

LOCAL NEWS.

CITY COUNCIL.—A called meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday night.

In the Board of Aldermen the President, Mr. Bell stated that the object of the called meeting was to take action upon the following communication:

ALEXANDRIA, Va., May 21, 1870.

To the Board of Aldermen and Common Council of the City of Alexandria.

GENTLEMEN:—The Legislature having appointed the 21st Monday in each month for the commencement of the terms of the Corporation Court of this city, I deem it my duty to call your attention to the first section of chapter (50) fifty, of the code of Virginia, which directs the Council of each town wherein there is a Corporation Court to provide for the same a court house, clerk's office and jail, and to request such action under this section as will enable me to hold a term of said court on the second Monday in this month.

In this connection I beg leave to refer you to the 5th section of the act of Congress of July 13th, 1846, retroceding the county of Alexandria to the State of Virginia, as bearing materially on this subject. That section reads as follows:

"SEC. 5. And be it further enacted, that in such case, the right of property in the half square in Alexandria, on which stands the Court House, bounded by Columbus, Queen and Princess streets, and the half square on which stands the jail, bounded by Princess, St. Asaph and Pitt streets, shall be conveyed to the Governor of Virginia, and his successors, for the use of the county and corporation of Alexandria, forever, and the Solicitor of the Treasury of the United States, is hereby authorized, and required, in this name, and on behalf of the United States to make all the proper and necessary conveyances for that purpose."

Hope that this subject may receive your immediate attention,

I am yours respectfully,  
E. M. LOWE,  
Judge of the Corporation Court of the City of Alexandria.

Mr. Bell offered a resolution respecting the same, which was adopted.

A communication was read from the Mayor, suggesting the propriety of resolutions of condolence with the sufferers by the late disaster at Richmond, and a committee of conference consisting of Messrs. Hawhurst and Garwood was appointed to confer with a similar committee from the lower board, to agree upon and report some appropriate action. The committee retired, leaving the board for a time without a quorum.

The clerk read the following report from the committee, which was adopted without debate: "Your committee, charged with the duty of inquiring whether there are any incompatibilities in the charter of Alexandria city and the Constitution of the State, and if so to report them, have had the subject under careful consideration, and as the result beg leave, respectfully, to report as follows:

1st. In paragraph 2 of the charter we find the word "white" qualifying the subject of suffrage, contrary to Constitution, Art. 3, Sec. 1, and also in the same paragraph of the charter we find the term of "one year's" residence in the city required to entitle to the right of suffrage, contrary to Constitution, Art. 3, Sec. 1, 2d clause, which limits the term to "three months," also in the same paragraph of the charter it is provided that the voting shall be "a viva voce," contrary to the Constitution, Art. 3, Sec. 1, 2d clause, which provides that all votes shall be given by "ballot."

2d. In paragraph 4 of the charter it is provided that the regular election for members of the City Council shall be held on the first Tuesday in March in each and every year, contrary to the Constitution Art. 6th, Sec. 21st, page 21, which designates the fourth Thursday in May.

3rd. In paragraph 5, page 4 of the charter it is provided that the Councilmen elect shall enter upon their duties 7 days after their election, contrary to Constitution Art. 6th, Sec. 21st, page 21, which provides that they shall enter upon their duties the first day of July succeeding their election.

4th. In paragraph 10 of the charter, it is provided that all sellers of spirituous liquors, shop keepers, mercantile, &c. may be taxed by license, contrary to Constitution Art. 10th, Sec. 4th, page 28, which provides that no taxation by license shall be imposed where the case can be reached by the ad valorem system.

5th. In paragraph 14 page 8 of the charter specifying the powers of the Mayor it is made his duty to report any misconduct of officers to the City Council, contrary to Constitution Art. 6th, Sec. 20th, page 23, which invests him with the power of suspension and removal.

6th. In paragraph 17, page 9 of the charter, the power of appointment to, and removal from, office is conferred upon City Council, contrary to Constitution Art. 6th, Sec. 20th, page 23, which vests this power in the Mayor.

7th. The New Constitution limits the capitation tax to 50¢.

In addition to the discrepancies above mentioned there may be others which your committee have overlooked. We would therefore respectfully recommend the reference of this report to our representatives in the General Assembly, with the request that they alter the present charter as to make it properly harmonize and agree with the new Constitution, and cause the same to be duly enacted.

All of which is respectfully submitted.  
W. D. MASSEY,  
D. TURNER.

The following resolution was then read and adopted: Resolved, That the Judge of the Hustings Court of Alexandria, be requested to give notice of the registration, in the Alexandria Gazette, so that the voters may have notice of the registration now going on in accordance with the act of the General Assembly and under the provisions of the new Constitution.

