National Republican.

TUESDAY MORNING ..... MAY 17, 1870.

THE CITY COUNCILS.

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1870.

Board of Aldermen.

The regular weekly session of the Board of Aldermen was held this evening, the president (Gen. J. S. Crocker) in the chair. Present, all the members except Mr. Emery.

A number of bills from the lower Board were appropriately referred.

Common Council bill to lay a water main in Seventh street east, between B street south and Pennsylvania avenue and south B street, from First to Fifth street east, was passed.

The City Surveyor submitted an estimate of the cost of repairing the sea-wall at the foot of Third and Second streets east, that it would be about $1,400.

The following is the account of the First National Bank with the corporation to date:

General Fund	$346,700 15	Special Tax Fund	$3,805.15
Redemp'n Fund	4,301 40	Water Fund	18,748.00
1st Ward Fund	19,963 30	Mar. Police Fund	13,967.87
2d Ward Fund	19,555 10	Sinking Fund	20,000.00
3d Ward Fund	5,908 79	Gas Fund	40,091.26
4th Ward Fund	49,644 84	F. A. Boswell, col.	170,232.06
5th Ward Fund	20,306.09	Balance	180,366.78
6th Ward Fund	20,803.30		
7th Ward Fund	34,379.11		
School Fund	137,000.00		
Surplus	262.67		
	861,154.30		832,154.30
To balance	140,000.00	6-year Bonds	92,399.41
	1,001,154.30		1,001,154.30

Mr. Stewart introduced a joint resolution respecting the canal, and calling for information of the commissioners; requiring Messrs. Brown & Gall to vacate the wharf now occupied by them at the foot of Seventeenth street east, as they have not complied with the terms of their lease; and that all persons who have rented sites for wharves in the said canal who have not paid their rents be requested to vacate within ten days after being notified by the commissioner of the canal, and asking the commissioner to furnish the board at its next meeting what amount of money has been collected since his appointment, and from whom, money is now due. Referred and ordered to be printed.

Also, a bill to construct a sewer on Fifteenth street west, between H and I streets north. Referred.

Mr. Davis introduced a bill to prohibit the laying of the sewer to connect with certain sewers in the First ward.

Mr. Crocker introduced a bill making an appropriation for repairs in the Aldermen's Chamber, amounting to $300; which was passed.

Also, bill for the relief of Stephen Parsons; which was passed.

Mr. Moore presented protest of property-owners in square 122 against opening alley in said square. Referred.

Also, concurrent resolution that the Committee on Finance of the two Boards be instructed to examine, count, cancel and cut up and leave in the custody of the register for preservation, such coupons of corporation bonds issued under the act of October 11, 1869, as have been redeemed by the register, and report to this Board the number so redeemed, and the amount of money paid for their redemption. Passed.

Mr. Moore offered the following:

Resolved, That the Register be requested to inform this Board what number of warrants have been issued since the first day of March last on the Bank, which is the depository of the money of this corporation, stating to whom favor such warrants were issued, the amount thereof, and the nature of the claim for which it was given in payment, or in part payment.

Adopted.

Also, resolution requesting the Mayor to return to Samuel Stettinius the tax receipts deposited by him in support of a certain claim. Adopted.

Also the following:

Resolved, That the water register be requested to inform this Board of the total amount of money received at his office on account of the Water Fund during the present year, starting at the close of the last annual report and coming down to the first day of the present month.

Passed.

Also the following:

Resolved, That the city register be requested to inform this Board what amount of cash has been paid since the 6th day of June, 1869, on account of claims known to have been incurred prior to that time, and what amount of bonds have been issued or paid on account of debts incurred subsequent to that date, and what was the total amount of the floating debt so far as ascertained on the 6th of June, 1869.

Passed.

Mr. Moore, from the Committee on Gas, reported favorably on a bill for the erection of lamps in the following streets, &c.: On Seventeenth street west on both sides of street from New York avenue to Canal; Canal street from Fifteenth to Seventeenth street, north side; Fifteenth street from Pennsylvania avenue to Canal; E street north from Seventeenth to Twenty-fourth street west; G street north from Twenty-first street to Twenty-seventh street west; H street north from Seventeenth to Twenty-fourth street west; K street north from the Circle to Twenty-seventh street west; Twenty-sixth street east from K street north to D street north; Twenty-third street east from E street north to M street north; I street north from Twenty-first to Twenty-seventh street west; Sixteenth street west from H street north to the Boundary; Fifteenth street west from K to Q street north; 7 street from Fourteenth street west running westward to Boundary street; Twenty-first street west from Pennsylvania avenue to the Boundary; Twenty-fifth street from M street to Boundary; New Hampshire avenue from I street to the Circle; Twentieth street west from Q street to O street north; Nineteenth street from O street north to G street north; G street south from Fourteenth to Sixth streets east; P street, between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets; Fourteenth street south from Long Bridge to the Canal; E street from Sixth to Eighteenth street southeast, both sides; G street south from Fourth street east to Fifteenth street east; Tenth street east from Maryland avenue to N street south; Ninth street east from Pennsylvania avenue to M street south; Thirteenth street east from East Capitol street to K street south; Water street from Seventh to Fourteenth street southwest; O street north from Tenth street west to Vermont avenue. Passed.

