

THAT NORTHWESTERN TAX.

[CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.]

of the correspondence, that said company might be induced to look at the question from a different standpoint; but eleven days having elapsed since the date of the last letter without receiving any reply, it may be taken for granted, that the officials of said company look upon the subject as closed.

Unless the council believes that it may be well to grant more time, your committee would ask to be discharged from further consideration of the subject.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) J. C. CUSHMAN,
Committee.

EXHIBIT A.

CHICAGO, Sept. 16, 1897.

Marvin Hughitt, Esq., Pres. C. & N. W. Ry. Co. 22 5th av., city.

Dear Sir:—At a meeting of the common council of the City of Highland Park on the 7th instant, the writer was appointed a committee of one to confer with the officers of your company in reference to a balance of \$429.92 due from your company on the city taxes of 1896.

As I am not familiar with the matter, owing to an absence of several months, will you kindly cause the proper department of your company to inform me of the reason for non-payment of this balance.

The relations of the municipal authorities of Highland Park with your company have been so pleasant in the past, I feel assured that you will do all in your power, consistent with the interest you represent, to maintain them.

The citizens of Highland Park, during the past seven years, have made large expenditures in the introduction of a water system, sewerage, electric light, cement sidewalks and paved streets. The burden has been heavy, but they have borne it cheerfully under the belief that these desirable improvements would bring large accessions of first class residents. In this, they have been successful, the population having largely increased since the introduction of these improvements, and the growth continues rapid. Each family added to the population is a permanent increase to the revenues of your road, and therefore, it seems to me, that the interests of your company are identical with those of the town. If this is conceded, should not your company, as a matter of policy, assist the efforts of our citizens, by assuming its fair proportion of the expenses incurred? It is the policy of the municipal ad-

ministration to maintain the financial credit of the town at all hazards, as future improvements must depend largely upon the success of that policy.

Believing that you will view the question from its broad standpoint, I remain,

Yours very truly,
(Signed) J. C. CUSHMAN,
Member Finance Committee.

EXHIBIT B.

OFFICE OF NORTHWESTERN
RAILWAY COMPANY
CHICAGO, ILL.

TAX DEPARTMENT.

CHICAGO, Sep. 20, 1897.

J. C. Cushman, Esq., Highland, Park, Illinois.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of September 16th, to President Hughitt in which you ask "why the \$429.72 due from our company for city taxes of 1896 has not been paid," has been referred to me for reply.

I think you are in error when you say that the above amount is due. The City of Highland Park caused to be levied against the property of this company a tax for city purposes amounting to \$1,191.95. In this sum there is an excessive and illegal levy of \$429.72, leaving as legal taxes against this company \$762.23 and this amount has been paid. The \$429.72, the courts of Lake county decided was not due, and hence this has not been paid.

I note your reference to special improvements in Highland Park, consisting of water system, sewerage, electric lights, cement sidewalks and paved streets. This company has from time to time had notice of these improvements as they progressed, and I hold in my hands receipts of your tax collector for the amounts which this company has contributed to these various improvements.

In addition to the above, I also note that the company's property is charged with a single paving assessment amounting to \$4,439.87, so that whatever may have been the wisdom or unwisdom of these improvements, the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Co. has certainly borne its proportion of their cost. In any event I am unable to see the relevancy of these special improvement charges to the illegal taxes above referred to. That charge was for the general fund and as the moneys payable into that fund would not legally be used for these special improvements, such work will not be affected in any way by the tax in question.

The statute plainly sets forth the

powers of municipal bodies in levying taxes on property within its jurisdiction. The city council of Highland Park exceeded these powers in its levy for this purpose for 1896, but as I do not believe that the corporation would designedly violate the law, I did assume and still assume that the excessive tax was the result of a mistake. This mistake was corrected by the county court, and according to my understanding, nothing is now due from this company to your city corporation.

If any additional explanation is desired, I shall be glad to meet you at your convenience and give you any desired information in the premises.

Yours truly,
(Signed) FRANK P. CRANDON,
Tax Commissioner.

EXHIBIT C.

CHICAGO, Sept. 24, 1897.

Frank P. Crandon, Esq., Tax Commissioner C. & N. W. Ry., city.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of the 20th instant, answering mine of the 16th to President Hughitt, in relation to an item of unpaid taxes to the city of Highland Park, for 1896, is at hand.

I am aware that the amount in question is a part of the general tax levied for city purposes in 1896, and perhaps, technically, the levy may have been somewhat in excess of the two per cent upon the valuation as fixed by law; but we think it was fully justified by the conditions at the time the appropriation was made, which conditions were as follows:

In all special assessments, as you are fully aware, certain portions, covering street crossings and other city property, is charged to the city, and must be paid from its general funds. In 1896 the common council found that the city's portion of the water works special assessment amounting to \$5,318 would fall due during the year, and could only be provided for out of the general appropriation, as the city was bonded to the legal limit. The credit of the city was at stake, and to protect it, by the advice of many of our heaviest tax payers, this sum was included in the general appropriation for the year. It was a liability created some years ago, by a former council, and left over as a heritage for the administration of last year. Of all the tax payers effected by that levy, the Chicago and Northwestern Railway company was the only one to raise any objection. My letter to President Hughitt was written in the hope that he would view the question from its broad standpoint;