Official Report of the Proceedings of the Board of Aldermen.

Session of November 9, 1852.

The Board met this day, pursuant to adjournment.

Members present: Hon. W. C. C. Claiborne, President pro tem.; Messrs. Burke, Clark, Cusgrove, Gasquet, Giquel, Harris, Labeaut, Lugenbuhl and Sewell.

The reading of the minutes was, on motion, dispensed with.

The following message from the Mayor was read:

MAYORALTY OF NEW-ORLEANS, November 9, 1852.

To the Hon. President and Members of the Board of Aldermen, and the Board of Assistant Aldermen of the city of New Orleans.

GENTLEMEN: I beg to inform your honorable body that, by virtue of existing ordinances, the farming of the various markets for the coming year will have to be adjudicated at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the first Monday of December. The sales of those situated in the Second and Third Districts, in accordance with the Municipal ordinances still in force, devolves on the Mayor, whilst the Comptroller had the disposal of those in the Third District, and the Mayor the adjudication of the market revenues in the old city of Lafayette. Should your honorable body deem it advisable to adopt a uniform system in connection with this subject, or think it necessary to make some changes in the rules and regulations governing the administration of the markets, I would suggest that you should give the matter your early consideration, inasmuch as the notice for sale should be advertised for some time previous to the adjudication.

Under an ordinance of the late Municipality Number One, the privilege of collecting dues on the sale of oysters on the Levee, between the Beef and Vegetable Markets, and on board of pirogues and other craft, was disposed of annually to the highest bidder. This contract will expire early next month, and I would suggest that it be entirely abolished in future, inasmuch as the collection is already provided for by the ordinance of the Common Council regulating Levee and wharfage dues, which directs that the wharfage on each scow and coastwise pirogue shall be two dollars.

Enclosed I hand you a memorial from various occupiers of property in Dorsiere street, calling the attention of your honorable body to the neglected condition of that thoroughfare. I beg to recommend this matter to your early consideration.

I also transmit a petition from several residents of the Fourth District, complaining of the condition of the Blood Wharf between Elaisance and Tolemie streets, and I would respectfully solicit your attention to the matter.

You will likewise find enclosed a communication from Robert Murphy, in relation to the precinctary state of the Steamship and Ferry Landings in the Second District.

Herewith I transmit a transfer and cession of rights, etc., by Thos. Hynes to Gideon Stephens, the former being the contractor for paving with square blocks the public road and Royal street, from Canal to Esplanade streets.

Mr. Wolfe, the Attorney of the Corporation, has transmitted to me, in answer to a resolution of the Common Council, approved August 2, a written opinion as to the legal effect of the act of the 4th March 1852, in relation to the granting of licenses, which I enclose.

I beg to hand you herewith a communication from Mr. M. Walton, offering to rent or sell to the city his property at the corner of Hevia and St. Charles streets, was laid on the table.

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I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your ob't servant,

A. D. CROSSMAN, Mayor.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, ETC.

A petition was read of property holders and tenants in that part of the city bounded by Commercial Place and Camp, Poydras and St. Charles streets, praying the Council not to permit Dan Rice to have a circus establishment on the above described square.

Mr. Burke offered the following resolution, which was read twice and adopted, the rules being suspended:

Resolved, That the Mayor be, and he is hereby, directed to refuse a license for the circus establishment of Mr. Dan Rice on St. Charles street, between Gravier and Poydras streets, but that the said Rice may erect an establishment for circus performances at any other place, where the property owners do not object.

A communication of Mr. Jacob Keitz, relative to the lunacy of his wife, was referred to the Mayor, with power to act.

A memorial from Mr. Jas. B. McLin, Collector of Levee dues for the Fourth District, was referred to the Finance Committee.

A petition of property holders of the Third District, requesting that a lamp post be placed at the corner of St. John the Baptist and Girod streets, east side, on Washington Promenade, was referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings.

A communication from W. W. Vaught, Recorder of the Fourth District, enclosing a statement of the fines and jail fees collected in his Court, was referred to the Finance Committee.

A letter from W. W. Vaught, Recorder of the Fourth District, calling the attention of the Board to the destitute situation of various persons residing in said District, was referred to the Finance Committee.

A communication from James Jolls, Street Commissioner, was referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings.

A petition of Vigilant Fire Company, No. 8, stating that the Company is in pressing need of five hundred feet of hose, of a horse, etc., and praying that the above be granted them, was referred to the Fire Committee.

A petition of Mrs. Widow J. Bilshaw, and of Mrs. Widow S. W. Polk, relative to three tombs in Cemetery No. 4, demolished by the city authorities for the opening of Conti street, was referred to the Committee on Claims.

