

St. Mary Circle Site or No Monument, Says Group

Columbus Memorial Body Refuses to Consider Other Locations

St. Marys Circle is the only site acceptable to the Christopher Columbus Monument Association for erection of a memorial to America's discoverer; and unless the city provides that site, the project will be abandoned.

This was the ultimatum given by a delegation of association committee members, headed by John W. Barnell, chairman, to the planning, parks and recreation commission at a meeting in the commission offices at the City Hall Wednesday afternoon and announced today.

Mr. Barnell, as spokesman, told Capt. Charles F. Stanton, chairman of the commission, and city officials sitting in on the conference to complete a quorum due to the absence of several appointive members, that the St. Marys Circle site was definitely promised by the city when the movement was started 15 years ago.

According to Mr. Barnell, the man then at the head of the association, Prof. Torquado De Felice, relates he was given a definite promise by city officials that, if the Italian Americans of Syracuse would raise a fund to cover the cost of a suitable memorial, the city would permit its erection in the downtown circle.

A postcard sent by Professor De Felice to Prof. Renzo Balzi, noted sculptor in Italy, in 1918, showed a picture of St. Marys Circle on which the Syracusan had outlined the proposed location of the memorial. Mr. Barnell said. On the back of the card Professor De Felice had written "This is the site on which we are going to erect the monument." The committee spokesman asserted.

Continuing, Mr. Barnell declared the collection of funds, totaling \$20,000, was made specifically on the understanding that the St. Marys Circle site was obtainable. Later, when there were objections raised, Mr. Barnell said other sites suggested by the city were considered but the members

Issues Ultimatum



JOHN W. BARNELL

of the association, comprising the majority of the subscribers, were unanimous in favoring only the place promised when funds were gathered.

William W. Wiard, commissioner of public safety; William W. Cronin, first deputy city engineer; and Mark E. Conan, first assistant corporation counsel, sat in as members of the commission to complete the quorum.

Due to the absence of Commissioners Harry H. Skerritt, Mrs. J. L. Goerdorfer, Corporation Counsel Frank P. Malpass and Park Commissioner William A. Barry, Mr. Stanton deemed it inadvisable for the commission to take any definite action on the matter until it could be considered by the full commission.

Association committee members comprising the delegation, in addition to Mr. Barnell, were James Furvalter, secretary; Joseph Petrafina, Jeff Pezz, Nicholas Fayo, Nicholas Casale, Antonio Illacqua and Anthony Valente.