[illegible] UNITED STATES
[illegible] OF NEW ORLEANS

## COUNCIL—OFFICIAL.

[illegible] MEETING.

City Hall,
New Orleans, April 18, 1871.

[illegible] met in regular session this [illegible] o'clock, Hon. B. F. Flanagan presiding.

The roll call there were present Ad[illegible] Alfred Shaw (Accounts), F. C. [illegible] (Commerce), James Lewis (Police), [illegible] (Finance), and H. Bonzano [illegible].

[illegible] and Resolutions.

[illegible] Walton:

Department of Finance,
April 18, 1871.

[illegible] Council of New Orleans:

[illegible] with the Mayor and [illegible] of Public Accounts, I joined [illegible] Bank in a settlement with [illegible] for thirty-seven and a [illegible] cents on the dollar, which [illegible] hundred and twenty-eight [illegible] thirty-four cents, received in [illegible] balance of sixteen hundred and [illegible] dollars and fifty-eight cents due [illegible]

[illegible] to request the adoption [illegible] resolution.

JOHN S. WALTON,
Administrator.

[illegible] That the Administrator of Pub[illegible] is hereby authorized to issue a [illegible] to the Administrator of [illegible] the sum of $628 34, in full set[illegible] note of Hart, Lichtenstein upon [illegible] is a balance due of $1675 58.

[illegible] said among the appropriations [illegible] last meeting was one of $6500 [illegible] purchase of a fire engine for Pelican [illegible] of Algiers, upon which the [illegible] were not called. He now [illegible] a vote be taken.

[illegible] Delassize (Waterworks [illegible] Buildings) entered the Council.

[illegible] asked to be excused from [illegible]

[illegible] objected to excuse the Ad[illegible]. He desired to know his views [illegible].

[illegible] remarked that the Adminis[illegible] had given his views pre[illegible].

[illegible] asked to be excused from [illegible]

[illegible] Council declined to excuse the Ad[illegible].

[illegible] and Mr. Walton voted nay [illegible] Lewis, Remick, Delassize and [illegible] Cockrem (Improvements) [illegible] Council.]

[illegible]:

[illegible] The proper legal time having [illegible] an objection having been [illegible] petition having been pub[illegible] official journal for and during [illegible] prescribed by law; therefore, be it [illegible] that the Administrator of Im[illegible] and he is hereby authorized [illegible] to advertise for proposals to [illegible] banquettes on the northeast [illegible] street, from Franklin to [illegible], in accordance with re[illegible].

[illegible] was adopted, but a peti[illegible] subsequently found on the secre[illegible] the matter was temporarily [illegible].

[illegible]:

[illegible] That the Administrator of Im[illegible] be and is hereby authorized [illegible] to advertise for proposals for [illegible] bank shells and five [illegible] oyster shells.

[illegible] and laid over.

Petitions.

[illegible] tax petition of B. Florance [illegible] to the Mayor.

[illegible] petition of J. F. Worley was re[illegible] the Administrator of Commerce, [illegible] a wharf petition of P. and R. [illegible].

[illegible] of Dr. A. B. Wefelsburg for ser[illegible] John Anderson and John [illegible] in a political riot October [illegible] referred to the Administrator [illegible].

[illegible] fee petition of Mrs. E. Murphy [illegible] to the Administrator of Police.

[illegible] of Patrick McNamara against the [illegible] estate was referred to the Mc[illegible] Commissioners.

[illegible] petition of Pacific and Atlantic Tele[illegible] Company for permission to erect tel[illegible] was referred to the Adminis[illegible] Commerce.

[illegible] of J. B. Sorapuru, for $1000 [illegible], was referred to the Adminis[illegible] Public Accounts.

[illegible] petition of Peter Marcy [illegible] to the Administrator of Com[illegible].

[illegible] of Patrick McNamara for $2500 [illegible] against the McDonogh estate, [illegible] to the McDonogh commis[illegible].

[illegible] petition of Leland University, for re[illegible] of tax, was referred to the Admin[illegible] of Finance.

[illegible] of Mrs. M. Courtade, for a free [illegible] was referred to the Mayor, as was [illegible] similar petition of Mrs. P. Hop[illegible].

[illegible] of residents of Adele street, [illegible] of nuisance, was referred to [illegible] Administrator of Police.

[illegible] petition of Mrs. G. de Feriet was [illegible] the Administrator of Finance.

[illegible] the Opera Association, for [illegible] of abatement, was referred to [illegible] Administrator of Assessments.

[illegible] of J. B. Livaudais, to lease [illegible] magazine lot, was referred to [illegible].

[illegible]—The Mexican Gulf Canal.