Resolved, That the City Council of Alexandria do, and they are authorized to do, all and singular the things therein contained, which in anywise relate to the subject of the said resolution, and they are authorized to do so.

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Council and two from the Board of Aldermen. His motion was adopted, and Messrs. McKenzie, Massey and Agnew having been appointed on the part of the Common Council retired.

The report of Messrs. Massey and Turner upon discrepancies existing between the new constitution and the city charter was read.

Mr. Harmon moved that the report be amended so as to secure the more efficient collection of the taxes.

Mr. Massey said that the report was made in accordance with the requirements of a special resolution and fulfilled those requirements. If the gentleman wanted other matters considered he could offer a resolution to that effect. So far as he was concerned he thought that not only the collectors of taxes but the clerk of the market, the Superintendent of Police and other municipal officers should be elected by the council and not by the people as at present. He had perhaps as high an opinion of the people as any one else, but mass conventions did not select the best man. If these officers were elected by the Council they would of course be more independent and perform their duties more efficiently. He did not expect to be in Council another year, but was willing to give his successors the power to elect these officers.

Mr. Harmon said that he had made his motion thinking that probably it would be better while correcting to make the two instruments harmonize in all particulars.

Mr. McKenzie moved that the report be adopted and his motion was carried.

Mr. McKenzie moved that the representatives in the Legislature from this city be requested to have certain amendments made to the charter of the city, and said that Mr. Johnston knew as well as any man what was required, and was better qualified than any one else to prepare such a charter as was wanted. Full authority should be given the representatives in making their draft of the charter, and if there were any objectionable features in it they could be stricken out when it came to be submitted to the Council for adoption. He was satisfied, however, to leave the whole matter to Mr. Johnston, who was better qualified than any other man, certainly any other in the Legislature, to prepare such an instrument as was required.

Mr. Massey—Speak for yourself.  
Mr. McKenzie—For myself and you too.  
Mr. Massey—I've drawn up as good a bill and a better than ever Mr. Johnston did.

Mr. Massey introduced a resolution authorizing the Superintendent of Police to make an inspection of the fire plugs and have those found to be out of order, repaired. Mr. Baker said he had a good deal to do with the fire plugs and heard no complaints of their being out of order. It was reported last fall that they were out of order, and an estimate made of what the cost of repair would be, but an examination proved the report to be incorrect, and a mere nominal sum was all that was required to place them in perfect order.

Mr. Massey said if after examination none were found out of order there would be nothing further to do and no damage done. But he had gone a day or two since with some gentlemen and examined some of these plugs and had found them out of order, caps gone and otherwise injured. All might have been in order last fall, but some had certainly been injured since then. While up he would avail himself of the opportunity of suggesting that some member of the Council offer a resolution to have the fire plugs on King street placed near the gutter, that the present fire plug matter had been referred over them were to injure himself, he might sue and obtain damages from the corporation.

Mr. Baker suggested that the provisions of the resolution be enlarged so as to make it in fact a resolution to have the Superintendent of Police to box up the plugs and thus prevent thieves from stealing the caps.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. McKenzie on the joint committee consisting of himself and Messrs. Massey, Agnew, Garwood and Hawhurst, to whom the matter had been referred presented a report upon the late Richmond disaster, which was adopted.

Mr. Harmon offered a resolution to secure the more efficient collection of the taxes.

Mr. McKenzie moved to strike out a clause already provided for in the charter.

The President read from the charter to show that there was already sufficient law upon the subject.

Mr. Massey moved to amend the resolution by expunging that part having reference to the summary manner of collecting the taxes, and said that with that part stricken out there would be no incongruity in the remainder of the resolution.

Mr. Harmon—With that stricken out I can't see any sense in it.

Mr. Massey—That's your fault.

Mr. Turner offered a resolution making it the duty of the Superintendent of Police to carefully examine all of the public halls in the city with reference to their safety and easy mode of egress in case of fire, which was adopted.

Mr. McKenzie asked if there was not a report of a committee to whom the subject of a matter connected with dispensing medicines to the poor had been referred, and would mention that in looking over the expenditures of Richmond he had seen that \$150 was all that was paid there for that purpose for the last three months.

Mr. Harmon introduced the following resolution: Whereas, the Corn and Produce Exchange representing the general business of Alexandria, and whereas the business men of Alexandria with but few exceptions, have petitioned the Board of Public Works to take cognizance of the impositions practiced by the management of the O. A. & M. R. R. against the commercial and industrial prosperity of this town, and whereas the city of Alexandria is a stock holder in the Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Gap Railroad by subscription to the extent of \$500,000, be it

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BASE BALL.—A very interesting and exciting game of Base Ball came off on Wednesday last between the Independent and Alert clubs, two junior organizations of this city, which resulted in a victory for the former by a score of 40 to 22.

