

WHEREAS, As appears by the public press of the City of Portland, and other information obtained from those who were present at a meeting of the common council of the City of Portland, on the 15th day of November, 1893, that L. M. Davis a member of said common council, used and made the following statement in relation to letting out the street-cleaning work by contract, to wit: If the contract were let to a rich corporation, they would employ Scandinavians, negroes and Chinese. It would be better to leave the matter as it was till spring, and let white men have the benefit of the work.'

WHEREAS, Said statement is a gross insult to the citizens of Portland of Scandinavian birth, and must be attributed either to malice on the part of said L. M. Davis against such citizens, or to dense ignorance, in either of which cases he is unfit and unworthy to occupy the said position as a member of the common council of said city.

WHEREAS, The said statement and declaration of said Councilman Davis, so made at said meeting of the common council as aforesaid, constitutes such misconduct on the part of said councilman as should require his expulsion as a member of said common council. THEREFORE,

RESOLVED, That the citizens and tax-payers of the city of Portland of Scandinavian birth do hereby, in mass-meeting assembled, arraign the said Councilman Davis for being guilty of misconduct in office, and call upon the said common council of the city of Portland to expel said Councilman Davis as a member of said common council for misconduct in office and because unworthy and unfit to occupy such a position.

RESOLVED, That a committee of five be appointed by the chairman to present these resolutions *to* the common council of the city of Portland, and to take the proper steps to bring before said body a resolution expelling said Councilman Davis from said common council as a member thereof, and that we do hereby invite the citizens of Portland generally, irrespective of race, color or nationality, to use their influence in assisting us to secure the expulsion of said councilman.

Dec 6/93  
 Special Con.  
 Dalgleish  
 Merrick  
 Brock

~~Dec 6 1893~~  
 Albert N. Gambell.  
 W. H. Conner

*Notwegian Club*

	YEAS	NAYS
Dalgleish . . . . .	/	
Davis . . . . .		/
Malone . . . . .		/
McInnis . . . . .	/	
Merrick . . . . .	/	
Mock . . . . .		
Monks . . . . .		/
Richardson . . . . .	/	
Scoggin . . . . .	/	
Shelby . . . . .	/	
Terwilliger . . . . .		/
Total . . . . .		

To the Hon. Mayor and Council  
of the City Portland:

The Special Committee to which was referred the matter of the resolutions adopted at the recent public meeting of citizens of Scandinavian birth, and the communication accompanying the same, respectfully submits the following as its report:

Your committee finds the charge to be true that Councilman L. M. Davis made use of the following language during a meeting of the City Council and while he was engaged in the discharge of his official duties, viz:

"If the contract were let to a rich corporation, they would employ  
"Scandinavians, negroes and chinese. It would be better to leave the  
"matter as it is till spring and let white men have the benefit of the  
"work."

While recognizing the unrestricted right of every person and class of persons to entertain objectionable, extravagant and strained opinions with reference to every other class of persons, your Committee denies the right of any member of this body while the Council is in Session and he is participating in its deliberations, to make such statements as are contained in the foregoing quotation, and we regard the utterance of such statements at such a time and place not only as a breach of the privileges of the Council, deserving of severe condemnation and censure but an offense of an aggravated character against the classes of persons toward whom the language was directed. The Scandinavian people already number quite a percentage of the population of the United States. These people are neighbors and friends with whom we are in daily intercourse both socially and in business affairs. They are in every community regarded with favor as among the best of this country's foreign born population. To classify such a people, a people noted for its uniform good conduct, thrift, energy and enterprise with a heathen, debased and degraded race, and in

effect say they are not worthy to do the most menial work of the city is an offense against the members of the body before whom the objectionable language was used as well as a grievous wrong and injury to the nationality assailed. Though they have not made formal complaint to this Council there is another class of persons who feel hurt and have cause to, at the use of the language above quoted. That class is the negro. When as the result of the late war the black people of this country were made free and had the duties and obligations of citizenship thrust upon them they became the wards of the people of the United States upon whom, thereafter, rested the pressing duty of caring for, educating and maintaining the race and especially to keep open to them as many of the avenues for gaining a livelihood as they were capable of pursuing. The rapid strides toward a higher civilization, made by this people in the last quarter of a century, is a source of pride to all thinking persons, and now to deny the black man the right to compete, on merit, for places on the public works of the city, would work a great injustice to him and besides be a violation of our implied promise to foster and care for him.

But while your Committee is of opinion that the intemperate language complained of was unjust, uncalled for and deserving of severe rebuke, in the judgment of your Committee the offense is not of that character which would fairly warrant the Council in exercising the discretion vested in it of removing a member from office. Had the other objectionable language made use of on the same occasion and directed to the members of the Council personally, been submitted to the Committee, its action might have been different, but in the absence of such submission your Committee make no suggestion.

In conclusion your Committee would respectfully recommend as the sense of this Council the following resolution;

Resolved, that <sup>w</sup> the use of the language above quoted Councilman L. M.

Davis was guilty of an offense against the the proprieties and decencies of the body of which he is a member as councilman from the Tenth Ward, as well as against the classes of persons toward whom his remarks were directed.

Resolved, further, that the members of this Council are not in sympathy with the sentiments expressed by councilman Davis and think the same deserving of censure and condemnation.

Respectfully Submitted

*John Mock*  
*W. D. Delyleish*

Committee