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NEW ORLEANS DAILY CRESCENT.

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VOLUME XVI. WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 3, 1866. NUMBER 43.

Local Intelligence.

Cause of the Arrest J. H. Monie Previous to his Suicide.

The reader of the testimony taken before the coroner, in relation to the suicide of the late Jean Baptiste Monié, published in the CRESCENT yesterday, will observe that the witnesses, J. Livran and P. P. Caillet, vaguely alluded to the imprisonment of the deceased on the 27th ult., and his complaint of that imprisonment.

We yesterday ascertained that the imprisonment referred to was ordered by Justice Collens of the Third Justice's Court, from whom we learn the following facts: On the morning of the 27th, Mr. Michinard, of the law firm of Michinard & Saucier, Miss Estelle Monié, daughter of the deceased, and Mr. Placide J. Spear, visited the court and signified to the justice that Miss Monié wished her father arrested for a trespass. They brought with them an affidavit, previously written, to which Miss Monié swore and a warrant was issued. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon the old man was brought before the justice by the constable, and was told he could be released upon giving bond for his appearance. He said either that he could not, or would not furnish security, and was committed to the Parish Prison, where he remained until about dark. Meantime, Mr. Spear had returned to the justice's office and signed a bond for the appearance of Monié. The bond was taken to the prison. Monié was told by signing it he would be released. He did sign it, and left the jail. His conversation and behavior that night are the only evidence taken by the coroner. There is no testimony to show that the letter, said to have been written by him, which intimated his intention of destroying himself, and which was found in his room after his decease, was his handwriting. He was never seen alive after the night of the 27th. Subjoined is the affidavit made before Justice Collens:

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Parish of Orleans, City of New Orleans.

Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared this day, September 27th, 1866, Miss Estelle Monié, of this city, who, being duly sworn, did depose and say that she is the lessee of the house and premises known as No. 23 Toulouse street, in the Second District of this city, and, as such, had possession and control of the same since December, 1864, and that she is the owner of the moveable effects contained in said house; that on or about Wednesday, Sept. 19th, 1866, affiant was forcibly and violently ejected from her said premises by Jean Baptiste Monié, who took possession of said premises and property, without any legal right so to do, and prevents the petitioner from entering said house and reaching and using her said property; that said Jean Baptiste Monié is guilty of trespass, contrary to the statutes of the State of Louisiana.

Wherefore she prays, considering the above, that said Jean Baptiste Monié be arrested and dealt with according to law.

ESTELLE MONIE.

Sworn to, and subscribed before me, this 27th September, 1866.

PAUL W. COLLENS,
Third Justice of the Peace.

Dauphin Street.

The threatened cleansing of Dauphin street of the class of inhabitants by whom it has hitherto been occupied, is awakening the usual amount of opposition that might have been expected from the dozen property-holders who lease this property, and various impediments to the execution of the ordinance are thrown in the way of justice. One of them is to affect ignorance as to the real ownership of the property, or to attempt to shift the responsibility upon some other male party to whom it has been subleased. As the plea of these parties will be that there has not been sufficient notice, we are authorized to state that the announcement which has been published in the city papers will be deemed sufficient warning, although the parties have in point of fact been individually served with the notification, and that on the 10th inst. the law will be rigidly enforced.

Coroner's Inquests—Death by a Fall From a Gallery.

Yesterday morning, before daylight, a man by the name of Charles Ludwig Honold, of Germany, was found dead beneath the second story gallery in a house at the corner of Bourbon and Customhouse streets. The deceased had but one leg, and perhaps his death was, to some extent, influenced by this fact. We give below the evidence of the only witness whose statements were taken:

Robert Reisner sworn—Lives at the house where the deceased met with the fatal accident. Have known him for twelve months, and during that time he had been much addicted to drinking. On Monday night, at about 12 o'clock, he left the store of Mr. Wenger. He was drunk, and I had to help him to his room. Arrived there, I told him to go to bed; but he did not do it. When I left him he had taken his pipe and began to smoke. I heard in the morning that he had fallen from the second story gallery and I did not doubt that his fall was accidental.

The gallery from which he fell was protected in the usual manner by railing, and how he succeeded in falling over them is a little singular. A medical gentleman who examined the body maintained that he must have been overtaken with an apoplectic fit after he retired; that he had come upon the gallery for fresh air; and that he must have died before he fell. We have to again complain of the careless manner in which the evidence before Coroner Bertin is taken. If the inquest is to be turned into a farce, and verdicts are to be pronounced upon the evidence of any one witness who happens to present himself, the institution might at once be abolished. No better instance can be given of the value of such investigations than the fact that at the inquest upon the body of Hern, although police officer Johnson had delivered himself up as the author of the deed, the coroner's court could not discover by whom the killing had been committed.

