

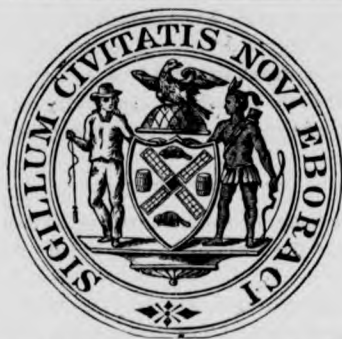
THE CITY RECORD.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

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NEW YORK, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1874.

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LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

STATED SESSION.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

No. 15 CITY HALL,
MONDAY, January 19, 1874,
3:30 o'clock P. M.

The Board met in their Chamber, No. 15 City Hall.

Present:—HON. SAMUEL B. H. VANCE, President, in the Chair, and the following members:

Stephen V. R. Cooper,	Robert McCafferty,
John Falconer,	John A. Monheimer,
Edward Gilon,	Jos. J. Morris,
Peter Kehr,	Oswald Ottendorfer,
Patrick Lysaght,	John Reilly.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

MESSAGES FROM THE MAYOR.

The following message was received from his Honor the Mayor:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, CITY HALL,
NEW YORK, January 19, 1874.

To the Honorable the Common Council:

GENTLEMEN—I return herewith, without my approval, an ordinance to pave Eighty-fourth street, from Eighth avenue to the Boulevard, for the reason that the greater part of the work proposed to be done by this ordinance is already under contract.

W. F. HAVEMEYER.

Which was laid on the table, ordered to be printed in the minutes and published in THE CITY RECORD.

Also the following, being his annual message to the Common Council:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
MAYOR'S OFFICE, January 19th, 1874.

To the Honorable the Common Council:

GENTLEMEN—On the commencement of another year of official life, I congratulate your Honorable Body and the Executive Departments of the City Government, on the auspicious close of the one that is past, in the freedom of the City from the pestilence by which some of our sister cities have been afflicted, and in the good order and health which has very generally prevailed.

By the Charter it is made "the duty of the Mayor to communicate to the Common Council at least once a year a general statement of the Finances, Government and Improvements of the City," and "to recommend all such measures as he shall deem expedient."

Since my last annual communication to your Honorable Body, the laws relative to the government of the City have been modified in respect of certain details of administration, and doubtless, in some minor matters improved. By the provisions of what is called the new Charter, the opportunity has been afforded to reconstruct the personnel of most of the Departments through the nominations by the Mayor and confirmation by the Aldermen. The old and vicious system of a plurality of heads of Departments is however still retained; a system as objectionable as that of independent commissions, and almost as irresponsible. The time that has elapsed since the appointment of the heads of the Departments has been altogether too short to justify comment upon their acts. They have scarcely as yet cleared away the rubbish left by their predecessors. In many of them economies and salutary regulations have been introduced which have resulted in, and will continue to yield, the fruits of substantial reform.

The great subject that underlies the stability, the progress and the acceptableness of all governments, is the monetary question. It always forms the chief subject of criticism, and is often the one most difficult to administer satisfactorily. It is a very moderate statement of the facts to say that at no period in the history of this city has the management of its finances been attended with any thing approaching the difficulties and complications that have surrounded and beset the present administration.

Indeed the condition of our financial affairs at the period they were assumed by the present head of the Finance Department was without parallel in the annals of municipal history. It was at the commencement of a transition period from an epoch characterized by social demoralization, disregard of the obligations of public duty, official neglect, fraud and crime, towards an era demanding a higher morality and purer and better standard of public administration.

During this period there has been required the vigor necessary to oppose the methods of malevolent and corrupt officials of the past, and forbearance and patience with the inexperience of new incumbents. The task of the restoration of the credit of the city and of protecting the treasury, has involved one continued, persistent and unremitting contest with claimants of the most desperate and corrupt character.

The following tabular statement shows the condition of the public debt:

The Bonded Debt of the City and County on 31st December, 1873, amounted to.....	\$131,204,571 22
The Sinking Fund amounted to.....	24,832,617 50
Net debt.....	\$106,371,953 72
The present Comptroller assumed the management of the Finance Department on 16th September, 1871, at which date the Bonded and Funded Debt of the City and County amounted to.....	\$116,709,858 51
The Sinking Fund, at that date, amounted to.....	19,422,333 48
Net debt at that date.....	\$97,287,525 03
Net increase in debt is.....	\$9,084,428 69

During the period of the present comptroller's administration, there have been issued

Bonds of the City and County as follows:	
To pay old debts.....	\$9,717,397 55
To pay for land, &c., taken in opening new Streets, Parks, &c., partially payable from assessments.....	5,743,500 00
To pay for Street Improvements, payable from assessments.....	8,150,772 30
To pay for other purposes, chiefly for Public Works.....	17,801,951 71
Revenue Bonds of 1873, outstanding.....	1,472,547 12
Revenue Bonds, 1874, payable from Building Lien.....	2,034 53
Total amount of Bonds issued.....	\$42,888,203 21

There has been paid off during the same period:

Revenue Bonds, 1871, outstanding Sept. 16, 1871, paid.....	\$22,766,200 00
Revenue Bonds, 1874, issued to pay old debts, paid.....	1,407,000 00
Other Bonds, City and County, paid.....	4,220,290 50
Gross increase in amount of Bonded debt.....	\$14,494,712 71
Less increase in Sinking Fund.....	5,410,284 02

Increase in Debt, as above..... 9,084,428 69

The following statement shows the increase in the City and County Debt from 1869 to 1874:

	GROSS DEBT.	SINKING FUND.	NET DEBT.
January 1st, 1869.....	\$52,205,430 80	\$15,911,501 21	\$36,293,929 59
" 1st, 1870.....	66,040,052 22	18,006,310 63	48,033,741 59
" 1st, 1871.....	91,489,446 51	18,115,894 49	73,373,552 02
September 16th, 1871. The date on which the present Comptroller took office.....	116,709,858 51	19,422,333 48	97,287,525 03
January 1st, 1873.....	118,815,229 82	23,348,074 89	95,467,154 93
" 1st, 1874.....	131,204,571 22	24,832,617 50	106,371,953 72

CITY AND COUNTY DEBT.

	September 16, 1871.	December 31, 1873
Assessment Bonds.....	\$11,824,500 00	\$21,927,372 30
Revenue Bonds—Anticipating Taxes of 1871 and 1873, respectively..	22,766,200 00	1,472,547 12
Revenue Bonds Special—payable from Building Lien.....		2,034 53
Funded Debt.....	82,119,158 51	107,802,617 27
	\$116,709,858 51	\$131,204,571 22

From which it will appear that of this increase \$10,102,872.30 is in assessment bonds alone, for which the city holds a direct lien upon the property benefited by the improvements.

It will thus be seen that the total increase in the debt from 16th September, 1871, to January 1st, 1874, was \$14,494,712.71. The greater portion of the bonds representing this increase was issued for the purposes belonging to a past era, and not belonging to the year 1872 and 1873. After crediting the Sinking Fund, the net increase of the debt is only \$9,084,428.69, showing that from money derived from other sources the debt has been kept down to the extent of \$5,410,284.02. On the 1st of January, 1874, the amount of the Sinking Fund was \$24,832,617 50. On 16th September, 1871, the Sinking Fund amounted to..... 19,422,333 48. Showing an increase of..... \$5,410,284 02.

Of this amount only the sum of \$646,511.31 was derived from the sale of public property and the payment of mortgages. The balance, \$4,763,772.71, is at least in some degree due to increased vigor in collecting and husbanding the city revenues. The expenditures for maintaining the government of the city and county for the year 1871 was not less than..... 36,262,580 41. The expenditures for 1872 did not exceed..... 31,500,000 00. The expenditures of 1873 were about..... 32,000,000 00. A fair comparison of the expenses would show that those of 1873 are less than those of 1871 by more than..... 8,000,000 00.

It may suit the purpose of those interested in the restoration of a regime of misgovernment, to charge upon the present Administration the responsibility for an increase of debt and taxation which is the direct consequence of the acts of their predecessors in office. How entirely the present Administration [is] free from any reproach in this matter may be inferred from the fact that for 1872 and 1873, in spite of the bad inheritance of previous years, the current expenses of the Government were met by an average rate of 270-100 per cent for each year, while in 1871 the actual, as distinguished from the nominal, rate was about three and one-half per cent.

If the estimates for 1874 seem to reveal a less favorable state of things the difference is only apparent. The Board of Apportionment has found it necessary to appropriate \$39,218,945.79 to meet the expenses of Government for the present year. Of this amount \$24,193,399.16 is required to provide for expenditures already fixed by law. It is simply over the balance of \$15,025,546.63 that the board could exercise any discretion whatever, and the apportionment of this sum had obviously to be regulated by the growing wants of the city, in providing for its increased area, by the imperative necessities of the current business, and the decayed condition of many of its public buildings, and the urgent need of repairing its thoroughfares. The estimate of expenditures of all accounts for 1874 is but slightly in excess of the actual expenditures of 1871. But it will be seen that under the provisions of law, the city and county are required to raise during the present year the following amounts in excess of those required for 1871. The State tax is nearly \$1,000,000 higher than in 1871. Three million dollars more are required to pay the interest on the debt. For the redemption of funded bonds, nearly \$2,000,000 have to be provided, while none were paid in 1871 from taxation. The Fourth avenue improvements demand a million and a half, and the Police Department a million for street cleaning, additions to the force, &c., in excess of what had to be supplied in 1871. Various additions and improvements to the city property which would, under the old system, have been paid for by the issue of bonds, will this year be met out of the proceeds of taxation.

Under the apportionment for 1874, the rate of taxation for the year will amount to 340-100 per cent on \$1,129,139,623, the assessed value of 1873. This is so high a rate that it is imperatively necessary that no further appropriations or expenditures should be sanctioned by the Legislature calculated to increase the burdens of the city. To prevent any such legislation I invite the co-operation of your honorable body. The Comptroller informs me that the rate of taxation for 1874 can be somewhat reduced, should the Legislature pass the laws required for that effect, which will be prepared by him for submission. It is to be hoped that a result so desirable for the present and future prosperity of New York will be attained with both promptitude and ease. Both

trade and population will be driven from the city unless the greatest vigilance is exercised to defeat all projects for imposing fresh burdens on this over-taxed community, and unless the strictest economy is employed in disbursing the revenues over which we are suffered to retain any practical supervision.

