

CHESTER TIMES – February 11, 1903

LANSDOWNE WILL DECLINE THE LIBRARY – Strong Movement against Acceptance of the Gift – Town Cannot Afford It

Andrew Carnegie, millionaire philanthropist, is willing to give Lansdowne \$10,000 for a public library, if the borough will guarantee \$1,000 annually for its maintenance.

It looks very much as though the rank and file of the people do not want the munificent gift. Last night, at a meeting of Council, at which the question was made the “order of the evening,” the taxpayers had a chance to talk the matter over with those who shall say by their vote whether or not Carnegie’s offer shall be accepted.

The ballot on the matter was not taken last evening, the Councilmen postponing their decision until the next meeting.

Two Councilmen, Dr. John McKenna and William E. Ryan, are avowedly against the proposition to appropriate the \$1,000 on the ground that the borough at present cannot afford to spend it for educational purposes. The balance of the solons are inclined to favor it.

NEED MONEY FOR STREETS – Lieut. Robert R. Crawford, an influential citizen of the borough, was one of the speakers. He stated that he is not against free education for the people, or opposed to a free library, but while the town is unable to maintain good streets, proper lighting facilities, and superior sewage, it certainly is not ready to support a library at a thousand dollars a year. He claimed that the expense would reach two thousand, instead of one. If Council decides to take the gift, the taxes will have to be raised and there will be objection on the part of the property owners.

John Garrett claimed that if taxes are raised, rents will have to go up; if they are increased, people will move from the borough.

A communication was received and read, from Rev. Lyman P. Powell, rector of the Episcopal Church, favoring the library project on the ground of the good education it will afford the public.

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