I want him to understand that our word is just as good as a council as his as a citizen.

Kelly—The work done by Mr. Kelsey and his men is an awful shape. Hardly the outlines of the boulevard are yet perceptible; you can't drive over it. These gentlemen claim they have spent $1000. This may be so, but it will take $3000 of the city's money to cover up the water gizes they have exposed. They declare that that we are a lot of —— cuckoos; that we don't know it from a bull's foot. He says we have neither wrinkle nor business sagacity. This fellow Kelsey who has no d—d amiable feature, except his mouth, is going a little too far.

Folland—Some of these real estate men have had colored lithographs of their subdivisions out for four years to my knowledge; they make no pretense to improvements themselves, but the city has been helping them all the time.

Bell—Kelsey didn't call me a liar—that is, not to my face. (Laughter.) He said, however, that he would down me if ever I stepped up my partition for improvements themselves, but the city has been helping them all the time.

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