The proportion of the State tax required this year from New York city and county amounts to over twenty per cent of the entire tax levy of the city and county, and maintains its usual disparity with that collected from the rest of the State. It is a standing injustice to this community that it should be called upon to pay nearly one-half of the entire expenses of the State government. It is a matter of little concern to New York under what system of assessment the local revenues of Buffalo and Rochester are raised, but it does concern our interests very materially when a common burden like the State tax bears upon every dollar's worth of real estate in this city with a weight double that imposed on other parts of the State. From a Legislature, five-sixths of which represent constituencies unconcerned in the preparation of this wrong, it is difficult to say how we can expect such a remedy as the case demands. It is evident that nothing short of persistent agitation and resolute protest will accomplish anything in this direction, and no opportunity should be omitted to arouse public opinion to the magnitude of the injury which the apportionment of State taxes inflicts on this city.

We are this year required by law to provide \$3,644,387.77, by the issue of the bonds of the city, as our portion of an unexplained absence of over \$6,000,000 in certain sinking funds of the State, which by the constitution and laws, are made inviolable. This infliction will, of course, increase the debt of the city to that extent.

Claims of the present year against the Treasury are audited and paid at the Finance Department with great promptness, and so far as that Department is concerned at least, no just cause of complaint exists with respect to any class of payments.

The average time within which bills for supplies, materials, &c., were examined and paid during the year after the receipt of the claim in the Department of Finance, was two days. The average time within which pay-rolls of laborers of the past year have been paid was less than three days from the time of their receipt at the Finance Department.

Prior to the present administration of the Department, the laborers were brought to the office in the City Hall Park for payment; they were paid for their time in coming, going and waiting. They are now paid on or near their work, and it is not extravagant to say that a quarter of a million dollars per year is saved by this method of transacting this business.

During the year \$2,453,315.85 have been disbursed to laboring men employed by the city, and they have been always fairly, justly and promptly paid.

The provisions of the new charter dispensed with the services of a paying officer in all departments, except the Police, and the paying of men and of claims that formerly occupied a dozen separate treasurers and a retinue of attendants and aids for almost every department, is now done by the Finance Department after its audit of the claim, thus keeping a check on the operations of the other branches of the City Government. This is a salutary and sound arrangement, and though it has greatly enhanced the labors of the Finance Department, the rule should be made universal.

It is upon this department that much depends in the collection and increase of the city revenues. That these revenues have greatly increased is beyond question.

In the midst of the late financial panic (on the 1st of November last), bonds of the city, to the amount of \$5,350,000, fell due, and the Comptroller was compelled, in addition to the large amounts to be raised to meet the current claims of the city, to provide the means to pay the maturing bonds. This was successfully accomplished.

Between the 1st of January, this date, and the 1st of February, 1874, over eight millions of bonds mature, and the means will be provided to pay them.

CHAMBERLAIN AND COUNTY TREASURER.

The very responsible duties of this officer have been most satisfactorily performed. The banks which have been made depositaries of the moneys of the city and county have made to the Comptroller, promptly and without coercion, monthly returns of the interest accrued on the deposited funds, and these have been passed to the credit of the sinking fund. The amount of interest accrued to the city on their moneys, from May 1st to December 31st, is \$82,477.18. The Chamberlain, who is required to give security in the sum of \$2,600,000, is allowed by law the sum of \$30,000 per annum for his own compensation, and to provide for all the expenses of conducting his office.

What a contrast with the past!

The late Chamberlain, Francis A. Palmer, has not yet paid over to the city the interest accrued on deposits. He has not yet accounted for the commissions on the amount paid over to the State treasurer. It is believed that the advantages of this office prior to the accession of the present incumbent were, directly and indirectly, not less than \$250,000 per annum to its fortunate holder.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The cleaning of the streets has been placed under the management of this department, and it is very certain that there has been a great improvement in the performance of this service during the past year. It is to be hoped that the expenses will be reduced as the business becomes better organized.

This department, since its organization under the New Charter, has exhibited a degree of vigor and intelligent zeal in the discharge of the important duties the law devolves upon its heads, which promise to give us a greater measure of security to life and property and maintenance of public order than we have known in recent years.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

Upon the Law Department has been imposed an unusual amount of business occasioned by the defense of numerous old claims against the City. To this Department has been committed the power of assigning counsel to the other Departments of the City as required.

It seems to me it would be well to give to the Mayor the power to employ special counsel when, in his opinion, the interests of the City require it. He is held responsible for the good government of the City, and coupled with that responsibility should be the right to employ counsel in any particular case in which the interests of the City may, in his judgment, require it.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Fire Department proposes, among its expenditures for the year 1874, the construction of a Fire Boat, to ply on the waters of the harbor, properly equipped with hose and powerful engines, and apparatus adequate to the speedy extinguishment of fires occurring in the shipping or in the warehouses along the docks.

The Department also contemplates the erection of aerial ladders, a late invention, to aid in the speedy removal of persons from lofty buildings on fire, and to aid the Force in their efforts to stay the advances of the consuming flames. It is hardly necessary for me to state, in view of the reputation it enjoys, that the duties of this Department have been successfully and satisfactorily performed.

DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

Great economy and efficiency have been introduced in the Department of Public Charities and Correction. The condition of the affairs of the old Department was such as to require great labor

to improve them. This has to a large extent been done. Expenses have been reduced, sinecures displaced, and wastefulness checked. The Commissioners are rapidly mastering their work and exerting themselves to perform it efficiently. The field of their duty is one of great extent, variety and difficulty.

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

The Department of Buildings under its present head, is, by its exertions to deserve it, regaining the long-lost confidence of the public. The expenses and number of officials are greatly reduced, and its affairs are being put on an honest basis.

I think it would be eminently appropriate to constitute within this Department a Bureau for the care and repair of the public buildings of the city and county, and to transfer to it all the powers of this character from the Board of Supervisors, and from the Commissioner of Public Works; and to this Bureau should be committed the procuring of supplies for the courts and the offices of the government not charged with executive duty. With a properly directed head of such a Bureau, great economy would result.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

The Department of Health, under its new head, is doing all that can be expected. Expenses have been reduced, and several of the nuisances that have affected the city have been successfully grappled with and abated.

The City has escaped the epidemics of cholera and yellow fever, which have prevailed to an alarming extent in the south and southwest during the year 1873. Its business and commerce have not suffered, or been interrupted by any circumstance connected with the public health, and the statistics of the Health Department show a gratifying decrease in the general mortality.

DEPARTMENT OF DOCKS.

The work of the Department of Docks, under its present organization, has been mainly limited to the reconstruction and repair of certain Piers. The work of completing an already somewhat advanced Pier and Bulkhead in stone has progressed, but the ambitious schemes that were afoot when the present Commissioners took office, and which would, if carried out, have swamped the credit of the city, and involved its affairs in confusion, have not made much progress.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Under the Charter of 1870, the Department of Public Works was invested with comprehensive powers and duties, simply to keep its then head equal in the patronage of place and money with its then existing rivals and co-conspirators. The consequence was corruption, intrigue and utter rottenness. Claims are now constantly pouring into the treasury for payment, with the official approval of its late head, that bear the unmistakable indication of fraud and gross corruption.

Laws still exist that were passed to give the head of this Department the right to call for issues of bonds to an extent actually unlimited. The Legislature saw fit, in reorganizing the city government, not to invest the local authorities with the power to appoint the head of this Department, and it failed to repeal laws that gave its head the power of calling for moneys in unlimited amounts, for the expenditure of which offices were to be given out in numbers far exceeding any department in the city.

Since the present Comptroller took office he has raised on bonds, and advanced to this Department, for the carrying out of certain public works, the sum of \$11,257,377.89.

The laws concerning this Department have become greatly confused, and, as I am advised by the Corporation Counsel, the most serious questions are likely to arise; whether certain vast powers can be executed by this Department or by the Department of Public Parks. In this question our citizens are all concerned; it involves millions of dollars, which are either to be collected by assessments, or to be thrown as a tax on the city, for making drives, boulevards, &c., far up on the island, and chiefly for private benefit.

This condition of the laws arises principally out of the legislation of the last two years, by which it was sought to add to the already too extensive powers of the Department of Public Works, certain powers previously executed by the Department of Parks.

Some law should be passed by the Legislature reducing the powers of this Department to its proper limits, to more clearly define these powers, and also to prevent the confusion and loss which may arise in case of conflicts of jurisdiction between independent executive departments.

The Department of Public Works has now under control the supply of water to New York city.

The present reservoirs seem to be adequate for the supply of our city with Croton water for some time to come, and there is, therefore, no immediate necessity for any large expenditure of public money in this direction.

But we must bear in mind that the consumption of Croton water has increased at a greater rate than the population, having reached 104,000,000 gallons per day, or more than one hundred gallons daily to each inhabitant. At no distant day it will have outgrown the capacity of the present aqueduct, the maximum of which is a delivery of 115,000,000 gallons per day.

The construction of an additional aqueduct, at a period by no means remote, will thus become an absolute necessity. The excellent condition of the aqueduct and its accessories, which has performed all its functions uninterruptedly for more than thirty years, is conclusive proof of the superior workmanship in its construction.

The construction of boulevards, drives, &c., involves enormous expenditures. That alone extending from Fifty-ninth street upward, which is not one-half completed, has already cost the city \$6,927,862 08. It was planned and partially constructed by the Department of Parks, but by an interpolated section in the Law of 1872, it was transferred to the Department of Public Works.

DEPARTMENT OF TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS.

The Department of Taxes and Assessments is engaged in making its valuations for the coming year; it is certain that we shall see an end of the favoritism that has existed in valuations and in the system of purchasing exemption from taxation of which we have heretofore heard so many complaints.