[illegible] said: A couple of weeks ago I [illegible] ordinance to provide for the more [illegible] drainage of the city of New Or[illegible] passed a second reading. I [illegible] an amendment to that in the form [illegible] ordinance, which I have had [illegible], and have furnished the Admin[illegible] the Mayor with copies, as also [illegible]. On this amended ordinance I [illegible] to ask the action of the Council to-[illegible] I propose that the Secretary now [illegible] by title.

[illegible] Mayor: A few minutes ago I received [illegible] communication on this sub[illegible] which I will ask the Secretary to read:

[illegible] New Orleans Dredging Company,
No. 120 Carondelet street,
New Orleans, April 18, 1871.

[illegible] Mayor and Board of Admini[illegible] of the city of New Orleans:

[illegible]—By a resolution of the [illegible] of this company I am ordered to [illegible] that it is ready (and now offers) [illegible] the work of excavating, etc., [illegible] may be directed by the [illegible] Administrators, and will take, at [illegible] proposed to be issued by [illegible] this week, at the price named in [illegible].

G. W. SHEPPARD,
[illegible], New Orleans Dredging [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible] Mr. Shaw was read by title. Its full text was as follows:

An ordinance to provide for the more efficient drainage of the city of New Orleans and environs and their protection from inundation.

WHEREAS, By the provisions of act No. 30 of the session of 1871 of the Legislature of Louisiana, it is made mandatory upon the Council of the city of New Orleans to provide, on the part of the city, for an extensive system of drainage, to lay out the lines, and fix the location and dimensions of certain canals and levees, and in various ways to recognize the claims and accounts of, and to make settlements with the Mississippi and Mexican Gulf Canal Company in performing the excavation of such canals, and the building of levees; and,

Whereas, The Council of the city deems certain portions of said bill to put in question the right of the city to the proper control of its drainage system and its right voluntarily to contract for the work, and agree upon a price for the same, and does not recognize the validity or constitutionality of the said act in certain of its parts; yet convinced of the importance of an effective drainage system, of the desire of the public for its accomplishment without further delay, and satisfied of the capacity and readiness of the said company to perform the work required by the city, it is deemed proper by the Council aforesaid to ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the Council of the city of New Orleans, That all matters appertaining to drainage and the protection of the city from inundation be placed under the immediate charge of the Administrator of Improvements, aided by the City Surveyor.

SEC. 2. Be it further ordained, etc., That the Mayor and Administrator of Finance shall be associated with the Administrator of Improvements as a standing Committee on Drainage, to act until the further pleasure of the Council. It shall be the duty of said committee to prepare a plan of work to be entered upon immediately, and to report to the Council, at its first meeting after the adoption of this ordinance, what canals and levees, or extensions of present canals and levees are most urgently required; and upon the approval of the same by the Council, the Administrator of Improvements shall authorize the Mississippi and Mexican Gulf Canal Company to enter upon the performance of the said work under his direction.

SEC. 3. Be it further ordained, etc., That the city expressly declares and notifies the Mississippi and Mexican Gulf Canal Company that it does not waive its right freely to contract for the work of excavating the canals and erecting the levees required, with the said company, or any other party, as may hereafter appear to the best advantage of the city; and that the directing or allowing the said company to enter upon and perform any portion of the said work laid down is not to be considered as implying their exclusive right to its performance and completion, or to continuing the same further or otherwise than during the pleasure of the Council. The said company is further notified that such work, and no other, as shall be performed with the consent and approval of the Council, will be settled for as hereinafter provided.

1. The surveyor shall measure and certify the dimensions of all the canals and levees now existing along the line of the works entered upon, so far as the same may form part of the canals and levees to be constructed; the same to be allowed for by the company in deduction of their measurements of work performed and completed.

2. The canal work to be measured and certified monthly; the levee work also to be measured and certified monthly so far as the same shall have been shaped and completed, and sufficiently dried for the passage thereon of vehicles, it being the intention hereof that the levees shall have the full dimensions required after being dried and ready for use; and all payments shall be based upon measurements made of them in that condition.

3. The earth removed from the canals, and not required for levees, shall be the property of the city, and disposed of as the city may deem proper.

4. The city will issue warrants for the payment of the work, as required by the act of the Legislature, and in case of the non-realization or non-collection of assets provided for therein, the same to bear eight per cent per annum interest; the said warrants to be issued with the understanding, to be inscribed therein or indorsed thereon, that they shall not be enforceable by suit and judgment, but if not paid within one year out of the proceeds of the drainage tax and assets, they shall be fundable in bonds of the city, bearing eight per cent interest, payable semi-annually, having ten years to run, and with due provision for retiring the same, and securing the punctual payment of interest and gradual extinction of the principal. The city shall have power to sell said bonds or give the same in payment of the work performed; but no sale or exchange shall be made at a price less than eighty cents on the dollar, exclusive of interest; and any holder of a fundable warrant, after thirty days' notice, if not paid in money, may demand bonds for the same at eighty cents on the dollar.

