

MAY HAVE TO WAIT LONG TIME

Gary, Hobart, Valparaiso Interurban Project Given Setback at Board Meeting Yesterday Afternoon—Promoter Surprised.

J. G. EARLE OF HOBART HAD FINGER IN PIE

While He Is Boosting the Air Line He is at the Same Time Opposing the Burns' Ditch—Therefore the Town Board Takes the Present Move.

As far as the new electric line, the Gary, Hobart & Valparaiso Traction company, is concerned, it may have to wait a long time before it secures a franchise to enter the town of Gary.

This much was decided at a meeting of the town board yesterday, when their petition for a franchise was finally turned down by the board and the matter was laid on the table indefinitely. The action of the board in refusing to grant the company their franchise created a surprise for some time, but when it became known that their real object was in turning down the company, the few that were acquainted with the facts of the case commanded the board for their action.

PROMOTER EXPRESSES SURPRISE.

Francis Y. Keator of Aurora, Ill., who is the promoter of the new Gary, Hobart and Valparaiso Traction company, was as much surprised as any of those present. Mr. Keator appeared at the meeting of the board several weeks ago and was told at that time that if the company would show some disposition to incorporate and prove to the board that his company meant business, that they would look upon the matter of granting the franchise in a more favorable light.

Accordingly, Mr. Keator set out and had the necessary papers filed with the secretary of state. The articles of incorporation were filed last week at Indianapolis, naming James T. Hopkins and A. J. Hopkins Jr., two sons of United States Senator Hopkins; F. Y. Keator, Haskell Davis and W. H. Watkins as the directors of the new company, and placing their capital stock at \$100,000. It is said that Mr. Keator also went to the town trustees of Valparaiso and Hobart and secured an agreement wherein they would grant the company a franchise at their next regular meeting. He conferred with the officers of the Gary & Interurban company and all difficulties between the two companies were amicably settled. All that now remained to be done was to get the Gary franchise and work would be started at once on the new road.

ADVISED TO BEGIN WORK.

"If the company is all right, as I have no doubt it is," said President Knotts, "let the company start their work and build their line as far as the Gary corporation line, then we will be willing to grant the franchise."

KEATOR GIVES HIS REASONS.

Mr. Keator said that the men who were at the back of the new road would not be willing to furnish the necessary funds to construct the road and that they could not secure a bond or sell stock unless they could get an entry into Gary.

Another objection to the road was raised by the board, in that they could not construct their road over the Calumet marsh, owing to the high water every spring.

"This is the only reason," said Mr. Knotts, "that the Gary & Interurban is held up on completing their line as far as the Hobart road." A warm discussion followed in which Mr. Keator tried to explain his theory on building the road over the lowlands, but the board refused to look upon the matter, and a short time after the meeting adjourned.

THE REAL REASON.

The real reason for the board refusing to grant the company their franchise was learned by a TIMES reporter last night.

It is known that John G. Earle of Hobart is interested and is the main figure in the background, who is trying to promote the road. If it is constructed it will run through his properties and increase them in value to the extent of probably a half million dollars.

It is also known that John G. Earle is strongly opposed to the Burns ditch, and has been against it from the start. The board of trustees of Gary are vitally interested in the south end of Gary and know that the Burns ditch will mean more for Gary, in increasing the land values and the drainage of thousands of acres of lowlands that are now worthless, than any other proposition, and they do not feel very kindly toward the opposition of Mr. Earle.

HOPELESS.

When a fellow gets between an iron-hearted judge, a jury of strangers, and a prosecuting attorney, what chance has an honest man got?—New York Globe.

Mrs. Sophie Harrison Eastman, Ex-Mayor's Sister, Weds Southerner After Bothersome Preliminaries.



Mr. and Mrs. Baker L. Edwards

Asheville, N. C., Nov. 18.—Mrs. Sophonisba Harrison Eastman, daughter of the elder Carter H. Harrison of Chicago, was married at four o'clock yesterday afternoon to Baker Everett Edwards of Norfolk, Va. The ceremony was performed in the back room of a lawyer's office in Asheville by Maj. F. N. Waddell, a magistrate, and was entirely unexpected.

Half an hour before they were made man and wife Mrs. Eastman and Edwards had no idea that they would be married for several days, as they had postponed action until something could be learned of the movements of Mrs. Letitia Newlands Edwards, the divorced wife of the Virginian. In first Mrs. Edwards was in the offing all day and rumors of dark plots came out of the east, but after Edwards learned of the lawyers that there was no legal ground upon which the woman could reopen the divorce and all she wanted was a share of his father's estate he gave the word to go ahead and Justice Waddell was called in.

Earlier in the day the Rev. Gilbert E. Rowe of the Central Methodist Episcopal church, who had been asked to perform the ceremony, and who had agreed to do so, wrote Mrs. Eastman a letter, saying he could not officiate at the wedding. He gave as a reason that some of the elders of the church had criticized him and he could not act as a judge in a case of this complicated character.

NOW ON TRIAL FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

Indiana Harbor Saloon Will Bring Charges Against Policeman.

MUCH INTERESTED IN CASE GILA MONSTER WITH SNAKES

Public Sentiment Is With the City Officials—Trouble Started Several Months Ago.

(Special to THE TIMES.)

Indiana Harbor, Ind., Nov. 18.—The case against Steve Sherpotoski, the Guthrie street saloonkeeper, now being tried in the superior court at Hammond, is one of particular interest to the police forces of East Chicago and the Harbor. Immediately following its trial will come the prosecution of two of the city's police officers, Weinbach and Gorman, in suits praying for the assessment of damages to the extent of \$10,000 in either case.

The story told by the local police officials is interesting. Sherpotoski is charged with having embezzled some \$200 of the funds belonging to a local Slavonian society. It is for this offense that he himself is on trial, and had it not been for an altercation with an Indiana Harbor blacksmith, the shortage in his accounts might never have been made public.

One evening about two months ago the police department received a telephone call to "go at once to the Sherpotoski saloon," as a big fight was in progress. By the time the two officers arrived on the scene the fight was over, the field of battle cleared and everyone in the saloon smiling as though nothing extraordinary had happened.

Sherpotoski denied that anyone had telephoned for the police, although his wife acknowledged that she had asked for the police protection. This enraged the saloonkeeper and he ordered the two policemen from his building.

In the struggle that followed Sherpotoski cut the flesh on one of his arms by shoving it through a plate-glass window, while Mrs. Sherpotoski maintained that she had been struck by the officers.

The case has aroused intense interest here and in East Chicago, where the two officers are well known. Their efficiency of the police force is undoubtedly the action of Mr. and Mrs. Sherpotoski censured by everyone connected in the case in anyway whatever. It is understood that the saloonkeeper has attempted the filing of suit against the city officials on other occasions, but has been advised by his counsel that such action would be useless. He is now represented by a firm of Hammond lawyers.

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