The gravity of the public burdens, State and Municipal, renders the subject of assessment and taxation one of continually growing importance. The ambiguity of the present laws is such as causes very great discrepancies in the method of administration, resulting in singular inequalities in the distribution of taxation. In regard to real estate, the provisions of law are comparatively definite, and in this county the assessments more nearly meet the requirements of the law than in any other county of the State. A technical compliance with the law concerning real estate in this county alone would inflict upon our citizens such a share of the burden of the State as would be unendurable, with a very slight chance of alleviation by the action of the State Board of Equalization. The disparity in assessments upon personal property in this county, as compared with others, is even more flagrant. In eight years the assessments upon the personal property in this county have increased about thirty-seven per cent., while in all the rest of the State the assessments upon such property have decreased about seventeen per cent., during the same period. The laxity with which this branch of the law is administered in the interior, is illustrated by the fact that a few months ago a single calf was sold, in a wealthy town in the central part of the State for a larger sum than

the total assessed value of the personal property in that town. The time—practically about eight months—which elapses between the period of assessment and enforced collection of taxes upon personal property in this county is the cause of heavy losses. For instance, the personal tax laid in the fall of 1872 cannot be collected until the spring of 1874. Much of the property then assessed and taxed has been obliterated by the disasters and resulting shrinkage in the fall of 1873, yet this county is required to pay the State tax upon the gross sum assessed. A revision of the tax laws, and the adoption of an equitable code by the Legislature, would bring to this county essential relief, and be at best but a tardy measure of justice.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The duties of the Board of Education are very extensive and most important. More than 200,000 children attend the schools in the course of the year. The amount of money called for to sustain our schools for 1874 is very large.

It may be very well questioned whether there are not already too many of the ornamental branches taught in the schools. The children are urged and confused by the diversity of their studies. I am satisfied that the cost of supplies in form of school books, &c., ought to be reduced. There is no room for doubt that the preceding Board left the school buildings in a very dilapidated condition, and it will require a considerable sum of money to bring them up to a fair state of reparation. This has been provided by the Board of Apportionment.

With the growth of the city we have a growth of need for new school buildings, and every effort should be made to have the money required in this direction intelligently expended.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS.

The laws in relation to the Department of Parks have led to much confusion. I am clearly of opinion that the improvements contemplated in other parks of the city should be upon a very much less expensive scale than those of the Central Park. Under this department it is proposed to lay out and purchase a Parade ground, near the northerly end of the Island. This should be discontinued. From inquiries I have made, I am satisfied that the location of this ground is not at all adapted for the purpose, and that the owners of surrounding property would regard it as highly objectionable, and, in the judgment of some at least of these owners, it would be considered a nuisance. This is not the time for purchases of land that will require millions of expenditure for not strictly indispensable purposes, and there can doubtless be found in the annexed district much more favorable, convenient and inexpensive sites for the purpose.

CITY RECORD.

The CITY RECORD has been published for a period of a little over six months. This paper was established under the provisions of the new Charter. The total expense incurred in connection with it, including printing, salaries and contingencies, has amounted to about \$11,207.60. This presents a striking contrast to the enormous sums of the public money which in past years have been extravagantly expended in official advertising. From 1867 to 1871, inclusive, the Corporation advertising, including newspaper claims, amounted to more than five millions of dollars, or over a million dollars per annum. In 1872 the cost of advertising amounted to \$145,550.10, while the entire expense connected with the RECORD for more than a period of six months, has been but little over eleven thousand dollars. For a single advertisement, the report of the official canvass of the election, in three of the daily papers in the city, a charge was incurred, in the year 1870, of \$17,869.50. The RECORD, taking the place of the nineteen newspapers which, previous to its establishment, had secured the patronage of city advertising, has met the public requirements more efficiently than its numerous predecessors. The great cause which has led to the vacation of millions of assessments in this city was the failure of some one or other of the numerous designated papers to publish the notice which referred to a contemplated improvement, within the statutory time, and on account of this failure, besides the five millions of dollars, which during the five years the City paid for its advertising, it has lost a very large sum by the failure of one or other of the newspapers, to perform the duty for which they were paid, in the shape of the vacated assessments, of which the property owners have been relieved, but which the taxpayers have had to bear. With a single organ representing the city, published daily, all interested in local improvements know where to apply, if information is desired, and no pretense on their part that they were deceived by an obscure daily or weekly, of which few of the citizens ever heard, having failed to insert the notice required, will avail them hereafter. It is my decided opinion that, in the interest of economy and good government, the past system of advertising ought not to be restored, and that the RECORD should be maintained as the official organ of the Government, and that a statute should be passed to ensure the publication of advertisements relative to the county in the same paper.

While the municipal affairs generally of the city have, during the past year, shown many encouraging evidences of progress, this would have been greater but for the perverse assumption, on the part of the State Legislature, that its members are better judges of the wants of the city than its citizens themselves. Statutes which were asked for to facilitate the administration and augment the resources of the city were not passed, while laws in the interest of political intriguers, of departmental schemes, of so-called party necessities, and of wealthy private corporations, have engrossed the attention of the legislative deputies of the people. But for the firmness and rectitude with which the present Executive of the State exercised the veto power on several bills actually passed by the two houses of the Legislature, and which he was known to be ready to apply to jobs only partially matured, the last session of the State Legislature would have been among the most disastrous of recent years to the interests of the city of New York. The Legislature would have been turned into a claim manufactory against the city—into a corrupt and corrupting tribunal, where suitors, who had no chance of success before the courts, would have been able to secure legal sanction for the most shameless frauds upon the taxpayers and the most ruinous raids upon the local treasury.

Governor Dix has established a claim upon the gratitude of this city, and the fact that his clear-sighted judgment and untiring energy can still be appealed to in defense of our municipal interests, should lend fresh stimulus to our vigilance in resisting the uncalled-for interference of the Legislature in affairs which fall strictly within the province of our city government.

No development of the system of legislative meddling in local affairs has been more fatal to the maintenance of a high standing of character and efficiency in administration, than when it has assumed the form of constant and radical changes in the organic law of the city. The time was when no modification of that instrument would have been sanctioned, save after mature deliberation, by those whom it chiefly concerned, and upon the request of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonality of New York. But of late years, Charter legislation has been conducted according to the caprices of the short-sighted self-interest of the dominant party in the State, with but little reference to the actual wants of the city, and frequently in contempt of its most vital interests. Indeed, New York City legislation has come to be regarded as the engrossing subject of each succeeding session at Albany; it has formed the most prolific cause of jobbery and the unending source of corruption. It is time that this state of things should cease. The true interests of the State at large, equally with those of the City, imperatively demand it. The sharp lesson which was administered last Fall to some of the most notorious jobbers in the late Senate and Assembly may serve as a warning to the present Legislature, that the people of the interior of the State have

participated in the awakening of conscience, of which we have lately witnessed in this City such signal results. It may help to remind that majority of representatives from districts outside of the City, who really control the management of our affairs, that it is, even in a political sense, equally unsafe to assist in swindling the people of New York, as it would be to betray the interests of their immediate constituents.

The past misgovernment of this City has been largely due to a delusion, fostered for the worst purposes by designing officials, that efficient and honest administration was to be secured rather by certain legislative forms than by the careful choice of good, upright and intelligent instruments. The recent triumph of public justice over men who so long plundered the City with impunity, and whose escape from the legal consequence of their crimes had come to be a public scandal, will doubtless serve to lend emphasis to the fact that no system of law can secure the City against spoliation unless we supply honest and capable hands to administer it, and unless the judicious selection of public servants is accompanied by methods of strict accountability, and by a sustained habit of vigilance in the public mind itself.

With scarcely an exception, not one of the old departments has yet been looked into without revealing the neglect of public obligations, and the unconscientious disregard of public duties, and great demoralization in the whole public service, which characterized our municipal administration during ring rule.

It is in vain to look to the changing and shifting of laws for relief. To secure reform, the people must look to the character of the men they elect to positions of trust and responsibility.

While the present City Charter is very far from being faultless, yet, under its provisions, we have already secured the most efficient administration which has been known for years. The revenues of the City are more carefully husbanded; the expenditures are more closely scanned; the streets are cleaner; the requisites of public health more strictly enforced; there is less waste, and far more valuable results in the dispensing of public charity; crime is kept within narrower bounds, and our public school system is tending towards a degree of efficiency to which it has been for some time a stranger. I need scarcely add that such progress as has been achieved is due more to the elevated standard of official character which has been brought about by the co-operation of good citizens of all shades of political opinion, than to the nature of the special enactments under which an improved state of things has been organized. But it cannot be stated with too much emphasis that we shall run the risk of sacrificing the valuable results of the past, and shall certainly endanger the prospect of further improvement if the Charter is again to become the sport of faction and the battle-ground of greedy schemers in the Legislature. To perpetuate in this way the bad precedent of the past is to give a sense of insecurity of tenure which prevents men of character and standing from accepting office in this City, which tends to distract the attention of heads of Departments from their immediate duty of organizing and perfecting the mode of conducting the business entrusted to them.

Although the Charter in some respects seems to expand the legislative functions of the Common Council, I do not discover that these have any actual existence save on paper.

The extensive powers which the law seems to confer on the representatives of the people are practically neutralized by the independent functions still exercised by the Departments. The Legislative body is swallowed up and is largely controlled by the Executive Departments. Most of the important municipal public enterprises are placed beyond your control, and are passed by the State Legislature without your concurrence. Your legislative powers ought to be co-extensive with the wants and necessities of our people and should control every item of public expenditure. I find now as unmistakably as I did a year ago, that the Executive Departments have no proper connection with each other, are not inter-dependent nor subject to the legislative branch of the government. Their action is marked as little by harmonious co-operation as it is regulated by a proper sense of responsibility. There is no sufficient definition of their powers and duties. Each is independent and each jealous of the other. Each has its own mission and each executes it without control in its own way, freed from the power of the Executive Head of the Government, and free from its legislative branch. It is necessary that you should take such steps as the law allows you to assert your supervisory power over the Departments. I retain the opinion that you will find that many of the functions which they claim a right to exercise independently, involve usurpations of your legitimate authority—an authority which, placed, as it should be, in your hands, I hold it to be of great importance to present and future good government in this city.

