

MRS. YOUNG SAYS CITY WAS FLEECE

Testifies \$112,000 Paid for Sabin School Site Was "Exceedingly High."

ATTACKS SECRET BUYING.

Connects Trustee Lipsky with Discussions Regarding West Side Deals.

Mrs. Ella Flagg Young, superintendent of schools, testified yesterday before the committee investigating the purchase of school sites. She said Trustee Harry A. Lipsky would be the man most likely to select the sites in his district, several of which the committee has taken under consideration.

She connected Mr. Lipsky's name with several preliminary discussions regarding the possible purchase of west side sites. She testified that in the case of the Gage tract at Douglas boulevard and Lawndale avenue she tried three years ago to get the board to buy a site. She said she suggested several which would do. But the board waited until the only site available was the one that Joseph and Julius Weisskopf and Morris Sabath, political friends or relatives of Congressman A. J. Sabath, sold to the board at a price far above the one originally offered.

Believes Board Sometimes Fleece. Incidentally, she said she believed the board was fleeced at times in the purchase of sites. She said the policy of buying land for the future took away from the needs of the pupils of today, for which, she said, the present board should make provision.

Mrs. Young was not sworn. She said that in former years her recommendations for sites were closely guarded.

"I learned a short time ago," she said, "that the report I sent to the chairman of the buildings and grounds committee was copied and distributed to all the members of the committee. I have been careful never to mention any definite location unless there was only one anywhere around."

"I did not select the site of the Henry O. Shepard school at Mozart and Fillmore streets. I asked Mr. Lipsky if we couldn't get land in that neighborhood, and he said he thought we could. [This is the site on which Sam and Paul Rissman made a small fortune by selling to the school board.]

Tells of Herzl School Site. "Three years ago I recommended the purchase of a site for the Herzl school, now being erected at Douglas boulevard and Lawndale avenue," Mrs. Young continued. "There were several sites available, but none was purchased. In December, 1912, I recommended the site in question, but I was told it was too expensive. I had supposed the board had given it up. Then one member came to me and said the board was about ready to build there."

Mrs. Young said she had urged Mr. Lipsky at first to work harder for his community. "Then you wouldn't criticize him for over enthusiasm in securing school sites?" suggested Assistant Corporation Counsel Todd Lunsford.

"He has improved under my instruction," she replied.

Cites Excessive Price Paid. "Do you think the board has paid too much for any of its sites?" asked Attorney Robert E. Young.

"I think in some cases the board of education has been fleeced," Mrs. Young said. "I believe it is true in the purchase of the Sabin site at Hirsch and Leavitt streets. The land was covered with buildings that didn't appear to be worth the powder to blow them up. I believe the board paid \$112,000 for the site. It is an exceedingly high price, in my opinion."

"I believe that such occurrences are due to the method by which sites are purchased," she continued. "I believe the method pursued is responsible for all this trouble."

"What do you believe is the remedy?" "I believe the board should go into the open market and purchase its property."

Julius Feldstein Testifies.

Julius Feldstein, west side gambler, who bought property adjoining the Goethe school destined for the board of education, also testified. He corroborated some of the testimony of Sam Goldman, but swore that other parts of it were not true. Trustee Joseph A. Holpuch asked that Feldstein's opinion that Goldman's testimony was worthless be placed in the records, so that it would be known by the members what sort of a man Goldman is.

Feldstein admitted he ran a gambling room in the back of his cigar store for "business men." He admitted he gambled on every game he thought he could beat. He is called the "gambling king" of the west side.

Names Max Bernstein.

Feldstein linked the name of Max Bernstein to another piece of property which Mrs. Young had asked the board to buy. He said Bernstein was the inspiration for his investment in property adjoining the Goethe school. Bernstein, he said, did not tell him it was wanted by the board. He merely asked him if he was in the market for land and the deal went through. It was paid in installments. He said he paid \$8,000 for it.

"Why did you put \$15,000 in the deed?" asked Mr. Young.

"I thought I could borrow more on it," said Feldstein.

"Did you get any valuation on the land?" "Just in the way of the general price in the neighborhood."

Supported "Manny" Abrahams.

