CITY HALL METHODS THAT BENEFIT THE CONTRACTOR.

How the Metropolitan Improvement Company Has Been Paid for "Extra" Work in the Cleaning of Paved Streets—An Investigation Now On Which Promises to Be Fruitful.

Last Friday an ordinance went down to the Council from the Street Commissioner to authorize the cleaning of paved streets by scraping, scrubbing and washing. It was read the first time and referred without notice, but on last Tuesday, when read the second time, it was found to contain an emergency clause, declaring that the condition of the streets is such that its provisions shall become effective immediately upon its approval by the Mayor.

The ordinance, in full, follows:

An ordinance authorizing the Street Commissioner to employ such labor, teams, sprinkling wagons and machines as are necessary to scrape, scrub and wash the streets of the City of St. Louis.

Be it ordained by the City of St. Louis, that the Board of Public Improvements be and the same is hereby authorized and empowered to employ such labor, teams, sprinkling wagons and machines as are necessary to scrape, scrub and wash and pavements and shall be paid for at the same rates at which other similar labor, teams, sprinkling wagons and machines are paid for by the Street Commissioner.

Section 2. That section 3 of the act of the City of St. Louis, approved March 1, 1897, and the act approved March 1, 1897, the street Commissioner is hereby authorized to employ such labor, teams, sprinkling wagons and machines as are necessary to scrape, scrub and wash and pavements and shall be paid for at the same rates at which other similar labor, teams, sprinkling wagons and machines are paid for by the Street Commissioner.

Section 3. That section 3 of the act of the City of St. Louis, approved March 1, 1897, and the act approved March 1, 1897, the Street Commissioner is hereby authorized to employ such labor, teams, sprinkling wagons and machines as are necessary to scrape, scrub and wash and pavements.

Section 4. The additions of the streets to wash that are emergency as stated herein, and this ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its approval by the Mayor.

The critical feature in this proposed ordinance is held by the Metropolitan Improvement Company. At the time the contract went into effect, March 1, 1898, the principal stockholders were Richard H. Cole, George H. Harrestad and Sidney Roach, brother of City Reporter Henry Roach. The prices paid by the city under its provisions for the 2,000 square feet were: Twenty-six cents for brick and asphalt pavements, 20 cents for granite and 25 cents for wood pavements.

No clause requiring the company to scrape, wash or scrub the streets of St. Louis appears in the contract. Its provisions merely call for the work, and on examination of the contract in the approved explanation of the ordinance pending in the Municipal Assembly.

The contract does say: "During inclement weather the roadways of such streets as may be specified by the Street Commissioner shall be kept free from snow and ice. For the performance of such work the contractor will be paid an advance of 25 per centum over and above the actual cost."

Another clause reads: "Whenever for any reason it is inexpedient to use sweeping machines, or upon the Street Commissioner's order, the work shall be done by scrapers or manual labor."

Mr. Varrelmann Answers Questions.

That the contract neither provides for extra compensation in the second instance nor such remuneration since the additional 25 per centum in the first instance. For that reason Street Commissioner Varrelmann was asked yesterday to dictate answers to several prepared questions. The interview follows:

"What is the occasion for the measure legalizing the scraping, scrubbing and washing of the streets, which is now in the Council?"

"The contract with the Metropolitan Improvement Company does not distinctly state how to do the kind of work. Many years ago the contractors found out that unless they scrubbed, scraped and washed the streets, the streets could not be kept clean. In 1891 the Street Commissioner, M. J. Murphy, started the employment of manual labor.

"Have not the streets been scraped and washed?"

"To be sure they have, for the sweeping service is not sufficient. I recently asked the City Counselor what to do in view of the provisions of the contract, and he told me to get this ordinance in the Municipal Assembly."

"Was there no ordinance authorizing this kind of work?"

"The contract says cleaning, sweeping and by manual labor, but does not use the words scrubbing, scraping or washing."

"Has the work of scrubbing, scraping and washing, which has been done, been paid for?"

"Yes."

"To whom was the money paid?"

"The Metropolitan Improvement Company, of course, that is, during the life of the contract with the city. By an agreement made between my former Street Commissioner and the contractor this extra work was paid for at the same price which the city pays for similar work in the different districts."

"Why was not scraping, scrubbing or washing specified in the contract?"

"I cannot say."

"Is it not true that a considerable amount of cleaning streets of snow has been done?"

"Yes."

"Is there ordinance authority for this kind of work?"

"Indeed, there is; the contract calls for it. There is a special item to that effect and a price given."

"How has it been paid for?"

"By wagon and labor, with an addition of 25 per cent."

"What prices have been paid to the contractor?"

"The labor has been put down at $1.50 per day, and the machines at $5 each for the two-horse devices, and $7.50 each for the four-horse devices, in each instance including one driver. Ten per cent is added for the benefit of the contractor."

Increase in Cost.