The market stands will be rented to-morrow.

POLICE REPORT.—MAYOR'S OFFICE.—Elizabeth Madison, for disorderly conduct, was sentenced to confinement in the work house unless she paid the fine that was assessed against her. Complaint was made by a stranger that four colored men had made an assault upon him near the corner of King and Henry streets.

MAGISTRATES' OFFICE.—Captain Carroll, for selling fish belonging to Mr. George Harper and retaining possession of the money, which he claimed was due him, was discharged upon the money being placed in hands of the Mayor.

WATCH REPORT.—Night clear but hazy. Several balls were in progress at Fishtown and in the neighborhood of the A. L. & H. R. R. depot, but no disturbances occurred at any of them. The city was as quiet as usual. An intoxicated soldier and three loafers were accommodated at the watch house.

Annual Meeting of the Corn and Produce Exchange.—The Annual Meeting of the Corn and Produce Exchange of Alexandria was held at their rooms Thursday morning, May 6th, Mr. G. Y. Worthington in the Chair.

The report of the President was read and adopted (unanimously). On motion of Captain M. Eldridge, a vote of thanks was extended the President for the able and efficient management of his office.

The election of officers being in order, Capt. M. Eldridge was nominated and elected President of the Association for the ensuing year. G. L. Robinson was nominated and unanimously elected Vice President.

W. B. Price was nominated and unanimously elected Secretary. Richards Payne was nominated and unanimously elected Treasurer.

On motion, the Board of Managers of last year, substituting the names of Messrs. H. S. Waddles and G. Y. Worthington to fill the vacancies occasioned by the death of T. A. Brown and withdrawal of P. A. Reid, were elected.

On motion of G. Y. Worthington, an assessment of twenty dollars per annum upon each member, payable semi-annually, was carried.

On motion of G. Y. Worthington, the Annual Report of the retiring President, P. B. Hooe, was ordered to be published.

On motion, adjourned. W. B. PRICE, Secretary.

Gentlemen: The following report of the operations of your Association during the past year is respectfully submitted by the President and Board of Managers:

The receipts of grain, as recorded on your books, show a slight falling off in the aggregate from those reported for the year ending with May, 1869.

The decrease in corn, rye and oats, while in what there appears an increase.

The severe drought of last summer which was felt most in our river and valley counties, curtailed the yield of corn very largely from the reasonable expectations expressed in our last annual report, to such a degree in some sections that a large proportion of the wheat, which would have otherwise found its way to our market, was necessarily converted into flour for the sake of the offal, which was need to take the place of corn on the farm.

From the report of the Flour Inspector, kindly furnished by Mr. Anthony, we find that the receipts of flour have largely increased, being fully double those of the years 1868-69.

The following table exhibits the amount of grain offered and sold in these rooms during the year:

Wheat, Corn, Rye, Oats, etc. Total receipts, 1,123,730 bushels. Decrease, 21,850.

Estimating, as was done last year and the year before, that 275,000 bushels have been received and sold privately in the market, and reducing the receipts of flour say 45,000 barrels to basis, say 200,000 bushels, our total receipts for such a degree in some sections that a large proportion of the wheat, which would have otherwise found its way to our market, was necessarily converted into flour for the sake of the offal, which was need to take the place of corn on the farm.

The year has been unfavorable to the producer, as well as the operator in, all descriptions of breadstuffs. The steady decline in prices to a point scarcely above the cost of production has left little clear money to the farmer, and the latter has worked in a precarious and unprofitable field since the last harvest.

It is a source of congratulation, however, to know that no serious losses have been experienced by our merchants, as result of the year's operations, and we may reasonably and hopefully look forward to a more satisfactory state of things during the coming year.

Altogether, we have reason to be gratified with the amount of business transacted during the past year, which has been one of our most successful years throughout the whole country, especially during the last six months.

Our railroad and steamer lines have all done a fair business, and just at this time are employed to their full capacity.

From a report of your treasurer, we find that the annual assessment is ample with the present roll of membership to defray the ordinary expenses of the Association.

We would suggest, however, that an increase in this assessment to an extent which would still be well within the means of our members, might be a view to securing rooms more suitable to our purposes, in light, heat and ventilation.

Your roll shows a list of 42 active members—a decrease of 9 from last year—due to causes explained in our last report.

The mortality from death with which we were blessed during the first two years of our history has not been granted us during our last, and we have been called upon to mourn the loss to our Association of two of our esteemed members.

On the 13th of January, after a lingering illness following several years of declining health, Mr. Dennis R. Bincklock was relieved of his sufferings, and was removed, we trust, to a better world.

