

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

AT THE SCHOOL BOARD.

The Old Teachers to Have the Preference, if Found Competent.

The School Board met last night. Present, Messrs. Semmes, Capdeville, Seaman, Ferguson, Collins, Perkins, Guthrie, Mitchell, Coleman, Swarbrick, Fayerweather, Craig, Martine, Tourne, Bartley, O'Brien, McLean, Handy, Hassinger, Lanoue and Superintendent Rogers.

President Semmes stated that he had been served with an injunction restraining the board from separating the whites and blacks in the schools. He also stated that E. H. Farrar, Esq., had tendered his services in the case to the board.

Rev. Mr. Guthrie, chairman of the Committee on Teachers, reported progress. He moved that a special meeting be called to receive the report of the Committee on Examination. He said that he was satisfied the committee will probably be able to make a report by Wednesday next. He thought next Thursday evening would do.

Mr. Bartley said that in his opinion Friday evening would be better, and that when the board adjourns it should be until that time. He would accept Thursday.

The motion of Mr. Guthrie was then adopted. Craig then offered a resolution that the names of all the successful candidates in the late examination be furnished to the board at the next meeting.

Lloyd Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was postponed.

Col. Collins, of the Committee on Finance, presented a full report from the treasurer's books. The following was the report of the finance committee:

SCHOOL TAX AT TWENTY-FIVE CENTS PER \$100. Collected up to Sept. 30, 76 by city, \$214,543 94. Deduct one-fifth for difference of tax, 42,908 67. \$171,635 27.

Collected in October, '76, 4,305 89. Collected November, '76, 2,084 88. Collected December, '76, 4,808 42. \$11,199 19. Less one-fifth, 2,239 84. \$8,959 35.

Total at end of 1876, \$180,594 02. Collected in 1877, up to Sept. 30, 77, \$15,494 95. Less one-fifth, 3,098 98. \$12,395 97.

Making a total of \$192,989 81. \$241,237 27, less one-fifth \$120,618 38. RECEIVED FROM STATE ACCOUNT, 1876. In 1876, \$10,871 94. In 1877, 21,086 90. \$31,958 84.

Added to above amount rec'd in '76, \$230,948 55. SCHOOL TAX AT TWENTY CENTS PER \$100. Collected up to September 30, 1877, by the city, \$471,677 01. Received from State, 22,224 26.

Total, \$493,901 27. PAYMENTS FOR SIX MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 1877. Teachers, 159,380 83. Forcers, 11,582 96. Books, 8,636 70. Stores, etc., 2,237 75. Account of Superintendent's office, 299 40. Old Secretaries, 1,150 05. Secretary's office, 673 07. Sanitary, 1,137 49. Contingent, 1,253 66. Printing, 192 70. Furniture, etc., 1,182 98. Repairs, 1,344 10. Treasurer's office, 50 00.

Total, \$189,637 59. Cash balance account of 1877, \$45,436. Unpaid April roll, \$1,490 70. Unpaid May roll, 2,471 80. Unpaid June roll, 4,661 29.

Probable collection for three months to December 31, 1877, \$9,000 00. Probable collection up to September 30, 1878, 12,000 00. Probable balance to be received from the State, 22,500 00.

Probable collection up to September 30, 1878, \$48,500 00. Rev. Mr. Guthrie did not think the board had anything to do with the two mill tax. He thought the city ought to furnish what was assessed upon it—some \$225,000.

Col. Collins said that under the present assessment the two mill tax would give about \$225,000, less of course the delinquent taxes. A discussion ensued in which several members took part.

Rev. Mr. Guthrie offered a resolution that the board demand the sum charged in the budget, \$225,000, carried.

Craig's motion to furnish a list of the teachers for next meeting was then taken up.

Mr. Rogers moved that the Committee on Teachers furnish printed lists of the successful teachers, and Craig said he always respected public opinion, and when people came into his room to establish he wanted to show them printed lists.

Mr. Seaman thought the committee should furnish these lists if it was possible to have them printed in time. He would prefer to give the committee time to do so.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Bartley offered a resolution that those teachers reserved June last by the board should be appointed.

Rev. Mr. Guthrie offered a substitute that those teachers hitherto employed in the public schools should receive the preference if found in the late examinations capable.