The same fundamental error about the scope of local self-government which prompts constant interference by the State Legislature with your share in the direction of the affairs of the city, makes the Mayor dependent on the consent of the Governor for the power to remove the heads of departments. The charter throws upon the Mayor responsibility for good government of the city. It is scarcely just to hold him accountable to the people of New York for the character of his subordinates, when he cannot even remove a dishonest or faithless official without the approval of the Governor of the State. It is not sound in principle that the Governor should be called upon to discuss and act in local matters. What would be the condition of things if he were to be charged with such duties with respect to every other city of the State as well as in New York. The political majority that elects the Governor of the State may have interests diametrically opposed to those of the citizens of New York. It is both absurd and mischievous to constitute the representative of that majority, whatever be his character, the arbiter of a tenure of office of the head of a municipal department of this city. I therefore would suggest and ask your co-operation to secure a change in the organic law, so that the Mayor be invested with the power to remove, for causes satisfactory to himself, the officers whom he has the power to nominate, and that each department have but one head, to be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen.

There were several measures proposed at the last Legislature necessary to supplement the Charter and serve the public interest, which failed of enactment.

These should again be urged upon the attention of the Legislature. Chief among them is the bill for the consolidation of the City and County governments. I referred to the urgent necessity for this enactment in my first message, and but for unscrupulous opposition and trickery in the Legislature, it would have become law at the last session. The artificial distinction, perpetuated by the administrative division of City and County, is both mischievous, wasteful and cumbrous in its bearing upon local business. In view of late judicial decisions, the probable detriment to the taxpayers, resulting from entrusting the auditing power to Boards or Committees, has become tolerably apparent. The affairs of both City and County should be conducted by one set of officers, and both ought to be represented by one legislative body. Simplicity and economy would be among the least of the results of such a change, for the distinction has been for years a fruitful source of confusion and corruption, and the cause of the miscarriage of many salutary projects of reform.

No part of the laws affecting the government of the City has been left in more thorough confusion than that relating to the laying of assessments for local improvements. During the last two sessions, the interposition of the Legislature was vainly invoked to correct the manifold abuses which have naturally attended a series of enactments, designed and sustained for the interest of speculators and jobbers in Legislation. Among the earliest protests of a revived sentiment of reform were those directed against the loss to the Treasury and the consequent increase of burdens to the general tax-payer, which resulted from the practice of vacating assessments, on grounds which

the law holds to constitute technical irregularity, but which the common sense of the public calls frivolous and dishonest quibbling. These protests have been frequently repeated by the Comptroller and by myself, sometimes to your Honorable Body, and sometimes to the Legislature, but without result. Corrective legislation, devised to meet this evil, has encountered at Albany the organized opposition of a knot of lawyers, whose chief business it is to ferret out flaws in laying assessments or awarding contracts for local improvements, and whose income is chiefly derived from the spoils gathered in these piratical raids upon the treasury. Operations of this character have attained such magnitude that they now cost the City about one million dollars per annum, and thus involve an unjust and arbitrary addition of about three per cent of the whole amount of the annual taxation.

There have been, undoubtedly, many cases in which assessments have been laid, in despite of remonstrances, for wooden and other worthless pavements, where the fraudulent character of the ordinances on which they were based, or the notorious jobbery which characterized the awarding of the contracts, justified all legal means of resistance to their imposition. But the majority of cases belong to an entirely different category. The practice of obtaining orders from the courts to vacate assessments is rapidly on the increase. It is evident that the whole system of making advances to property owners, for the purpose of carrying out street improvements, needs revision and reform. Twenty-five years ago, as Mayor of the city, I vetoed the resolutions of the Common Council of that period, which formed the entering wedge of the subsequent gross abuses of the assessment system. These resolutions were passed over my veto, but I think it will be admitted that it was a very mild characterization of their probable effect when I stated that they would "lead to evils which it is not easy to foresee." The real nature of the proposed assessment bonds I then described as being "to create a debt against the Corporation, not merely to liquidate an existing liability—not merely even to become surety for the obligation of other parties—but to become the principal debtor in a case where no legal or moral liability against the City exists, and to do so in the most solemn form in which a debt can be contracted." It was not difficult to foresee that an expedient which was resorted to for the temporary relief of certain contractors would be established as a precedent in all subsequent transactions of a similar nature, and would eventually assume the character of a legally established system. Nor was it less easy to infer that the more readiness the City displayed in lending its credit for the benefit of property owners, the less disposed would they become to consider the expense of the carrying out of local improvements as in any sense their proper business. The difference between the amount of obligations incurred by the City on behalf of property owners, and the money paid by them to liquidate such obligation, has now become so great that the issue of new bonds of a similar character must shortly cease to be available.

On December 31st, 1873, the outstanding issue of bonds payable from assessments amounted to \$21,927,372 30. At the same time the amount of assessments due, but not collected, was more than \$9,000,000. These figures not only justify the preceding strictures, but show the urgent necessity of measures to enable the city to promptly meet the large item of its temporary debt as it falls due. As you are aware, three years is the term accorded for the payment of assessments before the property assessed can be sold by the city in default of payment. Interest on the amount of the assessment accrues during one year, after the expiration of sixty days of this period, at seven per cent., and during the remainder at twelve per cent. I would suggest that in order to reduce the enormous amount of unpaid assessments now outstanding, the Comptroller be authorized, in regard to all assessments levied prior to January 1st, 1872, to take prompt and efficient measures for their collection, leaving to him some discretion as to those that were imposed for worthless pavements. To correct the past abuse of the system of vacating assessments and to indemnify the City for some of the loss thus unjustly incurred, a re-assessment should be had by Legislative Act, in cases where assessments have been vacated on any other ground save that of fraud in the execution of the work for which the assessment was levied.

There seems a disposition on the part of those who do not wish to pay their assessments, to urge that the cost of the work is too high, and therefore the assessments are unduly heavy. Whatever justification there may be for this view of the case, it is manifestly unjust to make all the citizens bear the whole of a partly unjust burden, from which they derive no benefit whatever, in place of letting it remain where it should rest, upon those, who in any event, reap the advantages of the improvement.

In the ordinary course of official business and otherwise, my attention is called to the apparently inexhaustible reserve of old claims existing against the city. The amount of these is as indefinite and as impossible of ascertainment as the origin of most of them is fraudulent. They are, as a rule, the product of a period in our city government, when public officials conspired with contractors, dealers and favorites to defraud the treasury; when loose administrative methods rendered it possible to concoct all manner of bogus claims; and when the perverted moral sense of the men in power interposed no obstacle to wholesale plunder. The present administration is almost daily called on to deal with such claims, in entire ignorance of their origin, and, in most cases, without being able to discover in the departments which are said to have contracted them, any trustworthy evidence of their validity. It would be impossible for any one, without actual examination, to obtain an idea of the irregularity with which departmental accounts were kept previous to 1872. Obligations to a very large amount were contracted, without the slightest record of them appearing on the books of the department, and all that a subsequent administration has to go on, in such cases, are some casual records or certificates in the possession of the claimants themselves. The certificate of the officials of that day is rather an evidence that the claim should not be paid. It is impossible to do otherwise than conclude, that by far the larger proportion of such claims are of a more or less fraudulent character. The obvious duty of the present administration is to collect such evidence as can be obtained, and resist their payment by all the means within its power. Failing to secure payment, the claimants resort to the courts. In the defence of these multifarious claims the City is represented by the Counsel to the Corporation.

It is a noticeable fact that the law which previous abuses had shown to be a necessity—to wit—that all claims should be tried before a jury, was repealed last winter, and the practice of referring cases is again resorted to. I think the previous rule of law on this subject should be promptly re-enacted. Experience has shown that results of trials before a jury are far better than the less public hearing before a referee.

The claims incurred in the year 1871 have already been provided for by legislative enactment, but no comprehensive plan for sifting and liquidating the claims of previous years has been passed, though it has been repeatedly applied for.

Stimulated by whatever cause, a steady stream of demands upon the Treasury has poured into the Finance Department during the past year. With these the Comptroller has had to struggle as he best could, in presence of the enormously increased volume of the business of his office under the provisions of the new Charter, and of the incessant demands upon his attention to provide for very large liabilities of the City and County, maturing in a period of great financial depression.

To meet claims which ought to have been paid out of the current revenue of 1871, over seven millions of dollars have already been drawn from the Treasury, and I am informed that nearly one million more will be required before the legal obligations of that year are fully met. This seems to illustrate the fact alluded to in my inaugural message, that the so-called two per cent tax levy of 1871 was a deliberately planned attempt to disarm public vigilance, under the false pretext of

greatly reduced expenditure. Leaving out of sight the enormous addition of \$24,000,000, which accrued to the City and County debt during the first eight and a half months of that year, the amount chargeable to the ordinary expenses of 1871 is found to be somewhat in excess of \$36,000,000. While the taxpayers were being deluded into the belief that the expenses of the City and County Governments were kept within the limits of two per cent on the assessed valuation for the year, the actual rate of current expenditure was three and one-half per cent, and in addition to this, the debt was increasing at the rate of nearly three millions a month. Of course the burdens which were shifted from the shoulders of taxpayers in 1871 and previous years, are being now felt. The reckless system of converting into permanent debt-charges that which ought to have been met out of current revenues, will hamper the progress and deplete the revenues of the city for many years to come. No better index of the ruinous financial policy of a swindling administration could be found than in the fact that while in 1869, the amount which it was required to raise by tax for the payment of interest on the City and County debt was \$2,805,926.86, in 1871 it had risen to \$6,147,232.51, and in 1874, when the results of past misgovernment are beginning to come to light the amount required for interest is \$9,120,513.86.

