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Citizens Do Honor to Kenneth R. Smoot

The city hall was crowded on Tuesday evening, March 2nd, with representative citizens of Highland Park and Lake Forest. It was the evening of the regular monthly meeting of the city council, but business was promptly suspended and for nearly two hours the theme of speech and tokens of good will were directed to the man who for twenty-two years has been city attorney of Highland Park and for nineteen years of Lake Forest.

Seldom in the history of any one man is it given to faithfully and almost continuously serve two sister cities for such a length of years and it seemed by common consent this was a man whom the citizens delighted to honor.

In the order of events Mr. Smoot finds it desirable to go to California not so much for climatic change as for business interests which invite him to that land of sun and flowers.

The council chamber is often crowded on occasions when some material interests are at stake, but perhaps never before has it been the scene of such a thoroughly representative crowd as on this occasion. Men of every shade of political thought and social life were present.

Mayor Robertson, who presided, called for the reading of communications and after Mr. Smoot's formal resignation had been acted upon, Mr. George Mason tendered his resignation in order to assume the duties of city attorney for the time being. This little formal business over, Mr. Robertson delivered the address which we print on another page.

The mayor's speech was suitably attended by the presentation of an address from the city council handsomely engrossed on vellum and bound in Morocco. We give the full text of the address herewith.

He also tendered to Mr. Smoot, on behalf of a number of personal friends in Highland Park, a handsome gold watch and chain.

Mr. Smoot in replying was evidently much affected by the manifestation of good feeling expressed in the mayor's speech and the gifts which attended it. He said he was more indebted to Highland Park than Highland Park could be to him. When the city elected him as its attorney he was a young lawyer just entering his profession and looking for experience and "he got it," and he made up his mind that the city should be one in which anyone might be proud to live and his visions of the beautiful city have been realized. This was his home and while he was going to a sunny state he was not looking for a more ideal home than this is. Very heartily he returned thanks for the kind and generous tokens of esteem which had been tendered him.

The mayor said we are not through yet. The city council of Lake Forest had come down with its mayor and he now called on Mayor Jackson.

Mr. Jackson spoke especially of Mr. Smoot's association with the Bar of Lake county and he found in him a man who was never jealous of young members as they came along and was always free and wise in his counsel and friendship. Mr. Smoot had been of great value to Lake Forest in his office of city attorney and that city held him in high esteem. It was he who made the otherwise enigmatical charter of that city plain and work-



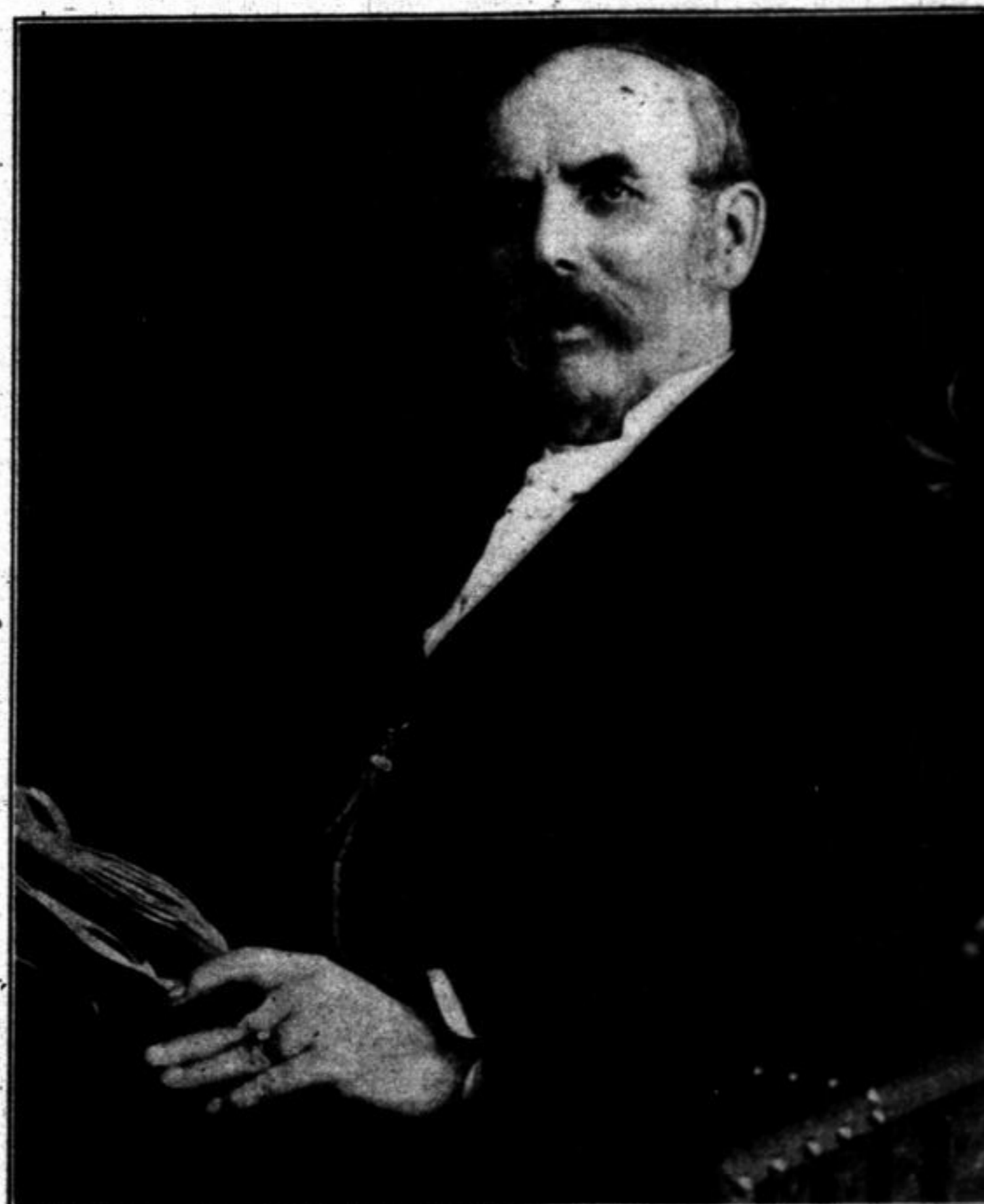
KENNETH R. SMOOT.

