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BRYANT'S PARK

Tomorrow the people will be called upon to vote upon the acceptance or rejection of Bryant's Park as a city institution.

There is no argument or question about the advisability of the city's owning the park. All admit that it is ideally located, that it is rich in natural scenery and advantages and that it is most desirable that the city have possession of its valuable ground and preserve it intact and develop it for our present enjoyment and for future generations.

But there is a division of opinion as to whether or not the city should accept it with at least two of the restrictions named by Mr. Bryant in his deed to the city. One side, led by Mayor Curl, believes that the clause which takes the appointive power for five of the members of the board out of the hands of the city is not a good thing. They believe that the forfeiture clause may some day result in

Mr. Bryant's heirs bringing suit and taking the park property back again.

The other side, led by all members of the city council, believes the restrictions reasonable and see no harm in Mr. Bryant naming the first board and allowing the board to perpetuate itself, especially where he has already named an excellent set of citizens as his choice. Nor do they fear the future in any way.

The Democrat is for the park. The city needs it. There should be some such public playground and no other site in or near the city is as desirable. It offers an ideal place for auto tourists to camp, and the city must attend to this important and growing industry—the tourist crop. The Democrat believes that the opponents of the park are sincere, but it does not take the same view of the restrictions and can see no future harm in any of them.

Mr. Bryant was not the first to suggest giving the park to the city. A well known minister first put the idea into his head several years ago. On

the present occasion he was asked to renew his offer by a delegation of the city council who called upon him a few weeks ago. He can sell the property if he chooses, but if the city turns it down this time it will probably pay a good price sometime in the future.

EDITORIALS of the PEOPLE

Editor The Democrat.—Albany's need of a park is too great to be neglected or overlooked. In almost every town of any size from Portland to Astoria the tourist reads the sign as he enters the town, "AUTO FREE CAMP" with an arrow pointing in the direction of an open park; and whether he wants to stop in the town or not, his heart is warmed by the thought that the town has a welcome for him. Albany ought to have not one park but three; and we ought not to rest until we have at least that number. Tomorrow we have the opportunity to vote for one of them. We have already virtually decided to have the site of the old Central school on an open square, and the city ought to take steps immediately to secure a favorable place in or near H. H. H. man's Cove or somewhere else in the East End of town. Let us by all means fail to grasp the opportunity offered us tomorrow, and secure one of the best natural parks to be found between Portland and Astoria. Albany is just far enough between Portland and Roseburg to make it a natural stopping place, and the town will profit commercially by attracting tourists to stop over.

WALLACE H. LEE.

BRYANT PARK
By L. M. Curl

(CONCLUDED)

I have fallen a victim to this agitation twice. When the matter was presented in the first instance, I suggested that the city take it. After it seemed that the way was open for the acceptance of the grounds conditions and restrictions came thick and fast. Then I determined it was not a donation that was intended, but an advantage that was desired by the pro-

poser of the park, and I refused to support the proposition. The matter finally found its way to the people for an expression and they rejected it by a very heavy vote. A few weeks ago I was very positively assured that Mr. Bryant had concluded that he would now donate these grounds to the city without the reservations, restrictions and conditions he had previously contended for, and I again felt for it, and asked the council to appoint a committee to take the matter up with him.

The result is that the same proposition that was made in the first instance has been made. At this stage of the proceedings, I again expressed my regret that we have to be placed at an expense and subjected to a great public agitation concerning an objectionable matter, and refused to have anything further to do with it. The council then determined to pass an ordinance accepting the proposal made notwithstanding my objection. While I am not advised as to the source of the intent and purpose of the council, an ordinance was presented to me with an emergency clause on it. When I ascertained that it was the purpose of the council to pass the ordinance with such emergency clause, with the belief that it would be impossible for the ordinance so passed to be referred to the people. Let it be said to the credit of some of the council that I do not believe they would be or were a party to such an attempt. In other words, someone interested in behalf of the acceptance of the proposal, had determined to resort to an old time political trick to accomplish a purpose that was known to be adverse to the previously expressed will of the people.

This method of political trickery, from whatever source inspired, failed because I pointed out that an ordinance so passed would not serve to accomplish the purpose intended unless I, as mayor, also gave my consent, which I refused to do. This is only one sample of the means now being used to foist this proposition upon the city against its will.

As to the people who are supposed to serve upon the board of commissioners if the proposition is accepted by the people, I have nothing to say.

They are all residents of Albany—some of them are my personal friends. However, if the authority of handling this matter were placed in my own hands, exclusively, I would reject it because I believe it is wrong in principle. If the actual expense to the city were only nominal, then I would say that we ought to accept the proposal, but the truth is that the expense would be so great that it would amount to a purchase, and yet we will have absolutely nothing to say in the matter of control, and are continually subjected to liability to forfeiture for various reasons. What ever the advantage is in this situation, it is clear that it is not for the benefit of the city.

There is an immediate and continuing liability on account of the old bridge. It has been in a dangerous condition for a long time, and a shifting of this continuous liability would undoubtedly be quite a relief to the present owner of the property. But he is in a far better position in this respect than the city could be for he can put up a sign that it is private property and warn people to keep out, but if the city allows it to be used it will be liable for damage sustained no matter whether it is for death or other injury. If the city should close the bridge the property would be subject to forfeiture no matter how much had been spent upon the grounds or otherwise.

Another feature of the park situation has just appeared. Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Price have this day made a proposition to me for the purpose of bringing the matter before the Council, looking toward the purchase by the city of a portion of the Hackleman Grove. This is the finest park ground in the entire country, and it can be purchased for less than the expense of erecting the bridge and otherwise improving Mr. Bryant's grounds. The water is already piped to this grove. There is everything that can be desired for a park, and there is no question about ownership or forfeiting clauses—no conditions and no restrictions. The price of the proposal will be given out as soon as Mr. and Mrs. Price authorize its publication.

I am extremely sorry that this agitation has been brought about, and the thing that causes the greatest re-

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great is the manner in which the enthusiast has made the campaign of unfairness. It is anything but creditable. I know that in case the measure should pass that a large percentage of the people of Albany will have

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Your family
To your city
To our visitors
To posterity
To the Automobile Tourists
To provide Albany with this beautiful park site

From a Business Standpoint

It Will Pay—

Each tourist spends
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