

THE FIRE BOARD.

New Rules Adopted For the Department.

The regular weekly meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held yesterday morning in the city hall, Mayor Hazard presiding, and Mrs. Keefe, Kuhn, Lovell and Moore present.

The committee on rules and regulations presented its report, which, after a lengthy discussion, was adopted, and the clerk of the board was instructed to have the rules printed and present a proof thereof to a committee composed of Messrs. Lovell and Moore for corrections.

The petition of H. A. Hart, asking for permission to erect a small boiler on a lot fronting on Main street, about 200 feet south of Tenth street, for the purpose of experimenting in the extracting of gas from coal, was read and referred to the Chief with power to act.

A number of demands, amounting in the aggregate to \$628.43, were approved as read.

The Chief reported that he had received from Venables the sum of \$17.50, with which to defray the expense of breaking the fire hydrant on the corner of Fort and Temple streets, and that he had paid the same into the city treasury.

The Chief having reported that W. Barry, the driver of hose cart No. 3, had been suspended, the matter was, after some discussion, referred to a committee on motion of Colonel Moore, for investigation, and the chairman appointed Messrs. Keefe, Kuhn, and Moore as such committee, with instructions to report at the next meeting of the board.

Mrs. Keefe asked that the Chief be instructed to investigate into the cause of the lameness of one of the horses lately purchased for the department from Richard Gird. Chief Strohm reported that from what he could learn of the matter, the horse had been kicked by his stable companion in play; but nothing definite was known of how it occurred. He was instructed to turn the animal out to grass when necessary, and the board then adjourned until Tuesday next at 10 a. m.

The rules and regulations as adopted are in substance as follows:

Every member of the Los Angeles Fire Department shall be 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a qualified voter of the City of Los Angeles, and able to converse understandingly in the English language.

The engineer of the steamer shall have charge of the engine house and the apparatus therein. He shall also have charge of the permanent men, and see that their duties are properly performed.

The permanent men shall sleep in the engine, hose and hook and ladder houses, unless specially permitted by the Chief to sleep elsewhere, the Chief to report the same to the commissioners. They shall not leave the house unguarded, except during fires or alarms, and shall be held responsible for the safe keeping of the property entrusted to their charge.

All members of the department shall attend promptly at all fires and alarms, and render prompt assistance in their respective stations. They shall return to the engine, hose and truck houses after every alarm, and answer to the roll call.

The Chief shall have power and authority to call out the department for practice service.

Only members of the department shall ride on the engines, trucks or hose carts in going to or returning from fires.

If leave of absence is granted any member, he shall furnish a competent substitute.

Engine, hose and hook and ladder drivers shall not drive out of a trot in returning from fires and alarms, and racing is strictly prohibited. Crossing a line of hose, in use, except in cases of absolute necessity, is strictly prohibited.

It shall be the duty of the permanent men of the companies to hitch their horses to the apparatus at 12 noon.

Any officer or member of the department who shall refuse to pay any just debt contracted during his connection with the department shall be subject to suspension or dismissal.

No Chief Engineer, Assistant Chief Engineer, driver, tillerman or electrician of the department shall distribute tickets at any general or municipal election.

The Chief Engineer is required to enforce all the rules and regulations established and provided by the Board of Commissioners, and is hereby vested with power to suspend any officer, member or employee of the department who shall neglect to perform the respective duties assigned to him, or refuse to comply with the rules, regulations and requirements of the commissioners.

It shall be the duty of the Assistant Chief to respond to all alarms of fire, and, in the absence of the Chief Engineer, to take sole charge of fires and alarms of fire; and in case of sickness or absence of the Chief Engineer, he shall assume the same duties as devolve upon the Chief Engineer.

Members of the department must, while in service, wear their badges displayed conspicuously on left breast, and are prohibited from exchanging or loaning badges.

Telephones in department houses shall not be used by any person not a member of the department, nor for any purpose other than business connected with the fire department.

Nothing contained in these rules shall preclude the fire commissioners and Chief Engineer from at any time requiring any or either of the employees of the department, serving under their directions, to perform such other duties as are in the interest of the department service may in their opinion demand.

Any and all violations of these rules and regulations not otherwise provided for, shall be punishable by suspension or dismissal, as the Board of Fire Commissioners may elect.

THE LIBRARY.

