

CITY COUNCIL-OFFICIAL BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN Regular Session.

(CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE.)

posed) was forced upon us by the Legislature, but had we then known what experience has since taught us, I am satisfied that we would never have assumed that burden, which has consumed and paralyzed our otherwise certain prosperity.

As a matter of history, on the contrary, it would be more proper to say that at the time the Legislature passed a charter for the city, the Legislature was suffering with banks, and would not willingly have added another to the list, had not the company, under the influence of the Legislature, consented to take upon itself what it now calls the burden of supplying the city of New Orleans with water for its various purposes. It was certainly a fair contract, and one that should have been observed to the letter.

Under the arrangements into which it had entered, the company had attached to its enjoying certain valuable privileges, it is now too late in the day for it to claim compensation for that which constituted the consideration of the contract, which the charter was given. It is fortunate that under that instrument the city is invested with the power, by purchase, of taking the waterworks of the company, a company which, when this great city is clamoring for a plentiful supply of the life-giving element, is disposed, as its President has to express himself, to make no improvement.

This is an age of progress, and beyond a doubt, now that we have the waterworks, it is necessary that we should have a system of waterworks, and to the task of making them a real blessing to the community. To this end, many changes and improvements in the present system will be necessary. New Orleans is, I believe, the only large emporium in our country which has not waterworks of its own, and which, in fact, has to purchase water from other cities, with a noble indifference to cost, and a thorough disregard of obstacles to be overcome, have done so.

She is now free from this serious incumbrance, which has so long prevented her from acting in this important matter with the necessary freedom and independence, or from acting at all. She may now turn to her sister American cities for valuable precedents, and be encouraged by their example.

Let us do so. Nearly ten years transpired before the application of steam power, the waters of the Schuylkill were used for the first time in Philadelphia, and but barely half a century elapsed from their commencement in 1789 till the celebrated Fairmount Waterworks were completed. Those who have visited the city, and have examined the powerful machinery employed to carry up the waters from the Schuylkill, by a highly expeditious ascent, upward of a hundred feet, to the city, will, whence it is distributed by pipes all over the city, have witnessed one of the grandest triumphs of human science, and have achieved over the difficulties imposed by nature. The total cost of all the works, from 1799 to 1852, is said to have been three millions two hundred and fifty-seven thousand eight hundred and ninety-four dollars.

able to obtain them without an adequate remuneration. On the other hand, the office of the Assistant City Attorney is one of legal emolument, and requires little or no legal skill.

By ordinance No. 1861, the City Attorney is made the custodian of the city archives, which he is directed to collect together and regularly arranged and indexed for reference by the city authorities. I regret to be under the necessity of informing you that the archives of the city, which, as they should be, and that the room in which they are stored exhibits evidences of carelessness and want of order and method.

The report of the Chief of Police as to the number of arrests made in the city during the year ending on the 31st of April, 1867, is of a startling character. It would appear from this document that not less than thirty-eight thousand four hundred and twenty-one persons were made for various offenses during that period. The cases of assault and battery are two thousand and seven; of drunkenness, one thousand and eight; of disturbance of the peace, one thousand and fifty; of fighting and disturbing the public order, one thousand and thirty-eight; of larceny, one thousand six hundred and nineteen; of assault with intent to murder, one hundred and thirty; of murder, one hundred and thirty; of robbery, three hundred and sixteen; of vagrancy, one thousand four hundred and sixty-four.

I recently instructed Mr. J. O. Harris to have the records of the city, and to have a list of the names of the persons who have been arrested, and to have a list of the names of the persons who have been committed to the city jail, and to have a list of the names of the persons who have been committed to the city workhouse.

Two liberal donations have been made to the city, one for the purpose of building an Asylum for the Insane, and the other for the purpose of building a new street. The first donation was made by the late John D. Fluk; the other for the erection of an almshouse, by the late Judah Toano. No steps have yet been taken in regard to either of these donations.

By ordinance No. 56, new series, it was contemplated to break up the Insane Asylum in the Third District, two years ago, and to have the building used as a school. It is regretted that the ordinance was not carried out, and that the building is still in the hands of the Insane Asylum.

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to be extinguished, and become the property of the city, as provided for in the original charter of the company—its only good feature.

The experience of New York, London, and other large cities, which have been the value of an intelligent and judicious use of disinfectants more especially of carbolic acid, at that time but little known in this country, has been the subject of much professional use. Many members of the medical profession were skeptical as to its usefulness as a disinfectant were afterwards convinced, and are now warm advocates for its general use.

When the epidemic broke out, the large number of uncleanly persons in the city, and the want of proper sanitary arrangements, were the cause of the disease. Among its victims were many who were too poor to pay a doctor and without friends to bury them in case of death. Upon the subject of the cholera, the City of New Orleans has been very fortunate in having the aid of the City of New York, which has sent a large number of its medical officers with full powers to prevent that extensive application of carbolic acid, which I am sure would have been of great benefit to the city.

In spite of the repeated assertions of a few persons, who are ignorant of the facts, that no well-informed person believes that you can with safety to the public health permit so many millions of square feet of ground to be covered with filth, and exposed to the despoiling influence of sun and air as are contained in the many drains of the city.

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Post No. 30, to 35, third district, inclusive, and Post No. 36, third district, inclusive, and a tendency to slide in the river. In fact, the whole of this wharf was in a wretched condition. The same was stripped, rebuilt, and placed in good order.

The fourth district wharves have all been repaired and made available for the accommodation of vessels, with the exception of one or two wharves, which are in a decayed state, and are now in need of repair. It is estimated that the cost of repairing the wharves in the fourth district will be about \$200,000.

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All of the markets have been placed in good order, and the necessary repairs made. The markets are now in a state of repair, and are now in good order.

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