A communication of Mr. Cyrot Gentes was referred to the Chief of Police.

The following petitions were referred to the Finance Committee:

By Mr. J. W. Zellweger, praying that sixty dollars be returned him, the same having been paid through error to the Tax Collector of 1852.

Of E. Raprecht, praying that sixty dollars be returned to him, paid through error to the Tax Collector of 1852.

A bill due to the Commercial Bulletin was referred to the Finance Committee.

A letter from J. F. Wild, Commissary of the Annunciation Market, offering Mr. Philip Drum as his security, was referred to the Finance Committee.

The following report of the Board of Directors of the Public Schools of the First District of New Orleans was referred to the Committee on Education:

Report of the Board of Directors of the Public Schools of the First District of New Orleans. October 1, 1852.

The First District of the city is divided into seven school districts, for the Primary and Intermediate Schools. No pupil is allowed to enter a school out of the district in which he resides, and no child under the age of six years is admitted.

The number of teachers and pupils in the Primary and Intermediate Schools are as follows:

1. Franklin School, for girls only, seven teachers and four hundred and two pupils.
2. Marshall School, for boys only, seven teachers and four hundred pupils.
3. Washington School, for girls only, six teachers and three hundred and fifteen pupils.
4. Jackson School, for boys only, six teachers and three hundred and fifteen pupils.
5. Fisk School, for boys and girls, ten teachers and two hundred and sixty-eight boys and two hundred and eighteen girls.
6. Jefferson School, for boys and girls, fifteen teachers, three hundred and fifty-nine boys and three hundred and fifty girls.
7. Paulding School, for boys and girls, eight teachers, one hundred and eighty boys and one hundred and seventy-six girls.

There are also two High Schools, to which are admitted boys and girls who are sufficiently advanced, and whose residence is in the First District of the city.

In the Boy's High School there are three teachers, one of them of French, and fifty-six pupils.

In the Girl's High School there are four teachers, one of them of French, and seventy-six pupils.

The night schools for both sexes are open during a portion of the year. The number of those who will attend them may be estimated at four hundred, for whose instruction will be required seven teachers.

The attendance at the day schools since the opening after the last vacation, is larger than in any former year, at the same time, and it is expected that the number of pupils, exclusive of the night schools, will amount to four thousand during the year.

Number of boys in day schools October 1, 1852	1632
Number of girls	1537
	3119
Teachers	65

SALARIES OF TEACHERS.

Superintendent	$2500	per annum.
One teacher at	1200	" "
One teacher at	1100	" "
Six teachers at	1050	" "
Five teachers at	1000	" "
Seven teachers at	850	" "
One teacher at	750	" "
Three teachers at	700	" "
Two teachers at	650	" "
Ten teachers at	600	" "
Twenty-eight teachers at	550	" "
One teacher at	500	" "

The act to consolidate the City of New Orleans, passed in February 1852 provides, that each Board of Directors of the Schools shall cause to be laid before the Council at certain times, a report of the condition of the Schools, and a detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures of money during the preceding quarter.

By the ordinance of the Council, passed 16th July, 1852, a different mode of disbursement of the appropriated fund is established, and in accordance therewith there have been no receipts of money by the Board of Directors of the First District.

The amounts paid for debts incured since the first of June, 1852, are as same:

For June.—Pay roll of teachers	$4,807 50	
Pay roll of landlords and porters	810 50	
Humbrecht, buckets, etc.	16 75	$5,634 75
For July.—Pay roll of teachers	4,879 50	
Pay roll of landlords and porters	660 50	
Felt & Co., stationery	39 00	$5,579 00
For August.—Pay roll of teachers	4,904 02	
Pay roll of landlords and porters	582 60	
W. H. Peters, for preparing rules etc.	75 00	$5,511 62
For September.—Pay roll of teachers	3,798 74	
Pay roll of landlords and porters	380 00	$4,178 74

EDWARD RAWLE, Pres't of the Board.

A report from the Surveyor's Department relative to the number of employees and carts engaged in his department was read and ordered to be filed.

The following communication from the Surveyor was read:

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT, CITY HALL, NewOrleans, November 9, 1852.

To the Common Council, Board of Aldermen:

GENTLEMEN—In obedience to the resolution passed by your honorable Board, I have the honor herewith to submit plans and estimate for the alterations necessary to be made to the old City Hall, in order to render the building suitable for the accomodation of the several courts, etc.