A Remarkable Showing as Regards Circulation.

The Board of Directors of the Los Angeles Public Library met yesterday afternoon, President Robinson in the chair, and Directors F. H. Howard, J. Mills Davies and H. Jay Hanchette and the Librarian, Miss T. L. Kelso, present.

The book committee reported that it had not selected many new books during the month, preferring to wait until all the orders now out have been received.

The auditing committee reported favorably upon a number of demands, which were approved and ordered paid.

The special committee on the newspaper room reported that it had caused a new arrangement of the newspapers, which seemed to have met with general satisfaction.

The Librarian, Miss Kelso, reported that during the month \$150 had been received from dues and \$7.80 for fines. She also reported that 1,070 new books and ten new periodicals had been placed on the shelves and added to the library.

The circulation during the month had been 10,500 and the registration seventy-five. She called attention to the fact that although the library contained but

11,000 volumes and the city had only a population of 85,000, the record placed it far ahead of libraries containing more books in larger cities. Take, for instance, the Mercantile Library in San Francisco, with 58,634 volumes. There the monthly issue of books is but 2,754, with a population of about 350,000. In the same city the Public Library, which is entirely free, and has 50,000 books and three branch libraries, the issue of books is but 13,781 per month. In Detroit, with a population of 170,000, and 85,622 volumes in the library, the issue of books is but 19,200 per month. Grand Rapids, Michigan, has a population of 65,000, and its library contains 21,485 volumes. The issue of books each month averages 8,103 volumes. Omaha has the same population as Los Angeles, but its library contains twice as many books, 22,982, and the circulation there falls short of the figures of the library here by 125 per month. Taking these figures and representing the Los Angeles public library at 100, Omaha is 49; San Francisco, 84; Grand Rapids, 52; Detroit, 144.

The Librarian stated that it was considered in big libraries a good showing if all the books were turned over once in six months, but the record of the Los Angeles library showed that its books were turned over once a month.

On motion the clerk was instructed to request the Council to take action upon the communication in reference to the ventilation of the reading rooms, sent to that body a month ago and referred to the building committee, which had not reported upon the same.

The clerk was instructed to enter into a correspondence with Eastern parties to obtain information in reference to cataloging the library.

The board then adjourned.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

Travel Picking Up—A Union Pacific Official's Approaching Visit.

Local travel is on the increase. The trains to Santa Monica and Redondo were well filled yesterday. The hot weather which has prevailed for the last few days has given a good many people the opportunity which they have been wishing for to visit the seashore. Travel to all local points and between this city and San Francisco is also becoming rather more lively. The city receives, however, only a slim allowance of excursionists from the East. The mildness of the winter beyond the Rockies and the general prevalence of the gripe there have kept back travel. The prospects are that it will pick up from this on, and that by a month from now the hotels will be well filled.

The shipping of oranges continues to occupy all the attention of the freight people. Special trains laden with the fruit leave the city on both the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe roads. Yesterday a special of seventeen cars went north on the Southern Pacific and twenty-three went east on the same line.

Next Saturday C. F. Mellen, general traffic manager of the Union Pacific, will arrive in this city, and after a stay of a day or two, will go to San Diego and then return East. It is believed that this visit is one of special significance, in view of the now acknowledged intention of the road to build to Los Angeles.

C. L. Canfield, the general agent at San Francisco for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, arrived in the city yesterday. He will be here for several days.

The Patti special of twelve cars will pass through this city tomorrow on the Southern Pacific.

There will be an excursion to Coronado Beach on the Santa Fe next Saturday.

LAWYERS VS. DOCTORS.

A Great Game of Baseball in the Near Future.

A great game of baseball is on the tapis, one that will command the attention of every citizen of Los Angeles and fill the ball grounds to overflowing with all the youth, beauty, wisdom and fashion of the city. The lawyers have been seriously considering for some time the possibility of being able to argue with the umpire better than the physicians, and they have at last come to the conclusion that they can gain a final decision in their favor without the necessity of filing briefs. They therefore issue a challenge to the physicians of the city to play them at a date hereafter to be fixed, the proceeds to be turned over to the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Matters have already gone so far that a portion of the players on the local side of the question have already been assigned positions. So far as arranged, Senator R. F. Del Valle will be short stop, Judge J. W. Hendrick will take care of second base, Lieutenant Governor S. M. White will stand in center field, City Attorney Chas. McFarland will stop the balls at first base, and Judge Clark will be in the right field. Judge W. Van Dyke is noted for the twirl he gives the sphere, and with Henry O'Melveny behind the bat, the plate batters will have a small chance of diagnosing their own case, although they may be called upon to give a clinic or perform operations after each inning. If the physicians desire to take up the glove thus cast at them they should place themselves in communication with Hon. R. F. Del Valle, who is to be the captain of the nine.

