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J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

IMPROVE COURT HOUSE

Nothing Accomplished at Tax-payers' Meeting Last Night

The taxpayers meeting to consider the tax levy recently made by the county court especially as it relates to the proposed improvements in the county court house was held in the county court room last night. County Judge Scott presided and the county commissioners, all the county officers, all the Marion county delegation in the legislature, except Geo. F. Rogers, and about 30 other citizens were present.

Considerable discussion was engaged in and the situation resolved itself this way. It was discovered that the levy has been made and under the law the court has no power to change it as the law provides that the levy shall be made at the January term of court. The January term has already adjourned. It was found also that the legislature could pass no enabling act to allow the court to change the levy as the constitution says that all laws pertaining to the levying of taxes shall be general and not local laws.

After much talk Frank Davey made a motion that the meeting ask the court to proceed with the improvements. This was amended by J. H. Albert to read to proceed at its discretion. This was done because the plans have not been finally adopted. The motion as amended was adopted although there were several dissenting voices.

At the beginning of the meeting Judge Scott told of the general demand for the improvements and exhibited the plans showing what is proposed to be done.

Mr. Bettlemier and Mr. Kay thought it would be good business to have the wings go clear to the top of the building but made no specific suggestions.

A long petition from Silverton taxpayers was read asking the court to reduce the tax levy.

County Clerk Allen explained it was absolutely necessary to have the vaults enlarged as many valuable documents were now stored in the attic or piled on the floor and in case of fire would put the county to an enormous loss that could not be remedied.

Recorder Drager made similar statements in regard to his office.

Sheriff Culver said the jail was in miserable condition, was unsafe, the

sanitary condition poor and should be enlarged and improved.

He explained that the vault in the sheriff's office was absolutely unsafe in case of fire or from burglars yet at times there had been \$70,000 or \$80,000 in the vault at times when people were paying taxes and the clerical force were compelled to keep the money and checks there as they had no time in a rush to count and receipt for it in order to take it to the bank.

At this juncture District Attorney McNary said there was no legal way to change the levy.

Assessor Rice said he was sorry the levy was so high and that when he made the assessment at full valuation he promised the people that he had assurances from the county court that taxes would be no higher. Judge Scott said he made no such promises. The two commissioners denied that they made any promises but all three members said they promised that the levy should be no higher than was necessary.

Dr. Cusick asked Judge Scott if he did not promise to run the county for \$40,000.

Judge Scott said that six years ago he said he promised he would try to run it then for \$40,000. But now the county had grown in wealth and population and material was 30 per cent higher than then and it was foolishness to say \$40,000 was enough.

Dr. Cusick then made a long speech and said many people in the county were hard pressed for money to pay taxes and that an increase meant a heavy burden.

J. L. Stockton said the people were in better shape than they had ever been and now was the best time to make improvements that seemed to be absolutely necessary.

Dr. Smith said there was no way out of it now and he believed the only mistake that has been made was that the people should have been told during the last campaign that court house improvements were necessary. He believed that had that been done there would have been no kick.

J. H. Albert said it was only a question of a \$1.10 on the \$1000 and he criticized the Business Men's League for their opposition which he said was very inconsistent coming right on the heels of their demand for paved streets which, however, their landlords paid for them.

Henry Myers and several others explained that the Business Men's League did not oppose the improvements but thought they should be postponed until next year because the state and city taxes are unusually high this year.

M. L. Jones from the north end of the county seriously opposed the improvements and said that a few repairs inside the building would be amply sufficient. He said the farm-

ers would be heard from again next election time.

The motion instructing the court to proceed was then adopted.

SWETTENHAM STEPS OUT.

Reported He Has Tendered Resignation to Colonial Secretary.

Kingston, Jan. 29.—It is understood that Governor Swettenham tendered his resignation to Lord Elgin, secretary of the colonies, a few days ago, in consequence of the Admiral Davis incident, and his inability to solve the problem created by the earthquake.

On Saturday the governor visited the temporary offices of the municipal council and informed the vice-chairman, who is acting in the absence of Mayor Tait, who is injured, that the government had decided to relieve the people of Kingston from all rates and taxes for a period of 15 months beginning the first of January. This announcement has been received with gratification by the residents of the city, who will be encouraged to start the work of rebuilding as early as possible.

The most Rev. Enos Nuttall, archbishop of the West Indies, in an interview said that the municipal council was unable to deal with the present extraordinary emergency, and should be abolished, and one commissioner with full powers, should be appointed to govern the city during the period of reconstruction. He also declared that in addition to the generous contributions from the United States, Canada and elsewhere, it was absolutely necessary to obtain an imperial grant and a large imperial loan to rebuild Kingston, more particularly in view of the attitude of the English fire insurance companies, which have disclaimed all liability for losses sustained in the earthquakes and fire.

Carrie Nation . .

Certainly smashed a hole in the barrooms of Kansas, but Ballard's Horehound Syrup has smashed all records as a cure for coughs, bronchitis, influenza and all pulmonary diseases. T. C. H., Horton, Kan., writes: "I have never found a medicine that would cure a cough so quickly as Ballard's Horehound Syrup. I have used it for years." Sold by D. J. Fry.

LIBERAL POLICIES FOR PRESENT YEAR.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Distributed Big Dividend.

A \$2,000,000 dividend to all policy holders has been declared by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for the year 1907. This company, which has always been noted for the liberal policy on which it is managed, has already distributed in dividends to its policy holders about \$10,000,000 in the last eight years, and the new dividend of \$2,000,000 will bring its voluntary disbursements to policy holders up to the immense sum of \$12,000,000.

On all Industrial Whole Life Policies dated prior to January 1, 1903, a dividend equivalent to four week's premiums, or about 8 per cent of the premiums for the year, has been declared. This dividend will amount to \$1,000,000, and in the distribution of profits will be included all holders of life policies in those companies which have been consolidated with the Metropolitan.

A further mortality dividend of another million has been declared in the industrial department. This applies to all death claims incurred during the year ending December 31, 1907, where the policy has been in force over five years. In the case of death claims the dividend has been apportioned according to the age of the policy. If the policy had been in force five years, the beneficiary will be entitled to a dividend of 5 per cent, where it has been in force 10 years the dividend is 10 per cent, and so on up to 25 years, when the dividend will equal 25 per cent of the claim.

Other benefits which the officers of the company have brought about for the policy holders are the increase in value of all industrial policies six months from their date, and the liberty which is given to all policy holders over 50 years of age who have paid premiums for 15 years or more to receive the face value of the policy in cash or a full paid-up policy. In financial circles this action of the Metropolitan is looked upon as marking a new era in life insurance history, and the voluntary conversion by the company of the whole life policies into endowments or fully paid-up insurance is said to be the most liberal concession ever made by any industrial insurance company.

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Time Extended.
In the case of the State of Oregon vs. Henry Carmody the time for transmitting to the supreme court notice of appeal has been extended to February 15, 1907.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss:

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, county and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

A. W. GLEASON,
(Seal) Notary Public.
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