Your honorable body will perceive by looking to the drawings, that the building will cover the whole space comprised between Chartres street and Exchange Alley; it will, therefore, be necessary to purchase the lot of ground on which the Arsenal now stands, and the lots and buildings fronting on Exchange Alley. From information taken, it appears that the lot of ground on which the Arsenal now stands can be easily procured from the State. I, therefore, estimate the probable cost of the alteration and repairs of the building as follows, viz:

For the alteration and repairs of the building	$78,000
For the purchase of the two lots and buildings thereon fronting on Exchange Alley	18,000
Total	$96,000

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,

LOUIS H. PILIE, City Surveyor.

Mr. Giquel offered the following resolution, which was read twice, and unanimously adopted by yeas and nays, the rules being suspended:

Resolved, That the Comptroller be, and he is hereby, authorized to sell to the lowest bidder, after twenty days' notice, the contract for repairing and altering the building known as the Mayoralty of NewOrleans, in order to render it suitable for the accommodation of the several courts, etc., according to plan and specification at the Surveyor's office, sale to be made subject to the approval of the Common Council.

Mr. Lugenbuhl presented the following resolution, which was read twice, and adopted, the rules being suspended:

Resolved, That the Mayor be, and he is hereby, authorized to take the necessary legal steps to obtain the ground required to build the court-house aforesaid.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Clark, on behalf of the Committee on Streets and Landings, presented the following report and resolutions:

The Committee on Streets and Landings, to whom were referred ordinances, etc., beg leave to report as follows:

The ordinance creating Tax Collector for flats and rafts in the Third District, the resolution ordering the sale of a contract for a bridge on the New Canal, and the resolution ordering the sale of a contract for paving St. Mary and Freret streets, your committee would recommend the approval of.

The ordinance changing the names of streets in the city, the committee recommend the adoption of, with some slight amendments, as follows: In the Second and Third Districts, Dorgenois and Magistrate streets shall be known as Delhonde street, and in the First District, Jackson street shall be known as Mackee street, and also by striking out the amendment of the board of Assistants, changing the name of Bagatelle street into that of Delhonde, and leaving it to be called Bourbon street, as in the original resolution; Girod street, in the First District, also to be known as Broome street.

The petition of P. Irwin, for permission to change the original plan for the extension of Dryades Market, your committee would recommend to be granted.

The petition of Thomas Magner, to be paid for sand used by the city. On this petition, your committee offer a resolution ordering the payment of the same.

Your committee also offer a resolution for the sale of a contract for the construction and erection of an iron railing for Washington Square, in the Third District.

The petition of laboring man, against the use of horse power, in loading and unloading vessels, has been duly considered by the committee. The great injury occasioned the Wharves and Levees where horses are used, is sufficient cause, in the opinion of your committee, for their prohibition, on the wharves. A resolution is accordingly submitted. GEO. CLARK, Chairman,

WM. C. C. CLAIBORNE,
J. M. BURKE,
EDW. W. SEWELL.

Resolved, That the Treasurer pay, upon the warrant of the Comptroller, to Thos. Magner, the sum of fifteen dollars, for battureau sand belonging to said Magner, used by the city.

The above resolution was read twice and adopted, the rules being suspended.

Resolved, That the Comptroller sell at auction, to the lowest bidder, after twenty days' notice, the contract for the construction and erection of an iron railing to Washington Square, in accordance with plans and specifications on file in the Surveyor's office; terms of payment, cash, on completion of the work.

The above resolution was read twice and adopted unanimously, by yeas and nays, the rules being suspended.

Resolved, That from and after the passage of this resolution it shall not be lawful to use horses on any of the wharves and landings in the port of New Orleans, for the purpose of loading and unloading vessels, under the penalty of fifty dollars for each and every contravention, recoverable before any court of competent jurisdiction.

The above resolution was adopted, the rules being dispensed with.

The following resolutions, adopted by the Board of Assistant Aldermen, were concurred in, the rules being suspended:

Resolutions relative to the tax on flatboats in the Third District.

A resolution relative to the paving of St. Mary and Freret streets.

The resolution adopted by the Board of Assistant Aldermen, authorizing sale of contract for a bridge over the New Canal, was referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings, together with the following amendment, offered by Mr. Lugenbuhl:

"After the said Canal and Banking Company shall have been notified to have the same constructed, and in case of refusal, the Attorney of the Corporation shall institute suit for the recovery of costs of said bridge."

The substitute from the Board of Assistant Aldermen for a resolution of this Board, altering the names of various streets, was concurred in with the following amendments:

"Girod street, in the First District, to be known as Broome street."