On the 27th of April, by one of the most appalling disasters which has happened within our age, and which has shrouded our whole Commonwealth in mourning, Mr. T. H. Brown was suddenly snatched from us in the fullness of life, of hope, of health of energy and of usefulness.

Both of these gentlemen had been long identified with the interests of our community, were among the founders of our association, and were highly esteemed, and whose loss to us is sincerely lamented and keenly felt.

The same harmonious feeling which characterized our experience during 1868-69, was also happily to say, has existed during the past year, and our Committee of Arbitration has had no call to settle disputes or misunderstandings between any of our members, among whom there seems to exist a most gratifying fraternity of feeling.

To your Secretary, Mr. Price, and Treasurer, Mr. Payne, are due acknowledgments for faithful performance of duty.

Mr. Basil Waring, the Clerk of the Association, merits your special thanks for his accurate and steady attention to the duties of his position.

The President gratefully acknowledges the honor which you have conferred upon him, and begs to assure you that he truly appreciates the kindness and consideration which bestowed it, and has added him in the discharge of the duties of his position. In returning directions, he continues to be the grateful member of the Association and in the individual property of its members.

For the Board of Managers: P. B. HOOE, President.

A meeting of the Alexandria Corn and Produce Exchange, held at the rooms of the Association, on Friday morning, May 6, 1870, Capt. M. Eldridge, President, in the Chair, and George R. Shinn, Secretary, pro tem.

TELEGRAPHIC.

(SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE GAZETTE.)

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, May 6—3 p. m. CONGRESS.

The Senate adopted a resolution that when an adjournment takes place to-day, it shall be until Monday next.

Mr. Hamlin from the Committee of District of Columbia, reported adversely to woman suffrage in the District and asked to be discharged.

Mr. Sumner reported a bill for establishing mixed public schools in the District of Columbia.

The Senate then took up the bill for the reduction of the officers of the army of the United States.

The House of Representatives was not in session.

The Siberia. BOSTON, May 6.—The Cunard steamship Siberia from Liverpool for Boston, which is some overdue, was spoken on the 30th of April with her shaft broken, being then 1300 miles west of Ireland. She was put back for Queens town under sail. Horatio Curtis, a passenger on board, was transferred to the steamer Indiana, the vessel which spoke her, and arrived at Queenstown last night. He reports the passengers all well.

Boiler Explosion. ZANESVILLE, May 6.—The boilers of the new power house of water works exploded this morning with a terrific crash. The engineer and fireman were the only persons in the building. The fireman was blown through the roof and landed fifty feet from the building. He will probably die. The engineer was not much hurt. The building was blown to pieces. The loss is about \$100,000.

Massachusetts Morals. BOSTON, May 6.—Rev. Fred. Fremont Lowell, pastor of the Universalist church in Essex, is accused of gross licentiousness, and is reported to have left his Parish and town under threats of coal tar and lead.

The Markets. NEW YORK, May 6.—Stocks strong. Money easy at 5 1/2 per cent. Gold 14 1/2. Virginia sixes, ex-compan, 60. Flour is a shade firmer. Wheat better. Corn 1 1/2 better.

LOCAL BREVITIES.—The moonlight excursion to Glymont on the steamer Wawaset, to have taken place last night, was postponed until next Monday night.

The opening of spring styles at the fashionable Millinery establishment of S. Lindheimer yesterday and to-day, was attended by large numbers of the ladies of the city.

A Congressional excursion party will make a trip over the A. L. & H. R. R., to-morrow, leaving here at 9 a. m. and returning at 5 p. m.

An extensive sale of rare flowers from the garden of A. Jardin will take place to-morrow at No. 18 North Royal Street.

A little daughter of Mr. Gillott, who resides in Prince George's County, Maryland, a short distance below this city, about four years old, was found drowned in the duck pond in that gentleman's yard yesterday evening. She had been missing only a few minutes when the skirt of her dress was seen floating on the water.

A full account of the proceedings of the great City of I. O. R. M. now in session in this city will be published in to-morrow's Gazette.

Mr. John Q. Alvey was seized with convulsions suddenly on the street this morning and is now lying at the City Hotel at the point of death.

A private dispatch received here this morning from Col. Brent, conveys the gratifying intelligence that the gentleman's condition is rapidly improving.

REMISSION OF FINE ASKED.—In the U. S. Circuit Court in Richmond, yesterday, a petition was presented from J. S. French for remission of a fine imposed on him by Judge Underwood.

CITY ITEMS.

FORSALE.—The Lease and Fixtures of the beautiful Store now occupied by S. Dealham. In order to close business within the shortest possible time, my fine stock of Clothing and Gent's Furnishing Goods will be sold at 75 cents per dollar. All those who are indebted to me will please pay up without delay. W. B. WADDEY.