

# SHALL WE SELL THE MARKET?

## Citizens Will Decide This Question at the Polls Tomorrow.

### THE POLLING PLACES

#### Citizens' Meeting Declares Against the Sale.

### ARGUMENT PRO AND CON

Primaries Ordered by the Board Simply to Get an Expression of Opinion from the People—Options on all Desirable Sites Have Been Secured and if the Present Market House is Sold a New Market House and Auditorium Will Be Erected With the Purchase Money.

Tomorrow (Monday) the people of Raleigh will be called upon for an expression of opinion as to whether the present market house shall be sold, provided \$50,000 can be secured for the property. That is all there is to the question that has to do with Monday's primaries. The selection of a site for a new market, the construction of a new market, city hall or auditorium will be brought up as soon as the people have decided the question of "sale" or "no sale." It is not a legal election in the ordinary sense of the word, but a primary called by the Board of Aldermen to get an informal expression of opinion on the one question.

No registration is necessary, and any male of voting age who has been a resident of the city ninety days can express his opinion.

The board has had printed 12,000 tickets with "For Sale" thereon, and the same number of tickets with the legend "Against Sale." These will be placed at the polling places, which are located as follows:

First Ward—Both divisions, Capital Hose Company, West Morgan street. Poll holders, Richard Koonce, C. R. Lee, L. H. Royster, A. J. Jones.

Second Ward—Both divisions, Victor Engine house, Hargett and Blount streets. Poll holders, M. J. Edwards, M. R. Hayes, W. W. Smith, Jr., Thomas Bagley.

Third Ward—Jones' warehouse, Blount and Davie streets. Poll holders, W. T. Hodges, C. H. Bell, J. M. Rizzan, E. A. Olinstead.

Fourth Ward—City Lot, Salisbury and Davie streets. Poll holders, R. G. Reid, W. H. Strother, N. N. Bunch, P. M. Stewart.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the divisions of the wards, the boundaries are given herewith:

First Ward—All that portion of the city north of Hargett street and west of Fayetteville and Halifax.

Second Ward—North of Hargett street and east of Fayetteville and Halifax.

Third Ward—South of Hargett street and east of Fayetteville.

Fourth Ward—South of Hargett street and west of Fayetteville.

There has been some dissatisfaction expressed because of the meagre details in regard to the sale of the market house.

Quite a number have expressed themselves as unwilling to vote unless they knew where it was proposed to erect a new market if the present building is sold.

Mr. J. C. Drewry, chairman of the special committee of the Board of Aldermen, said yesterday that the committee had secured options on every desirable site in the central portion of the city. These sites, he said, range in price from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

If the citizens favor it, and the present market house is sold, the city would not be without a market for a moment, as the present building would be used until the new market was completed.

The matter is exciting much interest as the time draws near, and both the "for sale" and "anti-sale" people will work for the consummation of their opinions.

There is good argument both pro and con. Those favoring the sale claim that the present market is too small; that if the city can realize \$50,000 on the present market a more modern structure, and an auditorium, which is badly needed, could be built with the proceeds. The anti-sale people contend that the removal of the city market from its present location would depreciate property in the business section of the city.

The proposition to divorce the matters of market house and auditorium seems not to have obtained, and now the question of an auditorium is dependent upon the sale of the market.

The action of the aldermen in leaving the question to be decided by the people—it is now up to them to say whether Raleigh shall keep the present market house or sell it and have a new market and an auditorium.

### AGAINST THE SALE

Over a Hundred Citizens So Proclaim Themselves.

Halifax. The undersigned, citizens of Raleigh, desire to call the attention of their fellow citizens to certain facts in connection with the proposed election on the question of the sale of the market house, which induce them to protest against it and to suggest that all

those who are in favor of conservative and economical government to go to the polls and vote against the sale. The election ordered is absolutely and admittedly illegal. The Board of Aldermen have no power to order such an election. It is to be held by poll holders who have no power to enforce any laws that exist for the regulation of elections. It is to be held, however, and we think it wise that those who oppose the sale of the market house shall attend the polls and cast their votes against it.

### Is \$50,000 an Adequate Price?

The market house paid the city last year, in cash, for the rent of stalls alone, \$3,200. This income is over 6 per cent on \$50,000. In addition, the building furnishes to the city a Mayor's office, a clerk and tax collector's office, an office for the city surveyor, a station house, a location for the town clerk and a large basement for the apparatus and batteries of the fire alarm system. A very fair and conservative estimate of the rental value of these offices is \$100 per month, or \$1,200 per year. In addition thereto, Metropolitan Hall, the last year it was run, paid \$1,400. This makes a total income from the building of \$5,800, or 6 per cent on \$96,666.66.