"Jackson street, First District, to be called Gasquet street."

"Dorgenois and Magistrate streets, in the Second and Third Districts, to be called Delhonde street."

"Strike out the following: 'Bagatelle street to be called Delhonde street,' and insert: 'Bagatelle street to be known as Bourbon street.'"

The rules being suspended, the following resolution offered by Mr. Harris, was adopted unanimously, and was sent to the Board of Assistant Aldermen for their concurrence.

Resolved, That the Assistant Clerks of the Recorders of the First and Second Districts respectively be, and they are hereby, allowed the sum of seventy-five dollars per month each, for their services, dating from the twelfth of April last, and that warrants issue accordingly.

Mr. Sewell, on behalf of the Committee on Work-house and Prisons, presented the following report, which was adopted, and the resolutions, as passed by the Board of Assistant Aldermen were read a second time and concurred in.

The Committee on Work-house and Prisons, to whom were referred the following resolutions, beg leave to recommend concurrence in the same:

A resolution relative to employment of prisoners by the Warden of the Work-house.

A resolution directing the renovation of the several rooms attached to the several District Courts.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

Mr. Burke presented the following report and resolution, which were, on motion, laid on the table subject to call:

The committee to whom was referred the message of his Honor the Mayor, calling the attention of the City Council to the want of a proper supply of water for the inhabitants of the city, beg leave to report:

That by the reports of the Direction of the Commercial Bank, your committee find that up to the present year the company continued to make some improvements and some effort to carry out the provisions of their charter, by extending the supply of water; that during this year they have done little or nothing, their expenditure being not over fourteen thousand dollars of that.

Your committee find that the company declared a dividend for this year, notwithstanding the complaints made of the scarcity of water as supplied by them, and while persons living in that portion of our city which their charter, by the first section, declares "shall be supplied at all seasons in the year," and that "they shall annually expend $100,000 until the company can supply the city proper, and the principal and most populous streets of the faubourgs," were daily making their complaints, and are now sueing the company for damages.

That such a course of conduct is calculated to bring the Board of Direction under the penalty of forfeiture of charter, no one can gainsay, and your committee hope and trust, that should the like course of conduct be pursued the next year, that the necessary steps be taken by the proper officer or officers on the part of the city, to protect our citizens from such a course of conduct. Your committee hereto annex a copy of the charter of the Commercial Bank reports of the Board of Direction for 1850-'51, and a map of the city, showing the streets through which pipe are now laid, which the committee make a part of this report, and which your committee will call your attention to.

In consequence, it is believed by your committee, of the great complaint and of the numerous suits brought or about being brought by individuals against the Commercial Bank, they have, or are about to contract for the necessary pipe, to commence laying down during the next year, a main of sixteen inch pipe from Magazine, through Felicity Road, Camp, Royal, Customhouse and Bourbon to Esplanade street. They also contemplate adopting a plan by which, during a great demand for water, they may pump directly into the pipes, both of the improvement your committee hope will be carried out, and not countermanded by a new Direction, but so vascillating seems to have been the opinions and plans of each succeeding Direction, and so imminent the danger that our improvement Direction be superceded by a dividend Direction, as has been the case heretofore, that your committee would much rather see the work commenced, than have it in contemplation. If these improvements are made, the supply of water to the pipe, particularly in the Second District, will be greatly increased, as the pipe laid there is of small size, (three or four inch pipe) and any one can see at a glance, by referring to the map herewith, that the pipe already laid there is insufficient in capacity to keep up the necessary supply.

By examining the map accompanying this report, it will be seen that the rear of the First and Second Districts, particularly the First, nearly all of the Third, and the entire Fourth District, are without a supply of water, which, in a dry season like the present, has been of serious inconvenience to our citizens, and speaks loudly to the City Council for some adequate and speedy action on the matter.

Your committee are anxious to act speedily and afford relief, and it will, on furtherance of that end, beg leave to give for the consideration of the Council the only practical plan which they think is in their control.

It cannot be expected, at least we never see it the case, that any private corporation will consult either the public opinion or the public wants, unless they can do so to their own advantage, they require the certain percentage on all the money they invest, and in the previous course pursued by the Direction of the Commercial Bank the public can hardly look for either justice or generosity. It therefore behooves the City Council, as the representatives and knowing the wants of their constituents, as well as for a due regard for the health of the city, to get rid of the Commercial Bank as soon as practicable.