The burdens of the taxpayers will owe some of their increase to the additional expenses thrown on all the departments of the city government by the annexation of a part of Westchester County. It seems to me self-evident that, whether in an administrative or a political sense, the expediency of this step is very doubtful. I see danger to the future of municipal liberty in the prevailing tendency towards large and centralized schemes of local government. The principle of district representation is everywhere giving place to a less responsible, because less definite, method of connecting the representative with the wants of the particular section of the community of whom he ought to be the legislative instrument. It appears obvious that if town corporations of limited extent, and acting immediately under the eye of those whom their proceedings vitally concern, cannot provide economical and efficient government, it is far less likely to be provided under the overburdened and complicated administration of a great city. The people of Westchester appear to be of a different opinion. So far as the people of New York are concerned, I am certain that they had no adequate means provided them of expressing their real opinion on this subject. It is within my personal knowledge that, in many districts, no ballots were provided for the vote against annexation, and I cannot, therefore, consider the question to have been fairly decided by this community. Our natural boundary is Manhattan Island. Within these limits we have scope enough to expend all the resources which we can command for many years to come. With the island, which has constituted so long the City and County of New York, is associated all the traditions of our past history, and on and around it are all the conditions of our future greatness. Once entered on the main land, where are we to stop? Can any one foresee a time when the burden of New York will not be in process of increase from the transfer to its bonded indebtedness of the loans incurred by outlying districts which we shall be expected to go on absorbing? Our first acquisition in this direction certainly does not present its affairs in a very encouraging condition. From such data as can be obtained it appears that the debts of the annexed towns, constituting the two new wards of the city, amount to \$1,504,111.32, and their assessed valuation is \$10,881,664. Their debt must be paid on maturity by the general body of taxpayers, and even under a stricter system of assessment than has been practiced there, it is tolerably certain that the receipts of taxation from the annexed district will not pay for the additional expense of its government. As to the local governments, for which the requirements of the new wards will be practically unlimited, I would suggest that especial care be taken to see that their cost is borne by the people who will be directly benefited by them, and that they are not charged upon the city at large.

We can, fortunately, find a certain alleviation of our growing burdens in the steady increase of revenue derived from city property, and from licenses, fines and permits. No Department of local affairs has felt the salutary influence of reform in a more marked degree than this.

The Board of Excise has collected from licenses from the first day of May to the thirty-first day of December, 1873, the sum of \$501,449.56. The amount received by the old Board for the whole year ending April 30, 1872, was \$337,662.28, and for the year ending April 30, 1873, was when the present Board took office, \$396,841.56, showing a much larger income in eight months under the present administration than in any one year under the old Board.

The net revenue collected by the Department of Public Works from Croton water rents shows an increase over that of 1871 of \$285,589.75, and from vault permits of \$24,589.75, while the cost of collection of both these revenues was reduced from \$124,108.43 in 1871, to \$58,874.00 in 1873.

The amount collected by the Bureau of Permits in the Mayor's Office for the years 1870, 1871 and 1872, was \$111,577.00, at an expense of \$85,106.03, or a net income of \$26,460.97. The amount collected in 1873 from the same source was \$55,779.00, at an expense of \$8,559.44, or a net income of \$47,219.56; showing that in one year (1873) the city derived a net revenue from this source greater by \$20,000 than it did in the three years previous.

The receipts for licenses during the past year amounted to \$62,519.50, against \$54,519.50 in 1872, and \$52,937.75 in 1871, or an increase of \$9,581.75 over 1871, and \$7,035.50 over 1872.

The receipts from Docks and Slip rents for 1871 was \$402,119.03; for 1872, \$423,545.23; and for 1873, \$468,217.76, or an increase of \$66,098.73 in 1873 over 1871.

From Market Rents and Fees, there was received in 1871, the sum of \$351,185.33, and in 1873 the sum of \$343,342.37; showing a decrease of \$7,842.96, which is due to the removal of the stands about Washington and other markets. The cost of collecting this revenue was \$21,589.81 in 1871, and \$11,850.00 in 1872, or a saving during the past year of \$9,739.81.

Under the recently appointed Police Justices, the sum received from fines, and paid into the Treasury for the months of November and December, 1873, was \$5,589; an average of about \$35,000 per year. It is difficult to ascertain the exact amounts collected and paid over to the city authorities by the preceding justices, but it is estimated that in no one year has it reached \$4,000.

I would recommend that the city markets, which yield a fair return over and above the cost of their maintenance, should be put in proper repair, and that those which do not yield such a return should be immediately sold. Washington market ought to be reconstructed and rebuilt.

The Corporation owns a number of valuable ferry franchises which are practically unproductive. This source of revenue has already formed the subject of careful inquiry, with a view of rendering it profitable to the Treasury.

The County Court House ought no longer to remain in its present condition; trustworthy estimates should be prepared of the cost of finishing it, and any appropriations made for that purpose should strictly conform thereto, so that the work may be immediately and finally executed.

On the 16th of May, 1873, I nominated to the Board of Aldermen, as required by law, the following commissioners to complete the building, to wit: Messrs. Wyllis Blackstone, John P. Cumming, Thomas B. Tappan and Smith E. Shaw. These nominations have been suffered to remain unacted on for more than seven months.

The arsenal in Elm street, which is now useless, ought to be put in order for State purposes.

It is doubtful whether the new City Prison, whose erection was provided for by the last Legislature, should be proceeded with at the present time. It seems to me that the present prison can, with slight alteration, be made equal to the wants of the city for several years to come. If the investigation which is now in progress should show that the required changes can be effected at rea-

enable cost, I would suggest that application be made to the Legislature to relieve the commissions from the mandatory provision of the law, and to enable them to defer the erection of a new city prison.

The Board of Aldermen, by unanimous vote, on the 16th of May, 1873, condemned the present City Prison as unfit and unhealthy. They addressed a memorial to the State Legislature, asking for the enactment of a law to build a new prison, and after this law was enacted, they, perhaps wisely, came to the conclusion that in view of the large expense it would entail, it was better to postpone the project, and the Board, on the 17th of September, 1873, passed a resolution to prevent the carrying out of the law authorizing its construction.

The pavements of the streets in certain portions of the city are in a wretched condition, and it is, as a measure of comfort and economy, important that they should be put in repair as rapidly as possible, and on some plan and by some agency consistent with economy and efficiency.

Enormous amounts as rents of armories are still required to be paid. Leases having all the external appearance of legal regularity, and made for long periods, but involving most enormous rents, still exist.

I am of opinion that legal steps should be taken to test the validity of these leases and to set them aside, and that the expenditures for these rents should be greatly reduced.

I should recommend the repeal of laws under which any department is authorized to call for unlimited amounts of money. The laws that exist of this character are the relics of other days. If the necessity for money exists, it should be supplied upon the previous approval of the local government of the City.

No undertaking of a private character, or for a private interest, should be aided, in any way, out of the public treasury of the City. That part of the bill, passed at the last session of the Legislature, relating to the so-called Industrial Exhibition, which compels the City to make a loan contemplated by the act, or any other loan, should be repealed. So also, as already intimated, should be the bill providing for the erection of a new City Prison. By the first of these statutes the City is virtually required to make a present of \$2,500,000 to one or more adventurers, and, by the latter, an expenditure of at least \$5,000,000 will be required, which can I think, be very safely deferred to be provided for in the future. For the Brooklyn bridge I have received an estimate of the amount required to complete the undertaking, which shows that \$10,000,000 more than has been provided will be required to finish the bridge. The circumstances under which this undertaking originated, and the disclosures which have been from time to time made during its progress, have not been such as to secure for it the confidence of the public.

The City is already a stockholder in this enterprise to the amount of \$1,500,000, and I do not think its prospects are sufficiently flattering to justify any further investment.

This is another illustration of the dishonesty which enters into public undertakings, by commencing, upon fraudulent estimates, to secure a commencement and partial progress, to carry with them the ruinous burdens which have been kept in the background, but which must be undertaken before any benefit can be secured from the investment first made.

The question as to the power of the Legislature to take from the pockets of the citizens of New York \$1,500,000 annually, to hand over to a railroad corporation, to be used for personal profit, as they have done by the aid which the city is compelled to give to the New York Central and Harlem Railroad Companies in sinking the track and abating a public nuisance, and the increased value of their property, ought, I think, to be tested. Issue should be joined by this City on every scheme which receives the sanction of the Legislature, and has for its purpose the application of public moneys to secure private interest, and the aggrandizement of private property. Submission to such impositions only increases their number.

Except as an opportunity it affords for an earnest protest against a scheme of government substantially the same as devised and enacted by the charter of 1870 there is but little purpose in this communication, as the charter of 1873 leaves you powerless to act upon the greater part of the foregoing recommendations. Our new organic law declares, section 2, that in you is vested the legislative power of the government. This is simple mockery. It is a continuation of a part of the delusion perpetrated by the designers of the Charter of 1870. There are in the present charter 120 sections, and notwithstanding the sweeping declaration of the second section, the remaining 119 leave you substantially with only legislative powers over part of the operation of one of the eleven departments in which is vested the executive power of the government. You have but little legislative powers over the concerns of the government, they are entrusted by the Charter to the Departments of Finance, Law, Police, Public Charities and Corrections, Fire, Health, Public Parks, Docks, Taxes and Assessments or Buildings. Your legislative powers relate exclusively to some of the governmental agencies required by law to be executed by the Department of Public Works, such as the construction of sewers, the paving of new streets, the regulating and grading of streets still unopened, the fencing of vacant lots, and to some other matters of a minor character, such as the regulating of public cries, advertising noises, the ringing of bells along the streets, the use of fire-crackers and such like.

There has been appropriated for the purposes of city government, for the year upon which we have just entered, the sum of \$25,740,746.59. This is exclusive of other millions for carrying on the public works, to be raised upon the bonds of the city, and not from the annual taxation. Over this immense expenditure you are permitted no legislative power or control, and have no interest except to the extent of \$193,500, being the amount of the appropriation made for your salaries, and the salaries of your clerks, including \$7,000 for city contingencies. The remainder of the appropriation, amounting to \$25,547,246.59, has been set apart for the purposes of the various departments, upon the estimates submitted by them respectively, and for the payment of instalments and interest upon the city bonds and the Fourth avenue improvement. These estimates were made up and submitted to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, anticipatory of the expenditures of the year, and when the sums so estimated were appropriated, the respective amounts were at the disposal of the several departments, subject to no control, so far as I can see, except that the accounts for the expenditure and pay-rolls of some of the departments must be audited by the Finance Department before being paid. How, when, and in what manner these expenditures are to be made, is to be determined exclusively by the heads of the departments. Each department is thus vested, in reference to such expenditures, with the legislative as well as the executive power. They have exclusive jurisdiction in such matters; you are not permitted to interfere. Our departments are by this amended charter vested with the powers and functions of separate commissions. They are subject to no legislative control, with the exception of the Department of Public Works, to the extent to which I have explained; and they are all especially exempt from the control of the chief Executive, who can only interfere when there is such an abuse of power, or palpable mismanagement as will justify the Governor to approve of a removal. The power of the government being vested in the hands of the heads of the departments they have virtually become the rulers of the city, the Council being compelled to occupy a very subordinate position, and so long as this condition of matters is allowed to continue, the influence will be to repel from the council those of our citizens by whose presence we would be most honored.

