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WRITE LETTER IN REPLY TO HOLMES

Continued from page one

they retain a lawyer to represent

If and Why Throughout his letter he claims and nothing. assessment against many of our he gains by dismissing 292. as compared with others?

enter a default judgment on Septem- that proportion. ber 30, 1925 in Assessment 292 He did not tell the public that the the appropriation ordinance has apagainst all property owners who did property owners had petitioned for propriated the sum of \$2,400 for his short time after judgment was en- against non-objectors and give them cent offer. If city officials want to fer and he knows that with the contwenty per cent reduction?

He says that the reason for dismissing Special Assessment 292 is He did not tell you that of \$11,to avoid long, expensive litigation 847.17 transferred from Special Aswhich would delay the improvement sessment 280, to the general fund of for at least a year. Now Mr. Holmes the city, after a lapse of over one knows he is not stating the truth. He year only \$4,575.40 has been needed knows that if he had proceeded with for expense of this proceeding inthe case immediately after our con- cluding \$2,093.00 paid to him for legal ference early in November it would have been decided by the court before Thanksgiving. He knows that long before this, contracts could have been let for the work and the work started by this time. He knows that when we brought him into court to make him do this very thing and so hasten the improvement, he resisted in every way and then finally wrongfully dismissed the proceeding rather than have his methods exposed. He knows that on various occasions he threatened that the improvement would not be pushed and also that the property owners would be left without pavements unless they would accept his terms. He knows that his present actions harmonize with his threats of delay rather than his professions of desire to hasten the im-

ceedings will be started for the benefit of certain streets and others We are willing to stake our reputaomitted. Now who gave him authority to make this threat? Who is he tion on the service we render. Reupon what terms? He himself said the petitions for this improvement practically unanimous. that the statute makes mandatory on officials to construct an improvement when a majority ask for it. Is he going to violate this law and deny improvements to a part of these petitioners?

Matter of Expense He says, also in his letter, that there will be only a little extra exlars wasted. We desire to call his attention to the fact that printing and publications paid for in Assessment 292 amounts to \$524.30. He says that the new proceedings will be divided into two parts. We presume therefore that the new publi-



AND CLEAN WAY"



292 and we presume that in the next The corporation counsel ought to cal improvements under and by the two proceedings he will not be able to know that the constitution provides law for all owners, resident or non-

pretends that the action of city offi- But why waste any of the public elected or appointed for a definite cials in Assessment 292 is due to a money and why waste time? Both term of office, shall be increased or desire to treat all property owners time and money can be saved by go- diminished during such term." Also alike. He also charges that a settle- ing ahead with the Assessment 292. to know that the Illinois statute proment with us was made impossible The only thing he gains by dismiss- vides that "The council by a majorbecause we required the city officials ing it is that he carries out his threat ity vote shall elect the following ofnot to give non-objecting property to delay the improvement so as to ficers: city clerk, corporation counowners as large a reduction as we punish those property owners who sel, city attorney, etc." Also that ty that Germany and France are that asked for our clients. He will re- dare to demand fair treatment from all officers "Shall receive such salary way." member that at a meeting, and in the public officials. We challenge him to or compensation as the council shall objection filed, we charged that the show in court one single other thing by ordinance provide." He drew the

clients was not only too high because All of the foregoing facts he neg- Park and ought to know that they of the excessive estimate of cost, but lected to mention in his letter. He contain a provision that the corporaalso that they were assessed relative- also failed to tell the public that the tion counsel "Shall hold his office for ly too high when compared with oth- assessment in 292 was spread on the a term of four years and until his ers in the same assessment, which as- basis of \$15.60 on each side of the successor is elected and qualified," sessed a lot facing on a nineteen foot street for a 19 foot pavement when also that "The corporation counsel pavement the same amount as a lot the actual cost according to his own shall be ex officio city attorney and facing on a twenty-eight foot pave- engineer was only \$7.55 per foot it shall be the duty of the corporament. We therefore refused to ac- which would entitle our clients to a tion counsel to"-"Institute and proscept a straight twenty per cent re- reduction of nearly fifty per cent in- ecute all suits which may be brought duction. Now if he wants to treat all stead of twenty per cent. He did not in any court by the city" also that citizens the same, why did he not tell the public that the objectors rep- "He shall defend all suits that may give our clients a fair assessment, or resented by us offered on November be brought in any court against the at least give them a chance to prove 6, 1925 to consent to a judgment city," also that "The corporation that he was assessing them unevenly against their property on the basis counsel shall act as attorney for the of \$9.44 per front foot on a 19 foot Board of Local Improvements" also If city officials are so anxious to pavement which would appear to be that "He shall receive such salary or treat all citizens fairly, why did he liberal, and for wider pavements in compensation as may be provided by

not file objections? This judgment this improvement in 1924 and that salary and that his salary was fixed was entered for the full amount of they were unanimous in wanting it. at that amount by ordinance. Why the assessment roll and yet he must He did not tell the public that the did he not explain to the public that have known then that the assessment property owners represented by us he has been taking one per cent of was at least twenty per cent too high. were willing that he might set aside the cost of improvements in addition Our conference with him was only a the judgments already entered to his salary? He did not tell the tered as above shown and at that the benefit of any reduction the court conference he made the twenty per might order. We adhere to this oftreat property owners fairly, why sent of those in default he can set did he first offer us a fifteen per cent aside the judgment against their reduction when he knew by his own property. He did not tell the pub-Special 292 in order to do justice, when he knew it to be a fact. Other Matters



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up their mind that they won't be overcharged for it. And the second thing they do, if they live in town, is to look up our So, for your cenvenience we're printing them in this ad

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cations will cost almost double the services; also he did not tell you that public that during the last two years above amount. We also call your at- on October 3, 1925 he received \$3,- he has drawn from the city of Hightention again to the fact that on Sep- 663.51 for legal services in five other land Park in addition to his salary tember 5, 1925, the city of Highland special assessments; also he did not several thousands of dollars. Park paid Mr. V. C. Musser \$3,000.00 inform you about \$4,550.44 paid to We believe in fair play, justice, for preparing the Assessment Roll in his law firm since September 22, 1924. efficiency and economy in making lo-

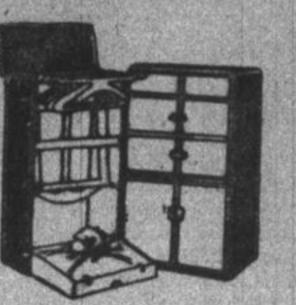
find a man who will do this work for that "The fees, salary or compensa- resident. ordinances of the city of Highland ordinance." He ought to know that

Ernest S. Gail, David H. Jackson.

Uncle Pete's Thought

"Mebbe Chris Columbus' critics who said the world was flat were right. We now know for a certain-

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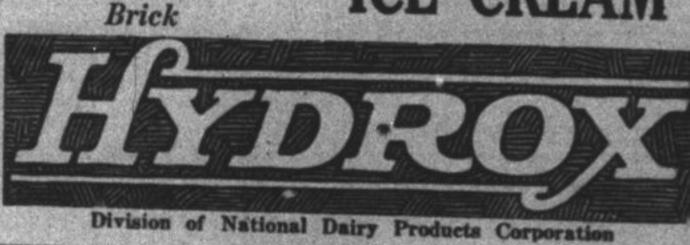
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