As your committee have before stated, the improvements contemplated by the Board of Direction for the benefit of the Second District are entered into upon compulsion, as their charter compels them to supply that portion of the city and from whence the suit for damages and the complaints mainly arise; there are no voluntary offers of improvements, and your committee are lead to the belief that if any further ones are required, they will have to be wrung from the Board by the strong arm of the law, then declaring dividends not permitting them, and none but dividend declaring Directors finding favor in the eyes of the stockholders. It would seem to be the settled policy of the present Board of Direction, not to make any improvements (for that is shown by their action in nearly cutting off their entire water rates in the Second District) they will not extend the pipes in the Third District because the small amount of pipes (and that not supplied already laid there) does not pay them a sufficient percentage, a policy your committee think not only detrimental to the true interest of the company, but ruinous to the city's. The company do not wish to run any risks, they have no enterprise, and look only to the present and not to the future for their gains. They do not take into consideration that the Second District pipes cannot now give the necessary supply of water to the inhabitants of that District, and that they have daily and hourly complaints, and that they are now refused payment of their bills on that ground. Then how can they expect the people of the Third District to come forward to take the water when they know that the Third District can only get what water the Second District does not use, as the Third is fed by the Second District pipes.

Your committe can do nothing to give at once the necessary supply to the pipes laid in all parts of the city without bearing nearly all the cost of laying additional feeding pipe, and as in the opinion of your committee, the inducements laid before them by the Direction of the Commercial Bank are insufficient, your committee must abandon this point.

The President of the Commercial Bank proposes that the city should lay a main of twenty-four inch pipe from the engine-house of the Water-works to Esplanade street, which would cost, say $80,000; that the city should rely on that pipe for all the water used for public purposes, and in return they will bear a certain proportion of the expense and supply the water, reserving to themselves the right to use both ends of the pipe as feeders for the Third and Fourth Districts, should they be so disposed. Now by the charter they have to supply the corporation gratis, and the promise to use the pipes laid for the benefit of the Third and Fourth Districts is too indefinite and vague as to the time when to be used; if they would bind themselves to commence to use it the year next, or the year after, your committee might take it into consideration, but to make this improvement subject to the contingency of the possibility of the water-pipes being extended to the Third and Fourth Districts, is altogether out of the question.

Until some arrangement can be made, your committee would suggest that the City Attorney be directed to take the necessary legal steps to sue for *forfeiture of charter*, should the Commercial Bank declare another dividend before making the improvements heretofore mentioned, to give the necessary supply of water to that portion of the city between Canal, Esplanade, Rampart streets and the river Mississippi, as per 1st section of the Act of Incorporation, hereto annexed. The high rate of insurance is mainly caused in New Orleans by the small supply of water given by this company, and as they have an exclusive privilege to supply the city, as far as the provisions of their charter will allow, they should be compelled to do so. Your committee believe that the rates of insurance would be reduced one-fourth, and perhaps one-third, per cent. on property in portions of our city, by an abundant supply of water, while its benefits in a sanitary point of view are incalculable. In presenting the foregoing remarks, your committee will add, that in calling in question the acts of the Boards of Direction of the Commercial Bank, they speak of the policy pursued, and of them in their capacity as Directors in a chartered institution, and not as individuals, and that personally they have no antipathy or animosity against either the company or any individual in the Board.

The committee recommend as a certain relief, THAT THE CITY PURCHASE THE COMMERCIAL BANK CHARTER AND ASSETS. From reliable information, your committee think the purchase could be made for one million dollars; that with an outlay of even one million dollars, the city will be placed in the possession of the right of supplying her citizens with water—a right which no city should allow to rest in the hands of a private corporation, particularly in the case of our city, where the stockholders, governed as they are by so short-sighted a policy as to lead your committee to the belief that they can have no interest in common with city people, and have only invested their money to collect an interest, and are unwilling to allow any expenditure to increase the usefulness of their institution to be made, unless it shows on its face the certain return in dollars and cents for the present. Your committee are well aware that by recommending this purchase at this time, when our city is in the midst of her endeavors to settle the various Municipality debts, and while our citizens look forward to be heavily taxed in the future, the proposition to purchase the Water-works will fall on unwilling ears, but when examined in its proper light, the expenditure of even a million of dollars sinks into insignificance, compared with the immense amount of good which must accrue to the city. The property holder will be amply repaid the tax on the reduced rates of insurance alone, not taking into consideration its advantages as to health.

By the report of the Direction for 1851, your committee find that the expense of the company is $23,000 per annum, while the Water-rates are over $100,000, and increasing yearly. This leaves fully $77,000 per annum to expend on the purchase and cost of laying down pipe. The engine now used is of ample capacity to supply twice the amount of pipe, and it is the opinion of your committee, that not over $100,000 can be spent per annum to advantage. Thus, in a few years, we shall have a full and ample supply of water for the whole city.