5. The payments, certificates and warrants issued to the said company shall be based upon and computed according to the measurements made as aforesaid.

SEC. 4. Be it further ordained, etc., That the city expressly reserves the right, at any time hereafter, to contest, at law or otherwise, the constitutionality or validity of act No. 30 of the legislative session of 1871, or any portion thereof, and notifies the Mississippi and Mexican Gulf Canal Company accordingly.

Mr. Walton offered the following amendments:

Amend by substituting the following for section four of the ordinance, and changing the present section four to section five:

SEC. 4. Be it further ordained, etc., That nothing in this ordinance relating to canals and levees shall be so construed as to imply that the earth taken from a canal and placed upon its banks shall constitute a levee, but only such deposits as the committee may decide to be necessary for levee purposes shall be paid for.

Mr. Shaw accepted the amendment, and called for the yeas and nays on the ordinance as amended.

The Mayor: You do not desire the reading of the ordinance, but the vote by yeas and nays?

Mr. Shaw: I am perfectly willing it should be read, but I did not call for it as I did not believe the Council wanted it.

Mr. Bonzano said he did not believe there was any harm in having the ordinance read.

The Mayor: If there is nobody who wishes to have it read there is no necessity for it.

Mr. Shaw: Yesterday morning every member of the Council was served with a copy of this ordinance for the purpose of considering it. If any member desired it read, I should move it myself. Does the Administrator of Assessments desire to have it read?

Mr. Bonzano: Yes, sir.

The ordinance was read down to the end of section two, when Mr. Bonzano moved that the further reading be dispensed with.

Mr. Shaw seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Mayor said he would ask the privilege, after the vote was taken, to express his opinion upon the matter.

Mr. Bonzano remarked that he would rather hear the Mayor's opinion now.

The Mayor said all the Administrators were acquainted with his views on the subject, but he desired the privilege of making a brief explanation afterward, so that it might go on record with the vote.

The roll was called.

Yeas: Bonzano, Shaw, Remick and Cockrem—4.

[illegible] believe the council is in favor of retrenchment and economy, to vote no.

Mr. Delassize: I vote yes because it is the law, and we can not avoid it.

The Mayor: A majority of the Council having voted for this ordinance, I will now avail myself of the privilege given me. What I wish to say is that I consider this drainage bill the most infamous scheme of the many infamies of the Legislature—more infamous than the Ship Island bill, though that was bad enough, and that I look upon the ordinance just carried as the most unfortunate act the Council could pass.

Mr. Bonzano: I supposed that as long as the chairman——

The Mayor: It was acquiesced in that I should say this much; I do not want to discuss the question.

Mr. Bonzano: But I don't want to be switched off in this way. I was about to say that I asked for the reading of the ordinance, and particularly referred to section two:

Be it further ordained, etc., That the Mayor and Administrator of Finance shall be associated with the Administrator of Improvements as a standing Committee on Drainage, to act until the further pleasure of the Council. It shall be the duty of said committee to prepare a plan of work to be entered upon immediately, and to report to the Council, at its first meeting after the adoption of this ordinance, what canals and levees or extensions of present canals and levees are most urgently required.

This suits me exactly. I believe this act of the Legislature is somewhat binding. I don't know but at the next meeting of the Legislature they may turn us all out of office.

The Mayor: Very good; but they have not the right to pass such a bill.

Mr. Bonzano: But I don't want to be turned out. The section I have just referred to virtually gives all power of ordering the work to two officers of the government who have always paraded their desire for economy, while the rest of us have always been put down as spendthrifts.

Mr. Lewis: I have voted no for this reason: I think we have acted hastily. I do not propose to give my vote for any company when others propose to do the work for forty per cent less. If this work can be done I think it will be a great advantage to the city, but I think sufficient delay should be granted to ascertain in what way it can be done the cheapest.

The Mayor: Will the Administrator excuse me. This discussion is irregular, unless there is some motion before the Council.

Mr. Shaw: I move it be allowed.

Mr. Lewis: If by adopting this resolution we could place to work two or three companies and stop the Mexican Gulf Company at any time when their continuance was found to be a disadvantage, I might be in favor of it, but so long as propositions are coming in proposing to do this work at prices twenty to forty per cent less, I can not reasonably vote to give it to the Mexican Gulf Canal Company, the Legislature notwithstanding.

Mr. Bonzano: I would like to recall the word "parade" I made use of a little while ago. I simply meant the two officers of the city government who had been foremost in their advocacy of economy. The Administrator of Finance has called my attention to the impropriety of the word.

### Appropriations, etc.

Mr. Walton stated that certain bills of Hasam & Pooley, William Henry, etc., objected to by him last week and laid over, were objected to under a wrong impression. He, therefore, desired they should be recalled to their places.