Various Items.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock officer Gaffney saw a negro running at the corner of Julia and Derbigny streets. The officer supposing the fellow might have done some wrong ordered him to stop, but instead of doing so he hastened his pace, when Mr. Gaffney fired a shot, which missed, and he started in pursuit. The negro approaching a large vacant property, threw off his coat, jumped a fence and escaped. Mr. Gaffney would have continued firing at him, but was fearful he might hurt some women and children who were on the sidewalk. The coat was brought to the station, and contained three dollars and forty cents.

Officer O'Donnell of the night police, while patroling his beat last night, between eight and nine o'clock, heard a noise from something struggling in the Gaines canal, and arrived in time to save the life of a man, who was vainly endeavoring to get out of the canal and would in a few seconds more have been drowned. Mr. O'Donnell rescued him and as soon as his strength was sufficiently recovered, brought him to the First District police station. He gave his name as G. de Lassac. He was intoxicated, and while groping his way through the streets, accidently fell into the canal.

Common Council.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.—The Board of Aldermen met last night, pursuant to the order of the mayor. President Bosworth in the chair. Present—Messrs. Whitney, Stith, Clark, McKnight, McCloskey, Smith and White.

The following message of the mayor was read by the secretary:

MAYORALTY OF NEW ORLEANS,
City Hall, 24 October, 1866.

Gentlemen of the Common Council—Knowing as I do your zeal in the public service, and the experience which temperes and directs it for the general good, I congratulate you on the occasion of reassembling.

During adjournment, the joint committees of finance and streets and landings, representing the coordinate legislative branches of the city government, I am happy to inform you, have discharged the arduous duties assigned them in a manner deserving the highest commendation.

Awaiting the reassembling of the common council, such matters as had peculiar significance, or were of such grave responsibility as required, under the laws and ordinances, your legislative action, have been wisely deferred.

Unremitting as have been your efforts to subserve the interests of the city, legislation of perhaps greater scope and importance will, for the next year, require your attention.

It will be both my pride and pleasure to cooperate with you in every measure calculated to benefit the city.

Apart from such reformatory measures as your wisdom will suggest to you in the course of municipal legislation, I respectfully submit such as have occurred to my mind as necessary to the public welfare, or originating with others, have met my concurrence.

I call your attention first to topics of a general nature, yet closely identified with the well-being, credit and honor of the city.

HEALTH OF THE CITY.

A mutual subject of congratulation is the improved health of the city. The terrible epidemics of yellow fever, which up to 1858 visited us at fitful periods, visit us no more. Sporadic cases of the former scourge alone remind us that it ever existed here in an epidemic form.

Another scourge, unconfined to any locality, made its appearance in the East and slowly moved to the West, sparing neither age, sex, situation or condition. This is the Asiatic cholera, yet prevailing to an alarming extent in some of the first cities in the United States. Sanitary measures were fruitless to prevent its desolating progress.

While the elevated and well drained cities of St. Louis, Cincinnati and Nashville suffer from epidemic cholera, the disease, which made its appearance in New Orleans in July last, has caused us to suffer but inconsiderable loss.

Indeed, the cholera has nearly disappeared from our midst.

Built upon a bed of spongy alluvium, with difficult drainage, and to the eye of a stranger sanitarily unsafe, New Orleans, with no such natural advantages as her sister cities possess, is, nevertheless, the healthiest city of its population in America.

The health statistics of the present year, even with the cholera in our midst, abundantly proves this assertion to be so well founded as to defy refutation.

To the energetic exertions of the street commissioner, city surveyor, draining commission and the recently established Board of Health, we must feel indebted to no inconsiderable extent for not only our exemption from epidemic cholera, but also for an extraordinary reduction of those semi-tropical diseases which formerly made their appearance among us in the summer and autumn.

I would add, in this connection, that no pains should be spared by the city authorities to increase the general healthfulness, so that the observation may become a subject of our past history, and capitalists from every section of the world be induced to come hither, and settle amongst us permanently.

THE RIOT OF THE THIRTIETH OF JULY.

The peace of the city, with one melancholy exception, has not been seriously disturbed since the re-inauguration of the civil government in March last.

This exception was the memorable riot which ensued in and around Mechanics' Institute on the 30th July. The seeds of this violent outbreak were sown by men who claimed to be members of the defunct convention of 1864, and by those who affiliated with them in an unlawful attempt to overthrow the existing State and municipal governments.

The object of the conventionists and their white affiliators were, as far as I have been able to learn, two fold: Negro suffrage and disfranchisement of every man who had participated in and sympathized with the late war. This was to be accomplished by a radical change in the Constitution of Louisiana—the sequence, the re-election to office of men whose antecedents as public officers were in opposition to the overwhelming majority of the people of the State.

Violent and revolutionary harangues, and seductive offers of future honor and emolument were used to inflame the mind of our negro population.

Incited to disregard their proverbial and life-long respect and subordination to the whites, many of these unfortunate victims to the plotting of white radical leaders, for the first time in the history of the city, were armed participants in a riot.