"Did you know Manny Abrahams?" asked Mr. Young.

"Yes. We were enemies for eight or ten years until he ran for alderman last year. I was with him then."

"You supported him for alderman?"

"I voted for him. I didn't fight him."

Goldman has previously testified that a reconciliation was brought about by letting Feldstein "in" on the school site deals to the extent of \$15,000. He said Manny wanted to check the gambling war and that Feldstein was collector for the district. The latter said he would believe Goldman under oath on a dark night.

Admits Running Gambling House.

"Are you the man referred to as the gambling king?"

"By this man Goldman, yes. I like to play poker. I play the horses and any game I think I can win at."

"Do you run a gambling house?"

"No. I run a cigar store. I have a back room where business men pay me 15 cents an hour for the use of the cards and tables and for light. They play auction pinochle."

A. R. Shannon was put on the stand. He recommended a committee of two real estate men and a contractor to assist him in purchasing school sites. He said he had long wanted to be relieved of the responsibility for the purchases.

Before Suffrage and After.



ABOLISH JAIL LABOR SALE

Corporation Counsel Declares Contract System Illegal.

BRIDEWELL TO BE GAINER.

Jailer Says He and Prisoners Dislike Former Practice.

The contract system of labor in the bridewell will be abolished after May 1, and the men who have been paying from 35 to 50 cents per day for convict labor will lose their profits.

For years bridewell labor has been disposed of to private contractors by the board of inspectors on mere verbal agreements. No bids were ever solicited.

The beneficiaries of the system are the Chicago Leather and Mercantile company, of which "Billy" Cooke, for many years a leader in the old Ninth ward, is president; the Chicago Broom company, and the Inland Fur company.

Bridewell Under Investigation. The bridewell has been under an investigation demanded last December by Ald. Charles E. Merriam, who charged graft in letting contracts.

The board, composed of Dr. M. A. Weisskopf, A. A. Burger, and Matthias Aler, ordered Supt. John L. Whitman to refuse to tell how the contracts were let.

Then Mayor Harrison ordered Chairman Aler to report to him all the details of the contracts.

Ald. Merriam charged that labor was sold to favored contractors and that practically only the long term prisoners were employed. He did not hold Jailer Whitman responsible.

"The rates paid by the contractors," he said, are not only for the services of the men, but for heat, light, and factory space. The house of correction provides storage space of 6,000 square feet for the Chicago Leather and Mercantile company at \$15 a month—but no charge is made for the use of 5,000 square feet by the Chicago Broom company.

Much Labor Furnished Free. "In addition the house of correction furnishes labor free to unload cars of material, and 2,000 hours of labor were given for this during the year."

Plans have been made to utilize the convict labor for manufacturing articles and materials which can be used by the city. A. A. Burger, secretary, recently asked the corporation counsel whether the board had authority to let a contract for five years without the sanction of the council or controller.

Yesterday the corporation counsel's office rendered an opinion that the contract labor is prohibited and illegal.

"So far as I can discover," said Corporation Counsel Sexton, "the law department has never ruled on this before. Any citizen could have joined the bridewell inspectors from letting out this labor by contract."

Jailer Glad of Change.

"I didn't know of the opinion," said Jailer John L. Whitman, "but I'm glad to hear it. The abolishing of the contract system is a thing we have contemplated for a long time. Some time ago we notified the contractors that they would get no more labor after May 1."

"We have only 200 men employed in the broom factory and the leather works now out of 2,000 in the jail."

"The bridewell received \$15,000 or \$10,000 a year from the contractors. The other prisoners have made the institution nearly self-supporting. The men working on contracts now will make it entirely so after May 1, I believe. I feel that the men themselves will like it better."

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ERBSTEIN FLEE WITH CHILD? NEVER, SAYS THE ATTORNEY.

Tale of Adventure on Fire Escape Figures in Story of Mrs. Janney and the "1,000,000 Baby."

Are "Grandma" Harriet L. Janney and 3 year old Virginia Ford, the "1,000,000 baby," in Philadelphia or are they hastening on a railroad train to the Pacific coast?

