

and hence his demand was denied and on the further ground that the case had been on for nearly an hour, and his statute said "previous to the commencement." Whereupon Mr. Knox moved the case be dismissed, and the court so ordered.

It could do nothing else.

NOTES.

During one of his several speeches on the legal aspects of the bond, City Attorney Knox attempted to browbeat the court by suggesting a "collusion between the defendant and the Judge". The court immediately called him to order and warned him that a repetition of the offense would be treated as a contempt of court. He brazenly claimed that he was city attorney and would say his mind, nevertheless he immediately subsided. Mr. Anthony of Chicago the attorney for the defense, arose and addressing Mr. Knox, said to him in substance, "It is your duty, sir, not only to conduct yourself properly in court, but as the city attorney it is your special duty to defend and sustain your own court and judge but as you attack him, I come to the defense of Judge Hibbard."

The Judge has been criticised by some good citizens because he did not fine Attorney Knox on the spot for contempt of court and send him to Waukegan. But the Judge is lenient in such cases perhaps too much so sometimes, and further, he did not care to give Mr. Knox any opportunity to pose as a martyr and finally he regarded it as a charitable judgment to say the man could not have been guilty of such coarse and unprofessional conduct had he been wholly himself.

Immediately on the conclusion of the case, it was blazed on the streets that Judge Hibbard had dismissed the case and defeated the efforts of our virtuous, heroic and self-sacrificing city officials to bring the blind pig to the punishment he deserves, while they know the case was dismissed because Attorney Knox demanded it and the judge could do nothing else. As to their zeal in pursuing and prosecuting the blind pig, we will have more to say in the future.

The whole affair was evidently a job to make political capital for the present city campaign, and hence their efforts to make the public believe the police court has defeated their efforts. They seemed very anxious to get out of it the best way possible and hence Knox's eager demand for a dismissal. L. B. H.

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St. Johns Avenue Problem Adjusted.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that the difficulties concerning the pavement of St. Johns avenue have been adjusted. The committee asked for by the property owners in February, 1899, and again in November of that year, and a third time last February, was appointed on the third request and an agreement formulated. A little unfortunately the committee made some changes in the agreement after it was signed by the property owners. So far as we know, no one accuses the committee, however, of any intent to act in bad faith. In their desire to present a report that the council would accept, it evidently did not occur to them that the proper party to take exceptions was the council itself. Coming from them it would not have caused any surprise or friction. However, no harm was done beyond a little delay, which, perhaps, in the end will not mean even that.

The refusal of the council on the first two occasions to appoint a committee made it necessary for the property owners to appeal their case last fall, making, including some necessary expenses, a total cost to them of about \$160. This they offered to divide with the city and accept the other changes proposed. It was objected to, but at the last meeting of the council the senior alderman of the Third ward stated to the council that he was authorized by a responsible citizen to pledge him for the difference of \$80, removing the last point of difference between the council and the property owners.

As finally settled, the property owners have conceded everything from beginning to end asked of them by the council except the one of reduction in the assessment, and this in turn was offered by the council. It now only remains for the council to formulate a settlement with the Chicago & Northwestern road and to make arrangements for crediting the proper rebate to the property owners on the warrants. But this is a mere

matter of form. We sincerely hope and trust that this ends the long mooted trouble, which doubtless would have been entirely avoided had the property owners been consulted in the first place and equitably assessed.

I have noticed several articles concerning the paving of St. Johns avenue and the property owners therein concerned, and am glad that a satisfactory plan has been carried out, and desire to state that the property owners have been a unit in opposing what they considered an excessive assessment, but that one and all favored the improvement on an equitable basis, and our alderman, Mr. Davidson, before he was elected to office named as his foremost wish the paving of St. Johns avenue and has never receded from that position.

FRANCIS THORN.

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