The independent position occupied by each of the departments naturally leads to rivalries, which, with many other evils under which the people suffer in the administration of the government, will continue so long as the legislative powers are vested in the Executive Departments, and

so long as the departments are subject to no control. An efficient and economical government under such a system is little short of an impossibility.

To the Common Council should be restored, not in name, but in reality, the legislative powers of the government, while the departments of the executive should be made subordinate to legislative control. All executive boards should be abolished. There is no board in the city government, with the exception of the Commissioners of Education, whose duties of an executive character could not be more efficiently performed by a single officer than they are at present. With boards we have a divided responsibility, and one of the principal necessities for continuing an extensive patronage far beyond the requirements of an efficient administration.

I am informed that schemes are now in progress by the gambling political coteries and their affiliations, to again foist upon this city the Metropolitan Police system, with themselves or next friends as Commissioners, and to influence the Legislature to so reorganize the Dock Department in the same interests as to make this great city, its social life, its commerce and its industry feeders for their greed, avarice and lust of power. And from the insane mutterings and harmless howls of their mendacious mouthpiece and other frauds, I think the information is reliable. It will require much care and watchfulness on your part to thwart their sinister purposes. I shall, on my part, deem it my duty to take all proper and necessary measures in connection with yourselves to counteract these schemes and expose their objects.

Allow me, in conclusion, to draw your attention to a matter of vital moment to all of us. Recent investigations upon the current of trade have shown that we are rapidly losing our relative importance, and to a considerable extent, our absolute supremacy, as to the export and import mart of this continent.

The management of the railways terminating in and about New York have succeeded, by means of so-called fast freight lines, excessive, unjustly discriminating freight charges, watering of stocks and other devices, to increase the nominal value, so as to secure an extravagant return upon the actual value of capital invested in these railroads, in driving a considerable part of the trade of New York from among us, and preventing the steady and continued ratio of progress of our commerce, as compared with our sister cities.

Had the members of our Legislature, instead of wasting the greater part of their time over private and local bills, devoted but a portion of their attention to the improvement of our canals to their widening and deepening, so that they might be commensurate to the demands of modern commerce, and be truly competitors to the railroads, who are more than suspected of having been in collusion with our canal authorities, we would probably not now be in the humiliating position of looking, with fear, at the rapid strides which Montreal is making in taking from us the grain trade of our own North West. The progress of that city in the export trade of grain has been, since 1856, upward of 263 per cent. New York, during the same period, has increased but 57 per cent. When the Welland Canal shall be completed, an event expected to come to pass in 1867, ships of 1,000 tons burden will pass directly from the Lakes to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and it will only be possible for New York to make headway against this rivalry by an intelligent and legislative mastery and control of the transportation problem, and such an economy in the administration of municipal and State government, that the ratio of taxation will invite to, instead of, as now, repel capital from our city and State.

Although you have but little power to change these currents, yet a knowledge of the anticipated evil may enable you to avert some of its consequences, and to the extent of some of that power I invoke your aid in improving our terminal facilities, and refusing to assist in the increase of railway monopoly, and ask you to give your moral countenance and support to any practicable scheme which will render the cost of transportation of our surplus products, from our Great West to New York, and of our manufactures and those of Europe, for which we are the carriers to the vast area of our country, which for its and our benefit has been hitherto tributary to the wealth and greatness of our city.

I am apprehensive that unless urgent measures are taken to prevent this trade from slipping from us, and remodel our city government on the plan proposed to concentrate its power in such a manner as to secure us from future misgovernment, and prevent mischievous intermeddling on the part of the Legislature with our affairs, that we shall once more suddenly realize that the past progress of our city will not be fairly indicative of our future history.

W. F. HAVEMEYER.

Alderman Cooper moved that the message be received and printed in the minutes, and 500 copies printed in document form.

Alderman Morris moved to amend by increasing the number to 1,000.

Which was accepted by Alderman Cooper.

The motion was then adopted.

(“For which see Document No. 1.”)

Also the following:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, CITY HALL,
NEW YORK, January 19, 1874.

To the Honorable the Board of Aldermen:

GENTLEMEN—In pursuance of an act, entitled “An Act to reorganize the local government of the City of New York,” passed April 30, 1873, I hereby nominate to, and subject to the consent of the Board of Aldermen, appoint Thomas H. Sullivan a marshal for the City of New York, in the place of Alexander S. Toplanyi, removed, to hold office for the unexpired term of the said Toplanyi.

W. F. HAVEMEYER.

Alderman Cooper moved to refer to the Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Alderman Reilly moved that the message be laid on the table, and printed in the minutes.

Which was agreed to.

PETITIONS.

By Alderman McCafferty—
Petition for the making, &c., of the Public Drive, from One hundred and Fifty-fifth street to Kingsbridge road, at Inwood.

Which was referred to the Committee on Streets.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

By Alderman McCafferty—
Resolved, That a brick sewer, with the necessary receiving basins and culverts, be built on both sides of St. Nicholas avenue, under the sidewalk, between One hundred and twenty-fourth and One hundred and fifty-second streets, where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.

Which was referred to the Committee on Public Works.

REPORTS.

The Committee on Streets, to whom was referred the annexed petition of Gordon T. Ford, business manager of the Tribune Association, asking permission to extend the vaults connected with their new building on the corner of Spruce and Nassau streets, now in course of erection, six feet beyond the line of curbstones, on Spruce street, and twelve feet beyond the curb line on Nassau and Chatham streets, respectfully

REPORT:

That, having examined the application and inspected the premises, they are in favor of granting the prayer of the petitioner, convinced that by so doing no detriment or injury will be done the public, while the desired vault accommodation can be secured to the Tribune Association. Other newspaper proprietors have been granted like privileges, as it has been regarded as a necessity of the business of the proprietors of large newspapers, that space underground should be provided for the uses of their presses &c. The following resolution is therefore respectfully offered for your adoption:

Resolved, That permission be and is hereby given to the *Tribune* Association to extend the vaults opposite their new building on the corner of Nassau and Spruce streets, a distance of six feet beyond the line of the curbstone on Spruce street, and twelve feet beyond the curb line on Nassau and Chatham streets, provided the work be well and securely done, under the direction and supervision of the Commissioner of Public Works, and upon payment of the usual fees, as provided by the ordinances of the Common Council.

JOS. A. MONHEIMER,
ROBT. McCAFFERTY,
Committee on Streets.

Which was adopted.
Alderman McCafferty moved that when this Board adjourns, it adjourn to meet on Thursday, 29th inst., at 3½ o'clock P. M.
Alderman Monheimer moved to amend by fixing Monday next, the 26th inst., at 3½ o'clock P. M., as the time for the next meeting.
Which was accepted by Alderman McCafferty.
And the motion was then adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS AND CORPORATION OFFICES.

The following communication was received from the Public Administrator:
[For report see next issue of THE CITY RECORD.]
Which was directed to be printed in the minutes and placed on file.
Alderman Monheimer moved that the Board do now adjourn.
Which was agreed to.

JOS. C. PINCKNEY,
Clerk.

STATED SESSION.

BOARD OF
ASSISTANT ALDERMEN.

MONDAY, January 19, 1874,
2 o'clock, P. M.

The Board met, pursuant to adjournment, in their chamber, No. 16 City Hall.

PRESENT:

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Thomas Foley,	William S. Kreps,
Jeremiah Murphy,	Patrick Keenan,
Charles M. Clancy,	John J. Kehoe,
John C. Keating,	Edward Brucks,
Henry Wisser,	George Kelly,
Michael Healy,	Stephen N. Simonson,
Thomas L. Thornell,	Philip Cumisky,
John Theiss,	Isaac Sommers,
Geo. F. Codrington,	Benjamin Beyea.

In the absence of the President, on motion of Assistant Alderman Simonson, Assistant Alderman Clancy was called to the chair.

The minutes of meeting held January 12th, 1874 were read and approved.

PETITIONS.

By Assistant Alderman Brucks.
Property owners on Thirty-sixth street between Tenth and Eleventh avenues, praying to have the street paved with Belgian pavement.
In connection therewith:

Assistant Alderman Brucks offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That Thirty-sixth street from the Tenth to the Eleventh avenues, be paved with Belgian or Trap-block pavement, and that, at the several intersecting streets and avenues, crosswalks be laid where not now laid, and relaid where those now laid are, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Public Works, not in good repair or are not upon a grade adapted to the grade of the proposed new pavement, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was referred to the Committee on Streets.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

By Assistant Alderman Healy.
Resolved, That the action of the Board of Assistant Aldermen of January 5th, 1874, in adopting a resolution to appoint William H. Moloney, clerk, James Walsh, Sergeant-at-Arms Edward Downey, Doorkeeper of the Board be and the same is hereby readopted and approved.

Assistant Alderman Simonson moved to amend by inserting the name of Constantine Donoho instead of William H. Moloney.

Which was lost by the following vote:
Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Murphy, Thornell, Codrington, Kreps, Kehoe, Simonson—6.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Theiss, Keenan, Brucks, Kelly, Cumisky, Sommers—11.

Assistant Alderman Beyea asked to be excused from voting.

Which was granted on motion of Assistant Alderman Healy.

Assistant Alderman Simonson moved as a substitute that Constantine Donoho, Samuel Williamson and James Walsh, be declared the officers of this Board.

Which was lost.
The resolution was then adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Theiss, Keenan, Brucks, Kelly, Cumisky, Sommers—11.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Murphy, Thornell, Codrington, Kreps, Kehoe, Simonson—6.

Assistant Alderman Beyea asked to be excused from voting. Which was granted.

G. O. 399.

By Assistant Alderman Healy.
Resolved, That a sewer, with the necessary receiving basins and culverts, be built in Water streets between Catharine and Market streets under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was adopted.

By Assistant Alderman Thornell—

Whereas, some of the city railroad companies habitually violate the ordinance of the Common Council, which prohibits them placing salt on the tracks laid in the city, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Mayor and Police Commissioners be directed to strictly enforce the ordinance of the Common Council, passed Feb. 23d, 1860, having reference to the above subject.