For several weeks prior to the outbreak, law-abiding citizens contemplated, with much uneasiness, the reassembling of the convention. Actuated alone by an earnest desire to preserve, if possible, the public peace, I addressed Brevet Major Gen. Baird a letter, declaratory of my purpose to arrest the members of the convention, whenever they should meet within the corporate limits of the city, provided such convention was unsanctioned by the military authorities.

Martial law in a mild form, as at present, being still in existence, I had then, as I have now, no wish to contravene military authority, notwithstanding my great desire to see civil law supreme.

Gen. Baird's reply plainly indicated that the chief magistrate of the city would find no warrant for the arrest of the members of the convention from military headquarters.

Anxious to do everything in my power to preserve the peace, seeing that the fermentation of the public mind grew greater every day, I then verbally proposed to the commanding general that the civil and military authorities should act jointly in case of emergency.

On the morning of the 30th July, I caused a portion of the police to be distributed in such a manner as to preclude no difficulty, holding a reserve in readiness should a disturbance ensue. The commanding general had promised the support of a body of white soldiers. I was ready, General Baird was not.

At noon the riot was commenced by a body of armed negroes marching in procession up Dauphin street, toward Mechanics' Institute, insulting and assaulting unoffending citizens on Canal street.

The police were then ordered to protect citizens from the murderous assault of armed negroes, both on Canal street and in the vicinity of Mechanics' Institute.

Pursued by indignant and excited friends and acquaintances of, and sympathizers with, the insulted and wounded in Canal street, the negro procession marched rapidly to Mechanics' Institute, on Dryades street, a few hundred yards distant.

Here, as well as on Canal street, the police were met with pistol volleys, and such missiles as could be seized by the negroes for the purpose of assault and destruction of life.

Armed and infuriated negroes assembled in front of the Institute. Inside the edifice a body of armed negroes and members of the convention were barricaded, firing indiscriminately from the windows on police and citizens. It was necessary for the protection of the livesof citizens, as well as the lives of policemen, that these assailants should be dislodged.

After a stout resistance the police obtained possession of the interior of the Institute.

There are two important facts conclusively established by reputable eye-witnesses, viz:

1. That the police were first fired upon on the neutral ground, Canal street, while discharging their duty, by members of the procession.

2. That the first shots on the arrival of the police at the Institute, were fired from the windows of that edifice by the whites and negroes therein barricaded. Just before 1 o'clock, the riot then furiously progressing, I called upon Gen. Baird at his headquarters, and asked if the troops promised in case of emergency, were at hand, and if not, when he could give me military assistance. I was informed by the general that he had been deceived as to the hour of the meeting of the convention, having been under the impression that it met at 6 in the evening instead of 12—noon.

I was astonished that the commanding general should make this statement, as the time of meeting (12 o'clock) had been advertised in the leading journals of the city for many days previous, and was the subject of public conversation in every direction.

He stated that Lieut. Gov. Voorhies had just left him, and that troops had been ordered from the Barracks—which is five or six miles below the city—but several hours would elapse before they would be in hand. Meanwhile, the general urged me to do everything in my power to arrest the progress of the riot.

It was at this interview that I distinctly stated my conviction that his interference and inactivity made him responsible for the riot—a charge made in the presence of my secretary, the only person present save the general and myself.

In almost two hours the police had quelled the riot, arrested the ringleaders of the mob, and restored order. Several hours thereafter, Gen. Baird's soldiers, white and black, marched into the city, only to encamp on Lafayette square and at other places, and give the general an opportunity of proclaiming stringent martial law after all danger was over.

It is my duty to place before you the fact that on the appointment of Major General Kanta as military governor—in other words, military mayor—the mayor and all the city officers in the City Hall, as well as the chief of police, were required to report to the new functionary.

This I positively refused to do; continuing to exercise the duties of the mayoralty to the best of my ability under circumstances necessarily detrimental to public business.

Many of the city officials refused, in common with myself, to obey this extraordinary order. Soon after the return from Texas of Major Gen. Sheridan, commanding the military division of the gulf, the City Hall was restored to the jurisdiction of the city authorities, and the police turned over to the mayor.

It was reserved for Gen. Baird to place a military governor in the City Hall; to guard the entrance thereto with armed sentry; to unlock the cells of the prisons where mob ringleaders, black and white, were incarcerated, and let them loose upon the city, without a hope of identification, in many instances, by the officers of the civil law; and to make political capital for radical enemies of the reconstruction policy of the President, his commander-in-chief, by an attempt to wring from the police, who perilled their lives to restore order, their hard earned laurels, and to cast upon the city authorities the odium of a reckless disregard of the lives of "loyal Union citizens."

