

MARKET ON PLAN RESULT OF THE

Investigating Committee Report in Effect that Wisely and Dunham be Suspended—Ald. Potts and Vanwart are Criticized—Former Gets Wrathful and Makes Attack on Ald. Jones—The Report in Full

The report of the market investigating committee presented at yesterday afternoon's meeting of the common council, was of an interesting and surprising nature. The reading of it was followed by an explosion on the part of Ald. Potts who attacked the findings of the committee. The chief object of his wrath, however, seemed to be Ald. Jones, upon whom he made a direct personal attack, charging him with having packed the committee, thus securing a verdict against him. Ald. Vanwart said very little, merely remarking that he had not broken the law against forestalling more than any of the other merchants of the city in his line of business.

The report as read by the common clerk recites, among other things, that as Ald. Vanwart did not deny that he had been guilty of forestalling, the committee was of opinion that he would find it difficult to reconcile such acts with the duties and responsibilities which, as chairman of the safety board, he would naturally be expected to fulfill. The results of the committee's investigation, however, have been productive of a state of matters which cannot be justified except from a selfish standpoint.

The final finding of the committee was to the effect that Director Wisely and Mr. Dunham should be suspended and that the market be taken under the control of the board of safety and placed with a market committee consisting of four members of the council with his worship as chairman. In a report drawn up by the committee, however, and which was revised, they recommended the dismissal of Director Wisely and Market Clerk Dunham.

Following is the full text of the report as it will be considered at the special meeting of the common council called for next Monday afternoon: To His Worship the Mayor and Members of the Common Council, Gentlemen,—Your committee appointed to investigate conditions in the city market herewith submit its report. The resolution under which the investigation was held is as follows: "Whereas in view of the complaints made by patrons of the country market and others that the rules and regulations governing the same are openly and flagrantly violated; and "Whereas, we believe such conditions exist within the knowledge of officials; and "Whereas the revenues of said market are not satisfactorily accounted for; therefore resolved, that a full inquiry be held into this matter, and that a committee of three be appointed to investigate the same under the statute, and that the recorder attend and conduct such inquiry."

The committee, composed of Aldermen Jones, Wigmore, Hayes and Elkin with Recorder Baxter, conducted the examination of the witnesses in the city hall, where the investigation was held. The witnesses were examined under oath and their testimony taken in shorthand. A copy of the evidence is attached to this report. In it we find that Director Wisely has occupied this position since 1888. He is clerk of the market and directly responsible to the council for his acts. W. C. Dunham is his deputy, and as such official the latter has general supervision over the internal affairs of the city market building. It is his duty to see that the building is kept in a cleanly state and to look after the enforcement of the by-laws. Mr. Wisely avows that it was in either May or June last that he became aware that the lessee of the tolls was charging for space in the market, but he evidently did not consider that act on the part of the lessee in any way improper for he does not seem to have made any effort to stop it nor does he appear to have called the attention of the board of public safety to the matter at all. Not only did the director become aware

of these transactions on the part of the toll collector but, according to several of the witnesses, he actually suggested and advised them to go to Mr. Potts and make arrangements for buying places. Two witnesses go so far as to say that the director had told them Mr. Potts could sell stands.

Mr. Dunham as deputy clerk of the market would not be likely to say or do anything that would in any way discredit his superior official, especially in view of the fact that their relations have always been cordial and of a friendly character. Mr. Dunham states that Director Wisely volunteered this information to him one morning in the market. "We have given Frank the privilege of setting all he can out of the stands that are not sold."

If this remark correctly represents the mind of the director in the matter, the inference would naturally be that there may have been some understanding between himself and the lessee of the tolls concerning the "privileges" so frequently referred to in the evidence.

Many of the questions put by the recorder to Mr. Wisely and the latter's replies thereto, would seem to confirm the opinion of your committee, that Director Wisely had either a very imperfect knowledge or no knowledge of the law in force in the market, or else was very remiss in his duty as chief executive officer of the market.

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Potts to confine himself to the subject in hand. Ald. Potts—"Well it's out now and I don't care. I tell you, though, that I would rather be standing where I am than sitting where Ald. Jones is." His worship—"I think, Ald. Potts, that if such a report had been brought in about me that I would say nothing and accept their judgment." Mayor Frink—"Ald. Jones' point of view is very well taken. I must ask Ald. Jones—"I don't want to say anything about Ald. Jones as soon as my back was turned." Ald. Jones—"I again rise to a point of order. It is not true." Ald. Potts—"But it is true." Ald. Jones—"Mayor Frink is the only authority you can appeal to and he says it is not true." Ald. Potts—"Your worship, is it not true that Ald. Jones came to you in your office and asked you to put Ald. Hayes on the committee?" Mayor Frink—"Yes, I think he did." Ald. Potts, continuing his speech, said that all he wanted was a fair measure of justice. He proceeded to defend the market clerk who, he said, had tried to enforce the laws till he found that the police magistrates and the chairman of the safety board were arrayed against him.

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