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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

We have heard scores of citizens of all classes, retired capitalists, business men, working men, one and all, speak of the proposed filter bed, and every one of them is opposed to it.

That staunch and sterling patriot, George Hessler, sent us word Sunday last that he was going to grind us two bottles of horseradish to help us bring out the News every week just as sharp, and bright, and racy, and pointed as the last ones have been. Thanks for the radish, neighbor. If the paper "spoils" when the weather changes, let us know it.

We overheard a member of the city council explaining some recent proceedings of that body, and thought he suggested that perhaps the reporter did not get the remarks correct. We wish to say once for all, they were absolutely correct. They were taken down word for word on the spot exactly as they were delivered, and published exactly as delivered and taken down. No loop hole there.

Did you ever see a man, when some one was laying down the truth to him, look as though he wished the floor where he was standing would

open and let him drop out of sight? That's the way one of our city officials looked last week Wednesday night when Frank D. Everett stood right up before him and told him the plain unvarnished truth and what upright citizens thought of him and some of his associates. Mr. Everett did his duty as a man and a citizen having the interests of our city in his heart.

It is somewhat curious that Alderman Grant should be so extremely fearful that there will be a little delay of the property owners on St. Johns avenue and the committee appointed by the council formulating and agreeing upon the kind of improvement. He seems very anxious for fear somehow it will affect the decision of the supreme court. There is only one way to account for it, and that is he expects the supreme court to decide adverse to the city. Let us reassure the alderman that the property owners so far as we know without exception are perfectly willing to go on and pave the streets even if the supreme court does decide in their favor. They have always wanted to pave it and nothing but the antagonism and stubbornness of certain councilmen prevented it from being paved a year ago, and yet Alderman Grant tried to make it appear in a recent meeting that he favored the petition presented Feb. 7th, 1898. We shall not permit the alderman to creep out through that small place in that way. It is true he did, as he said, second the motion to grant the petition, but why didn't the alderman tell the whole truth and not simply part of it, of which ten times is equivalent to a falsehood. After having seconded it and his colleague instantly took the floor and said it was a pretty late day for the alderman from the third ward to try to delay the matter of St. Johns avenue, Alderman Grant with breathless excitement immediately asserted that he did not second the motion with the expectation that there would be any delay and promptly voted with indecent haste to lay the petition on the table. Tell the whole truth, Alderman, if you are going to tell

part of it, and let us again assure you that to the best of our belief every property owner is ready to go ahead with the street when their wishes and rights are recognized, and furthermore, so far as we can see, the committee appointed by the council are entirely ready to recognize the wants and rights of the property owners. We trust that the alderman from the fourth ward will not make himself obnoxiously officious and so block or even deny the work.

#### Duties of the City Attorney.

We have been led on several occasions to wonder whether the office of city attorney is for ornament or a sinecure or what it is for. On several occasions the present city attorney has allowed things to be done in the council that certainly he ought to have known were not legal. When the vote on Alderman Grant's resolution—to give the public printing to the Waukegan Sun—proved a tie, where was the city attorney that he did not promptly inform the mayor that he could not vote on that question? What are we paying a salary of \$500 for? It is true the mayor is not supposed to be thoroughly versed in law. He is supposed to exercise good, common sense, and a mayor ought not to be two years a councilman and nine months a mayor not to have discovered that it takes a majority of all the members elected in the city council to pass an ordinance or proposition creating any liability against the city; but, if in thirty-three months of city practice he had not learned that much, certainly the city attorney ought promptly to have informed him and not allow a contract to be signed by the mayor that would be found illegal, in the matter of printing or any other matter. But this is by no means the only instance in which the present city attorney has in our opinion shown the necessity of "reading up."

Some people have expressed surprise that five of that committee should recommend a filter. We are not surprised at all; they could not well do otherwise. They are gentlemen, and having invited the state