In conclusion, your committee advocate the purchase, on the following grounds:

Firstly, your committee think it a good investment, and will proceed to show it:

We propose to pay for the Commercial Water-works	$1,000,000 00	
Deduct $50 per share on stock now held by the Corporation of NewOrleans—is	$250,000	
Deduct Bank Assets, with at lowest	50,000	
Deduct office and lots on Carondelet street	15,000	=315,000 00
Leaving the cash outlay of the city		685,000 00
But to carry out our point fully, and show the advantage of the purchase, we will add the loss on the city bonds, of		250,000 00
Making the whole cost to the city		$935,000 00

Which would be the very outside figures.

Now we have shown elsewhere, and the reports of the Directors annexed, will prove the fact—For they have declared a dividend

this year of	$66,000 00
Spent in various ways, for pipes, etc.	14,000 00
Contingent expenses, salaries, etc.	23,000 00
	$103,000 00
Less amount received from Banking Department	15,000 00
Leaving	$88,000 00
That the gross return for waterrents are over	$100,000 00
Deduct incidental expenses and salaries	23,000 00
Leaving a net profit of	$77,000 00

Showing an interest of over 8 per cent. per annum on the amount of the required outlay of $935,000, and saving $250,000 already lost by the depreciation of the city stock. It is, therefore, proven that the city is now paying 6 per cent. interest on her forty year bonds: that here is shown a clear gain of 2 per cent. on the investment, besides saving $250,000 lost by the city stock.

It will be further borne in mind, that where the necessary supply of water is given, the water rents are steadily increasing, and your committee are fully impressed with the fact, that by a proper outlay, the rate of interest could be greatly increased; but at eight per cent., the inducement is sufficient to the city to re-invest the interest yearly, and that expenditure would be sufficient to extend, in a few years, the pipe through every street in our city.

Secondly, as to the supply of water: It is well known that it can not be depended upon under the control of the Commercial Bank. They exhaust their income by dividend, before they have given the necessary supply of pipe of the proper capacity, and which is the main cause of the want of the supply of water, whereas they should re-invest their profits for one or two years. Their course of conduct seems so suicidal to their interests that your committee, did they not know the parties who advocate it, would ascribe it to a lack of common sense. They have an engine capable of supplying seven or eight millions of gallons of water per day, while, with the greatest possible waste, the present consumption, with four, five miles of pipe, is hardly four millions. Your committee would refer you to an appropriation for sinking an Artesian well, which, though yet a doubtful experiment, has been considered worthy of trial. Even supposing it should succeed, what could be the advantages derived from them in comparison with the purchase of the Water-works, which, at the outset, is not an experiment to be tried, but a certainty within our grasp? We have a river in front of us, with always a large body of water confined within its banks—in fact a never failing supply of as good water as any community on earth are blessed with—an engine already up, capable of throwing seven to eight millions of gallons of water per day, over forty-five miles of pipe laid, supplying the citizens with nearly four millions of gallons per day, and which can be increased to double that amount. If the sinking of Artesian wells is found to be practicable, you must lay pipe to carry the water through the city, and there you interfere with the chartered rights of the Commercial Bank. Hence, your committee look upon an appropriation to sink Artesian wells as a mere contribution to science, and not intended to afford relief, or meet the question of supplying the city with water.

Thirdly. As to health, your committee think it unnecessary to say anything. The simple knowledge that we could have sweet, clean water running through our streets during the hot and sultry days of midsummer, and an ample supply to keep them and our gutters clean during all seasons of the year, is sufficient, your committee think, to make any one in our community acknowledge the great benefit this purchase would be, in a sanitary point of view.

Your committee have elsewhere spoken of the certainty of lower rates of insurance. It is but common sense to suppose that underwriters are governed in their rates by the risk they run in making a loss, and, therefore, less the risk the cheaper they underwrite. Your committee think that they have proved,

1. That the purchase of the Water-works is a good investment for the city.

2. That it is the only certain mode of supplying our citizens with water.

3. That it will not only be conducive to health, but will reduce the rate of insurance and add to the protection of life and property, in case of fire.

We leave the subject in the hands of the Common Council, with the hope that the labors of your committee will not be in vain. The citizens have the same right to expect a supply of water from the city, as they have to expect lighted and paved streets and a police to protect them, and if this subject is given the attention it demands at the hands of the Common Council, the citizens will not long complain of the want of water.