Mr. Slater offered the following:

Whereas the Grand Army of the Republic are at present soliciting subscriptions from the citizens of this city for the purpose of enabling them to decorate the graves of their fallen comrades, and thus continue the beautiful custom begun and inaugurated by strewing flowers over the graves of those who have fallen in defence of our country; and whereas the success of a project so representing this city, should also make a most suitable acknowledgment by some contribution therefore be it

Resolved, &c., That the sum of one hundred dollars be appropriated out of the general fund and handed to the Grand Army of the Republic, Department of the Potomac, for the purpose.

Mr. Moore said it was not the proper subject for one consideration. The idea of asking the councils of the capital of the nation to show public such a feeling was in honor of the gallant dead who gave their lives in the cause of the nation's honor. He was willing to contribute liberally out of his own purse rather than the city should be called upon in its financial embarrassments. He was ready to give freely of his own means.

Several members said they were ready to subscribe liberally, but hoped the resolution would not pass.

Mr. Chase offered as an amendment that the money be paid pro rata by the respective members of these boards, and to be deducted from their annual salary as such members. Adopted.

Mr. Connolly moved to further amend by making the amount $175, so that the assessment be $5 on each.

This was agreed to, and the resolution passed.

Mr. Clark presented the remonstrance of J. P. Critchlett, M. A. Elliott, and others, against the paving of North Capitol street, between G and D streets north. Passed.

Also, petition of Williams & Jolly and Wm. Guinand, requesting that the sea-wall at the foot of Second street east and the timber sea-wall at the foot of Third street east be repaired; and introduced an act to repair the sea-wall at the foot of Second street east and to build a sea-wall at the foot of Third street east; which were passed.

Also, presented petition of a number of citizens to prevent ball playing on the streets, avenues, &c., in this city, within twenty rods of any dwelling or open or traveled highway. Referred.

Mr. McCathran introduced a joint resolution granting permission to market gardeners and dealers to wholesale their produce outside of the regular market houses, as now defined by law. Passed.

Mr. Baker introduced an act to set the curbstones and pave the footways and gutters on the south side of L street, from Third to Water street southwest.

Also, a joint resolution to authorize the sale of property liable to be sold for non-payment of paving taxes levied on property on west side of First street, between D and D streets southwest. Passed.

Also, an act to take up and reset the curb, gutters, and pavement on D street and Virginia avenue southeast. Referred.

Mr. Stewart introduced a resolution requesting the city collector to suspend the sale of lots 1 and 2, in square 102, until after the 1st of July next. Passed.

Mr. Baker, from the Committee on Drainage, reported favorably an act authorizing the construction of a sewer in L street, from Fourteenth to Twelfth streets northwest; also, in Thirteenth street, from south side of Massachusetts avenue to the center of L street north east. Passed.

Also, substitute to revise an act to construct a sewer in L street north, between Twelfth and Twenty-second streets west. Laid over.

Also, an act to lay a water main in Ninth street east, between Pennsylvania avenue and G street south east.

Also, adversely on act for construction of a sewer along Massachusetts avenue, from Third street west to Tiber, and the committee were discharged.

Also, adversely on petition of Peter Parker, and the committee was discharged.

Mr. Davis introduced a bill granting permission to E. Pizzoni to erect a frame house within twenty-four feet of a brick building. Passed.

Mr. McCathran, from the Committee on Claims, reported favorably on bills for the relief of Wm. H. Edelin, Francis I. Mitchell, Jerry Nolan, Daniel McCarty, Jim Wilson and Patrick Jourdan; all of which were passed.

At midnight the board adjourned.

Board of Common Council.

The Board met at the usual hour, the President (Mr. Williams, esq.) in the chair.