Mr. Guthrie said that in offering this resolution he did it in the purpose of allaying the fears of many who have faithfully worked in the past for the board. Many of them might, perhaps, not have friends on the board, and although perfectly capable they feared declassification.

There was some discussion over the latter. The yeas and nays were called for on the substitute of Rev. Mr. Guthrie.

Yeas—Collins, Capdeville, Coleman, Craig, Fayerweather, Ferguson, Handy, Hassinger, Lanoue, Mitchell, Martine, O'Brien, Seaman, Tourne, Perkins, Swarbrick, McLean—17. Nays—Bartley—1.

The substitute was declared carried.

A motion was then made that the services of E. H. Farrar, Esq., be accepted if the attorney of the board deem it necessary to call in his services.

The board then adjourned.

THE NOTARIAL RECORDS. It will not be denied that the citizens of New Orleans have a right to demand at the hands of her officials not only an honest and correct conduct of the business of their respective departments or positions, but also the location of their offices at points of convenient access, and an intelligent, systematic arrangement of all public records remaining in their custody, with a view to facilitating ready reference thereto when occasion requires.

As a case in point we may refer to the location and arrangement of the office of the custodian of notarial records. This office is one of great importance, intimately connected with every business interest of the city, and it is especially necessary that it should be located conveniently to the business part of the city, and afford every facility for the rapid and accurate examination of titles, etc.

Formerly there was no trouble on this score, the two last custodians having their offices on Commercial Alley and Common street, near St. Charles, respectively. But the present office is remote from the business centre of the city, being located in the city building opposite Lafayette Square, and on the third floor; besides which there is not sufficient space in the room for the proper and convenient arrangement of the records, plans of properties described, etc.

The present location of the office is a drag upon business, causing daily vexatious delays throughout the busy season of the year, and should by all means be removed at once. The

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

THE MAYOR AND ONE OF OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

The Mayor and several of our city editors have read a communication entitled "Is it Honest," and signed "S," which was published in the Democrat on Tuesday, and acknowledged that it has caused them surprise. They contend that it not only does the communication contain misapprehension, but also gross inaccuracies.

Referring to the tens of thousands of dollars that the communication charges have been paid to the city for the taxes of 1876, without affording relief to the employees of the city for that year, they ask themselves whether the correspondent is aware of the fact some among themselves are also employees of the city, insinuating, as we understand it, that the even they had been paid their salaries, and hence if the employees had not been paid in full for the year mentioned it is because there has not been enough money paid in to go around.

As a matter of fact, however, there has been made to the police to pay them in cash for every month of the year, the statement is inaccurate, one reason being because the city administration cannot say beforehand how much money will be paid during the year, the salary being paid upon the basis of the amount of the salaries of all the employees of the city depends.

As to the selling of city scrip of any kind on the street at thirty-three cents, this is also called an insinuation, for the city issues no scrip at all. Turning to the charge that the \$250,000 recently funded into premium bonds, it is also denied at the City Hall that the amount consisted of drainage bonds, but of

varieties of bonds, all of which have heretofore been declared legal bonds by the courts. As to the opinion of the Mayor, we understand that the Mayor has referred to in the communication, the Mayor says that "S," should have considered that the opinion expressed in the report of a Master in Chancery (who is not a judge) has to be confirmed by the court, and that the legal value which is the reverse in the case alluded to by "S."

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Further, the city has been compelled to pay about \$50,000 on the notes given for the purchase of the Upper City Park, and will have to pay a similar sum yearly, for four or five years yet to come. That the notes have to be paid punctually at maturity will appear obvious when the public is reminded that the city has already authorized a foreclosure of the mortgage on the property and the sale of the park. This the administration might be willing should be done but for the fact that the property, if sold at this time, would bring so little that the city would be obliged to pay the difference between the price of sale and the face value of the outstanding notes. Therefore it is considered preferable to pay as the notes become due, and have the park, which when properly managed will secure a real value. Then a portion might be laid out for a park and the remainder sold to compensate the city, in a measure, at least, for the enormous amount the city has been burdened with in consequence of the swindle of the Warmoth regime.

