

AFFAIRS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Question of Storing Calcium Carbide and Gasoline.

Chemist of the Engineer Department Gives His Views on the Subject—Licenses to Intelligence Offices—Complaint Against a Wagon Stand.

The Washington branch of the American Bicycle Company has made application for a permit to carry small quantities of calcium carbide and gasoline. The matter was referred to the Fire Department, and William G. Drew, the Fire Marshal, reported that he had examined the premises where it is proposed to store the chemical named, and that he could see no objection to granting the request.

Major Sylvester in forwarding the papers to the Commissioners states that the number of wagons allowed on this subject is eight. He says that he has received numerous complaints about the condition in which the stand is kept, and also about the help who hang around, and persons in the immediate vicinity, who use the stand for loafing places. He states that he has received complaints from residents in the vicinity who regard the stand as a nuisance.

Major Sylvester has further informed the Commissioners that the stand is directly across Seventh Street from where the public library will be opened eventually, and he suggests that it might be well to begin to improve conditions at this time. If there is not improvement, that is, if the stand is not kept clean and free from loiterers or their abstracts of the sidewalk, Major Sylvester states that he will recommend that it be abolished entirely. Major Sylvester also states that a few days ago a citizen was assaulted there by some of these men, who thought that he was interested in having some changes made in the situation.

R. J. Tracewell, Comptroller of the Treasury, a few days ago asked the Commissioners to be furnished with copies of the order authorizing the employment of certain per diem employees of the street cleaning department for the purpose of similar orders relative to the appointment of per diem employees, and also as to whether their employment has been temporary or continuous.

In reply to this request for information Commissioners Macfarland yesterday wrote to Mr. Tracewell, inclosing copies of the orders asked for, and stating that the six inspectors of the Street Cleaning Department, two clerks in the office, and the Weighing Clerk, whose salaries are paid out of the appropriation for the collection and disposal of city refuse, are, and have been, continuously employed. He further states that the two foremen on the street cleaning work are employed temporarily and are paid out of the appropriation for street cleaning, sweeping and sweeping of streets.

The committee on bids has forwarded to the Commissioners a schedule of proposals received on June 1 for furnishing granite curbing, and have recommended that the contracts be awarded to the Rowan Granite Quarries and the Georgia Roubidoux and Stone Company, in accordance with the terms of the proposals.

Charles B. Ball, the Inspector of Plumbing, has reported to the Commissioners that their order relating to the connection of premises 2348 Champlain Avenue northwest with sewer and water main has been complied with, and recommends that a duplicate order be issued.

G. H. Harries, commander of the District of Columbia militia, has communicated with the Commissioners informing them of the law relative to camp duty for the members of the National Guard and has asked that members of the Guard in the employ of the District be granted the necessary leave of absence.

Acting on the advice of P. D. Simms, Superintendent of Property, the Commissioners have granted an extension of time for thirty days to the American Sewer Pipe Company on their contract for furnishing sewer brick and paving blocks. The ground for the extension is that the work of the company is delayed by the Ohio River being shut down for a time on account of the floods in the Ohio Valley.

W. Nalle, Adjutant General of the State of Virginia, has asked permission for the Virginia Volunteers, or any part thereof, to be sent to the District of Columbia, armed and equipped, white going to and returning from the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo.

Pursuant to the recent order of the Commissioners, the Electrical Engineer has reported that the amount of per diem employees of that department.

A. J. Hahn, of 1407 Florida Avenue northeast, has protested against paying a recent assessment against his property for sewer. He makes this protest on the ground that his premises are not connected with the sewer, and that in no way of benefit to him or his property. The matter has been referred to the Sewer Department, which has advised that the assessment was a proper charge against the property because the sewer is a public utility, and the property of the Commissioners has taken this view of the case and has decided it accordingly.

J. A. Frank, Sanitary Officer of the Police Department, has notified the Commissioners that Isiah Tompkins was refused admission to the Freedman's Hospital on June 26, and afterward removed to the District of Columbia Asylum Hospital, where he was received.

