

New Orleans Republican OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES CITY COUNCIL—OFFICIAL

REGULAR MEETING.

CITY HALL, NEW ORLEANS, January 5, 1871.

The Council met in regular session at 7 P. M., Mayor Flanders presiding.

Present: Administrators J. R. West (Improvements), Alfred Shaw (Accounts), L. T. Delasalle (Public Buildings), James Lewis (Police), J. S. Walton (Finance), and H. Bonzano (Assessments).

Mr. H. Bonzano handed in his credentials as Administrator of Assessments (re-elected), which were examined by Messrs. Shaw and Delasalle.

Reported correct and ordered to be filed. Resignation of the Administrator of Commerce.

The Mayor laid before the Council the following copy of a letter received from the Governor:

(Copy.) STATE OF LOUISIANA, Executive Department, New Orleans, January 3, 1871. Sir—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your resignation of the office of Administrator of Commerce of the city of New Orleans, and to advise you of his acceptance of the same.

He desires that you make an immediate statement of your accounts in connection with the office, and that you cause to be prepared and attested the appurtenances thereof to His Honor the Mayor of the city of New Orleans.

Very respectfully, O. B. BRAGDON, Private Secretary.

Ben. S. C. Emley, Administrator of Commerce, New Orleans, Louisiana.

The communication was ordered to be spread upon the minutes.

The Mayor appointed Mr. Walton Administrator of Commerce ad interim.

Monthly Reports. By Mr. Bonzano: Report from the Department of Assessments for the month of December, 1870.

Ben. Benj. F. Flanders, Mayor: The arduous and responsible task of preparing assessment rolls, which are to stand as the basis of taxation for the next hundred and seventy, having been brought to a successful close, the cares of the office have become lighter, and the employees have found ample time to follow the ordinary business routine of the office, as usual.

In the course of the month some further attention has been bestowed on the license ordinance for 1871, with a view of giving due consideration to all objections raised, and in order to impart to the features and finishing touches timely with the close of the year.

Various tax petitions have also undergone consideration, and reports thereon have been made to the Council.

A comparison between the State and city assessments has been instituted, and is now in progress, and it may come to light as the result of the investigation that the city furnish more food for reflection than for mere idle curiosity.

To relate to you in this report the minor details of the work done in the office this month would be tedious, yet the report is important enough, perhaps, to deserve your personal inspection; a visit, at all events, from your honor, after the completion of their important labors, and at this reasonable period of the year, would much gratify the officers in this employ.

This department is thoroughly in sympathy with your honor on the score of economy, in so far as the same may be attainable at any expense short of efficiency, honesty and public tranquility.

The Department has studied with interest and care your late annual message, and has applied the same to the various departments of the Department of Public Accounts, as well as the persistency of the Department of Finance in opposing all avoidable expenditures.

This Department has not been so fortunate as to attract public attention in this wise, but would respectfully answer, in echo, that retrenchments to the extent of eight hundred dollars per month have been effected of late.

H. BONZANO, Administrator.

The following report was handed in from Mr. Emley:

Ben. B. F. Flanders, Mayor: In making this my monthly report, I shall presume to offer some general remarks. In apportioning the administration of the city government to the several departments, it could not be known to the lawmakers exactly how to parcel out in the best manner the various services of the city. Experience alone could properly adjust the limitations of the departments to the actual requirements, however, in their nature, have well defined duties. Four, by the terms of the city charter, are dependent upon the Council, inasmuch as for a prescription of their functions and duties.

Six of the departments relate exclusively to matters within the city limits. One of the departments—the Department of Commerce—in its relations to the commercial interests of the city, may and must have relation to matters reaching beyond the limits of the city. Through this department, it seems to me, the city should connect with all matters calculated to foster and promote the commercial prosperity of the city. Commerce, being peculiarly the life-blood of New Orleans, demands the most careful attention. The Department of Commerce, in the exercise of all its legitimate functions, should be second in importance to no department in the city government.

Respecting the public markets of the city, I have the honor to inform that the revenues thereof, hitherto so important a source of income to the city, are likely to be much damaged in their efficiency and in their revenues by the existence of private markets throughout the city. In my opinion, in this climate and in this city, fresh meats should be sold only in the public markets, where sanitary regulations can be properly enforced, and where a proper inspection of the provisions offered for sale can be had. Inasmuch as our city is well furnished with public market-houses, I respectfully suggest that it would be expedient to ask the Legislature to limit the establishment and use of private markets only when in the charge of one department.