The bills were called up and severally passed by a unanimous vote, the amounts being as follows: Hasam & Pooley, lumber, $47 15, $461 80, $398 84, $491 77, $439 85, $401 67, $196 75, $317 12, $199 80, $69 37, $196 12, $73 42, $310 85, $7 62; Field & Bell, coal, $150, $232 50, $225, $300; William Henry, shells, ballast and hauling, $151 75, $461 40, $40, $139, $348 75, $290 25; Lawrence Duffy, iron work, $245 80, $285 20, $88 20, $62 30; Samuels & Oliver, lumber, $686 85, $221 09.

Claims of Chapsky & Teetzel, $6 50; M. Benner, $609; J. H. Peters, $4; New Orleans Republican, $72, $32, $72; Christian & Hyatt, $30; C. S. Sauvinet, $20 36, $1461 55, $73 07; P. Creagh, $50, and P. & R. De Verges, $4940 41, were passed, and a claim of Dr. B. A. Clements, $50, was rejected.

An ordinance allowing the Jefferson Fire Department the same appropriation for January and February, 1871, as already granted them for March, was passed.

The ordinance placing the McDonogh and Fink fund claims under ordinance 197, passed to a second reading last week, was finally passed.

By Mr. Shaw:

An ordinance to provide for the payment of the several accounts therein named.

Be it ordained that the following appropriations be and are hereby made and that the Administrator of Public Accounts warrant on the Administrator of Finance in payment of the same:

New Orleans Republican Printing Company, for one year's subscription to daily paper, from July 10, 1870, approved by Administrator of Police, $16.

Julius Loeffler, repairs on public schools in 1870, as per pay rolls, approved, $8 10.

William Hyer, balance of warrant issued by the parish commissioners, parish of Jefferson, to W. Schwab, for clothing, etc., $8 68.

New Orleans Republican Printing Company, for printing slips, resolutions, meetings, calendars, etc., for the month of March, 1871, $343 40.

For printing ordinances from No. 742 to 787, for the month of March, 1871, $217.

For printing semi-annual report of the Department of Public Accounts, rule and figure work, $626 35.

John W. Madden, for printing and binding tax registers and indexes, Department of Public Accounts, $105.

Bureau of Streets, for cart hire and labor for half the month ending April 15, 1871, approved by the Administrator of Improvements, $5985 85.

C. A. Miltenberger, for 400 barrels of coal for Waterworks, $300; for 461 barrels of coal delivered to Waterworks, approved by the Administrator of Waterworks and Public Buildings, $346 25.

C. S. Sauvinet, for transportation of Gerald Fitzsimmons and mileage of Sheriff, approved by L. Duvigneaud, Judge of the Second District Court, $46 50.

German Gazette, advertising notice to taxpayers, approved by the Administrator of Finance, $18.

New Orleans Republican Printing Company, advertising notice to taxpayers, approved by the Administrator of Finance, $22.

Antz & Bohne, license plates, approved by the Administrator of Finance, $67 50.

Read twice and laid over.

By Mr. Shaw:

An ordinance to provide for the settlement of accounts therein named.

Be it ordained, That the Administrator of [illegible]

By Mr. Shaw:

An ordinance to provide for the settlement of accounts therein named.

Be it ordained, That the Administrator of Public Accounts be and is hereby authorized to settle with the holders of the following claims, at the option of said holders, by the issue of certificates under ordinance No. 197, Administration series:

Joseph Hernandez, warrant No. 436 of the police jury, parish of Orleans, favor of J. Ouhfrass, $25.

Warrant No. 450 of the police jury, parish of Orleans, favor of Thomas Kennetic, $59.

Warrant No. 443 of the police jury, parish of Orleans, right bank, favor of James J. Tiner, $50.

Adopted.

### Referred and Deferred Business.

By Mr. Lewis:

Department of Police,
April 18, 1871.

To the City Council of New Orleans:

On the petition of J. H. Maginnis for the return of $29, exacted from him for release bonds of his drivers, and for pound charges on his teams, irregularly arrested and impounded for alleged violation of article 1247, revised city laws and ordinances, I have the honor to report favorably, and recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolution:

*Resolved*, That the Administrator of Public Accounts be hereby authorized to warrant on the Department of Finance in favor of J. H. Maginnis for the sum of $29, being in full of all demands against the city for bonds, pound charges, etc., exacted from him on the twenty-fifth day of March, 1871, for alleged violation of article 1247, revised city laws and ordinances.

JAMES LEWIS, Administrator.

Adopted.

By Mr. Remick:

Department of Commerce,
April 18, 1871.

To the City Council of New Orleans:

The undersigned, to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Walker for permission to erect a steam engine, having examined the matter, respectfully recommends the passage of the following resolution.

F. C. REMICK, Administrator.

*Resolved*, That permission is hereby granted to Joseph Walker to erect and operate a steam engine at a building now being erected at the corner of Foucher and St. Joseph streets, for the purpose of manufacturing machinery.