### Certainty vs Uncertainty.

The proposed sale means giving up a certain income of \$3,200 cash and the various and necessary city offices for the very uncertain returns of a new market and an auditorium.

During the past few years many expensive improvements have been put upon the building. The market has been remodeled and a new cement floor laid; the station house has been renovated and a large coal bin and chute built; Metropolitan Hall has been refitted with chairs; the Mayor's office has been overhauled and a metal ceiling put up; the clerk's office has been remodeled. A sale would mean that the money spent for all these improvements would be absolutely thrown away.

### Depreciation of Property.

The removal of the market house means a decrease in value of all property from the Capitol to the postoffice and a proportionate decrease in the amount of taxes collected therefrom, which deficit must be made good by an increased rate of taxation on all city property.

The present building could not be more centrally located or more convenient, either as to the market proper, the station house or the city offices. It is more accessible to the ladies of the city than it would be if removed to any place which has been mentioned.

The present building is large enough. Though Raleigh has increased in population greatly in the last few years, it has not held its own as a produce market. If the present building was large enough when the cotton receipts were 75,000 bales, it ought certainly to be large enough now when the receipts of that staple are about one-fourth of the former amount. Where the people market their cotton they market their produce also.

It is well known that it is with difficulty that the city finds lessees for all of the stalls, and in order to retain tenants finds it necessary to reduce the rents each year during the summer months from 20 to 25 per cent.

It is also equally true that, with the exception of the brief period of the melon season, the streets around and leading to the market are never unduly crowded.

### Litigation Certain.

The proposed sale will unquestionably lead to long and expensive litigation, as adjacent property owners can hardly be expected to sit idly by and see their property and business irreparably injured and destroyed without resort to the courts.

The reason given for the sale—the need of an auditorium—is no reason at all. An auditorium can, and doubtless will be built as a private enterprise, if it appears profitable. If it is not profitable, the city should not be empowered to sink public money in such a scheme so long as the present high rate of taxation is necessary.

### Will Purchase Price Build All?

It is unwise to sell property for the specific purpose of obtaining other property until the cost and location of such other property has been determined, for the aldermen might not select a new location that would be convenient to the greater number of our citizens. It might be impossible to obtain such a site. The money might not build the proposed buildings after the property owner had obtained a fancy price for his lot. It might be necessary to destroy expensive buildings in order to obtain a proper location. We ought to be informed in order to vote intelligently, where it is going to be built, and what it is going to cost? Otherwise we are "going it blind," and for this reason alone should vote against the sale.

### City Hall vs Auditorium.

If the present building is a good investment, is large enough and is conveniently located, the need of an auditorium does not seem to be a sufficient reason for selling.

Messrs. Pearson & Ashe, architects, are an authority for the statement that the present market house can be widened from second-story eight or ten feet each side giving all the additional room needed for an auditorium, besides furnishing a covered archway and shelter for market wagons.

It having been stated that there was little or no opposition to sale of the market house, we append a few names

of the many property owners and taxpayers who are opposed to the sale:

- Will Robbins, C. M. Hawkins, T. D. Hogg, Thomas Pescud, C. C. McDonald, J. S. Johnson, Thomas & Campbell, Job P. Wyatt & Bros., D. H. Allen, G. E. Hunter, W. A. Myatt, C. E. McCullers, H. A. Bland, W. H. Rogers, C. D. Arthur, C. B. Edwards, W. M. Allen, I. B. Hill, J. R. Ferrall, George B. McGehee, C. W. Barrett, F. A. Watson, T. B. Mosley, F. H. Briggs, F. L. Mahler, S. T. Smith, John U. Smith, H. E. Cardie, Julian E. Johnston, J. M. Kohn, Levine & Brown, Bowen & Bowen, H. M. Bowen, W. S. Penney, A. S. Womble, B. W. Upchurch, W. P. Snow, W. F. Betts, J. G. Bell, W. B. Mann, C. Y. Holding, A. D. Royster & Bros., S. & D. Berwanger, J. H. Bobbitt, Cross & Laneham, Gus Vernakes, Charles E. Crawford, Lumsden Bros., T. H. Briggs & Son, J. K. Marshall, O. G. King, J. E. Hamlin & Co., C. W. Hoover, H. S. Lowry, Julius Heller, Y. F. Matthews, G. C. Jones, J. A. Austin, T. E. Sorrell, J. D. Carroll, W. R. Cooke, J. C. Hill, C. P. Spruill, D. O. Connell, A. P. Bryan, A. B. Hawkins, H. Poe, D. A. Pierce, T. W. Blake, J. F. Ferrall, J. A. Saunders, Heller Bros., H. Heller, W. A. Cooper, J. C. Neimeyer, W. R. Ealmon, J. D. Turner, W. A. Williams, T. A. Partin, V. D. Stronach, Rowan Rogers, Jr., J. T. Pescud, W. H. King, M. L. Oldham, J. D. Lee, Newcomb & Peebles, L. S. Rochelle, J. J. Harris, L. N. White, A. L. Bailey & Co., Joseph Freeman, L. Seigison, M. Rosenthal, B. S. Jammon, Woolcott & Son, S. M. & W. J. Young, James I. Johnson, C. O. Ball, Thomas Donaldson, G. W. Marsh & Son, G. N. Fleming, Thomas Johns, John W. Brown, Ed. S. Brown, T. H. Murray, John D. Briggs, T. E. Brockwell, J. C. Marconi, D. R. Bryan, S. Y. Honse, Robert Simpson, W. T. McGee, W. C. Hollomon, W. J. Young, Jr., Julius Lewis, Charles B. Hearnt, N. G. Wheelfield, I. O. Jones, L. W. Lancaster, William Royall, Harvey Jones, J. M. Ayer, T. S. Pearce, A. B. D. Johnson, J. A. Briggs, Jr., H. A. Betts, N. Rud, C. A. Maynard, W. H. Cardie, J. G. Upchurch, A. Dughi, S. G. Ryan, A. B. Stronach, J. C. Lumsden, G. M. Allen, Sherwood Higgs, J. F. Stanback, John W. Evans, W. H. Lancaster.

### MR. DREWRY'S POSITION

He Intended to Say Nothing but Finds It Necessary.

Editor The Morning Post: It is with regret that I find it necessary, in self-defense, to ask you to print the following:

It was my purpose not to have anything to say about the market house, but since I have been called out by name in Mr. McDonald's article, I feel that I should state the whole truth in regard to his statements. He says that some time ago "Mr. Drewry discovered that the city owned 487 shares of Raleigh & Augusta Railroad stock, which was sold for \$6,000, whereas it is now worth \$23,000 more," etc. The stock was considered worthless and had never drawn a dividend. Very few people in Raleigh knew that the city owned it until Mayor Russ found it among some cast-away old papers. The title to the stock was cloudy, and the city authorities had never considered it of any value. Even had the title to the stock been clear, there was no market for it. The Street Committee, of which I was chairman, recommended that the stock be sold if a reasonable price could be obtained. Mr. McDonald was a member of the board and voted for the recommendation, as the action of the board was unanimous. The Finance Committee, of which Mr. McDonald was a member, took the matter up, and I remember Mr. McDonald was very active in his efforts to sell the stock. I was also a member of the Finance Committee, and Mr. J. D. Boushall was its chairman. It was some time before we got a bid, as there was no demand for the stock whatever and \$10 per share was considered a big price for it on the New York and Baltimore stock markets. Mr. B. S. Jermon, in behalf of a Baltimore syndicate, finally offered us \$12.50 per share. It was some time before we got a bid, and the Finance Committee, of which Mr. McDonald was a member, decided unanimously to sell at that price. It seems unfair, under these circumstances, for Mr. McDonald to attempt to place all the blame for selling this stock upon my shoulders. No one could look into the future at that time and see in advance the consolidation of the Greater Seaboard Air Line Railroad and the adoption of a more progressive policy by that road, which caused the stock to advance. It was one of those chances which every business man has to take in his own private as well as public affairs.

Mr. McDonald states that I am president of the company that bid \$40,000 for the market house. That statement is true, but I do not believe any right-thinking man will contend that because I hold stock in a corporation it should not enter into open and fair competition with others in bidding on property to be sold in the city of Raleigh at public auction. In regard to the proposition in general to sell the old city market house in order to get a better one and build an auditorium, I wish to state that it has not been my purpose to do anything contrary to the wishes of the people. I think the Board of Aldermen has demonstrated this fact very clearly in deciding to have the whole matter settled by a vote of the people, if the people vote against the sale, that ends the matter. If they vote to sell, the Board of Aldermen, in accordance with its action, will proceed to select a suitable site for another market, or two sites probably, one for a market in the northern part of the city and one in the southern part. But all these matters will be left to the people as near as the sentiment can be obtained before any action is taken by the board to sell the present market house. The Board of Aldermen is representing the people and our desire is to protect the interest of the

city and register the will of the majority.