THE PROTECTION LEVEL. Surveyor d'Homecourt is manifesting an attention and energy in the interest of our people which we must acknowledge. Since the last time he has been in the city he has been incessantly at work inspecting every lot of ground, and is attending to saving as much as possible of the protection levee as the means at his disposal will permit. Yesterday his time was occupied in cutting small walls along the Canal Street and the levee would, in making the necessary indication of what is left of the spoiled levee at the lake, prior to the beginning of the break-water of double close piling which is to be placed at the base of the levee.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Our school teachers have heard it rumored that the public schools will not be re-opened until the 6th of November, which means that their salaries will not begin before that day, and they feel, in consequence, quite disappointed, for they have been led to believe that the opening would occur three weeks earlier, or about the 15th of October. We were not told of this rumor until late last evening, and therefore will not be able to give any information on the subject further than that the 6th of October was fixed by the board as the opening day at their last meeting.

Regarding a new examination, which is also rumored, we think that we can say authoritatively that there will be no other examination, at least of those who have already undergone a recent test of qualifications. There is no foundation in fact for the rumor, except possibly the belief a few days ago, which, owing to the raising of the standard of examination, had been created that at a certain number of the 1000 applicants would not pass the examinations to fill all the positions in the schools. Whether this belief still exists we are unable to say, and it may require a completion of the work of examining the answers and questions propounded before a positive opinion can be given.

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Sergeant Galvin and the detectives are busy at their work of ferreting. Some new points have been developed by the officers, but they are reticent and not willing to make them public at present.

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Further, the city has been compelled to pay about \$50,000 on the notes given for the purchase of the Upper City Park, and will have to pay a similar sum yearly, for four or five years yet to come. That the notes have to be paid punctually at maturity will appear obvious when the public is reminded that the city has already authorized a foreclosure of the mortgage on the property and the sale of the park. This the administration might be willing should be done but for the fact that the property, if sold at this time, would bring so little that the city would be obliged to pay the difference between the price of sale and the face value of the outstanding notes. Therefore it is considered preferable to pay as the notes become due, and have the park, which when properly managed will secure a real value. Then a portion might be laid out for a park and the remainder sold to compensate the city, in a measure, at least, for the enormous amount the city has been burdened with in consequence of the swindle of the Warmoth regime.

THE PROTECTION LEVEL. Surveyor d'Homecourt is manifesting an attention and energy in the interest of our people which we must acknowledge. Since the last time he has been in the city he has been incessantly at work inspecting every lot of ground, and is attending to saving as much as possible of the protection levee as the means at his disposal will permit. Yesterday his time was occupied in cutting small walls along the Canal Street and the levee would, in making the necessary indication of what is left of the spoiled levee at the lake, prior to the beginning of the break-water of double close piling which is to be placed at the base of the levee.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Our school teachers have heard it rumored that the public schools will not be re-opened until the 6th of November, which means that their salaries will not begin before that day, and they feel, in consequence, quite disappointed, for they have been led to believe that the opening would occur three weeks earlier, or about the 15th of October. We were not told of this rumor until late last evening, and therefore will not be able to give any information on the subject further than that the 6th of October was fixed by the board as the opening day at their last meeting.

Regarding a new examination, which is also rumored, we think that we can say authoritatively that there will be no other examination, at least of those who have already undergone a recent test of qualifications. There is no foundation in fact for the rumor, except possibly the belief a few days ago, which, owing to the raising of the standard of examination, had been created that at a certain number of the 1000 applicants would not pass the examinations to fill all the positions in the schools. Whether this belief still exists we are unable to say, and it may require a completion of the work of examining the answers and questions propounded before a positive opinion can be given.

POSEY'S MYSTERIOUS DEATH. The Theory that He was Murdered Taking Shape and Substance. The theories of murder or suicide, in relation to the death of young Posey, continue to be debated and discussed by the community and the police authorities without any material part of the bloody mystery being cleared. The general belief in foul play is however growing stronger and stronger, and it is strongly suspected that the young man has fallen a victim to the bullet of a murderer.

Sergeant Galvin and the detectives are busy at their work of ferreting. Some new points have been developed by the officers, but they are reticent and not willing to make them public at present.

Further investigations show that there was more foundation for the statement contained in the letter of the unfortunate young man regarding his having had money in his possession than was at first supposed.

Judge Callow, who is well acquainted with the family, stated to a Democrat reporter after the murder that the time he spent with the boy before that an aunt, living in Missouri, had recently died, leaving the deceased her heir to the extent of about \$25,000. He said that Lloyd Posey, Esq., a cousin of the deceased, had visited that State as an attorney to settle the estate of this lady, and had but just returned. Judge Callow had understood that