

**WHERE SHALL IT BE LOCATED?**

The Council at its regular meeting Tuesday night, as we understand, postponed the matter of selecting a library lot until the November meeting. Many people are getting a little impatient about the matter, and yet perhaps it is well that the subject be given the full consideration it merits.

Hazel Park has always been the writer's first preference as a lot for the Carnegie library building. If he knows himself, this has not been for any selfish reason. As a matter of fact, I believe I have never taken a book from the city library, and I have no reason to suppose that I shall ever be much of a patron. Nevertheless, I have always been in favor of a public library, and pay my taxes for that quite as cheerfully as for anything else.

It is fair to assume that in donating funds for a library building, whether in Highland Park or in any of the many other places which Mr. Carnegie has helped in this way, his object was not to benefit the public just for the present but for all coming time. The library lot, then, should not be selected for the benefit of those living in this decade but for the yet unborn as well. I believe it will not be a question that the city is destined for at least a half century to grow mainly southward. Nature has fenced us in from eastward growth, federal and municipal control from northern development. I think I may safely say not for at least a half century will there be any growth westward. Southward, then, must be the principal tendency.

The raising of any question of East side versus West side is, I believe, quite unfortunate. Whether the West side furnishes a few more patrons of the library than the East side at the present time is a minor question; whether the East side pays a little more taxes than the West side at the present time is equally a minor question. If the West side wants the building I am not disposed to make any serious objection, in spite of my preference expressed above. If it is to be on the West side, I would most emphatically advocate securing the lot which seems to be the preference of the board and the majority of the Council. The

lot on the southwest corner of Laurel avenue and First street is not only favorably located but more justly located (looking to the future as suggested above) than any other lot which to my knowledge has been mentioned. Its location near the viaduct is to my mind of vast importance, whether it be on the East side or the West side. Highland Park is gaining no enviable reputation already for its many accidents, and when these accidents happen to young people, who presumably will be the most eager patrons of the library, it seems far more shocking than when accidents happen to older people. Perhaps this is sentiment merely, but I think not.

Then again, as hinted above, the unavoidable tendency of the city will in a quarter of a century, unless I greatly miscalculate, place the center of population considerably further south than Laurel avenue; for not only are the natural opportunities for growth better in that direction, but also the general desire of the majority of our people to get as far as possible from Highwood and its fourteen legalized curses will naturally force future developments toward the south. The proximity of the post will also have its influence in the same direction. **TAXPAYER.**

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