The peace proclamation of the 29th July, in which I counselled the good citizens of the city to refrain from assembling in or about Mechanics' Institute on the 30th, thus permitting the members of the convention to assemble and indulge Gen. Baird's idea of "harmless pleasantry," the incontrovertible evidence that the radicals were the assailants, and that the police acted with far more discretion than is usual with men under fire, and that every effort was made by me to secure timely military assistance, or to assist the military if present—all conspire to teach us how misrepresentation and fabrication often temporarily supplant the truth in time of great political excitement, in distant quarters of the country.

OUR POLITICAL RELATIONS.

On becoming once more an integral part of the federal Union, our people anxiously looked forward to the time when they should be represented in Congress.

These hopes, based upon the plighted faith of a great and honorable men, have not been realized.

The founders of the government went to war upon a preamble foreshadowing taxation without representation.

In adopting the federal Constitution the States made proclamation to the world that taxation and representation should go hand in hand.

Radical demagogues, ignoring the history of the past and the rights of the States under our Magna Charta, argued at one time that the Southern States could not sever their connection with the Union, and now that these States have forfeited by secession their rights, they should be, but in incipient territories, subject to the will and power of a Congress composed alone of members elected from "loyal constituencies." These ostracised States are, nevertheless, according to radical logic, competent to concur in a constitutional amendment, although unrepresented on the floor of Congress!

That patient endurance and fidelity to plighted honor, under trying circumstances, daily exemplified in the conduct of the people of the Southern States, extort the admiration of all men save radical place-hunters, "held together by the cohesive power of public plunder."

On the subversion of the late Confederacy, soldier and civilian took the oath of allegiance to the government of the United States, acquiesced in the changes which resulted from the war, and returned to the avocations of private life with unfeigned cheerfulness.

President Johnson sagaciously understanding the impulses of the gallant and unfortunate people, adhering to the States rights doctrines of the founders of the republic, and anxious to restore peace and prosperity to these States, as well as to every section, came forward with a reconstruction policy which stamped him at once a statesman and a champion of the Constitution.

The wise and timely policy of the President met with the hearty approbation of the people of the South and of the conservative men of the North.

Rapidly, with the concurrence of a patriotic President, State and municipal reconstruction took place in all the late seceding States.

Senators and Representatives were elected to the federal Congress. Notwithstanding the efforts of the President and of a few Northern and Western Congressmen, whose veneration for the Constitution was unimpaired, our newly elected delegates were unceremoniously denied their seats.

In common with the rest of the Southern congressional districts, New Orleans, which was permitted to choose one of the two Senators elect, and by right two Representatives in Congress, has suffered from the determination of the radicals to override, if possible, every tradition of the past, and every constitutional obligation which stands in the way of supreme power.

To the Roman firmness of Andrew Johnson, and to that common reaction in the public mind of the Northern people indicated in recent orations paid him during his tour as far as St. Louis, we must look for ultimate representation in Congress.

From radical orators and radical editors, who daily fill the minds of listeners and readers with such misrepresentations of the Southern people as are unparalleled in the history of politics, we have not a single concession to hope for. Their sole object is power. That this end may be attained, they would saddle the Constitution with so many amendments as that even Mr. Madison—who earnestly advocated the adoption in the Commonwealth of Virginia against the eloquence of Patrick Henry, and the apathy of Mr. Jefferson—would rise from his grave, would scarcely recognize the creation of his political genius.

Before leaving a subject so pregnant with interest, I beg leave to remark that the late soldiers' and sailors' convention, at Cleveland, Ohio, in dooming the action of the Philadelphia National Union Convention, has met with the unqualified approbation of the Southern people. Especially has it gratified the late Southern soldiers, whose valor enables them to recognize the valor of the soldiers of the army of the United States.

The brave are always magnanimous. On the contrary, men such as we now find at the head of the radical disunionists, who saw in the late prolonged and gigantic war an opportunity to enrich themselves and enhance their political power, are strangers to the magnanimity which prevails among soldiers.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

Our fiscal affairs are in as good a condition as could be expected, when we consider the management of the municipal government from May, 1862, to March, 1866.

Under the able administration of the gentleman now managing our finances, I am glad to say that a system of retrenchment has been inaugurated, which, with judicious legislation, it is hoped, will remove all embarrassment at an early day.

It is anticipated that the augmentation of revenue next year from an increased commerce and the increased value of real estate and personal property, will greatly assist in the restoration of our financial affairs to a healthy condition.

INCREASE OF THE POLICE FORCE.

Since the cessation of hostilities, our population has increased at a rate, a percentage as finds no parallel in the history of the city. This increase is ascribable to the disbandment of the Confederate armies, and the consequent return home of soldier and civilian refugees; to the influx of people from the rural parishes, and from the counties of adjacent States in consequence of the unsettled condition of labor, overflow or devastation of estates during the war, and a hope or reacquisition of shattered fortunes; and the coming hither of persons, with and without capital, from Europe and the northern portion of the federal Union, in search of business.

Negroes, too, from the rural districts, have flocked to the city in great numbers, content rather than work on plantations, to breathe the pestilent atmosphere of over crowded hovels, to eat the garbage of market houses, and prefer on the outskirts of the city.

