

COLONEL POPE'S GIFT.

HOW IT IS LOOKED UPON BY HARTFORD CITIZENS.

Sentiment Unanimous in Favor of Accepting the Proposed Park—What is Said of It.

The gift of the tract of land known as the "Bartholomew Farm" to the city of Hartford by Colonel A. A. Pope, which was announced in yesterday morning's "Courant" was the very general subject of conversation among the business men of the city yesterday. The general sentiment seemed to be all one way, that Colonel Pope had been very generous and that the conditions imposed were of such a nature that the gift should be accepted, and the property put in shape for a park.

Ex-Mayor William W. Hyde said that the gift was a mighty good thing for the city. He had not had the time to make a careful examination of the documents in the case, but had no doubt that the city would accept it.

Colonel Charles M. Justyn thought the proposed park a good thing and said that there would be a great deal more heard about parks for Hartford in the future.

General L. A. Dickinson said it would be, if it was accepted, a part of the chain of parks that had been talked about for the west and southwestern portions of the city, which would be very desirable. If there was ever going to be a park system now was a good time to begin upon it by accepting Colonel Pope's very generous offer.

Rowland Swift, president of the American National Bank, said the gift should be accepted in good faith, and the city should take hold of the work of improvement. It was a fine thing for the city of Hartford that it had so business like and sagacious a man at the head of one of its great manufacturing concerns as Colonel Pope. The gift was a good business investment both for the colonel and for the city. He would give a handsome frontage for the property of his company, for which he would pay his full share of assessment for the improvement, and the opening up of a beautiful park in that section would bring new homes and new work for the assessors in adding to the tax list.

P. C. Royce, secretary of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company, and president of the common council board, said: "The city of Hartford is in great luck in having so generous an offer and if the citizens do not show their appreciation of the gift by accepting it they will make a great mistake." Mr. Royce said the time was coming when Hartford could not get openings for a park. It was better that they should be made the most of when they are at hand. He quoted the marvelous foresight and pluck of the Chicago commission in laying out years ago, the system of parks which are so beautiful and which could not have been laid out unless an early start had been made. Hartford is an old city, but it had not paid enough attention to the idea of making it a fit place to live in. This proposed park would be in that direction.

Judge James Nichols, president of the National Fire Insurance Company, said that at first blush the proposal seemed to be a most generous one. The better sentiment of the community would be in favor of accepting it, but much depended upon the conditions accompanying the gift, which he had not examined closely.

P. H. Woodward, secretary of the Hartford Board of Trade, said that the city already owed a great debt of obligation to Colonel Pope for the building up of the great enterprise with which his name is connected. Now he has come, with only a few years' business connection and made this handsome and generous offer. There are no onerous conditions accompanying the gift, and such conditions as they are benefit the city before they do Colonel Pope. The opportunity is one that should be appreciated by the workers.