East Side Notes.

There has been but little news except fresh cases of the grip for a week past.

Mr. Louis Collette has gone north to accept a position in a wholesale house. The many patrons of Horne & Abel's will miss him.

On Monday morning the wife of Henry Whitman presented him with an addition to their already large family, in the shape of a fine girl. The new arrival is very vigorous and healthy for its age.

The residents in the neighborhood of Kuhn's and Clover streets are rejoicing over the fact that they have at last obtained a catch basin at the corner of these streets, which they have been petitioning for ever since the storm drains were constructed. It will, in all probability, be clear the balance of the year.

Mrs. Towr, who lives a couple of miles below Florence, drove in with a two-horse team to visit friends in East Los Angeles. While driving out New Main street, her horses took fright at something, and ran away, throwing her out and wrecking the vehicle against a post. She was carried into a house near the Kuhn's-street bridge, and the patrol wagon being summoned, she was taken to the police station for treatment. It was found that her right shoulder and two ribs were broken, in addition to several severe bruises and some internal injuries, and she was at once taken to St. Paul's hospital, where she is now lying. At noon yesterday she was reported improving as rapidly as possible under the circumstances.

Do you want a bargain in second-hand pianos? You will find two of them at C. E. Day's music store, 8 North Spring street.

BREAKERS AHEAD.

The City Government Rushing Us Into Bankruptcy.

Editors HERALD—Was ever a city cursed by such an incompetent and extravagant governing body as our present City Council? Instead of grasping the situation at the start, as by accepting their present responsible positions they professed their capacity to do, and keeping the city's outgoes within its income, they went on from the very beginning in the most reckless fashion, first bulldozing the City Assessor into the notion that as the rate was limited to \$1 he must bring the assessment up to \$40,000,000 or \$50,000,000, notwithstanding the terrible shrinkage of values from the boom; notwithstanding thousands of acres of orange orchards and vineyards were dying and being dug up; notwithstanding rents were falling 75 per cent., and in some cases to nil; and then, when baffled in their wild attempts to squeeze more money out of the bedeviled taxpayers, raising the assessment themselves horizontally in the center of the city 10 and 20 per cent, till at last they find themselves confronted by a big deficit that may be \$50,000 or it may be \$200,000.

But not content with bankrupting the city, they now seem determined to do their best to bankrupt the citizens in detail. Utterly oblivious of the terribly hard times, they are going on and opening, grading and paving streets, and making improvements on a scale of extravagance that looks as though they thought we were all millionaires.

They seem to forget that the people of this city and county have, within a very short time, been compelled to pay more than a million and a half dollars taxes; they forget that the people of this city, within the last two years, have probably expended more money in proportion to their numbers in opening, grading and sidewalk and paving streets, and in building sewers and bridges, etc., than any other city in America, or in the world.

And so the dance of extravagance, financial debauchery and imbecility goes on.

There can only be one end to this, unless the people arise in their might and call a halt. The few spasmodic attempts of the city government at retrenchment are but the merest child's play. The members of the Council, with small brains and large prejudices, apparently lack both the capacity to inaugurate a policy of vigorous, radical retrenchment and the backbone to carry out such a policy.

Let them stop absolutely all street opening and grading, etc., and cut down mercilessly the expenses of the Engineer's and Street Superintendent's departments, and abolish the \$800 to \$1,000 a month, which the "Street and Water Commission" now costs the poor distraught property owners. Let them reduce the police force one-half, or even to twenty-five men. This step would not cause the world to come to an end, although weak-minded and weak-kneed municipal statesmen might doubtless be bamboozled into the fear that it would.