In view of the lawlessness of degraded white persons and of the attacks freed from the restraints placed upon them by former masters, I deem it my duty to recommend an increase of the police force to at least one hundred additional men.

Suburban residents are in a comparatively unprotected state, owing to this want of men. A series of outrages perpetrated in the suburbs, and reported from time to time at the office of the chief of police, demands that we should give greater protection to life and property than hitherto.

Whilst upon the subject of an increase of the regular police force, I would further recommend that the river police be increased from twelve to twenty-four men, and that two additional boats be purchased for their use. One sergeant can manage this increased force without difficulty.

Every day, since the organization of the river police, has convinced me of the wisdom of the measure. Twelve active men with swift boats have nearly put an end to the nocturnal thieving formerly perpetrated on the levee, inflicting great loss upon the owners of exports and imports.

The season is fast approaching when commerce will be increased to such an extent as to call for additional protection against the depredations of the thieves who are always to be found on the levee and the river.

LEASING MARKET STALLS.

After careful reflection, I deem it my duty to recommend an entire change in the leasing and management of our market-houses.

The present system of leasing a market to a single farmer has been, is and will continue to be, a fruitful source of complaint, inconvenience and annoyance, not only to the public, but to individual lessees of stalls. Constantly complaints are made of encroachments on the sidewalks, and extraordinary extortions practiced by farmers on the occupants of stalls.

To obviate, in fact to terminate complaints, I cordially concur in, and recommend to the consideration of the common council, the plan of Mr. L. H. Pilie, city surveyor, who, having the supervision of the markets, and whose long experience is well known, enables him to understand more thoroughly than others all matters connected therewith.

Instead of leasing a whole of a market house to a single farmer, the controller should be authorized to adjudicate to the highest bidder, for one year, and payable in cash on the spot, the lease of each and every stall in the same; said stalls to be subject to such police regulations as the common council may adopt.

To my mind the revenues of the city would be largely increased by the proposed method, and litigation, contentions and disputes greatly diminished, if not wholly terminated.

LEASE OF THE WHARVES BY SECTIONS.

This subject, so important to us in a commercial and financial point of view, I commend to the wisdom of the common council as one which, in my judgment, demands legislative action as early as possible.

Unlike most other cities, ours is not indebted to manufactures for prosperity. Wisdom dictates that we should devise every means in our power, not only to retain, but to increase our commerce, so varied and multitudinous are the sources of development and developing energy.

The fostering hand of the city government can do much toward making New Orleans that which its sagacious founder, Bienville, remotely anticipated, and which its natural advantages of situation warrant—the great commercial emporium of the continent.

During the war, and to the time of the reorganization of the city government, owing to the stagnation of commerce and the lavish appropriations of the public funds to subserve personal ends, as well as the ends of favoritism, nearly the whole extent of wharves were in so dilapidated and ruinous a condition as to make them totally unfitted for the uses for which they were built.

It affords me much gratification to inform you that the city surveyor, acting by authority of the joint committees representing you during adjournment, is superintending the building of new wharves adapted to the changed and changing phases of shipping.

These wharves are being built as rapidly as possible. With their peculiar construction, owing to the growing superseder of sailing vessels by ocean steamers, our able surveyor is thoroughly acquainted.

It is estimated that it will cost the city about $200,000 to put the wharves and levee in a complete state of repair. Indeed, I may say in better order than ever before.

With such new facilities for loading and discharging cargo, and the clean, comfortable and substantial appearance which the new repairs and improvements will necessarily give, our port, instead of repelling, will be attractive to the great shipping interests of the world.

Permit me to call your attention to some important statistical facts.

The wharves were leased by sections on the 16th day of August, 1858, for fifty-seven months, the lessees giving their notes, with good and solvent security, for the payment of the same, and bound by contract to make all necessary repairs, and at the expiration of their several terms to deliver said wharves to the city in such a condition as would meet the approval of the city surveyor.

During this term of lease the net annual income to the city amounted to over $221,000, making at the expiration of said lease a net total of $1,052,000.

Under the the present system of the city collecting the revenues of the wharves, the report of Controller Mohan shows that the annual revenue would amount to about $158,000, less repairs, extensions and filling of abutments, which would, it is estimated, amount to about $60,000, thus reducing the annual revenue to about $108,000.

Thus it will be seen that under the present system the city annually loses about $113,000.

With a view to increasing our fiscal strength and relieving the city of trouble, expense and labor, I recommend for adoption the leasing of the wharves by sections according to the plan of 1858.

DEFICIT IN TAXATION CAUSED BY EMANCIPATION.

In 1861, the value of real estate in the city amounted to $83,500,000. Slaves $3,500,000, which made a total of $93,000,000.

At 1½ per cent. on this assessment, the annual revenue from these sources was as follows:

Real estate $1,238,000; slaves $52,000, total $1,290,000.