Mr. Bonzano expressed an opinion that this petition should only be granted subject to the revocation of the Council.

Mr. Remick said he did not think it was necessary to put in the proviso. There was no moneyed consideration given, consequently the party would have no action for damages if the permit were revoked at any time. This place was immediately adjoining Leed's foundry, and consequently the erection of another steam engine would make very little difference there.

Mr. Walton said, for the information of the Administrator, he would state it was not so easy to remove a nuisance once established, as he supposed. Near where he formerly resided there was an intolerable nuisance, which to-day was a greater nuisance than ever it was, yet it could not be removed. There was no harm in the proviso proposed.

Mr. Remick assented that there was no harm, and accepted the amendment.

As amended the resolution was adopted.

By Mr. Remick:

Department of Commerce,
April 18, 1871.

To the City Council of New Orleans:

The petition of Jules Delery having been referred to and the case examined by me, I respectfully recommend the passage of the following resolution.

F. C. REMICK, Administrator.

*Resolved*, That permission is hereby granted to Jules Delery to erect and operate a steam engine at his premises, No. 34 Elysian Fields street, between Moreau and Victory streets, for the purpose of ginning cotton.

Adopted, with a similar amendment making the permit revocable at the pleasure of the Council.

By Mr. Remick:

Department of Commerce,
April 18, 1871.

To the City Council of New Orleans:

I have examined into the matter of the accompanying petition of the Louisiana Paper Manufacturing Company, and respectfully recommend the passage of the following resolution.

F. C. REMICK, Administrator.

*Resolved*, That permission is hereby granted to the Louisiana Paper Manufacturing Company to erect and operate a steam engine at the building known as the Blakely Marble Works, on the square bounded by Girod, Liberty, Julia and Franklin streets, for the purpose of Manufacturing paper; and, under the direction of the City Surveyor, to alter said building and run a pipe therefrom to the new canal for the purpose of supplying water to said paper mill.

Adopted, with an amendment similar to that introduced into the two preceding resolutions.

### Organization of the Department of Commerce—Retrenchment.

Mr. Remick called up the ordinance organizing the Department of Commerce, passed to second reading last meeting, which was as follows:

An ordinance to organize the Department of Commerce.

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the Council of the city of New Orleans, That the Department of Commerce is hereby organized, and shall consist of:

One Administrator.

One secretary, with an annual salary not exceeding $2000.

One clerk, with an annual salary not exceeding $1500.

One messenger, with an annual salary not exceeding $600.

One superintendent of wharfingers, with an annual salary not exceeding $2500.

One wharfinger for the First District, with an annual salary not exceeding $1800.

One wharfinger of the Second District, with an annual salary not exceeding $1800.

One wharfinger for the Third District, with an annual salary not exceeding $1800.

One wharfinger for the Fourth District, with an annual salary not exceeding $1800.

Four deputy wharfingers, one for each division, with an annual salary not exceeding $1200 each.

Four acting deputy wharfingers, one for each district, at an annual salary not exceeding $1000 each.

Two laborers, with monthly salary of $60 each.

Two laborers, with monthly salary of $50 each.

One laborer, with monthly salary of $52 50.

One superintendent of market inspectors, with an annual salary not exceeding $1800.

Twelve inspectors of markets, with an annual salary not exceeding $1200 each.

One superintendent of fire department, at an annual salary not exceeding $1800.

SEC. 2. Be it further ordained, etc., That the Administrator of the Department of Commerce shall define the duties of the foregoing officers and shall have the power, under direction of the Council, to transfer the officers in his department from one position to another, as he may think such transfer will be for the best interest of the city.

SEC. 3. Be it further ordained, etc., That the wharfingers shall be ex-officio collectors of levee duties, and in that capacity shall discharge all the duties of collectors of levee dues, and be solely responsible for the collection and payment of the same to the Administrator of Finance, and that no deputy wharfinger shall in any manner assist or interfere with the wharfingers in the discharge of this duty, or of all [illegible]

[illegible] in section four "upon pay rolls to be prepared by the Administrator thereof," as there was a general ordinance prescribing how pay rolls were to be made out.

Mr. Remick accepted the amendment.

Mr. Cockrem called for the yeas and nays on the adoption of the ordinance.

The Mayor took the floor, and called Administrator Lewis to the chair.

Mr. Walton said: I was in hopes this ordinance would have been called up in private consultation. I want to amend that section of it which provides that the wharfingers shall be ex-officio collectors of levee dues. The collection of the revenues of the city belongs to my department according to the charter. In reference to General West, when this Administration first came into existence, I made a compromise with him, and we agreed that the wharfingers should act in the double capacity of wharfingers and levee dues collectors. Not wishing to interfere with that arrangement, and in deference to the superior administrative abilities of General West, I have let the thing go on, although I have long been satisfied it was not a proper arrangement. Now, when the Department of Commerce comes up for reorganization, I must claim my rights to have my collectors under my own control.