The Chair laid before the Board a message from the Mayor, announcing his approval of about thirty acts, only for improvements; also, inclosing a communication from A. E. Stevens, bookseller, asking the usage of an act authorizing a change in the several appropriations in order that the accounts may be properly kept. He says that the compensation of the superintendent of street lamps, inspector of gas, lamplighters and contingent expenses of the register's office are payable out of the general fund, and suggests that they should be made out of the gas, gaslight and water funds, respectively.

A communication was received from the surveyor in response to resolution regarding a depression of grade twenty-third and D streets. Referred.

Alderman's bills for footways on the east side of twenty-fourth, between E and K; west side Twenty-fourth, between E and G; south side of I street, from twenty-fourth to Twenty-seventh; east side Twenty-fourth, from I street to Pennsylvania avenue, were passed.

Mr. Fardon presented a petition for water pipes in sixth street west, between B and N streets north. Referred.

Mr. Burgess introduced a bill to refund taxes erroneously assessed upon the property of H. A. Willard, Mr. Folsom, P. M. B. Young, and George H. French. Passed.

Mr. Burgess submitted the following resolution, which, on motion of Mr. Fardon, was referred to the Committee on Public Schools:

Resolved, &c., That it is important that every facility should be had for securing at an early period as possible, a full and accurate report of all statistics in relation to public schools, and the school expenditures of the city of Washington; therefore

Resolved, By the Board of Common Council, the Board of Aldermen concurring, that the superintendent of public schools, when requested by the board of trustees to make a report each year of the statistics, condition and prospects of the schools for, and for the year ending with the preceding year, shall also furnish to the city officials in their possession any records or papers relating to the schools for such information and use as may be necessary; and that the superintendent hereby made the executive of such papers is in accordance with the rule adopted by the board of trustees.

Mr. Hall introduced a bill for the relief of R. B. Jr. Passed.

Also, a bill to amend an act to divide the city into districts and designating voting places therein, approved May 21, 1869. The bill provides for six precincts. Passed.

Mr. Williams introduced a bill to amend an act to define the duties of the superintendent and inspector of sewers, bridges, carriageways, footways, &c. Passed.

The bill (H. A.) for the relief of Stephen Parsons was passed.

Mr. Brosnan introduced a bill to set the curbstones and pave the footways and gutters on the west side of Third street west, between O and P streets north. Passed.

Also, bill for the relief of Wm. Shorter. Referred.

Mr. Hoall presented a petition for grading and graveling Second street east, between G and H streets north, and petition of W. O. Denison, for pavement on B street north, between Seventh and Boundary streets. Referred.

Mr. Hobbs presented the following petition:

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1870.

To the Honorable Board of Aldermen and Common Council:

We, the undersigned residents and property owners fronting on New York avenue, between Ninth and Seventh streets, would pray your honorable bodies to allow us, the undersigned, as a stock company, to form in that portion of New York avenue lying between Sixth and Seventh streets; that is to say, allow us, by our own proper expense, to run a frame avenue on New York avenue on a line with the building line of Sixth street, and also the same at Seventh street, for gardening purposes, the said company to be composed of the New York Avenue Stock Gardening Company. We wish to protect our labor from the cattle, hogs, and vagrants running at, so we now have a crop of beets on one portion, and if we want to plant some onions, lettuce, asparagus, and some early beans, peas, and sure potatoes. We wish your honorable bodies to act on this request as soon as possible, as the season is growing late; we wish to be in market with our crop before it is too late for early business, particularly early good and tasty; we will also obligate ourselves to send each member a peck of peas and beans and some new potatoes. We ask our proper authority for early action; the commissioner has made the garden, all we have got to do is to plant and sow.

Mr. Hobbs presented the petition of Wm. Slater, protesting against changing the grade of New Jersey avenue, between D and E streets south. Referred.

Mr. Simon presented the protest of James Dubuys, and others against the passage of the bill to open and pave the alley in square 466. Referred.

Mr. Boyd introduced the following; which was referred:

Resolved, &c., That the Mayor be, and he is hereby, authorized and requested (through the clerks of the several market houses) by proclamation or other proper notice, to suspend that part of those parts of the market laws of this corporation that prohibit the hucksters or dealers or country people from opening their goods until within two hours of sunset on the day previous to the opening of any of the said markets as named above; and should any huckster, dealer or countryman have any perishable material to dispose of, that he, she or they be, and they are hereby, free and after the passage of this resolution, allowed to keep their places of business, stalls or benches open and occupied until they, of their own volition, shall deem it expedient to close the same, or until he, she or they shall have profitably or otherwise disposed of said perishable material: *Provided*, That nothing in the above resolution shall operate to interfere with the several market clerk's duties in the matter of the collection of market fees.

