



JAMES T. ELWELL

CANDIDATE FOR

MAYOR OF MINNEAPOLIS

ELECTION, MONDAY, JUNE 8

A BUSINESS MAN WHOSE RECORD IS A PLEDGE OF A
PROGRESSIVE, SUCCESSFUL, CLEAN ADMINISTRATION

PREPARED AND CIRCULATED BY THE ELWELL VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, 204 ANDRUS BLDG.
(OVER)

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SENATOR ELWELL'S RECORD

Senator Elwell was born in Minneapolis and has built his life and character into the structure of the city of his birth.

"Mr. Elwell never goes after anything unless it is worth while, and he never fails to get what he goes after."

During the eight years that he was State Senator, 1906-1914, he secured the following legislation for the State University:

"The Greater University Campus."

Street car extension to Agricultural College.

Bill resulting in removal of N. P. R. R. tracks from campus.

Author of Elwell Good Roads Law.

As President of the City Planning Commission 1921-25, he advocated the present Zoning Law which protects the home owner from the encroachment of factories, stores, and apartments.

Mr. Elwell insists that every dollar spent in the public service bring 100% returns in goods or service.

One of the most far-sighted and broadly constructive of the Builders of Minneapolis.

(over)

Campaign "card" from Elwell's 1920's campaign for Mayor of Minneapolis, which he lost.



Images of "The Elwell Grade"

Original roadsign (in possession of James Elwell's descendants) and image of the road, ca. 1892.



“ Each year . . . to pay the land taxes – on the last possible day of the month of May, Father would pick from the sand dunes of Anoka County an armful of *Penstemon Grandiflora* which he called ‘monkey flowers’.” (daughter Mary Elwell)

Elwell Burial Plans Await Arrival of Son



JAMES T. ELWELL
Former State Senator in Ill.
Health for Last
Six Years

Arrangements for the funeral of James T. Elwell, 78 years old, Minneapolis realtor, manufacturer and former state senator, will be completed late today upon the arrival of a son from California.

Senator Elwell, author of the nationally-known Elwell law for the acquisition and assessment of property, died yesterday at his home, 45 Fourteenth avenue SE. He had been in ill health since he suffered a stroke six years ago and had been confined to his bed the last few weeks. He was sleeping when death came.

The 78 years of Senator Elwell's life were woven into the history of the city and state. His influence in the city is felt through additional wearing his name, street improvements obtained under the Elwell law, the improvement of 52,000 acres of land in Anoka county which he turned from swampland into good farming property, an enlarged and improved university campus and upper Mississippi developments.

His interest in the development of the upper Mississippi to bring new trade to the state was responsible indirectly for his death. He visited

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J. T. Elwell



JAMES T. ELWELL DIES IN MINNEAPOLIS

Former State Senator Was
Leader in Waterway and
Good Roads Movements.

James T. Elwell, 78 years old, father of the Elwell law for financing municipal improvements and a pioneer in Minnesota good roads movements, died Thursday in his home, 445 Fourteenth avenue south, Minneapolis.

He also was a staunch supporter of development projects for the upper Mississippi river.

Mr. Elwell suffered a stroke six years ago on his return from a waterways meeting in St. Louis which made him a semi-invalid. However, his condition did not become critical until several weeks ago.

Mr. Elwell's political career started in 1899 with his election as a representative in the Minnesota Legislature. In 1904 the voters elevated him to the State Senate, and it was during his term there that he drafted the law bearing his name. The act provides for assessment and acquisition of property for public improvements and has been used as model legislation by many other states.

Supported Larger U. Campus.

It was while he was in the Senate that the project for enlargement of the University of Minnesota campus came up. Senator Elwell became an ardent advocate of the plan and it was largely through his efforts that the greater campus became a reality.

Although he virtually retired from public and private business six years ago and had not been active as a legislator for a quarter of a century, Mr. Elwell's influence is still felt in the laws with which he was identified.

Through his leadership of the Good Roads association much of the early highway legislation in the state was enacted.

Mr. Elwell was born in St. Anthony, the oldest of eight children, attended school at Cottage Grove and later Carleton college.