Mr. Shaw: This was a usage entered into last year. I think it has the advantage of saving extra appointments.

Mr. Bonzano moved that the ordinance be laid over.

Mr. Shaw: I do not think it is necessary that the ordinance should be laid over. The object of this combination last year was to save the appointment of a double set of officers. The Administrator of Finance now claims the right of appointing the collectors himself, and the question thus becomes a pure question of economy. There certainly must be wharfingers, whether there are special collectors or not. Now is a very fair opportunity, in my opinion, of carrying into effect that policy of retrenchment which all the members of the administration are so anxious to carry out.

Mr. Walton: It seems to me the word "retrenchment" is entirely out of place in connection with this ordinance. I claim that the collection of the revenues of the city is in my department. Anybody who knows anything about the duty of a wharfinger knows he cannot be a wharfinger and collect revenues at the same time. This ordinance provides for twelve wharfingers. Under the old city government, which was universally denounced as extravagant, there were only six. It provides for superintendents of wharfingers, superintendents of fire department, inspectors of markets, and a number of officers entirely useless, as I have demonstrated. The Administrator of Commerce has been some weeks examining into this subject, and he probably has come to the conclusion that these officers are necessary. I don't pretend to set up my judgment against that of the Council, but I do insist on my right to appoint the collectors of levee dues.

Mr. Remick: I expected opposition from this quarter from the very fact that there has always been opposition from that quarter to the department over which I have the honor to preside, if I have correctly read the journal of the proceedings of the Council. When I was appointed Administrator of Commerce my first object was to get an office in which I could have my headquarters. When a proposition was made to the City Attorney to vacate the room formerly occupied by the Administrator of Commerce, now occupied by him, he willingly acceded to my request, but a cry of "extravagance!" was at once raised—"it would cost a thousand dollars to effect the change." That change has been made; the City Attorney occupies elegant rooms up stairs, with which he is entirely satisfied, and the cost was something like a hundred and fifty dollars. As to the matter of extravagance in my organization, let me say it is the same organization, so far as the wharfingers are concerned, as General West had—no more and no less. I propose to collect the wharfage dues in the same way with no more employes and no less. If I am correctly informed, I have statistics to show that the running under the new regime was some thousands of dollars cheaper than under the old regime, on account of the per centage then allowed—some six or eight thousand dollars less. Not only has this new system been a saving in the expense of running the office, but it has brought something like a hundred thousand dollars more into the city treasury, so that the argument is decidedly in favor of running the wharves on the plan adopted by the Administrator of Improvements. So far as regards the Administrator of Finance claiming the collection of levee dues, I say this, that under the charter I have the "superintendence" of all matters on the wharves and he has only the "regulation" of them. If there is any extortion practiced the parties will come to me because I have the superintendence. The charter says the Administrator of Finance may regulate the collections. So he may. He may prescribe that money shall be received instead of checks; or that specie shall be received instead of greenbacks, but that he shall strip me of the powers conferred upon me by the charter I do not propose that he should do it. As far as the matter of the inspection of the markets is concerned I have this to say: The Administrator of Finance says he administered the markets successfully without inspectors, having dismissed the appointees of Mr. Emley as unnecessary. Let me remind the Council that under the regime of the Administrator of Finance there were twenty-one police officers detailed for duty as inspectors of markets. Twenty-one police officers at eighty-three or eighty-five dollars a month do not come much cheaper than twelve inspectors at one hundred dollars a month, and one superintendent at one hundred and fifty dollars. The Administrator of Finance says it is necessary he should have charge of the collectors of levee dues as Administrator of Finance. If I have the markets under my control, it is necessary that I, as Administrator of Commerce, should have supervision of the inspectors. On personal examination I found the police inspection of the markets satisfactory neither to the farmer nor to the sub-lessees. The police officers are changed every few days, and the markets are left in a very dirty and disgraceful condition, dirt and filth all around; the police officers, not being subject to direction from the Department of Commerce, fail to attend to their duties. Therefore, if it is a good argument for the [illegible] have been taken on this they must the sixteenth instant. Consequently there are no police officers there, and nobody there by my appointment. I claim that I should have the means under my control to do the work laid down for me by the city charter. The point of economy, it seems to me, is strained in this regard. There appears to be a disposition to force economy on the new members of the Council, while the older members make no movement in that direction. I ask that I may be allowed to organize; I ask that I may have a department in accordance with the spirit of the law. This granted, then if you want to talk of retrenchment, I am on an equal footing. I have no ambition to do anything but what is right and proper, but I do not think it fair for the Administrator of Finance, or any other Administrator, to put his hand to my throat and say, "You shall not have an organization, because there is extravagance on the very face of it." I believe there is no extravagance in my ordinance. The organization, so far as the wharfingers are concerned, is the same as General West's. As to the markets, the officers proposed are less in number and in salary than those granted to Mr. Emley. I have studied this thing. I am satisfied this is necessary to enable me to carry out the duties laid upon me by the charter.