Assistant Alderman Kehoe moved that the paper be referred to the Committee on Railroads.
Which was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Brucks, Clancy, Cumisky, Healy, Keenan, Kehoe, Kelly, Simonson, Sommers—9.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Beyea, Codrington, Foley, Keating, Kreps, Theiss, Thornell, Wisser—8.

By the same—
Whereas, in view of the destruction to which life and property are subject in the city of New York, by reason of the improper and criminal construction of heating apparatus in buildings, and of the buildings themselves, the authorities of the State of New York, and of this city and county, are in duty bound to make and enforce such laws as will tend to preserve life from sudden calamity, and property from destruction by fire, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Counsel to the Corporation be requested to prepare a memorial to the Legislature of the State of New York, praying that the building law applicable to this city be so amended as to provide for a more perfect construction of buildings and heating apparatus therein.

Resolved, That His Honor the Mayor be requested to forward such memorial to the Senate and Assembly on behalf of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York.
Which was adopted.

G. O. 400.

By Assistant Alderman Theiss—
Resolved, That the Comptroller be and he is hereby directed to have the roof of Essex Market repaired immediately, as the same is in a leaky condition and detrimental to the stand holders doing business thereon.
Which was laid over.

G. O. 401.

By Assistant Alderman Codrington—
Resolved, That a brick sewer, with the necessary receiving basins and culverts, be built in Bogert street, from the Tenth avenue to the Hudson river, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was laid over.

G. O. 402.

By the same—
Resolved, That a brick sewer, with the necessary receiving basins and culverts, be built in Bloomfield street, from the Tenth avenue to the Hudson river, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was laid over.

By the same—
Resolved, That the sidewalk on north side of West Eleventh street, between West street and Thirteenth avenue, be flagged full width, where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was referred to the Committee on Streets.

G. O. 403.

By the same—
Resolved, That a sewer, with the necessary receiving basins and culverts, be built in Washington street, from West Tenth to Christopher streets, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was laid over.

By the same—
Resolved, That Abram Springsteen be and he is hereby re-appointed a Commissioner of Deeds in and for the City and County of New York, his term of office having expired.

Which was adopted by the following vote:
Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codrington, Kreps, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—18.

By Assistant Alderman Brucks—
Resolved, That John E. Dowling be and he is hereby re-appointed a Commissioner of Deeds in and for the City and County of New York, his term of office having expired.

Which was adopted by the following vote:
Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codrington, Kreps, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—18.

By the same—
Resolved, That gas mains be laid, lamp posts erected, and street lamps lighted in Fifty-first

street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Which was referred to the Committee on Lamps and Gas.

By the same—
Resolved, That gas mains be laid, lamp posts erected, and street lamps lighted in Fifty-second street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Which was referred to the Committee on Lamps and Gas.

By Assistant Alderman Kelly—
Resolved, That Alfred J. Keagan be and he is hereby appointed a Commissioner of Deeds in and for the City and County of New York.

Which was adopted by the following vote:
Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codrington, Kreps, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—18.

By Assistant Alderman Beyea—
Resolved, That a sewer, with the necessary receiving basins and culverts, be built in One hundred and twenty-third street, from Sixth to New avenues, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was referred to the Committee on Sewers.

PETITIONS RESUMED.

By Assistant Alderman Beyea—
Being a petition of W. T. & D. Blodgett, relative to the leasing of Harlem Hall for a Court House.

To the Honorable the Board of Assistant Aldermen:

The owners of Harlem Hall respectfully represent that a resolution authorizing the clerk of the Common Council to execute a lease with said owners for such portion of said premises as the said clerk should deem necessary for the use of the Ninth District Civil Court, and the Fifth District Police Court, together with abundant prison accommodations, the whole to be fitted up subject to the approval of said clerk, at the said owners expense, was, after long investigation and consideration on the part of the Honorable the Board of Aldermen, and after amendments by them, duly passed on the thirty-first day of December 1873, fixing the rate of rental therefor at eight thousand dollars per annum, and was so transmitted to your Honorable Board.

The said owners further represent that the said Courts have occupied the said premises for the past three months, and have been constantly supplied with heat and the uninterrupted services of a janitor, at a cost to the said owners of not less than two thousand dollars.

And the said owners further represent that the cost of altering and providing for the continued occupation of the said Courts, and especially for the prisoners with their necessary secure cells, and with the proper conveniences for them and their keepers, and with full kitchen accommodation, all in the manner desired by the said Board of Aldermen, will prove an expense to the owners greater than is presumed by your Honorable Board.

Therefore, The said owners respectfully request that your Honorable Board will concur in the resolution as passed by the said Board of Aldermen, and will not reduce the rental below the said sum of eight thousand dollars as determined by them.

W. T. & D. BLODGETT.

New York, January 7, 1874.
Which was ordered to be attached to General Order 396.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS RESUMED.

By Assistant Alderman Theiss—
Resolved, That Joseph Fleishl be and he is hereby appointed a Commissioner of Deeds in and for the City and County of New York, in place and stead of William Ald, whose term of office has expired.

Which was adopted by the following vote:
Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codrington, Kreps, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—18.

PAPERS FROM THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

G. O. 404.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That gas-mains be laid, and street-lamps lighted, in 66th st from 3d to Lexington avenues, and from 4th to 5th avenues, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works.
Which was laid over.

G. O. 405.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That both sides of Fifty-first street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues curb and gutter stones be set, and the sidewalks be flagged and re-flagged full width, where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was laid over.

G. O. 406.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved That the sidewalk on the south side of West Forty-seventh street, opposite Nos. 102 and 104, be flagged full width, where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was laid over.

G. O. 407.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That the sidewalk on the north side of Forty-ninth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, be flagged full width, where not

already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was laid over.

G. O. 408.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That Sixty-seventh street, from Third to Fourth avenue, be paved with Belgian or trapblock pavement, and that, at the several intersecting streets and avenues crosswalks be laid where not now laid, and relaid where those now laid are, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Public Works, not in good repair, and are not upon a grade adapted to the grade of the proposed new pavement, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was laid over.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That the grade of Sixty-eighth street, between Madison and Lexington avenues, and in Fourth avenue, between Sixty-seventh and Sixty-ninth streets, be changed so as to conform to the red lines and figures on the accompanying diagram, drawn by Frank E. Towle, City Surveyor, and dated February 1873.

Which was referred to the Committee on Streets.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That gas mains be laid and street lamps lighted in Eightieth street, from Second avenue to Avenue A, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Which was referred to the Committee on Lamps and Gas.

Being a resolution as follows:
Whereas, A large portion of the improved real estate of the Corporation of the City of New York, is now unoccupied, and instead of producing a revenue, is an actual and very considerable expense to the City; be it therefore

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Common Council, all such real estate should be sold to the highest bidder, after due notice of sale by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund (who are now by State law authorized to dispose of the real property of the Corporation), as a measure of relief to our tax-payers, as it is clear that the proceeds of such sales, if applied to the redemption of a portion of the City debt, and a consequent reduction in the amount of interest annually paid, would be much more advantageous to the City's interests than a continued holding of such improved property, at a large annual expense to the City.

Which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

G. O. 409.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That Sixty-eighth street, between Third and Fourth avenues be regulated and graded, the curb and gutter stones set, and the sidewalks flagged where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was laid over.

G. O. 410.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That gas-mains be laid, and street-lamps lighted, in 67th street, from 3d to 4th avenues, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works.
Which was laid over.

G. O. 411.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That a receiving basin and culvert be built on the south-east corner of Hudson and Clarkson streets, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.
Which was laid over.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That Barnard R. Guion be and he is hereby appointed City Surveyor for the City of New York.

Which was referred to the Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That Frederick W. Watkins be and he is hereby appointed City Surveyor for the City of New York.

Which was referred to the Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That Gersen Goldstein be and he is hereby appointed a Commissioner of Deeds, in and for the city and county of New York, in place of Benjamin Moore, whose term of office has expired.

Which was referred to the Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That permission be and is hereby granted to Conway & Murphy to place an ornamental gas lamp in front of their premises, No. 102 Vesey street, provided the post shall not exceed in dimensions the ordinary street lamp post; the gas to be supplied through their private metre, the work be done at their own expense under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and the permission hereby given shall continue only during the pleasure of the Common Council.

Which was referred to the Committee on Lamps and Gas.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That Eugene C. Morrison be and he is hereby appointed a City Surveyor.

Which was referred to the Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Being a resolution as follows:
Resolved, That David Leventrett be and he is hereby re-appointed a Commissioner of Deeds in and for the City and County of New York, to

date from the expiration of his present term of office, January 15, 1874.

Which was referred to the Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That James H. Donaldson be and he is hereby re-appointed a Commissioner of Deeds in and for the city and county of New York.

Which was referred to the Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That Frederick J. Warburton be and he is hereby re-appointed a Commissioner of Deeds in and for the city and county of New York.

Which was referred to the Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That E. M. Neville be and he is hereby re-appointed a Commissioner of Deeds, in and for the City and County of New York.

Which was referred to the Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That William H. Quincey be and he is hereby appointed a Commissioner of Deeds in and for the City and County of New York, in place of John T. Birdsall, who has failed to qualify.

Assistant Alderman Simonson moved to refer to Committee on Salaries and Offices.

Which was lost.

And the resolution was concurred in by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Keenan, Brucks, Kelly, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—13.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Wisser, Codington, Kehoe, Simonson—4.

Being a resolution as follows:

Whereas, The Legislature of the State of New York, passed an act known as chapter 535, of the laws of 1873, entitled "An act to provide for the location and erection of a new City Prison and place for holding certain courts in the city of New York," and whereas, a selection of a site for said prison under said act has been made by the Commissioner named therein, and whereas, no action has been taken in the premises by said Commissioners beyond said selection, and

Whereas, In view of the enormous and daily increasing amount of the Municipal Debt, and of the fact, that the carrying out of the provisions of said act of the Legislature will add materially to the debt of the city, and in view of the fact that it is at least questionable whether such a building is necessary to be erected, and

Whereas, It is susceptible of proof that the present City Prison can be improved and enlarged, at a comparatively trifling expense, to a size sufficient to answer the needs of the city for many years to come.