Let every branch of the city government, including the school department, public library, etc., get down to what sailors call "salting under bare poles, if they do not want to encounter unprepared very rough weather ahead. Some years ago the salaries of public school teachers in this city were from 50 to 75 per cent higher than they were in Philadelphia. The only excuse then was that it cost more to live here than it did there. Now all this has changed. The cost of living here is less here than there. Why should Los Angeles pay more than Philadelphia or other Eastern cities for the same class of services? Here, because we lack the wise and careful forethought that quickly takes cognizance of changed conditions.

We not only give gratuitous normal training to teachers, but we pay young ladies \$60, \$75, \$80, \$90 and even \$95 per month of forty weeks of teaching in any other occupation here or in teaching in the East, over \$5 to \$10 per week. Without at all lessening the efficiency of our public schools we can, if we will, assimilate the wages of our teachers to something like the rates prevailing in the East.

It has been estimated that one-half the tax-payers of this city have had to borrow money to pay their late city, county and State taxes. Many have been compelled to do this who at present are without income. One vineyard owner says he had to pay over \$600 taxes and he did not get one dollar income from his vineyard. As a matter of fact he has dug up his vines by the roots on account of the new vine disease, which seems to be baffling all attempts to find a remedy. Most of the vineyards of this city have been, or are being, uprooted, leaving the owners with no income. Their obligations given for borrowed money to pay taxes will become due sometime. How can they meet them? The present city government seems to be oblivious to all these things. The banks are now supposed to be full of money from the million or more of local taxes lately gathered in. But if, by and by, when the tax moneys are disbursed and loans to tax payers cannot be collected, what is going to happen? Let an incompetent city government, which is doing its best to bankrupt the city in lump, and its property owners in detail, answer!

Los Angeles, February 5.

How Mr. White Ruled in the Senate.

Editors HERALD—The Tribune of Sunday contained an article designed to convey the idea that I, as presiding officer of the California Senate, made a ruling similar to the much discussed decision of Speaker Reed. A similar statement was published in the San Francisco Chronicle of Sunday, and I take this occasion to say that I never made any such ruling as that attributed to me.

The facts of the case are the following: The Republican members of the Legislature, with the exception of Mr. Dameron and one or two others, whose views of the law agreed with that adopted by the Democrats, and subsequently declared to be correct by the Supreme Court, attempted to prevent the election of library trustees by declining to vote, but instead of remaining silent in their seats a number of them arose as their names were called and made the statement, "Mr. President, I decline to vote."

I directed the secretary to enter in the journal the fact that the member said that he declined to vote. This was merely providing that the proceedings as they occurred should be taken down. After a while it became evident that the obstructionists that they were making mistakes, and from that time no Republican member responded to his name, and in no case was any person noted as present who did not respond to his name. I took the position then that the presiding officer had no right to announce anyone present who did not respond. This rule had been recognized in Congress at all times until the incumbency of Mr. Reed. It was recognized by Mr.

Blaine, and the Republicans under Carlisle's and Randall's administrations had the benefit of it on many occasions. It is established parliamentary law and can only be properly abrogated by rule. The presiding officer has no right to make rules. He must follow established parliamentary precedents until rules to the contrary are enacted. Members who vote, or announce that they will not vote, make their action a matter of record. In such a case, they personally declare that they are present. No one has ever been found to question so plain a proposition. The case is entirely different where a member does not answer. His presence can only be evidenced by his answer. I might remark that in the case I am considering, a quorum actually voted for the candidates.

STEPHEN M. WHITE.

February 3, 1890.

Ask Colonel Morford.

Editors HERALD—Having at an enormous expense paved and sewered First street, from Main to Los Angeles, and paid to the city an average tax of over \$200 per month, can you assign any reason why the said street is not sprinkled and cleaned. Tenants are vacating said premises on account of the filth and dust. We have asked for relief, but in vain.

W. F. NORDHOLT ET AL.

Los Angeles, February 5.

County Money.

On February 1st County Treasurer Banbury had over \$600,000 of county cash in his custody. It was apportioned among the various funds as follows:

General school fund.....\$109,530.64
County expense fund.....45,491.91
Salary fund.....65,498.11
Road fund.....62,928.30
Hospital fund.....57,276.99
State fund.....1,804.84
Court House and Jail fund.....131,191.83

Total in all funds.....\$612,033.81

During the month of January \$652,276.06 was paid out on county warrants.

Of this sum, \$544,622.47 was sent to the County Treasurer to pay the State tax for Los Angeles county.

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