Address of City Council to Mr. Smoot.

Whereas: Kenneth R. Smoot Esq., City Attorney for the City of Highland Park, has this day resigned his office as City Attorney, after a faithful and efficient service of twenty-two years, and,

Whereas: He has brought to the discharge of his duties a high order of ability and integrity; and has distinguished himself by his fairness and courtesy, and has earned the confidence and respect of this community both as lawyer and citizen,

Therefore: Be it Resolved, that in accepting his resignation, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Highland Park desire to record their appreciation of his valuable services, and to testify to his character, ability and long devotion to the city's interests, and extend to him their cordial good wishes, hoping he may long enjoy in health and happiness the leisure to which he is now entitled.



MAYOR ALEXANDER ROBERTSON.

able. On behalf of the city council of Lake Forest he presented Mr. Smoot with a unique silver coffee set.

Mr. Smoot in replying said that next to Highland Park he loves Lake Forest and that the Lake County Bar held for him associations of friendship which would never be blotted from his memory.

Mayor Robertson introduced Judge Donnelly of Woodstock. The Judge's speech was reminiscent of Mr. Smoot's services as a member of the Bar of which he said there were few men who were his superiors. He felt that in his departure he was losing a personal friend. It is seldom, he said, that men meet with such uniform respect as Mr. Smoot had done.

Addressing Mr. Smoot the Judge said: "I do not know whether you will belong to the millionaire class in your new field but I know you are better than a good many millionaires and if you should come to be of that class I hope you will come back here and spend some of the money. And when you come to the close of life I trust it may be said of you in the life to come, 'Well done good and faithful servant.'"

Mr. F. D. Everett said it is a grand thing to be called an honest man—"the noblest work of God." Mr. Everett emphasized the constructive work of Mr. Smoot which had proved of inestimable value to this city. It was largely through his efforts that we have such a city as this. "I came to this city," said Mr. Everett, "two years before Mr. Smoot, when the cows grazed in the streets and when we proposed to stop them the farmers said we would have to walk knee deep in grass if we did not have the cows. We love Kenneth R. Smoot because he is a man, and our latch string will always be open to him."

Mr. James H. Shields, who was in intimate association with Mr. Smoot for several years as a member of the council and as a personal friend, spoke warm words of esteem.

Mr. A. A. Putnam had known Mr. Smoot for 27 years. At the beginning of his career as a young lawyer he had given him two cases to work on and he won them both. As a business man and a legal adviser as well as a personal friend he was sorry to see Mr. Smoot go.

Rev. J. R. Quayle, speaking for Lake Forest as well as for himself, emphasized Mr. Smoot's work in promoting the educational interests. It was largely by his endeavor that we have the High School.

Mr. F. Cushing remarked that very much had been said of Mr. Smoot and the best thing about it was that it is all true. He did not know on whom Mr. Smoot's mantle would fall, although he thought the man was now in that assembly, but he would remark that he must be a careful man and would have to remember that if he did not do the right thing he would be told, "That's not what Smoot would have done."

After the speeches the mayor adjourned the meeting for thirty minutes of social conversation when Mr. Smoot shook hands with all present.

Much interest was manifested in the gifts which had been presented. The watch and chain is one of the best makes in a solid gold case and the silver set from Lake Forest is a chased pattern.

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