Believing, honestly, as I do, that the time has come in the history of our city when the needs of the people demand a larger and a better market house, I am in favor of moving forward, and think it would be good policy for the city to sell the old market house in order to build a new one. I think it is the only way to get an auditorium, and with an auditorium and a new market house it will be a long step forward in the progress of our city.

I did not want to have anything to say about the matter, and remained out of the city in order to avoid any active participation, and but for having been singled out personally I would have taken no part, always being willing to abide by the will of the majority of the people.

The Board of Aldermen are supposed to be good business men, and we are not going to act foolishly. We now have options on nearly every good site in the city. I believe that we can dispose of the old market for enough to buy sites and build two good market houses, both of which will be superior to the one we now have. I hope that all of the people will turn out and vote either for or against the sale. I want to see a full and free expression of the will of the people.

JOHN C. DREWRY.

March 17, 1900.

### REPLY TO A. W. S.

The Board of Aldermen Intend to Act in Good Faith.

Mr. Editor: I beg your pardon, and that of the newspaper reading public, for this re-appearance in public print this morning—the last opportunity of defending one's self from what appears to be a malicious misrepresentation of one's position, before the election on Monday.

I shall ask your indulgence only to say to the public that I trust they will make no mistake in the authorship of the article signed "A. W. S." and published in the evening paper of yesterday.

"A. W. S." ladies and gentlemen, is no less a personage than Colonel Adonis Webster Shaffer, who, under various Republican administrations, has held United States, State, county and municipal offices (and discharged the duties well, I believe), the doughty colonel being a native of New York, but having lived among us since and beginning with the days of reconstruction, in the meantime being our distinguished postmaster, etc. He is, therefore, an expert on one subject upon which he dwells.

What he terms a fair and just analysis of my humble communication of Friday last (written by request of some of the best people in Raleigh, who own much property in their own name, else it would never have appeared at all) is such a gross misrepresentation that I will not attempt to waste even my poor and weak powers of analysis in an attempt to portray the misrepresentation for the benefit of those who have not read it; those who saw it and know the facts need no additional information.

I could not refrain from exercising my risibilities, however, when I read the rich confession of the erstwhile Republican leader, who led the confiding negroes of this city to elect him and his political copartners so often to various and sundry offices during the last thirty-five years.

Says the altogether classic and doughty Colonel Adonis: "It will be the last chance of the brute-talking negro and boodlers to cross palms."

What a flood of recollection of experience that sentence must have caused to flow through the colonel's well informed mind!

He knows! He speaks by the book, I make no doubt. But it is a picture that others, less experienced than Colonel Adonis, would possibly fail to recognize.

I hope we may take this confession of the colonel as evidence that he will vote for the constitutional amendment in August.

Now, in conclusion, permit me to add this: I did not say (and no fair-

minded person can reasonably construe what I did say to mean) that the Board of Aldermen would not be governed by the vote of Monday.

I stated, as plainly as the English language could state it, that the mandates of that election would be obeyed—unless circumstances arose to prevent the purchase of an eligible site at a fair and just price, for the new buildings, etc.

It was stated, not by myself solely (whose individuality has no more to do with this matter than that of Colonel Adonis Webster (Shaffer), but at the suggestion and request of some of the best citizens and largest property owners in Raleigh, that such a result was not anticipated; that we believed there was enough local patriotism and city pride in this town to avoid such a result.

And I believe, moreover, that the primary will result in favor of the sale by two to one, or more.

But all intelligent citizens easily detected the misconstruction placed upon the plain and easily understood language employed—and Colonel Adonis Webster Shaffer cannot after that fact, expert as he seems to be in perverting language, which I happen to know he is too well versed in to unwittingly mistake or misinterpret.

I do not believe that a single member of the Board of Aldermen desires anything to result from this primary save a free and full expression of the citizens of our beloved little city, in order that they may act, not only intelligently, but in accord with the wishes of the people.

If they had not entertained this desire it is not reasonable to suppose that they would have voluntarily asked for this primary.

Again begging your pardon, and

W. P. ROSE, Raleigh, N. C.

DR. W. E. WEIHE, Veterinary Surgeon.

Graduate of Cornell University

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deprecating the necessity of this communication.

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