The sale of the revenues of the markets for 1871 has been postponed by order of the Council for one month. Many of the lessees have kept their markets for January at the rates paid the last year, as provided for by the resolution of the Council.

RAILROADS. It is gratifying to note an increased and increasing railroad facilities. It is, however, to be regretted that the revenues of our river commerce is so seriously interfered with by the traversing and occupation of so large a part of our levee by the lines of road and depots of two of our railroad companies.

CANALS. Our canals for commerce in the city are under lease, and require no further notice in this report. The Lake Borgne canal, ten miles below the city, approaching completion, will doubtless prove to be a valuable avenue for commerce to this city. A ship canal of sufficient capacity to carry the heaviest shipping in the world, to connect deep river water near Fort St. Philip, with deep gulf water near Breton Island, as proposed, would, in my judgment, be a work of the very highest importance to the commerce of New Orleans. The project of the Mississippi and Gulf Canal, beyond what is needed for local consumption, will only come here to find ocean transit to other markets. Hence, to retain our commerce, must afford a reliable harbor for the heaviest vessels. Such an entrance, it is

thought, can not be had in crossing the delta at the mouth of the river. One lumber bar at the mouth of the river, there was found on the bar, at the mouth of the Mississippi, a natural depth of water of twenty-five feet. Fifty years later twenty feet. Now, but forty feet. As the delta of the river is carried seaward by the alluvial deposits—which has been at the rate of about one mile in fifteen years—the depth of water on the delta diminishes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT. There is perhaps no city in the Union favored with a more efficient Fire Department—working upon the same system—than New Orleans. The city has a contract with the Firemen's Charitable Association of New Orleans, a reader of the report of the various districts of the city, for the consideration of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars per year. This contract will terminate in November, 1871. The Fifth and Sixth Districts have various applications before the Council for aid in the purchase of fire machinery and repairs, and the Firemen's Charitable Association of the Sixth District ask the Council for an appropriation of one thousand dollars for the maintenance of their service for the year 1871.

MANUFACTORIES. Our remoteness from fuel, and being without water power, will always limit our manufacturing industry. The manufacture of cotton seed oil, however, must necessarily become a heavy manufacturing interest in this city. Already it is becoming an important product. The amount from the cotton which comes to this market amounts to over seven hundred thousand tons, capable of producing oil and oil cake worth over twenty millions of dollars. Its industrial growth employs over two hundred millions of capital, and over three thousand laborers and mechanics.

S. C. EMLEY, Administrator.

Mr. Walton presented the Treasurer's monthly statement, as follows, remarking that of the balance of a hundred and sixty-three thousand dollars in hand, a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars was in Metropolitan Police warrants:

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR OF FINANCE FOR MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1870.

Table with columns for various financial items and their amounts, including 'To balance from November 30, 1870', 'Bills collected', 'City tax', etc.

RECORDS OF THE CITY COUNCIL.

First District—Crescent City Ice Company, December, 1870.

Second District—John W. Madden, blanks, December, 1870.

Third District—John W. Madden, blanks, December, 1870.

Fourth District—John W. Madden, blanks, December, 1870.

PARISH PRISON. J. Frederick, medicines, 77 50—77 50.

BURIED INDIGENT DEAD AND CONVEYED SICK TO HOSPITAL, ETC. L. Guillard, burying indigent dead in Fifth District, 30 00—30 00.

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New Orleans, No. 24,813, Fourth District Court. Be it ordained, That the Administrator of Public Accounts warrant on the Administrator of Finance of C. S. Sawin, Sheriff, for the sum of fifteen hundred and thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents (\$1503 33), in full satisfaction of a writ of seizure and sale issued by the Fourth District Court of Orleans, in suit of Arthur Olivier, agent of Mrs. Charles G. Olivier, vs. city of New Orleans, No. 24,813 of the docket of said court.

Read twice, and referred to the Mayor, with power to act.

By Mr. Shaw: An ordinance appropriating money to defray the expenditures of the Department of Commerce for the month of December, 1870.

Be it ordained, That the following sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are hereby appropriated to defray the expenditures of the Department of Commerce for the month of December, 1870, and that the Administrator of Public Accounts draw his warrants on the Administrator of Finance in payment of the same:

Table listing expenditures for the Department of Commerce, including 'Exp. of the Bureau of City Drainage', 'Exp. of the Bureau of City Drainage', etc.

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