It must be borne in mind that the assessed value of real estate and slaves was made at a time when gold and silver was the circulating medium of the country.

The consolidation proclamation of President Lincoln deprived the city of one source of annual revenue, viz: the tax on slaves. This lost revenue should be supplied by increased assessment of real estate.

In 1865, real estate was assessed at $85,000,000, which at 1½ per cent. made a total of $1,278,000.

It is patent to every reflecting mind that instead of a decrease in value, real estate should have been, considering the depreciation of an inflated paper currency, assessed at double this amount.

Surely the unprecedented increase in the value of real estate, and its continued upward tendency, warrants an assessment at least approximating to the gold and silver assessment of 1861. I respectfully, through you, call the attention of the city assessors to the suggestions thus succinctly made, confident that they will consult the best interest of the municipal government.

CITY RAILROADS.

Perhaps no better argument can be found of the increasing enterprise of the solid men of New Orleans than the net work of city railroads already completed and in running order, and the lines in course of construction.

The day is near at hand when this city will be unrivaled in all those conveniences of intercommunication which so much tend to expedite business, enhance society, and harmonize, by association, conflicting opinions.

The city railroads already constructed and now in full operation are as follows, viz:

1. The Magazine street road, starting from the Clay Monument, on Canal street, and running to the upper limit of the city, through Camp and Magazine streets, and having a length of about five and one-half miles.

2. The Prytania street road, starting from the Clay Monument, and running to the upper limit of the city, through Camp and Prytania streets, and having a length of about five miles.

3. The Tchoupitoulas and New Levee streets road, starting from opposite the Custom House, and running to the upper limit of the city, through Tchoupitoulas and New Levee streets, and having a length of about six miles.

4. The St. Charles road, starting from the intersection of Canal and St. Charles streets, and running to the upper limit of the city, through St. Charles, Delord, Carondelet and Baronne streets, and having a length of about four and one half miles.

5. The City Park road, starting from the Clay Monument, and running through Canal street and Metairie road to the Bayou Bridge, and having a length of about eight miles.

6. The Esplanade street road, starting from the Clay Monument, and running to the Bayou Bridge, through Canal, Rampart and Esplanade streets, and having a length of about six and one half miles.

7. The Dauphin street road starting from the Clay monument and running to Delery street, through Canal, Rampart, Dauphin and Esplanade streets, and having a length of about nine miles.

The city railroads now in progress of construction are as follows:

1. The Rampart and Dryades streets roads, starting from the intersection of Canal and St. Charles streets, and running through St. Charles, Canal, Rampart, Dryades and St. Denis streets, to the upper limit of the city, and having a length of about ten miles.

2. The Annunciation and Chippewa streets roads, starting from in front of the Customhouse, and running through St. Charles and Chippewa streets to the upper limits of the city, and having a length of about seven miles.

3. The road connecting the Jackson Railroad and Pontchartrain Railroad depots, running through Royal, Bourbon, St. Charles, Carondelet, Erato, Clio and Magnolia streets, and having a length of about six miles.

4. The Barracks road, starting from opposite the Customhouse, and running to the United States Barracks, through Peters, Chartres, Royal, Poland, and Delery streets, and having a length of about eight miles.

In the above lists of projected railroads there are two which call up objections so formidable as to demand the attention of the city authorities. I refer to those intended to run through Bourbon and Royal streets.

Every one familiar with the topography of the city below Canal street knows that from Peters, to Rampart street there can be found no room for a railroad. The extreme narrowness of the intermediate streets renders the passing and repassing of cabs, carriages and drays at times exceedingly difficult.

The projected Royal street route has met with opposition from a large majority of property holders and business men thereon, who see the necessity of keeping this busy thoroughfare of travel and traffic free from obstructions. I would add, that, independent of this opposition, there are other rights to be consulted, which affect an industrious, laboring class, and, in fact, the public at large.

The city, in compelling owners of ordinary vehicles of every description to pay an annual license, implicitly pledges its faith to those men that our streets shall be kept free from every obstacle which tends to impede transportation. Then again, such streets as Chartres, Royal, Dauphin and Burgundy, particularly the two former, afford the most direct communication with the Pontchartrain railroad, along which a stream of passengers from Mobile and other cities daily pours.

Under the administration of the last military appointees, the contract for the construction of the Royal street road was sold. Confident of its validity, the contractors, during the latter part of September, tore up the square block pavement on Royal, between Canal and Customhouse streets, preparatory to laying the track. They were enjoined by the city, the work was stopped, and the right of way, under the contract, is now the subject of litigation.

Eminent legal advisers have expressed the opinion that in selling this contract the late acting mayor and his bureau transcended their power and authority.

Its annulment would be an act of justice both to the people and the city government.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

On the 15th December, 1860, the city entered into a contract with the Firemen's Charitable Association for the extinguishment of fires.

This contract was for a term of five years, viz: from 15th December, 1860, to 15th December, 1865.