In view of the foregoing interview with the Street Commissioner, the appropriations made for street cleaning show a significant increase since 1897, as follows:

Year.	[illegible]	[illegible]	Mayor.
1897	$ [illegible]	$ [illegible]	Noonan
1898	[illegible]	[illegible]	Walbridge
1899	[illegible]	[illegible]	Walbridge
1900	[illegible]	[illegible]	Walbridge
1901	[illegible]	[illegible]	Zeigenhein
1902	[illegible]	[illegible]	Zeigenhein
1903	[illegible]	[illegible]	Zeigenhein
1904	[illegible]	[illegible]	Zeigenhein
1905	[illegible]	[illegible]	Zeigenhein

In this period of street cleaning was introduced in St. Louis by Street Commissioner Miller without any special ordinance. It was originally intended for the business section of the city, but has spread over the residence section.

Inspectors' Returns Destroyed.

It is known that the early returns of the street cleaning inspectors have been destroyed, and that these in the possession of President McMath of the Board of Public Improvements go back only twenty-two months. Mr. McMath declines to make the statement whether beyond an intuition that an important work which may prove startling has been completed.

The street cleaning of St. Louis—that being done under the contract with the Metropolitan Improvement Company—has been superintended for a number of years by Ed Becker. He is a brother of "Pete" and Louis Becker, who was appointed Superintendent of Street Sprinkling on Wednesday. The Becker of street cleaning received $25 a month until two months ago, when the Hodges bill, which threatened the street Department, was introduced in the City Council. His salary was then reduced to $75.

Under Becker are six inspectors, namely: John Hickelheim, August J. C. Guenther, William J. Shcard, Joseph J. Senn, Gustav Schaeffer and Byron C. Mann. These men each receive $3 a day.

In the days of Street Commissioner Miller there were seven other inspectors drawing the same pay with the same regularity.

It is upon the returns made by Becker and his force of inspectors that the street cleaning contractors have been paid for "scrubbing, scraping and washing." As a compensation for their labors in that direction $[illegible] was paid last year.

A separate and distinct corps of inspectors oversees the block system of street cleaning, where laborers work on the Waring plan—as in New York.

Mr. Varrelmann, when asked if "scraping, scrubbing and washing" of the streets was being continued, said that such work was stopped on January 15. He was not inclined to go into an explanation of how the "irregularity," as he put it, had been discovered, in fact, he declared that everything would be "peachy" when the proposed ordinance had passed the Municipal Assembly.

It is understood that the vouchers presented by the Metropolitan Improvement Company at the City Auditor's office do not mention "scraping, washing and scrubbing." The contract seems to show that the city has paid for such extra work in the past, in the footed up bills which, in the ordinary course, will be presented for payment at the present time.

EAST ST. LOUIS DEMOCRATS.

Convention Nominates City Ticket—Party Platform.

The Democrats of East St. Louis held their convention at the City Hall last night and nominated an Assessor, Chief Statistician and two Assistant Superintendents, besides ratifying the local nominations for Aldermen.

The meeting was called to order by James Pettibone, chairman of the City Central Committee, on motion of Thomas J. Foley, Clerk of the City Court, John J. Brannon was selected as chairman of the convention, J. Murphy and [illegible] as secretary. The roll of organization was then taken and the following responded:

[illegible] was addressed by C. E. Fyan, Frank P. Smith.

The committee on credentials then reported that there were no contesting delegations.

The following resolutions were submitted and adopted:

[illegible]

Nominations were then declared in order and Robert Prosser and Timothy Foley were placed in nomination, and Mr. Foley was declared by a vote of 61 to 47. Mr. Prosser then moved that the nomination be made unanimous, which was adopted with a cheer. W. G. Austin for Chief Statistician and Henry Spencer and P. J. Meyers for Assistant Superintendents were nominated by acclamation.

The nominations made Wednesday night for Aldermen were then ratified, and on motion the convention adjourned. The nominations made last night are considered strong, and with the large Democratic majority in East St. Louis the leaders in the party expect the election of the entire ticket easily.

The meeting was organized in the Lincoln Democratic Club, of which Thomas Foley is president, and the following officers were elected: President, J. E. Wallace; Vice President, [illegible]; Secretary, [illegible]; Treasurer, [illegible]; Sergeant-at-Arms, [illegible]; Committee, [illegible]. The club will make its headquarters at Lincoln Hall, Fifth and Broadway, and will open a campaign for Aldermen, First Ward, Henry Grimmer; Second Ward, [illegible]; Third Ward, [illegible]; Fourth Ward, [illegible]; Fifth Ward, Henry Pfeifer; Sixth Ward, [illegible]; Seventh Ward, [illegible].

Citizens' Party Primaries.

The citizens' party of East St. Louis held ward primaries in the several wards last night and selected the following candidates for Aldermen: First Ward, Henry Grimmer; Second Ward, [illegible]; Third Ward, [illegible]; Fourth Ward, [illegible]; Fifth Ward, Henry Pfeifer; Sixth Ward, [illegible]; Seventh Ward, [illegible].

