

**Seattle City Clerk's Office**

**Comptroller File**

**48075**



# The City of Seattle

Executive Department

GEORGE F. COTTERILL, MAYOR

June 7th, 1912.

To the Honorable, the City Council,

S e a t t l e.

Gentlemen:

I return herewith Council Bill No. 17826, entitled "An Ordinance vacating certain streets and alleys between 20th Avenue West and West 71st Street on petition of Great Northern Railway Company."

This Bill would accomplish a wholesale series of street and alley vacations covering the general route of the proposed new Great Northern line from Interbay to the ~~base~~ <sup>base</sup> of Salmon Bay and northward to the north city limits. An accompanying franchise bill, which has not yet become law, promises certain dedications of new streets and alleys and certain bridge and other improvements which, combined with these vacations, will result in a general plan of railway and street arrangement which meets ~~by~~ <sup>general</sup> approval as it has that of your honorable body. This franchise bill has, however, not yet become a law, and has not been, nor can it be, officially accepted by the Great Northern Railway until several days or weeks may have elapsed. Even when thus accepted the franchise ordinance contains only indefinite descriptions of the new streets and alleys which are to be dedicated in return for the vacations set forth in this Bill.

Without any reflection whatever upon the good faith of those who represent the Great Northern Railway in the negotiations leading ~~up to~~ up to this new arrangement of railway and streets, it appeals to me strongly that it is not prudent, nor in full protection of the City's rights that this Bill, (No. 17826), should be permitted to become law until at least the franchise ordinance accompanying has been formally accepted with all its obligations of new dedications, bridges, etc., by the Great Northern Railway, and these new dedications have been reduced to definite and precise descriptions agreeable to your honorable body and myself as representing the City's interests in this important matter.

The moment this wholesale vacation bill becomes law the title to these vacated streets and alleys will vest absolutely in the owners of the abutting private property. Such an ordinance is not subject to repeal, and, if it should be necessary or desirable, the area covered by these vacations could only be recovered by re-dedications at the will of the private owners or by condemnation and payment therefor.

Under these circumstances it seems to me that this vacation bill should be the last and not the first of this series of bills to accomplish this general project. Therefore, without prejudice to the intent of this Bill, but in the exercise of business prudence from the City's standpoint, I return this Bill with this formal disapproval,

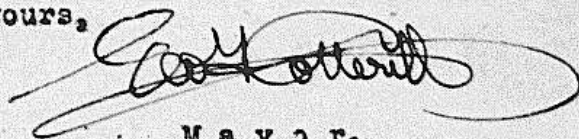
The Hon. City Council.

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June 7, 1912.

recommending, however, that if, before the requisite thirty days shall have elapsed for reconsideration by your honorable body, the Great Northern Railway Company shall have accepted the franchise ordinance with its obligations, and the new streets and alleys to be dedicated shall have been precisely delineated and mutually agreed upon, then, in such case, that your honorable body shall finally pass this Bill and complete the entire transaction with safety to the public interests.

Very Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. H. Stewart", written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

Mayor.

c.