

DIENER MAKES A DENIAL

**STATEMENTS OF THE EX-DIRECTOR
COLDLY RECEIVED.**

**His Letter to the Directors Explaining
Charges of Malfeasance in Connection
with Bids for Carving and Other Deco-
rations Placed on File Without Com-
ment—Matter Ended So Far as the
Board is Concerned—Mayor Swift Said
to Be Satisfied.**

An explanatory letter of ex-director of the Public Library, T. C. Diener, was received with a chill of formality by his ex-colleagues in the board meeting yesterday. It was a full meeting of the directors except for the one vacant chair. Under the order of communications the Secretary read the letter, which in part was:

"In your executive meeting of Dec. 14 particular stress was laid on the assertion made by Mr. Purdy that through my interference Purdy and Hutcheson had raised their figures for the carving of the new library building and had their bid been the lowest, the library would have lost through such interference.

"As at that meeting, so do I now maintain that such is not the case. Had Mr. Purdy put in the figures he at first claimed the work was worth his bid would have been above \$50,000, and instead of giving him advice detrimental to the library it was to the contrary.

"My motive was to get as near as possible the correct value of the different portions of the work. And the subsequent estimates show that that part—namely: No. 1, which is in the line of my business and for which the preliminary cutting had been done was certainly very favorable for the library.

"The No. 2, or artistic carving, is not in my line. When making estimates for such work we generally get our information from practical carvers.

Mr. Diener then quoted from estimates of contractors to show the board might have saved \$2,034 had contract No. 1 been awarded to Purdy & Hutcheson and No. 2 to J. Purdy's Sons.

Mr. Diener closed by saying that he had already convinced the Mayor that he had acted only from proper motives, and stood ready to convince any member of the board to that effect at any time the opportunity was given him.

After hearing the letter a member asked if it was necessary to give it to a committee.

"If there is no motion," said President Dreyer without waiting for parley, "the document will be filed."

No one made a motion.

"The letter goes on record," said Mr. Dreyer afterwards, "and so far as we are concerned that ends the matter. Mayor Swift saw fit to accept Mr. Diener's resignation, we are not going to probe into the charge of malfeasance, and as Mr. Diener is no longer connected with the board this closes our interest in the case."

It is not expected that Mayor Swift will fill the vacancy in the board for a week or two.

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