Should the Board of Aldermen deem it advisable to proceed further in the plan, your committee proposing to purchase the Commercial Bank charter and assets, your committee would recommend that a joint committee be appointed by the Common Council, to fix on the price to be paid, the terms of payment, and settle definitely the plan by which the Commercial Bank charter and assets should be transferred to the city. Your committee ask so offer the annexed resolution.

J. M. BURKE, Ch'n.
GEORGE CLARK,
J. LUGENBUHL,
EDW. W. SEWELL.

Resolved, That a committee of four members of the Board of Aldermen, one from each District, be appointed by the President to meet a similar committee on the part of the Board of Assistant Aldermen, to report to the Common Council the price at which the Commercial Bank charter and assets can be purchased by this corporation, the terms of payment, and the plan by which said Bank charter and assets shall be transferred to the city of New Orleans.

On motion, Mr. Sewell was appointed to act on the Finance Committee during the absence of Mr. Robb.

The following message from the Board of Assistant Aldermen was read:

BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN, NewOrleans, November 9, 1852.

To the Hon. President and Members of the Board of Aldermen:

GENTLEMEN—I herewith return to your honorable body, in which they originated the following resolutions, and notify you of the concurrence therein of the Board of Assistant Aldermen, viz:

A resolution authorizing the Surveyor to repair the school-house at Milneburg.

A resolution making an appropriation for, and relative to the sinking of an Artesian well.

A resolution granting permission to Spaulding & Rogers to locate their Circus in the port of NewOrleans.

A resolution accepting the securities of Joseph Kaiser.

A resolution relative to insane persons.

A resolution relative to the contract for fuel for the use of the Corporation.

A resolution relative to carts, drays, etc., licensed by the city of Jefferson.

A resolution suspending the resolution of the Common Council, approved 22d September, 1852, ordering the closing of all public beer gardens.

The following were concurred in, with amendments:

A resolution authorizing the Surveyor to repair Treme Post, and to put a new pair of stairs to the Police Jail.

A resolution requesting the Surveyor to furnish this Board a plan of all the real estate belonging to the city.

The Board have concurred in the amendments of your honorable body to—

The resolution (No. 458) authorizing the payment of sundry accounts.

And the ordinance for the government of the City Work-house and Prison.

The "resolution authorizing the payment of sundry claims," (No. 519,) was not concurred in.

The "resolution requesting the Surveyor to prepare a plan and specification of the probable cost of repairing the late City Hall, for the purpose of locating the courts therein," was laid on the table until the Board of Aldermen take action on a resolution of a similar character, adopted by this Board on the 29th of April last.

I remain, very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
WALTER H. PETERS, Secretary.

On motion, the Board concurred in the amendments from the Board of Assistant Aldermen to the "resolution authorizing the Surveyor to repair Tremé Post, and to put a new pair of stairs to the Police Jail," and the resolution, as amended, was adopted, viz:

"Resolved, That the Surveyor be, and he is hereby, authorized to make all necessary repairs to the Tremé Post, 'provided the cost shall not exceed one hundred and fifty dollars,' and also put a new pair of stairs to the Police Jail, or repair the old one, provided the cost shall not exceed one hundred dollars."

The Board concurred in the amendment from the Board of Assistant Aldermen to the "resolution requesting the Surveyor to furnish this Board a plan of all the real estate belonging to the city."

The Board of Assistant Aldermen amended by striking out after the words "furnish this," the word "Board," and inserting "Council."

The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

The preamble and resolutions passed by the Board of Assistant Aldermen, providing for the arrangement of Halls of First and Second Districts for Courts and Municipal offices, was taken up, on motion of Mr. Converse, and were not concurred in.

The following message from the Board of Assistant Aldermen was read:

BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN, NewOrleans, Oct. 19, 1852.

To the Honorable President and Members of the Board of Aldermen:

GENTLEMEN: I beg to return to your honorable body, in which they originated, the following resolutions, and notify you of the concurrence by the Board of Assistant Aldermen with sundry amendments, viz:

A resolution accepting the securities of Jos. Genois, jr., and L. Bozonier, clerks of the Recorder of the Second District.

A resolution relative to Orleans Fire Company No. 21, for an appropriation of $1200 for a new engine.

I also beg to notify you of the rejection of the following resolutions, viz:

A resolution authorizing the Comptroller to issue his warrant for $75, in favor of Mr. Jos. Genois, jr.

A resolution granting a charter for ten years to Liberty Hose Fire Company.

A resolution granting permission to Thomas J. Spear to make public sales of horses and drays, etc.