Also, petition of Michael Nash against the grading and paving of the sidewalk on M street, between Four-and-a-half and Sixth streets southwest. Referred.

Also, joint resolution to create an extra voting precinct in the Seventh ward. Referred.

Also, a bill to grade and pave an alley in square bounded by Second and Third streets east and E and F streets south. Passed.

Mr. Fardon submitted the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Whereas a rumor has prevailed for a long time that a number of the 10-year bonds of this corporation have been abstracted, whereby the holders have depreciated in value in the hands of the holders thereof, many of whom are poor men, who have received these bonds in payment of sums due from the corporation; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a special committee of three be appointed to inquire whether there is any foundation for such rumor; said committee to have power to send for persons and papers and report to this Board as soon as possible.

The President appointed Messrs. Fardon, Burgess, and Tinney as the committee.

The bill for the relief of George P. Hamlin was reported adversely.

The bill (H. A.) granting permission to market gardeners and dealers to wholesale their produce outside of the regular market hours, as now defined by law, was passed.

The bill (B. A.) to repair the sea wall at the foot of Second street east, and to build a sea wall at the foot of Third street east, was passed.

The bill (B. A.) to set the curbstones and pave the footways and gutters on the south side of L street, from Third street to Water street southwest; joint resolution respecting the tax sale of lots No. 1 and 2, in square 102; joint resolution in relation to pavement on the west side of First street west, from C to D streets. Passed.

Mr. McKnight, from the Committee on Claims, reported bills for the relief of Wm. Hamlin, John C. Parker, Thomas Smallwood, Michael Crutty, James Keefe, Ben. Thomas, Henry McDonelly, George H. Lee, John Ardmore, and A. H. Schneider. Passed.

Mr. Boyd, from the special committee, submitted the following:

The committee created under the following resolution, which passed the Board of Common Council:

Whereas there seems to be a difference of opinion between the Mayor and the city collector as to the amount of uncollected taxes; therefore

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to examine the amount of taxes collected and the amount uncollected for the present year, and the amount of the collector's deposit; said committee to be allowed to send for persons and papers; and that the committee shall meet to-morrow evening, at 7 o'clock, and continue their investigations from day to day until concluded; provided, however, the committee shall report at the next meeting of this board, and be expense shall attend such investigation.

Met at the City Hall at 7 o'clock, p. m., May 16th. Present, Messrs. Boyd, Fardon, Hall, Browne and McKnight. The committee was organized by Mr. Boyd, the chairman of the committee. On motion of Mr. Hall Mr. Fardon was elected secretary.

Mr. Boyd stated that Mr. Boswell be furnished with a copy of the resolution. Carried.

Mr. Boswell inquired if the committee intended to conduct their examination in the presence of the public.

Mr. Hall said they did not intend to examine further than the resolution providing.

Mr. Fardon moved that Mr. Boswell be sworn.

Mr. Boswell sworn. Examined by Mr. Fardon: Question—To whom do the assessors make their assessments? Answer. The law says the assessor shall make their returns to the collector.

Q. When are these returns to be made? A. I think about the 1st of July; it will not be positive, however.

Q. What is done with them then? A. The law is that the collector shall turn over the assessors' books to the collector and take his receipt for them; and then they are to be delivered by the Collector to the tax clerk.

Q. When, then, is the duty of the tax clerk? A. Entries are made from the books of the assessors into alphabetical tax books, (three are now used,) with the name of the property owner or person assessed, the number of the square in which the property is located, the assessed value of lot, improvements, &c., its valuation, and the amount of tax.

Q. Are the tax books turned over to you when completed? A. Yes, sir.

Q. After these books are turned over to you what do you do with them? A. From these books bills for taxes are made out.

Q. When were the tax books delivered to you this year? I think about the 20th or 25th of Oct. I can not remember exactly.

Examined by Mr. McKnight—Q. When a tax bill is made out what book does the payment appear? It appears first on a day book. We post it then from the day book to the general tax book.

Q. Do you keep a regular cash book? A. I do.

Q. How do you make your entry on the cash book? A. The total received for the day.

Q. Do you keep a ledger? A. No sir.

Q. In what book does your bank account appear? A. On my regular bank book.

Q. Does the amount of your deposit appear upon your cash book also? A. I cannot say as that account is kept entirely by Mr. Chase.

Q. In what other books is your bank account kept? A. None.

Mr. McKnight. Please explain why your cash book cannot always be called upon.

