

Political and Pecuniary Motives Given as Cause For Stockade Site Plan

Vigorous Talks Made at Third Ward Meeting Assailing Proposed High School Location.

CHOSEWOOD IS SCORED FOR LAND PURCHASES

Alderman Working for Own Benefit, Says Harts- field—Chosewood May Answer Later.

Charges that the agitation to build one of the high schools on the city stockade property may be traced to a few men, actuated by political interests, and to Alderman Charles L. Chosewood, governed by pecuniary motives, were made at a mass meeting of south side citizens held Saturday night at the home of J. S. Burgess, 268 Atlanta avenue.

The charges were made in a speech by W. B. Hartsfield, president of the Third Ward Improvement club, who declared that within the last few months the deed records of Fulton county show that Mr. Chosewood, who already owns real estate in the vicinity of the stockade, has purchased three additional tracts near the prison.

"For years Mr. Chosewood has used his position as alderman for his own benefit," asserted the speaker. "Practically all the improvements the third ward has gotten in the last several years have been around his own property, while the rest of the ward has suffered. While he is not having the city and county improve his own property he is making his living out of the concessions in Grant park, which he controls.

Attack on Chosewood.

"Today, I am informed, that at the instance of Mr. Chosewood, the city is spending thousands of dollars grading and putting in sewers and drains around the property of Mr. Chosewood near the stockade. If anyone doubts it let him go out and see for himself.

"The deed records of Fulton county show that Mr. Chosewood, in the last few months has purchased three additional tracts of land near the stockade. What a wonderful opportunity to buy land around the stockade at a song from people who do not want it and cannot sell it under present conditions and then remove the stockade and sell out at a handsome profit.

"I do not believe the people of Atlanta will ever consent to such an outrageous proposition when they understand the true facts."

Mr. Hartsfield's talk had just been preceded by a speech by School Commissioner Carl F. Hutcheson, who said he had learned "some things are happening," in connection with the stockade site and declared:

"I wish to assure you that as far as I am concerned, that school will never be erected on the stockade site.

"In reference to the stockade property," he stated, "I have never said I would take a stand for that place. I have only thrown it out as a suggestion trying to get at the facts. I have never had an opportunity of going over there and investigating the lay of the land. I only passed by these on street cars and in automobiles at a distance."

Chosewood to Reply Soon.

Alderman Chosewood, when his attention was called to the charges following the meeting, said that he had no statement to make Saturday night, but would probably have one later.

The mass meeting, which was largely attended, was held to offer protest against the proposal to locate the girls' high school on the stockade grounds. Colonel Orville Hall presided.

Resolutions were introduced by A. W. Warner, president of the South Boulevard Improvement association and unanimously adopted, urging the board of education and the bond commission to locate the high school for girls on a twenty-acre tract adjacent to Grant Park on the south and fronting on Atlanta avenue.

Locality, acreage, natural adaptability for modern campus purposes, adequate street car service, belt line railroad service for transportation of

WOMEN PLANNING TO DEMAND VOTE ON CITY CHARTER

Council Will Be Urged at Meeting Monday to Submit All Plans to Peo- ple at Election.

REFERENDUM ACTION TO FOLLOW REFUSAL

Women Have Already Ob- tained More Than Necess- ary Number of Signa- tures, It Is Reported.

Unless city council Monday afternoon adopts a pending resolution introduced at the last session, submitting to a preferential vote the various charter plans presented to that body, the Atlanta League of Women Voters will demand a referendum on the "Atlanta plan" of Councilman Edgar Watkins, and is ready with the necessary petition, it was learned Saturday from leaders of the movement.

To initiate a referendum all that is required is a petition signed by 10 per cent of the voters registered at the last previous election. The last registration list contains approximately 27,000 names. The women have circulated a petition which more than 2,700 registered voters have signed, it is said, the presentation of which would make it obligatory upon council to allow an election on the Atlanta plan.

Preferential Measure.

The preferential measure was introduced at the last meeting by Councilman Edgar Watkins, Councilman J. O. Wood and Alderman W. B. Duvall, and calls on council to authorize an election on May 3, and submit to a preferential vote of the people all charter plans offered, if accompanied by a petition bearing the signatures of at least 500 voters.

After several minutes of hot debate Councilman J. R. Nutting moved that the measure be laid on the table until the next meeting, and his motion was adopted.

A general crossfire of oratory, in

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PECUNIARY MOTIVES SEEN IN SITE PLAN

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building materials, coal and other freight without rehauling, elevation, drainage and price, were pointed out as advantages of the site. It was stated that the land can be purchased for approximately \$40,000.

Advantages of City.

Colonel Hall, H. W. Quinn and other citizens spoke against the stockade site and in favor of the Grant park location.

Part of the tract overlooks the city of Atlanta, stated Colonel Hall. He pointed out that it lies near and on nearly the same elevation with Fort Walker in Grant park, which was a tactical site selected by a Confederate artillery officer as an elevated point commanding the surrounding country in the defense of Atlanta against the federal forces.

"And there's nobody buying land around this tract and nobody getting options," he added, "as I understand is being done near another tract that has been mentioned."

Colonel Hall discussed the various other proposed locations on the south side. He said the Grant park tract, from the standpoint of street car accessibility, was the finest located site in the city, not to mention its low price and other arguments in its favor.

Another meeting is proposed early this week, when other members of the board of education will be invited to attend.