In this contract the city stipulated to pay the association the sum of $90,000 per annum. The late acting mayor and his bureau extended the contract upon the same terms and conditions to the 15th December—one year.

It will, therefore, be seen that it will soon become the duty of the city authorities to make new arrangements for the protection of property from fire.

I would recommend that the contract for the extinguishment of fires be again awarded to the Firemen's Charitable Association for a term of five years from the date thereof.

The association has admirably performed all the duties and observed all the obligations required of it, even while subjected to heavy loss by the depreciation of the currency.

The appropriation of $90,000 per annum was to have been paid in coin, or its equivalent.

The events of the last few years substituted a paper currency, which has daily depreciated. Yet the association has continued to receive its pay in currency—a fact which, in the creation of a new contract, should, in my judgment, recommend it to the generous consideration of the city government.

In any new arrangement which may be made, the association desire to increase the number of steam engines from five to twelve.

The superiority of this modern improvement over the ordinary, yet time-honored engine is so well known as to need no comment at my hands. As the expense of purchasing said steam engines is incurred by the association, I commend the matter to your consideration in such annual appropriation as you may think proper to make as the basis of a future contract.

No institution should be more cheerfully supported by our tax-payers than the Firemen's Charitable Association. Its members, composed of the noblest and most self-sacrificing spirits of our community, are sleepleasly vigilant. Business, health and life are disregarded whenever duty calls them to aid in saving the property of others from destruction.

In its organization, its personnel, in all those attributes which honor and ennoble humanity, the association has no peer in Europe or America.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The schools are consolidated under one board of directors, with one superintendent, the system of instruction, the course of study, the text books used being uniform throughout the city.

To the accomplished superintendent, Mr. Wm. O. Rogers, I am indebted for the following interesting facts:

There are 42 schools, in which 238 teachers are employed.

Of the schools, four are are high schools, one in each district, in which eighteen teachers are employed.

Of the primary and intermediate schools there are eleven in the First District, with sixty-seven teachers; ten schools in the Second District, with fifty-nine teachers; in the Third District ten schools and fifty-eight teachers; in the Fourth District seven schools and twenty-seven teachers.

During the annual session of the schools, closing with June, 1866, the average attendance of pupils in the four high schools was, boys, 168; girls, 232; total, 501. Exclusive of high schools, the average attendance was, to-

	Boys.	Girls.
First District	1797	1949
Second District	1122	1189
Third District	1548	1597
Fourth District	896	935
Total Boys in attendance	5362	
Total Girls in attendance	5844	
Total of Boys and Girls	11,206	

The whole number of pupils admitted to the schools during the year was: Boys, 7824; girls, 7597, or 15421 pupils.

During the last session the average number of pupils to each teacher employed was, for the High Schools, twenty-one; in the other schools of the First District, fifty-six; in the Second District forty; in the Third District fifty-three; and in the Fourth District fifty.

The average of pupils to each teacher in all the public schools of the city is forty-eight.

The average embraces the pupils in the higher departments, where the classes are smaller and few in number. In most of the schools the number of pupils under charge of each teacher is greater than is consistent with a proper regard for the physical health and mental progress of the pupils.

For seven years past no new school houses have been built, although there has been a steady increase in the number of educable children.

The superintendent informs me that in some departments over a hundred children have been crowded for months in rooms adapted to the instruction of less than half their number.

Since the beginning of the present session, commencing September 17, the increase of pupils has been beyond all precedent.

The necessity of erecting new school houses in all the districts of the city, for the accommodation of pupils, is, therefore, at once apparent.

The cost of education, per pupil, before the war, was determined to be about twenty dollars, irrespective of school house repairs, and five per centum was allowed for probable increase.

The appropriation for the support of school during the past session was $240,000.

The common council has continued for the remainder of the present fiscal year the same appropriation of $20,000 per month.

This appropriation has, perhaps, been made without sufficient reference to the number of children taught in the schools, and the condition of the school houses, many of which are in bad order and require extensive repairs.

The future welfare, influence and prosperity of New Orleans depend, in a great measure upon the mental and moral training of the children in our midst.

Our system of education should be established upon such a broad and liberal basis as to secure the respect and admiration of the learned at home and abroad. The great city has a glorious future if the thinkers and workers of our generation do their duty. Metropolitan in commerce, it should be metropolitan in education, boasting alike of the enchantment of art and the power of science.

Again congratulating you on your reassembling, again expressing my wish to co-operate with you, and with the earnest hope that, under an approving Providence, we may work together with such harmony of feeling and singleness of purpose as will prove beneficial to the corporation and to the good people of the city.

I am gentlemen, very respectfully,

JOHN T. MONROE, Mayor.

A motion was made by Mr. Clark that the message be laid over until the next meeting. Withdrawn. A motion was then made that it be referred to the finance committee, and that upon streets and landings.