Mr. Boswell. I will state. The reason is parties obtaining a tax bill and paying the same and an error is discovered, the amount of the error is refunded to him. I have been informed that there never was such a thing as a cash book kept in the collector's office until I came in. I merely kept it for my own accommodation.

Q. You kept it then only for your own accommodation? A. I do.

Q. On this cash book does the money of the corporation appear or your own personal funds? A. Corporation funds and my own amount also. This cash book is kept for my convenience only.

By Mr. Fardon—Q. On this cash book the money received is entered, and not the money paid out, am I understand it? A. That is correct, sir; it only shows the amount of money received.

Q. What was the amount of taxable property returned to you upon the tax books by the tax clerk? A. I do not know.

Q. Can you easily ascertain? A. I cannot within so long an space of the tax books. I have nothing to do with that.

By Mr. McKnight. Q. What are the classifications of taxes? A. General, special, and revenue from licenses.

Q. Each of these are kept in separate books, are they not? A. They are.

By Mr. Hall. Q. Can you tell what amount of taxes have been collected since July 1, 1869? A. I can not now answer, but I can to-morrow by referring to the books.

Q. What amount of taxes remain uncollected? A. I cannot answer that question unless I add up the tax books, which would occupy my time for a month or more.

Q. What amount of money have you deposited in the First National Bank of Washington to the credit of the corporation? A. I cannot answer until to-morrow, or I will have to refer to my books.

On motion of Mr. Fardon, Mr. Morgan was sworn.—Examined by Mr. Fardon: Q. You are tax clerk, are you not? A. I am, sir.

Q. How did you make up the tax books for the year 1869? A. From the books of the assessors.

Q. When was the tax books completed this year? A. In the latter part of October last.

Q. What was the amount of taxable property upon those books? A. I do not know, as I have not added the books.

Q. How long do you think it would take you to add up the tax books of the amount of taxable property? A. About two months, I think, working during business hours.

Q. After those books pass from your hands to the collector do they come back into your hands again to examine as to the amount of collected and uncollected taxes? A. No, sir.

Q. You cannot tell then the amount of taxes that have been collected? A. No, sir.

On motion of Mr. McKnight, the committee adjourned until to-morrow at 5 o'clock, p. m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11.

On motion of Mr. Fardon, Mr. Boswell was recalled. Examined by Mr. Fardon—Q. Can you now answer as to the amount of taxes collected since July 1, 1869? A. Yes, sir. The amount of general taxes collected from July 1, 1869, to April 30, 1870, inclusive, is $786,752.94; special taxes, $12,836.05; for licenses, permits, &c., $74,236.32; total, $873,825.31.

Q. Can you answer the question asked you yesterday as to the amount of money deposited in the First National Bank to the credit of the corporation? A. I can. The amount deposited from July 1 to April 30, inclusive, $860,328.11.

Q. What sum of this you collected $832,154.30, and have deposited $860,328.11; what is the cause of the discrepancy between the amount collected and the amount deposited? A. The difference between the amount collected and the amount deposited is the commission allowed the collector.

Q. What is the rate per cent. allowed the collector for commission on the money collected? A. One per cent on taxes collected before advertisement; four per cent. additional on advertised taxes.

Wm. B. Chase sworn. By Mr. Fardon: Q. What is your business? A. Deputy collector.

Q. When a tax bill is paid, what is your first entry? A. It is entered on the day book.

Q. Is the name of the person paying the tax, the number of the square, the number of the lot, amount of tax and the folio of the general tax book all recorded on this book? A. They are.

Q. Is the amount journalized from the day book? A. They are.

Q. Have you any ledger to use in the collector's office? A. No, sir.

Q. You have heard the statement of Mr. Boswell as to the amount of taxes that have been paid from July 1, 1869, to April 30, 1870, and the amount deposited to the credit of the corporation. Have you any knowledge as to the correctness of those figures? A. I believe them to be correct from the knowledge I have of the books in the office.

Q. Can you state amount of taxes uncollected for the present year? A. No, sir; for the reason that the tax books have never been footed.

Q. Do you consider it the duty of the collector to add up the general tax books? A. I do not consider it as a part of his duty as collector.

Question by Mr. Browne—Q. Whose duty do you consider that it is to add up the books? A. I cannot say whose duty it is.

Question by Mr. Hall—Q. How long do you think it would take three clerks to add up the general tax books? A. About one month.

By Mr. Fardon—Q. How many columns are there on each folio to be added? A. I do not consider it as a part of his duty as collector.

Question by Mr. Browne—Q. Whose duty do you consider that it is to add up the books? A. I cannot say whose duty it is.

Examined