It was rumored yesterday that on the night the detectives went to the Hotel Sherman to serve a writ on Mrs. Janney to take her grandchild from her for the father, William H. Ford of Philadelphia, Attorney Charles E. Erbstein was in the building. A hotel employee said the lawyer was seen creeping down the fire escape with little Virginia in his arms and the grandmother following.

Reaching the alley, the tale continues, the three gazed about stealthily and then walked hastily from the scene.

"All bunk," said Attorney Erbstein.

It is suggested that the two may have returned to Philadelphia so that "grandma" could take court action to obtain custody of the child long enough to take her to the mother in Los Angeles, where she is said to be dying from tuberculosis.

Virginia's parents were divorced in Portland on Nov. 6, 1913, and the mother was awarded the custody of the child.

WOMAN TOLD TO ARM HERSELF.

Hyde Park Resident, After Mysterious Telephone Calls, Tells Police of Burglar Fear.

A young woman drove her electric to Hyde Park police station yesterday and approached the desk sergeant.

"The telephone in our apartment rings often," she said, "and when I answer it there is nobody there. I believe that someone is calling up to find out whether any one is home. My parents are out of the city and my husband is away during the day."

She was advised to get a revolver. She refused to give her name, took the telephone number of the station—Hyde Park 47, and the special police call, Main 13, thanked the sergeant, got into her automobile and drove away.

MAGAZINE AGENT IS ARRESTED.

Physician Accuses Melville Cohen of Obtaining Money by False Pretenses.

Melville Cohen of 3815 Elmwood avenue was arrested yesterday on a charge of obtaining money by false pretenses from Dr. J. A. W. Penn of 7 West Madison street. The physician says Cohen got \$5 from him by representing himself as a collector for the Union Labor Advocate, which, he said, was affiliated with the Chicago Federation of Labor.

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CALL UPON ORME TO QUIT IN FIRST

Marion Drake's Supporters Visit Republican Candidate for Alderman.

"PATRIOTISM" THE PLEA.

Leave with Hope Field Will Be Cleared for Independent vs. Coughlin.

A delegation of women taking an active part in the campaign of Miss Marion H. Drake, Progressive candidate for alderman in the First ward, called upon Phil I. Orme, the Republican candidate, yesterday, and asked him to withdraw in favor of Miss Drake.

Mrs. H. M. Wilmarth was the spokesman for the party.

"I have been a resident of the First ward over fifty years," she said, "and quite naturally I am vitally interested in conditions in the ward. The candidate on the Democratic ticket has shown what his policy will be. He has had a chance to better the ward and he has not done so."

"Mr. Orme, I hope you will not think us presumptuous if we ask you in the name of patriotism and of civility to withdraw from the aldermanic race. Not only will the women of the First ward thank you for such a generous action, but the women of the entire city will be eternally grateful."

Other Women Aid Argument.

Then Miss Kate Adams, Mrs. Charles Kayser, Mrs. Laura Thomas, Mrs. Max Stein, and other women prominent in the First ward told Mr. Orme of the dignified, thorough campaign being waged by Miss Drake. Mrs. Orme assured the women that he appreciated the value of the investigations in the effort to keep illegal voters off the registration books.

"It would have cost a man at least \$10,000 to have made such an investigation as the women have been carrying on since the last part of January," he said.

Mrs. Wilmarth asked Mr. Orme to give his answer by March 25.

"We were well satisfied with our interview with Mr. Orme," said Miss Adams at night. "We are hoping he will grant our request."

Park Protest Goes to Governor.

A letter of protest against the decision of the south park commissioners forbidding the demonstration on Grant park for the woman's suffrage demonstration on May 2, was sent by Mrs. Charlotte C. Rhodus, president of the Woman's party of Cook county, to Gov. Edward F. Dunne. It says:

"John Barton Payne, president of the commission, is able and convincing and his statement worthy of all acceptance. He says: 'As we have not set aside any of Grant park for public meetings, we cannot give the women permission to hold their suffrage demonstration there on May 2.'

"Baby Talk," Says the Letter.

"In other words, we cannot do it because we have not done it! This baby talk from the able former judge is to be accepted by the people of Chicago to justify the denial of the right of the people to peacefully assemble upon their own commons in a time of great public necessity."