Mr. Walton: The gentleman has made a long speech, but it does not amount to anything, because in the beginning I say I do not intend to oppose the ordinance, except as regards this section three. Some of the remarks of the gentleman might seem to imply there was some personal feeling on my part. I have no personal feeling in this matter. I said when the charter was first published, before I had any idea of becoming an administrator, that the Department of Commerce was an excrescence on the new city government, and there was not a man I spoke to on the subject but agreed with me. It was even then stated that in order to check the Mayor who, according to the idea of the framers of the charter, was to be a mere head-piece on the city government, the Administrator of Commerce was put in so as to prevent the Mayor having a veto in the case of a possible tie between six members. The idea was carried out by putting a man in that office originally who had no force, and who simply spent his time in trying to make business for his department to transact. When the charter was amended, and the control of the wharves was turned over to the Department of Commerce, I said then that the right kind of man could make this department an important organization. I do not set up my judgment against that of the Council, but, I say again, there is a great deal of unnecessary expense laid out in this ordinance for the organization of the Department of Commerce.

Mr. Bonzano: As this is the only department which remains to be organized, I move that the final consideration of this ordinance be postponed to our next regular meeting.

The Chair put the motion to postpone and declared it lost.

Mr. Remick: The Administrator of Finance has taken occasion in one breath to say he does not oppose this ordinance and in the next to assert that it contains useless officers. It has been a happy expression of his to call the Department of Commerce an excrescence on the city government—

Mr. Walton explained that he did not apply this term to the department as at present constituted.

Mr. Remick: I quote from the published proceedings of the Council of March 7:

When I was appointed Administrator of Commerce *ad interim*, I took the opportunity of making known to the Council what I had long thought, that the Department of Commerce was entirely useless, and was, in fact, an excrescence on the city government. I think so still.

It is easy to see I came into this Council under rather embarrassing circumstances. I want to do my duty faithfully and well. I have not lived so long as the Administrator of Finance, but I am trying to make a good reputation, and I have as good a reputation for the years I have lived as he has. I want to have my department organized. Then we will talk about retrenchment. I want to have it organized for this reason: Every day I am beset by men who want office, and I can not attend to my duties until I have made such appointments as I am empowered to make. This done I can attend to my duties, and see if some other Administrator can not economize as well as myself. I want to be on an equal footing. I think it is only justice to my department that I should have the organization I have asked for. The Administrator of Finance says he deferred to the superior ability of General West. He must not assume that I have inferior ability.

Mr. Shaw said he had a great desire to adjourn, and he called for a vote.

The Chair put the question on the amendment proposed by Mr. Walton, that the Administrator of Finance should have the appointment of the levee due collectors, and decided that amendment rejected.

The Chair (Mr. Lewis) said, in regard to the commissaries of markets and the police, he would mention that there were still policemen in each market, as there had always been, and it was the duty of the police to see that the streets were in a clean condition, but not to report if they were otherwise. The reporting part of the duty was confided to these other officers who had now been withdrawn. There was no alternative but to appoint commissaries, as the Board of Police Commissioners had notified the city that they did not propose to have police officers on special duty at the markets.

The yeas and nays were called on the ordinance.

Mr. Walton said he could not vote yea on the ordinance as a whole. The other members of the Council voted in the affirmative, and the ordinance was declared passed.

Mr. Walton said, in this connection, he desired to call up his retrenchment ordinance as introduced last week, which was as follows:

WHEREAS, A year has now elapsed since this administration entered upon its duties, supported by the confidence of the community in its tacit if not expressed pledge to use energy and economy to extricate the city from its financial embarrassments; and

Whereas, The experience of the past year has demonstrated that our resources are not equal to the scale of expenditures adopted by us; and

Whereas, The present depressed condition of the community utterly precludes the possibility of increasing our resources by additional taxation; and

Whereas, Longer continuance in the course we are now pursuing must inevitably lead to bankruptcy and a total cessation of the functions of government; therefore,

Be it ordained, etc., That from and after this date all positions [illegible]

[illegible] all work on the [illegible] very wholesale proceeding. It [illegible] all commerce and involve the city in endless law suits. He would therefore offer an amendment that the operation of the ordinance should be confined to "all work not required for the safety and preservation of commerce and travel."

Mr. Walton accepted the amendment.

