

City of Cambridge.

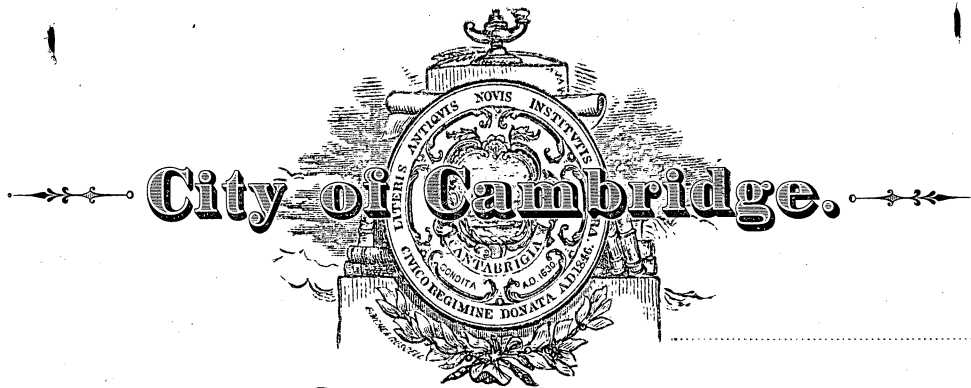
In Board of Aldermen June 4. 1884

The Joint Standing Committee on Roads and Bridges, to which was referred the matter of the proposed taking of land at the junction of Gore and Bridge Streets, as prayed for by W. L. Libbey & Son and others, herewith

Report

This petition, which by order of the City Council, was taken from the files of the last year, was presented in the Board of Aldermen, Jan. 29th, 1880, and afterwards duly considered by the Committee on Roads and Bridges of that year. That Committee made careful investigation into the merits of the question, and gave a hearing to the petitioners. As a result of its inquiries the Committee was satisfied that the land referred to, was needed for public use, and that the City ought to take it. Inasmuch as the expenditure for land so taken could not properly be charged to any existing appropriation, the Committee felt obliged to report recommending that the petitioners have leave to withdraw, and the matter was thus disposed of for the year.

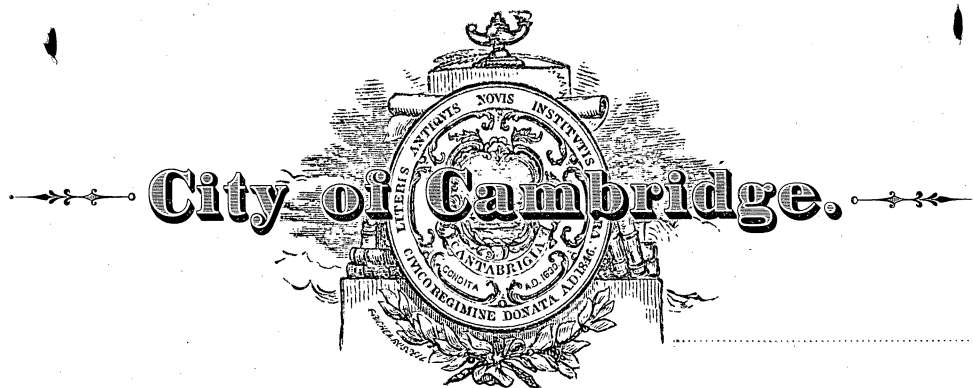
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Repat. continued.

The Committee on Roads and Bridges of the present year, having been directed to consider the question concerning the laying of this land, has endeavored to obtain all the facts pertinent to the case, and to this end has made several visits to the ground, and has fully heard the petitioners.

The public square at the junction of Gore and Bridge Streets, in front of the Mansion House, so-called, although it has always remained private property, and subject to taxation, has nevertheless been open to the public for a period of nearly seventy years. The area of this square comprises ^{About} 1300 square feet of land, and between this territory and the land occupied by the old mansion house referred to there was formerly a right of way of about twenty feet in width. In this square there is located one of the reservoirs built many years ago for the use of the Fire Department. The present owner of the land is desirous of enclosing and using it unless the city shall decide to purchase and lay it out permanently for public use. It was shown by the testimony of nearly all the persons doing business in the neighborhood of this square, as

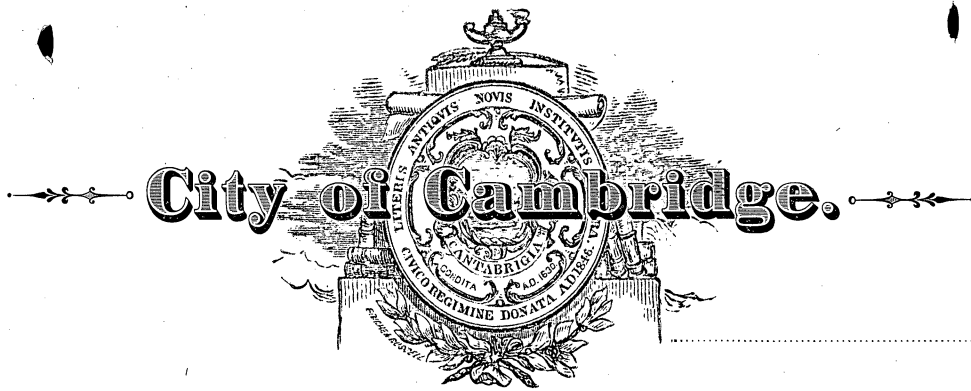


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Repat continued.

given before your committee, that its continuance is a necessity to the public, not only on account of the accommodation it gives for the heavy teams that pass through the two streets that join at this point, but the square is also especially needed in cases of fires. On a recent occurrence of a fire in this vicinity the entire space was occupied by the firemen. As a further incentive for the continuance of this square, it was urged before your committee, that should the owner of the land feel compelled to enclose it, a strong demand would be made upon the City Council to extend Second street from Gore to Bridge streets.

Such a project would be attended by a large expense, which would be rendered quite unnecessary by the taking of the land, as asked for by the petitioners. A proposition which your committee deems a reasonable one, was submitted by the owner, Mr. Lechan, at a recent hearing. He offers to sell his land to the city for the sum of \$1300.- the same to be payable in the year 1885, without interest. If this is not accepted, he will not again come to the city with any proposition in this direction, but will build upon his land.



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Report continued.

After careful consideration of the subject matter of the petition aforesaid, your committee is of the opinion that the proposition of Mr Leeban should be accepted, and to that end therefore recommends the adoption of the accompanying vote.

For the Committee.

Walter E. Roosevelt

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Committee on Roads,
and Bridges on petition
of W. L. Libbey et al. for
the purchase of the square
at junction of Gae & Bridge
streets.

June 10, 1884.