A. R. Lamb, Inspector of Hacks, has forwarded to the Commissioners a recommendation that brooms be furnished by the Street Cleaning Department for the purpose of keeping the hack stands clean. He suggests that the brooms could be used by the drivers of the hacks occupying the stands.

Walter C. Allen, the Electrical Engineer, has just submitted a report to the Commissioners that his department has in accordance with the provisions of the District Appropriations bill for the next fiscal year, changed the street signs on Fourth street, between D Street and Pennsylvania Avenue northwest to John Marshall Place.

The Superintendent of Repairs of the Engineer Department has forwarded to the Commissioners the proposals received for laying the cement pavement in the yard of truck house B, on K Street, between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Streets. He recommends that the bid of the Crawford Packing Company be accepted.

END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

Mr. Gage Reviews the Government's Financial Condition.

The Most Successful Season Past and the Greatest Available Cash Balance in the Nation's History—Outlook as Favorable as Ever Before.

At the close of business yesterday the United States Government ended the most successful financial year in its history. The fiscal year ends on June 30, but as the last day of the present fiscal period happens to fall on Sunday, the records of the Treasury Department were virtually complete at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. While the finances of the Government are in a most encouraging condition, the commerce and industries of the United States as shown by the records of the Treasury for the last twelve months have reached a condition of prosperity unprecedented, exports of domestic products amounting to about a billion and a half of dollars, the balance trade being by far larger than ever before.

The United States Treasury has had a most remarkable year, and Secretary Gage said yesterday afternoon that the outlook for the fiscal year 1902 was as encouraging as any since the Government was established. So far as he could see there were no rocks ahead, and he authorized the statement that he will continue indefinitely the purchase of bonds, relying on the great resources of the Treasury and the credit of the Government to maintain them. He said that he has no immediate intention of resuming the refunding operations authorized by the act of March 14, 1900.

This year, for the first time since the Secretary of the Treasury purchased bonds in the open market without advertising for proposals, as has been the custom heretofore, the Treasury has received during the fiscal year more than it has spent by the sum of \$15,000,000, which is the largest surplus that has been realized in any year in the last decade except 1900. It would have exceeded by far even the record of last year had not purchases of bonds been made in the amount of nearly \$15,000,000. Yet, as Mr. Gage said yesterday, a large surplus is not to be regarded as an unmixed blessing, and it is only valuable in a summary of our finances as showing the prosperous condition of the Treasury and the credit of the years of Democratic Administration, when a deficiency in the revenues caused repeated issues of bonds and plunged the nation deeper into debt. One significant thing about the Treasury statement on this last day of the fiscal year is that the available cash balance, amounting to \$175,000,000, is larger than ever before in the history of the country. At the same time, the stock of gold in the Treasury vaults has reached an enormous sum of nearly \$50,000,000, a condition which two or three years ago was entirely unlooked for.

The brief record of the Treasury finances during the last year is as follows: Receipts—From customs, \$28,282,669; from internal revenue, \$95,214,410; from miscellaneous sources, \$1,247,157.18; a total of \$124,744,236. Expenditures—For civil and miscellaneous purposes, \$122,288,083; for the military establishment, \$12,492,323; for the navy, \$9,580,706.49; for the interior, \$9,874,906; for pensions, \$13,221,530.25; for interest, \$2,319,354.71; a total of \$160,377,363.51. The receipts from customs were more expensive this year than last year, and from interest, \$1,000,000 larger. The War Department was more expensive this year by about \$10,000,000 than it was in 1900, the bulk of the increase being due to the issue of interest already of about \$8,000,000. The receipts of the fiscal period just closed have been \$25,000,000 in excess of more than \$2,000,000 by the sale of the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad, but this item does not enter into the Treasury statement. The similar item of \$6,000,000 three years ago, when the Government's interest in the Union Pacific was sold, was with the one of 1900, when nearly \$12,000,000 was received on account of the Central Pacific.

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