The Mayor (Speaking from the chair) said: Without discussing the resolution, I wish to give some information to the Council. I have taken a list of officers of the city, with their salaries, and I find that before the organization just effected of the Department of Commerce, the aggregate pay rolls and salaries amounted to a little over three hundred thousand dollars a year. The organization of the Department of Commerce will, I think, make it three hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Mr. Remick: That estimate is ten thousand too much.

The Mayor: Under the old administration the salaries were about $[illegible], showing an excess of more than a hundred thousand dollars a year on our part over our predecessors, from which have to be deducted the expenditures for Jefferson and Algiers, which, prior to our coming into office, were only from six to ten thousand dollars a year. It is thus seen that instead of introducing economy into the city administration we have developed into the most extravagant government ever known in New Orleans. As the Administrator of Commerce complains, we are beset by office-seekers; but if in important positions of trust gentlemen can not say no to office-seekers, the city is very unfortunate. There is great pressure upon us, I know; but it must be borne, or the very vitals of the community will be torn out. I state this with the hope that it will be published, because we are now three months behind in the payment of our current expenses, and no revenue coming in. We are as badly off as we were a year ago, except that we have settled a portion of the floating debt. However comfortable a feeling it may be not to economize, in the face of the imperative requirements of the law that we shall not run in debt more than a hundred thousand dollars, and that the taxes shall not run above a given amount, I say we are bound to retrench, and that if what we expend is only well expended, we are not responsible for what we are unable to do. I state this now publicly, because I have so often urged it privately in the meetings of the Council without effect, and because the time is fast hastening when all the pretexts and dodges we may adopt will not save us from financial calamity, if we continue in our present course.

Mr. Remick explained that he did not ask an organization to relieve him from the necessity of saying no; but he asked an organization as Administrator of Finance. God knows he would have to say no often enough in any case.

On motion of Mr. Cockrem the closing part of the ordinance was stricken out, and on a yea and nay vote the ordinance was unanimously adopted.

### Deferred Business Resumed.

By Mr. Walton:

Department of Finance,
April 18, 1871.

To the City Council of New Orleans:

The petition of Francis A. Boyle, referred to me April 11, 1871, asks for the remission of taxes for the reason that the property was occupied by the United States military authorities.

Similar petitions were addressed to this Council by Evariste Segnati and by the Southern Cotton Press Company, neither of which were granted. I can add nothing to the reports made by the Administrator of Assessments in those cases—one on the fourteenth of June, 1870, the other on the sixth of September, 1870—which are printed in the proceedings of the Council under those dates. For the reasons there given I recommend that his request be not granted.

JOHN S. WALTON, Administrator.

Adopted.

By Mr. Walton:

Department of Finance,
April 18, 1871.

To the City Council of New Orleans:

Upon the petition of Theodore Danziger, referred to me on the fourth of April, 1871, I respectfully report that it appears from the records of the Department of Assessments that his application for a reduction of the assessment of his property in square forty-eight was reported upon by experts, who reduced it from $20,[illegible] to $17,[illegible], which they consider a fair valuation. I therefore recommend that his request for a further reduction be not granted.

JOHN S. WALTON, Administrator.

Adopted.

By Mr. Walton:

Department of Finance,
April 18, 1871.

To the City Council of New Orleans:

The petition of Samuel Boyd, referred to me by the Council on the seventh of March, 1871, asks us to raise the mortgages on real estate owned by him, resulting from several judgments rendered by the district courts for the non-payment of taxes.

Upon an examination of the case I find that the tax on the real estate portion of his property for the years of 1861, 1862 and 1863 were paid into the United States District Court, and by that court paid over to the city, and that the tax for 1864 appears on the Controller's register as paid.

I therefore recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolution.

JOHN S. WALTON, Administrator.

*Resolved*, That the judgments rendered against Samuel Boyd, in suits Nos. 18,[illegible], Third District Court, for 1861; 12,[illegible], Sixth District Court, for 1862; 21,051, Second District Court, for 1863; 26,760, Second District Court, for 1864, for the non-payment of taxes, be annulled, and that the Administrator of Finance be authorized to cancel the mortgages resulting from the said judgments.

Adopted.

The Council then adjourned.

H. CONQUEST CLARKE,
Secretary.

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A writer in the Newark *Advertiser* says that Baltimore at the present time has the cleanest streets and the best ordered people on Sunday of any city in the Union. Every place of amusement is closed, and no business of any sort is permitted. Even the cigar shops and lager beer saloons are shut, and not even a confectionery store or any other, even by stealth, is open. If keeping the Sabbath rigidly is Puritanical, Baltimore is even in advance of Boston. No "street walkers" are permitted, and if the "social evil" exist, it is almost unknown to the inhabitants. Beggars are seldom seen, and everybody seems employed and industrious.

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There is a moral taught by the following conversation which needs to be learned by many fathers. Said a little [illegible] "Mother, father won't die in [illegible], will he?" "Why no, my child, [illegible]