A communication was read from the assistant board, stating that they had appointed a committee of two, and requesting this board to appoint one, in having two thousand copies of the mayor's message printed.

Moved by Alderman Clark, that the communication be returned to the Assistant Board as informal. Passed.

The following resolution was introduced by Alderman Stith:

Resolved, That 1000 copies of the mayor's message be printed for the use of the council.

A report from the city surveyor, Lewis H. Pilié was thorread. Laid upon the table subject to call.

A letter was read from Recorder Ahern, announcing the appointment of Mr. John Tobin, to straighten up the books of his office. Referred to secret session.

A petition from the police force was referred to the finance committee.

It states that "according to the high price of rents, they are unable to support themselves and families at the present rates.

"That in case of sickness there is no allowance made, and that a uniform being now required, there has, for the summer uniform, been $7 25 per month, for three months, deducted in payment of the same. For the winter uniform, amounting to the enormous sum of $54, there is to be $18 per month stopped.

"This amount, taken out of our present salary, leaves $62. Taking out now the time lost by sickness, there is left but a very small amount to support ourselves and families.

"That a case is known of our having contributed towards the paying of the funeral expenses of one of our number who died in the discharge of his duty, and for the relief of his family. We do not know how soon we may be called upon to do the same. This we are willing to do, but cannot out of our present salary without inconvenience to ourselves.

"That the police of the other large cities in this country are allowed $100 per month, in every one of which rents and the necessaries of life are considerably cheaper than they are in this.

"That we would, therefore, respectfully ask your honorable body to grant us an increase of salary, and your petitioners, as in duty bound, respectfully pray, etc."

The petition was signed by a large number of the police force.

A petition from C. F. Thatcher was referred to the finance committee.

Mr. White introduced a resolution offering for sale the contract for making brick sidewalks on Elysian Fields street, from Greatmen to Solidelle street; also, to repair those of said street. Adopted.

Mr. McCloskey offered a resolution to sell to the lowest bidder the contract for paving Julia street, from Rampart to Claiborne; also Delord street, from Rampart to Claiborne, and Rampart street, from Julia to Delord street. Adopted.

An ordinance providing for the sale of the right of way to establish railroads on Claiborne and other streets, was called up and a substitute offered by Mr. Stith for the first paragraph of section 2d.

The board then adjourned to meet next Tuesday night.

BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN.—The first regular meeting of this board, after the summer recess, was held last evening, present: Messrs. Cunningham, Higginbotham, Moore, Montamat, Prados, Prague, Paisley, Kanz, Kranz and Lurges. Mr. Culloch, president, in the chair.

The message of the mayor having been read, two thousand copies were ordered to be printed in pamphlet form.

The treasurer's weekly report, ending on the 28th ult., showed a balance on hand of $21,017 69.

The surveyor made a very lengthy and elaborate report, in relation to matters coming within the supervision of his department, during the recess. The report was referred to the committee on streets and landings.

An equally comprehensive report from the street commissioner was referred to the same committee.

A resolution introduced by Mr. Paisley, to sell a contract for cleaning the sinks and cesspools of the city buildings for one year, was passed and sent to the Board of Aldermen.

A communication was received from the assistant city attorney requesting authority to cancel a judgment, in favor of the city, for taxes on the property of the Mechanics' Association, and a resolution, offered by Mr. Paisley, was passed, authorizing the cancelling of the judgment and remitting the taxes as sued for.

A resolution was received from the Board of Aldermen requesting the mayor to inform the council how many men on the police rolls were employed in his office as specials, how many were exempted from wearing the prescribed uniform, and how many were engaged in private business. The resolution was concurred in.

A resolution, also from the upper board, appropriating five hundred dollars for the relief of the family of the late Corporal Walgamoth, of the police, who died from the effects of exhaustion, produced by his exertions during the riot of the 30th July, and directing all policemen disabled on that day to be continued on the pay rolls, was likewise concurred in.

Some resolutions from this board having been returned by the Board of Aldermen, rejected, a committee of conference in relation thereto was appointed.

A petition from John E. Smith, coal hauler, asking certain facilities between piers 16 and 17 for hauling coal from dats, was referred to the committee on streets and buildings.

A very lengthy memorial from A. Somuels, complaining of the conduct of the sexton of the Lafayette cemetery, James Hagan, in regard to the burial of a child of the memorialist in the cemetery, was, on motion of Mr. Pausley, referred to a special committee.

A petition from D. O. Caufield to be allowed to erect a distillery at the corner of Orange and Tchoupitoulas streets, was referred to the committee on police and health.

A petition from George Pandolly, as superintendent of the Pontchartrain Railroad, asking that the company be allowed to extend their road to the commercial center of the city, to facilitate the trade of merchants doing business on the road, and the traveling public, was referred to the committee on streets and landings.

A petition from J. L. Winter, representing that he had been unjustly deprived of a contract adjudicated to him, was laid on the table.

A petition from Henry McGinn stating that, in relation