"The people certainly will not accept this unreasonable and tyrannical conclusion of the south park commission as final. We know that you will use your influence to right this wrong."

Plans for May 2 Demonstration.

Mrs. Jane Adams will make the patriotic address and Mrs. Grace Wilbur Trout, president of the Illinois Equal Suffrage association, will preside at the suffrage demonstration on May 2. After being refused permission to meet in Grant park, Mrs. John Bass, chairman of the demonstration committee, immediately set to work to find a baseball park suitable for the occasion. It is probable the rally will be held at Thirty-fifth street and Shields avenue.

A meeting has been called of the ward chairmen and heads of all suffrage organizations in the city at the headquarters of the Illinois Equal Suffrage association on the sixth floor of the Traver building.

A new chairman of the demonstration committee will be appointed to take charge of the arrangements after Mrs. Bass leaves the city for a European tour on April 7.

"I shall wait only long enough to vote," she said yesterday.

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SAYS MAKE VICE REGION 'DRY'

Candidate Pedigo Also Would Bar All Minors.

ADVOCATES "SEGREGATION."

Strict Regulation Would Solve Problem, He Believes.

Fresh solution of the vice problem was offered yesterday by Lee M. Pedigo, Democratic nominee for alderman in the Twenty-fifth ward.

Replying to a series of questions put up to him by organized women, Mr. Pedigo suggested a segregated district, policed at every street entering it and deprived of licenses to sell intoxicating liquors. He would have it as a prime regulation that no minors, male or female, be permitted to pass the police guards at each avenue to the district.

John F. Stewart, Republican nominee for alderman in the Seventh ward, issued a statement along the same line.

Boulevard Link Explained.

Because of an alleged effort to raise the boulevard link proposal as a political issue in the Twenty-third ward against Ald. John Kjellander, Edward J. Brundage, former corporation counsel, issued the following statement:

"An effort is being made to deceive people of the Twenty-third ward about the effect of the proposed Michigan boulevard improvement. The improvement means to widen Michigan avenue and to erect a double deck bridge. In substance, it gives an additional thoroughfare to Chicago. At the present time there are only five streets open to traffic between the north and south sides, and the north side has suffered because of the congestion."

"Rush street is the busiest crossing of any bridge in the world. This improvement has been carefully estimated by the ablest engineers in the city to cost approximately \$7,500,000. The expense of the improvement will be by special assessment and only the property benefited will be assessed. As all proceedings of this character, the County court will affirm the assessment, and it must be shown that every piece of property assessed is benefited."

Only Slight Assessment.

"Of course the property in the loop district and immediately adjacent to the bridge will bear the bulk of the expense. The cost will diminish as the district grows from the bridge, and hardly any portion of the Twenty-third ward will be assessed at all. A little strip lying upon the boulevard may have a slight assessment, but it will be so small as to be scarcely noticeable. Even this assessment will not be levied unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the county judge that the property is benefited. Chicago needs this improvement. It will benefit all classes—rich and poor."

ADVISES TO DELAY TUBE BIDS.

Mayor Suggests That "Comprehensive" Subway Plans Wait Till After Election.

Mayor Harrison yesterday suggested that contractors now preparing bids for the "comprehensive subway" should wait until after the April election. He said the voters might have some preference as to the kind of subway desirable.

"I am informed that file concerns are figuring on the comprehensive system," he said. "I would suggest that these people wait until after election, when the voters will have expressed their preference."

"The council could then ask for bids again on a comprehensive system, the purpose being merely to find out the best terms the city could get on it."

HEARING IN HIGHLAND CASE.

Testimony Finished in Suit Charging Engineer Misrepresented Value of Stock.

Testimony in the case of Lewis J. Highland, an engineer living at the Hamilton club, was heard by Judge Ryan yesterday.

Louis C. Fritts charges that Highland defrauded him out of \$1,500 by inducing him to exchange bank stock for stock in the Interurban Light and Power company, which was in the hands of receivers.

George H. Schoenberger testified that at the time of the deal the company's stock was selling for \$80 a share.

"The receivership petitions were friendly," he said.

Testimony was finished yesterday. Arguments will be heard next Thursday.

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