DID NOT GO TO A FUNERAL.

Instead, Andrew Debus Went to Clayton and Was Married.

Andrew Debus, living at No. 3724 Lawton avenue, asked the supply [illegible] Wednesday morning for a day's leave of absence. He told his employer he was going to attend the funeral of a friend in Carondelet. Shortly before the Mr. Louis Zeigler, living at the rear of [illegible] No. 3724 South Broadway, called at the place and said he was going to visit friends. The couple met at the prearranged rendezvous and went to Clayton, where they obtained a license to marry. They then took the train for St. Louis and were married by the Rev. Father Peter Rigen at the rectory of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Grand and Pine avenues. They had been sweethearts for years, but owing to some opposition on the part of the young lady's parents the marriage had been kept secret. The bride is twenty-two years old and was quite popular among her acquaintances.

Miss Zeigler is the daughter of Robert Zeigler, a clear manufacturer.

Debus returned to Wanderer's saloon to get his hat and the young lady went home.

At the Debus home on Iowa avenue some one said through the closed door that they knew nothing of a marriage.

TO BUILD A GARDEN OF EDEN.

Then Mr. Weed Will Look About for an Eve.

Stamford, Conn., March 15.—Evans Weed, a wealthy bachelor farmer, has a farm in Noroton, near this place. Mr. Weed has always thought well of the character of Eden Haven, bachelor matrons, with wealth and leisure on his hands, he has announced his intention of carrying out the cherished dream of his life.

The Weed farm is to be transformed into a counterpart of the Garden of Eden, sold of Jr. Hole Writ. Every thing that Beauty is unsurpassed and nothing natural left undone to add to its loveliness. Mr. Weed has consulted all of the authorities on the actual aspect of the garden in which Mother Eve brought so many troubles upon the human race.

He will make artificial lakes that will appear to be but a part of Nature. Rare flowers will bloom and shed fragrance, and birds will fill their lodges from them. Monkeys, wearing well fitted leathern aprons and [illegible] of fig leaves, will pick cocoanuts and [illegible] of fruit and sing in the leafy trees.

Mr. Weed intends to have all the beasts of the fields that are not too wild. The serpent, he says, he will do if the bachelor farmer can persuade some young woman of Stamford to join him in his Eden.

Mr. Weed first moves in this respect will be to petition the Legislature to change his name to Adam. Then he will advertise for an Eve. He says the only provision he will make as to his prospective bride is that she shall be a good woman and, of course, not too old for him. Her name must be Eve, no matter. No Legislature can deny him.

REARRESTED IN CHICAGO.

A. L. Thompson to Be Brought Back to St. Louis.

Chicago, Ill., March 15.—A. L. Thompson, who escaped from the Jefferson City jail [illegible] months ago, was rearrested in Chicago yesterday afternoon by Detective Lon Heck, who took him before Judge Kohlsaat in the Supreme Court. The prisoner was then taken to the Criminal Court building, where he was held to await the arrival of Detectives Dunn and Wright, who left St. Louis last night. The prisoner was taken to Chicago and allowed to walk the city, and has been living on Prairie avenue. When the lower court decided he was affirmed was sent to Chicago the boy notified him. Detectives Dunn and Wright arrived in the city early yesterday morning and went to his home. He was taken to the Central Station and locked up.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Railway Engineers' Convention at Chicago Closed.

Chicago, March 15.—At the closing day's session of the Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association Convention today the following officers were elected: President, J. F. Wallace, Illinois Central Railroad, Chicago; First Vice President, E. A. Paterson, Canadian Pacific Railway, Montreal; Second Vice President, W. C. Curtis, Southern Pacific Company, San Francisco; Secretary, L. C. Fritch, Baltimore & Ohio, Southwestern Railway, Washington, D. C.; Treasurer, W. S. Lefler, Chicago and Eastern Illinois, Chicago. The convention closed with a banquet tonight at the Victoria Hotel.

A BRILLIANT SUCCESS.

Paris Critics Go Wild Over Bernhardt in "L'Aiglon."

Paris, March 15.—It is the opinion of competent French critics that the first performance of "L'Aiglon," at Mme. Bernhardt's Theater of "L'Aiglon," marks a date in the annals of the stage. Such a homage as was paid to Mme. Bernhardt by the entire press, by the best critics, and the enthusiastic comments was manifested in the number in which M. Rostand, the celebrated author of "Cyrano de Bergerac," would treat the romantic story of the Duke of Reichstadt, son of Napoleon and Marie Louise, which [illegible] Rostand gives the title to the play.

There was allowed an interval of [illegible] to look for Bernhardt would be [illegible] performance. The title role, which [illegible] Bernhardt, is that of the young Duke of Reichstadt, the unfortunate son of Napoleon I. [illegible] Bernhardt's [illegible] is [illegible] Rostand's [illegible] Bernhardt [illegible] Rostand's [illegible] Bernhardt [illegible] Rostand's [illegible] Bernhardt