Therefore be it resolved by the Common Council of the city of New York, that the Counsel to the Corporation be and he is hereby instructed to prepare and present to the Legislature of this State for their enactment into a law, as soon as practicable, an act abolishing the said act of the Legislature of 1873, entitled "An act to provide for the location and erection of a New City Prison and place for holding certain courts in the city of New York," and known as chapter 535 of the laws of 1873.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Common Council be and he is hereby directed to forward a copy of these resolutions to each and every member elected in and from the city and county of New York to the Legislature of 1874.

Assistant Alderman Theiss moved to refer to the Committee on Public Buildings.

Which was lost.

And the resolution was concurred in by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Codington, Keenan, Brucks, Kelly, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—13.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Theiss, Kehoe, Simonson—3.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Being the Annual Message from his Honor the Mayor.

Assistant Alderman Kelly moved that the further reading be dispensed with, and that the Message be printed at length in the minutes.

Which was lost by the following vote:

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Theiss, Codington, Brucks, Simonson, Sommers—10.

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Murphy, Keenan, Kehoe, Kelly, Cumisky—6.

The Clerk here proceeded to read the Message.

Assistant Alderman Kehoe moved that the further reading be dispensed with.

Which was lost by the following vote:

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Codington, Keenan, Kelly, Simonson, Sommers—9.

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Murphy, Healy, Kehoe, Brucks, Cumisky, Beyea—8.

The Clerk again proceeded to read the Message.

Assistant Alderman Thornell moved that the further reading of the Message be dispensed with.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—14.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Clancy, Theiss—2.

Assistant Alderman Healy moved that five hundred copies of the Mayor's Message be printed in pamphlet form.

Assistant Alderman Sommers moved to amend by making it two hundred and fifty copies.

Which was lost.

And the motion of Assistant Alderman Healy was carried by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Theiss, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Beyea—14.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Thornell, Codington, Sommers—3.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Assistant Alderman Foley called up

G. O. 289,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That Twelfth avenue from One hundred and twenty-ninth to One hundred and fifty-third streets, be regulated and graded, the curb and gutter stones set, and the sidewalks flagged where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.

Which was concurred in by the following vote: Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—17.

Assistant Alderman Keating called up

G. O. 370,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Comptroller be and he is hereby authorized and directed to draw a warrant in favor of Thomas S. Brennan, Warden of Bellevue Hospital, the sum of eight hundred and eighty-two 59-100 dollars, to be in full payment of bill hereto annexed, for providing a banquet for the members of the Evangelical Alliance on the occasion of their visit to the public institutions, under the charge of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, as the guests of the city authorities, on the 9th day of October, 1873, and charge the amount to the account of "City Contingencies."

Which was lost by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Sommers, Beyea—13.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Murphy, Healy, Keenan, Cumisky—4.

Subsequently reconsidered and again laid over.

Assistant Alderman Wisser called up

G. O. 316,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That Sixty-seventh street, from Madison to Fifth avenues, be paved with granite trap-block pavement, and that, at the several intersecting streets and avenues, crosswalks be laid where not now laid, and relaid where those now laid are, in the opinion of the Commissioner of Public Works, not in good repair, or are not upon a grade adapted to the grade of the proposed new pavement, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—17.

Assistant Alderman Healy called up

G. O. 391,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That it is hereby ordered, that the Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks be, and they hereby are, granted permission to have all necessary repairs to the bridge at Third avenue, over the Harlem river, executed in such manner as to them shall seem best for the interests of the city without entering into a contract therefor as provided by Section 91, Chapter 335, Laws of 1873.

Which was concurred in by the following vote: Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—16.

Negative—Assistant Alderman Codington—1.

Assistant Alderman Thornell called up

G. O. 396,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Common Council of the City of New York, be authorized and directed to execute a lease on behalf of the City of New York, for so much of the premises situated on the north side of One hundred and twenty-fifth street, between Third and Fourth avenues in the City of New York, belonging to Messrs. W. T. and D. Blodgett, as may be necessary for the use of the Ninth District Civil Court, and the Fifth District Police Court, including prison accommodations, for a term of five years from the 1st day of January, 1874, at the annual rent of six thousand dollars, payable quarterly, on the usual quarter days, with a condition in the lease that the said premises, are to be put in proper condition for occupancy for said courts, and are to be fitted up with the necessary cells and accommodations for prisoners at the expense of the owners, according to the plans to be submitted subject to the approval of the said clerk and the Comptroller of the City of New York is hereby directed to pay said rent quarterly from the proper appropriation. The lease to contain a further condition, that immediate possession of the premises will be given to enable the courts to be held, but that no rent shall be charged for such occupancy, until the building shall have been put in thorough order and condition to hold court therein.

Which was lost by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Clancy, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—11.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Murphy, Healy, Keenan, Cumisky—4.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Murphy, Keating, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Sommers—6.

Assistant Alderman Foley moved that the General Ordered be refer to a special committee of three.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Healy, Theiss, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—13.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Wisser, Thornell, Codington, Simonson—4.

Assistant Alderman Healy moved that the special committee be instructed to report at the next meeting of the Board.

Which was carried.

Assistant Alderman Theiss called up

G. O. 376,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That lamp-posts be erected, and street-lamps lighted in Fifty-eighth street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Which was concurred in by the following vote: Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—17.

Assistant Alderman Keenan called up

G. O. 387,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That Sixty-third street, from the Third avenue to the East river, be regulated and graded, the curb and gutter stones set, and the sidewalks flagged where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance herefor be adopted.

Which was concurred in by the following vote: Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—17.

Subsequently reconsidered and ordered on file.

Assistant Alderman Keenan called up

G. O. 324,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the sidewalks on both sides of Fifty-third street, from Broadway to Seventh avenue, be flagged full width, where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—17.

Assistant Alderman Kehoe called up

G. O. 283,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That gas-mains be laid, and street-lamps lighted, in Fifty-seventh street, from Sixth to Eighth avenues, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Which was adopted by the following vote: Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—17.

Assistant Alderman Kelly called up

G. O. 381,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That gas-mains be laid and street lamps lighted in Sixty-seventh street, between Fourth and Fifth avenues, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Which was concurred in by the following vote: Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—17.

Assistant Alderman Kelly called up

G. O. 381,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the regulating, grading, setting curb and gutter stones, flagging sidewalks, and the roadway or surface construction of One Hundred and Sixteenth street, between Sixth avenue and the avenue running along the easterly side of Morningside Park, be executed, except where already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, by day's work or in such manner as the said Commissioner may deem expedient for the best interests of the city and property owners, and of such materials and on such plans as may be prescribed or determined by said Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.

Which was adopted by the following vote: Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—16.

Negative—Assistant Alderman Codington—1.

Assistant Alderman Simonson called up

G. O. 385,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Comptroller be and he is hereby authorized and directed to draw a warrant in favor of Darling, Griswold & Co. for the amount of ninety-one dollars and seventy-five cents to be in full for annexed bill, being expenses incurred by the Joint Committee of the Common Council on obsequies of Horace Greeley at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in the reception and entertainment of the President of the United States and suite, while the guests of the city on the occasion of the funeral obsequies of Hor-

ace Greeley, the amount to be charged to the account of "city contingencies."

Which was lost by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—12.

Negative—Assistant Aldermen Murphy, Clancy, Theiss, Brucks, Kelly—5.

Subsequently reconsidered and laid over.

Assistant Alderman Cumisky called up

G. O. 314,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That on both sides of Fifty-seventh street, from Eleventh avenue to the Hudson river, curb and gutter stones be set, where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.

Which was adopted by the following vote: Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—17.

Assistant Alderman Sommers called up

G. O. 397,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Commissioner of Public Works be and he is hereby authorized and directed to have the gas lamps on the several bridges across the Fourth avenue, from and above Forty-fifth street, lighted immediately, as the avenue in its present state is in a very dangerous condition, both for pedestrians and vehicles.

Assistant Alderman Sommers moved to amend so as to read as follows:

Resolved, That the Commissioner of Public Works be and he is hereby authorized and directed to have the gas lamps on the several bridges and approaches from Madison to Fourth avenue, over the railroad tracks between Forty-fifth and Forty-ninth streets inclusive, lighted immediately, as the avenue in its present state is in a very dangerous condition both for pedestrians and vehicles.

Which was carried.

And the General Order as amended was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—16.

Negative—Assistant Alderman Kehoe—1.

Assistant Alderman Beyea called up

G. O. 341,

being a resolution as follows:

Resolved, That on north side of One Hundred and Sixteenth street, between the Third and Fourth avenues, curb and gutter stones be set, and the sidewalks be flagged and reflagged full width, where not already done, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, and that the accompanying ordinance therefor be adopted.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Assistant Aldermen Foley, Murphy, Clancy, Keating, Wisser, Healy, Thornell, Theiss, Codington, Keenan, Kehoe, Brucks, Kelly, Simonson, Cumisky, Sommers, Beyea—17.

The Chairman here announced the special Committee on general order 396:

Assistant Alderman Foley, Kehoe, Theiss.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS AGAIN RESUMED.

Assistant Alderman Wisser moved that the Board do now adjourn.

Which was carried.

And the Chairman pro tem announced that the Board stood adjourned until Monday next the 26th inst., at 2 o'clock p. m.

W. H. MOLONEY, Clerk.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

Statement of the hours during which all public offices in the City are open for business, and at which each Court regularly opens and adjourns, as well as of the places where such offices are kept and such Courts are held.

Table with columns: OFFICES, LOCATION, HOURS. Includes Mayor's Office, Mayor's Marshal, Permit Bureau, License Bureau.

Table with columns: OFFICES, LOCATION, HOURS. Includes Clerk of the Common Council, Clerk of Board of Assessors.

Table with columns: OFFICES, LOCATION, HOURS. Includes Finance Department, Office hours, Comptroller's Office.

Table with columns: OFFICES, LOCATION, HOURS. Includes Bureau for collection of revenue, Bureau for collection of taxes, Auditing Bureau, Bureau of Licenses, Bureau of Markets, Bureau for reception of all moneys paid into the Treasury.

Table with columns: OFFICES, LOCATION, HOURS. Includes Law Department, Counsel to the Corporation, Public Administrator, Corporation Att'y, Attorney for the Collection of Arrears of Personal Taxes, Attorney to the Department of Buildings.

