

CITY COUNCIL ORDERS IMPROVEMENTS GALORE

In a Mild Stampede Solons Make Demand on Permanent Improvement Fund for \$41,000—Every Alderman Grabs a Chunk for His Ward—Need of a Fire Tug Is Again Emphasized.

Disregarding all restrictions which had been placed on the permanent improvement fund, the council last night ordered a little over \$40,000 worth of new improvements. For a while the body was a "billion dollar institution," and while the stampede was on every one grabbed a chunk for his ward.

The result was \$4,000 for the resurfacing of Grand avenue on the south side of the thoroughfare, \$2,000 for improvements on Garfield avenue, \$2,000 for London road, \$1,800 for Lake avenue from Second street to the boulevard, \$500 for Fifth avenue west, which has been damaged by water—and the grand climax was \$30,000 appropriated for the repairs of city bridges.

No one seemed to know where the money was coming from, but the board of public works was ordered to go ahead and do the work. Visions of a doomed West End police station, fire department, hospital and the point of rocks appeared, but they were soon lost in the wild scramble.

Outside of the money appropriated for the bridges there was only \$4,000 available for street improvements and this figure with one sweep was boosted to over \$10,000, with no prospects of finding the coin unless two or three of the other appropriations, especially the West End station or hospital, are forgotten for the time being.

Big Undertaking.

The appropriation for the repair of bridges is one of the largest undertakings of the city this year, and is principally for the purpose of placing the structures in safe condition in order that the street railway may run its cars over them to the new steel plant. Most of the bridges are decayed and wholly unsafe, and the thoroughfare to the new steel plant has been delayed on account of this.

The improvements ordered on Grand avenue and London road mean a good, continuous thoroughfare from Lakeside to New Duluth or from the Vermillion Lake road to Fond du Lac, when it is completed. Some of the bridges which will be replaced and repaired are: On Grand avenue at Thirty-seventh avenue west, to cost, \$4,500; at Sixty-eighth avenue, \$1,000; at Seventy-third avenue, \$7,600; at Knowlton creek bridge, \$1,700; at Mathews street and Grand avenue, \$4,400; at One Hundredth avenue west, \$1,500; at Woodland avenue and Vista street, \$1,300. The repairs to other bridges which made a grand total of a trifle over \$30,000, ranged in cost from \$25 to \$400. Besides these improvements were ordered to the docks in West Duluth and along the harbor. Five hundred dollars will also be expended on the Sixth avenue west viaduct.

Moore Starts the Ball.

Alderman Moore of the committee on streets set the ball rolling when he declared that the council ought to begin to do something regarding improvements. "We want good roads, and we ought to have them from one end of the city to the other."

The same proposition has been coming up before the council for two or three months but every time an attempt was made to order the improvement of London Road and Grand avenue the resolution was drowned with amendments asking for improvements in every other ward.

Some one had evidently planned to carry the amendments through by a stampede in spite of the stringency of the fund and when the smoke cleared away and the city clerk had finished figuring there was just about \$41,000 worth of new improvements ordered.

Fire Tug Wanted.

By resolution Mayor Haven and the board of fire commissioners were requested to hold a conference and start negotiations with property owners on the water front in an effort to equip the water front with a fire tug. Alderman Moore, who introduced the resolution, said that the need of a city fire tug was amply demonstrated at the recent fire of elevator D and steps should be taken at once to procure one in such a manner that the whole burden would not fall upon the city. "You can't estimate the loss which would undoubtedly have occurred at that fire had it not been for the two fire tugs which volunteered their services last Friday," said he. "It would not only have meant a loss to property but would have meant a paralysis

to business. If such a fire would sweep the water front in the fall of the year it would be a calamity."

The Zenith Telephone company petitioned to have repealed section 14 of their franchise which requires that no charge shall be made for service between Superior and Duluth. They claim that if they are forced to comply with the wishes of the council relative to the placing of their wires underground it will mean an expenditure of several thousand dollars and the company is not in a condition to meet this expense without additional revenue. The communication went to the committee on ordinances.

Warren McComber in a communication offered for sale eight lots to the city for \$12,000 to be used for the proposed contagious disease hospital. The site is at Sixteenth avenue east and Sixth street. The lots have 200 feet frontage on the avenue and 200 on the street. The communication was referred to the hospital committee.

Application Turned Down.

L. Rotman renewed his application for a license to conduct the Majestic theater in the West End. It was voted down. Mrs. Goldish, wife of the former owner of the theater appeared before the council and pleaded in behalf of

Mr. Rotman. She declared that they had sold the place to Rotman for \$200 and if he was not given a license they would have to return the money. The same objections were offered by the aldermen in that section of the city that there was an objectionable crowd in that locality and that the place would be a rendezvous for them.

The board of public works was given permission to purchase the equipment used in the removal of the Point of Rocks. The board is of the opinion that the city would profit by the purchase of the machinery which is now being used as it will probably take several years to complete the work, and they feel that the machinery can be operated on a paying basis.

Given a License.

Lawrence & Andree were granted a license to conduct a saloon at 11 East Superior street, after the application had been held up for three weeks, by a petition from the business men in that block. The applicants were formerly situated on the Bowery and when the Wisconsin Central company started to remove the buildings in that locality they were forced to seek another location. The license had several months to run and it was decided to allow them to operate at 11 East Superior street until it expires.

The two garbage ordinances again went over for one week for revision. City Engineer McGilvray submitted an estimate of the cost of grading and paving Colorado street from Fifty-first to Fifty-fourth avenues. The estimated cost is \$14,105.

Alderman Moe submitted a verbal resolution asking for an investigation as to whether the circus licenses were sufficient. He believed that the city should collect at least 5 per cent of the receipts of the company. He said the city was not getting a fair tax from these institutions. The matter was referred to the committee on licenses.

The library board was authorized to re-decorate the interior of the building.

Building Inspector Kielley was given permission to visit Chicago for one week to attend the meeting of the board of underwriters who are investigating the question of concrete as a building material.

The dog ordinance empowering the police to catch stray dogs and put them to death if unclaimed was passed. Instead of the old method of arresting the owners if the dog tax is not paid, the police will capture the animals and after holding them in pound for a certain length of time, they will be drowned.

The Fourth and Second street improvements were both postponed for 30 days at the request of the property owners.

The council adjourned until 8 o'clock Wednesday night to pass on the city's payroll.