

I had a plan at this time in reference to the Northern Boundary Avenue, and also to providing for a public park that I was very desirous to see carried out, and I saw no way in which those improvements could be carried out, unless they were connected with this system of Passenger Railways. I thought if the city government gave up the streets, it was asking very little to claim a contribution of one-fifth the passenger money for the benefit of the city, and I had reason to believe that that measure was a popular one, and that the people would accept it. It was calculated to confer very great benefit upon the city, in my opinion, and especially on the working classes. I therefore looked upon it as a most important feature of that ordinance, and determined, if I could, to accomplish it in that way. When I got back to the Mayor's office I intimated my purpose—that I should have no objection to the ordinance, if this contribution to the park fund was attached to it. The ordinance, it is true, was not such a one as I would have drafted myself, but still, looking at the seventh section of it, which gave to our people the privilege of coming in and participating in the profits of the work, I was willing to sign it, on the faith and with the impression that it would be carried out without any legal impediment, provided the measure I proposed was attached to the ordinance.

I was waited upon by a number of the members of the City Council to know my views on the subject. I explained them in detail. I think I aided Mr. Wood, who called on me, in proposing the amendment that would meet my views.

Question. Were parties applying for this grant known to you?

Answer. Many of them were known. Travers was known to me as a gentleman of integrity and honor. I had great faith in his name, and I have never seen anything during my connection with that ordinance to shake the confidence I reposed in Travers. I had also great confidence in the gentlemen on the other side—my friend Mr. Brooks and the others connected with that bill.

I think during the pendency of that bill I never had any communication with the members of the Council until within two days, perhaps, of its final passage. I do not think I discussed the subject with anybody. I do not think I saw Travers; I had not seen him for four or five months previous to the passage of the ordinance, and until some time after it, or communicated with him on the subject; nor had I ever seen one of the grantees; nor had I communicated with the parties on the other side. I was just in that impartial situation that I could take the subject up and give it the benefit of my calm dispassionate consideration, which I did.

I adopted the ordinance which was finally presented to me because I thought it placed the whole subject beyond contingency. I thought that it allowed the grantees a sum which would enable them to complete the roads and pay themselves a remunerative profit; and believing as I did, that it would require four cents fare to insure the project, I did not wish to give my attention to any other measure that might have the effect of driving the parties who were connected with it to make an application to the Legislature or City Council to relieve them by allowing an increase of fare. That was the ground upon which I accepted this bill; I thought I was acting prudently in doing so.