I am directed to return a "resolution relative to Resolution No. 412, from the Board of Assistant Aldermen," and to request a return of Resolution No. 412.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WALTER H. PETERS.

The resolution from this Board "accepting the securities of J. Genois, Jr., L. Bozonier, Clerks of the Recorder of the Second District," amended by the Board of Assistant Aldermen, was adopted by the Board of Aldermen in its amended form, as follows:

Resolved, That the widow Bozonier be, and is hereby, accepted as security for L. Bozonier, Clerk of the Recorder of the Second District.

On motion of Mr. Lugenbuhl, the security offered by Mr. Joseph Genois, Jr., was laid on the table, subject to call.

The amendment from the Board of Assistant Aldermen, to the resolutions adopted by this Board, "relative to Orleans Fire Co. No. 21, for an appropriation of $1,200 for a new fire engine," was concurred in by this Board.

The Board of Assistant Aldermen amended by striking out $1,200, and inserting $1,100. And the resolutions as amended, were adopted by the Board of Aldermen, as follows:

Resolved, That Orleans Fire Co. No. 21 be, and is hereby, authorized to contract for a new fire engine, not to cost over $1,100.

Resolved further, That when said engine shall be received and accepted by the Surveyor, the Comptroller be, and is hereby, authorized to issue his warrant on the Treasurer for the amount of said engine, not exceeding the above amount of $1,100.

The following message from the Board of Assistant Aldermen was read:

BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN, NewOrleans, Oct. 26, 1852.

To the Honorable President and Members of the Board of Aldermen:

GENTLEMEN—I beg to return to your honorable body, in which it originated, the resolution referring to a joint committee the petition of sundry citizens for an Artesian Well, and notify you of the appointment of Messrs. Leeds, Burthe, Mackey and Derbes as the committee thereon on behalf of the Board of Assistant Aldermen.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
WALTER H. PETERS, Sec'y.

The following message from the Board of Assistant Aldermen was read:

BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN, NewOrleans, November 9, 1852.

To the Honorable President and Members of the Board of Aldermen:

GENTLEMEN—Herewith I beg to hand you the following resolutions passed by the Board of Assistant Aldermen, in which you are respectfully invited to concur, to wit:

A resolution relative to the South-West Pass Telegraph Company.

A resolution accepting the securities of J. Worrall and J. Benett.

A resolution to pay J. Cannell $86 77.

A resolution (No. 583) authorizing the payment of sundry accounts.

A resolution refunding $60 to J. W. Zelweger.

A resolution refunding $60 to E. Ruprecht.

A resolution releasing the security of R. L. Murphy.

A resolution directing the several clerks of the Recorders to make monthly reports of the amount of fines assessed and the amount collected in their respective Districts.

A resolution for the sale of the contract for a plank road on Greatmen street.

A resolution locating the nuisance wharf of Second and Third Districts.

A resolution for the construction of a nuisance wharf in the Third District by John Coleman.

A resolution to sell a contract for laying brick sidewalks in the Third District.

A resolution to sell a contract for plank sidewalks in the Third District.

A resolution to sell a contract for round stone paving on Claiborne street, between Canal and Common streets.

A resolution to sell a contract for brick sidewalks on both sides of Common, between Claiborne and Galvez streets.

A resolution appropriating $5000 for completing a book of plans for the use of the Assessors.

A resolution to repair the Common Street Shell Road.

A resolution to place two policemen in the vegetable market, Second District.

A resolution requesting plans and estimate cost of iron and wooden railing for Clay Square.

A resolution appropriating $300 to the House of Refuge for girls.

A resolution requesting the Mayor hereafter to send certified copies of all ordinances and resolutions passed by the Common Council to the parties to whom they may relate.

I am very respectfully, your ob'dt serv't,
WALTER H. PETERS.

The following resolutions adopted by the Board of Assistant Aldermen were concurred in by this Board, the rules being dispensed with:

A resolution relative to the South-West Pass Telegraph Company.

A resolution accepting the securities of J Worrall and J. Benett

A resolution to pay J. Cannell sixty-six dollars and seventy-seven cents.

A resolution authorizing the payment of sundry accounts, (adopted unanimously by yeas and nays.)

A resolution refunding sixty dollars to J. W. Zelweger.

A resolution refunding sixty dollars to E. Ruprecht.

A resolution releasing security of R. L. Murphy.

A resolution directing the several clerks of the Recorders to make monthly reports of the amount of fines assessed and amount collected by them.

A resolution for sale of contract for plank road in Greatmen street.

A resolution to sell contract for laying brick sidewalks in the Third District.

A resolution to sell contract for round stone paving in