



The True-Hearted Squire, from "Harper's Weekly"

Date

published May 22, 1886

Primary Maker

Thomas Nast

Medium

Wood engraving on paper

Description

This cartoon features "The True-Hearted Squire," Rollin Squire, the New York City commissioner of public works at the time. He pulls aside his coat and vest to place his hand on this heart, over a money bag. Behind him at the upper left is a sign that reads "More plans for the Aqueduct" and depicts a horse and cart dumping money bags into a pocket. Others read: "Notice - in order that the city revenues (Squire & Co.) should be increased we propose increased water taxes for less water;" "A communication from commissioner Squire to the Speaker of the House: 'I have nothing but the interests of the city at hear.';" and "No water in my aqueduct stock!" It was revealed that in 1884, Squire used bribery to gain his political position in exchange for government contracts. Once this was released to the public, he lost his reputation. It then

became clear that he was using a project for an aqueduct as a way to steal public money, and he actively tried to increase taxes on water to put even more money in his pocket.

Dimensions

Composition/Sheet: 16 1/2 x 11 1/2 in. (41.9 x 29.2 cm)