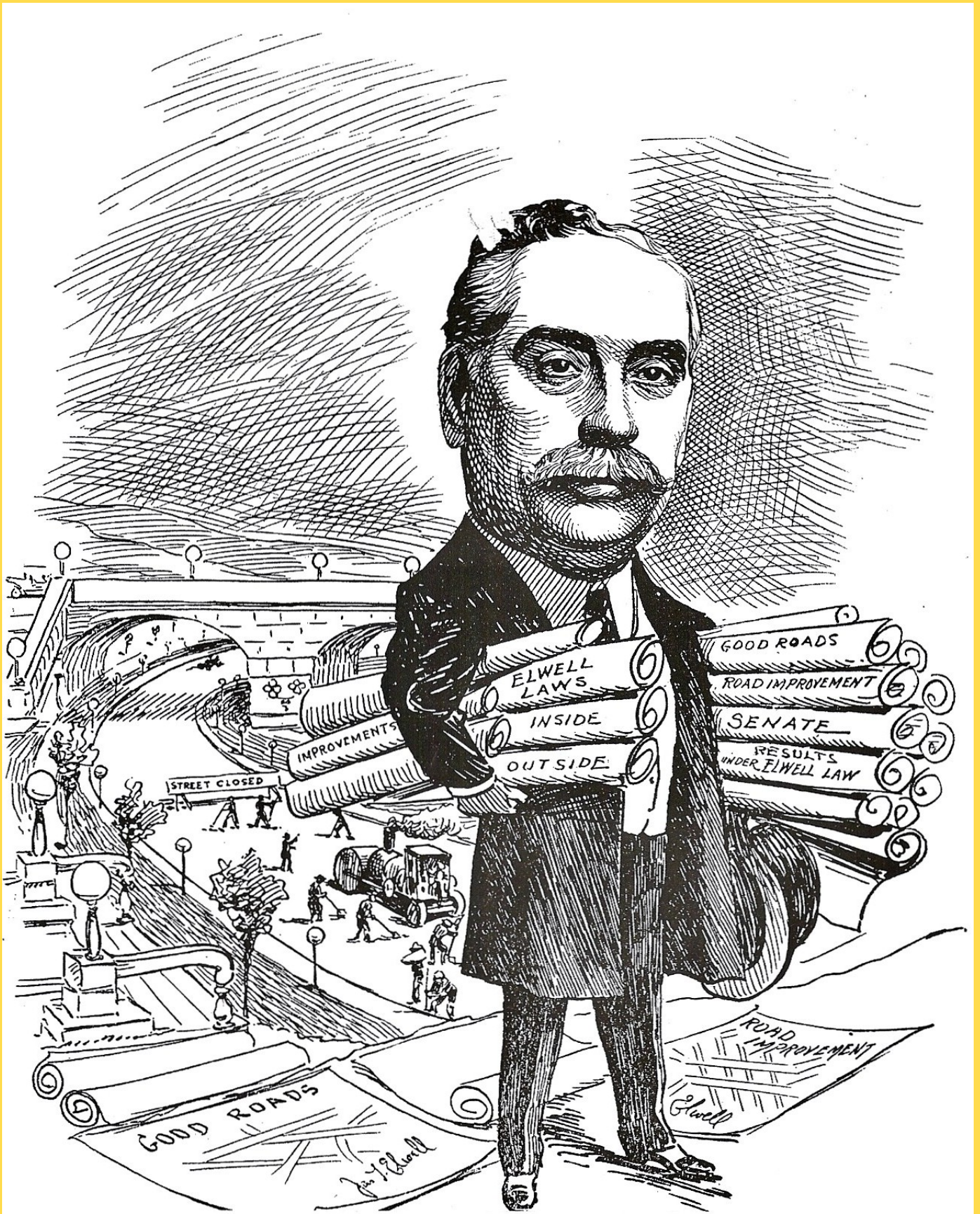
Became Manufacturer.

He left college to start manufacture of a bed spring he had patented and this venture later grew into the Minneapolis Furniture Co. and the Minneapolis Bedding Co. He also had wide real estate interests in Minneapolis.

Funeral arrangements had not been completed Thursday night.

Obituary from St. Paul
Pioneer Press

8/11/1933



Political cartoon, extolling the virtues of James Elwell as a builder of roads. (source unknown)