THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

VOL. XV.—NO. 1. PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 1871. DOUBLE SHEET—THREE CENTS.

FIRST EDITION

THE NEW CITY GOVERNMENT.

Councils for 1871.

Meeting of Both Branches.

Presidents Cattell and Huhn.

Their Congratulatory Addresses.

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc

CITY COUNCILS.

Assembling of the New Municipal Legislature—Organization of Both Branches for the Year 1871.

Both branches of City Councils assembled at 10 o'clock this morning, in their respective chambers, for the purpose of organizing for the year 1871, according to the requirements of law. On Wednesday last we published complete lists of the members of each branch, and it is unnecessary to repeat the names to-day.

Select Council.

This morning, in accordance with the law, which in substance says "Councils shall meet in the State House on the first Monday in January," the members of Select Council assembled at 10 o'clock in their chamber, for the purpose of organizing for the labors of 1871. Everything had been cut and dried for the formalities of the occasion. The all-powerful caucus had appointed the candidates, the addresses had all been carefully conned over, and the list of committees lay snugly in the President's capacious pocket, to be announced as prudence might dictate.

When the hour appointed arrived the President, Samuel W. Cattell, arose and said:—This being the day appointed by law for the meeting of Council, and there being present a sufficient number of gentlemen elected members to constitute a quorum, the Chamber will come to order.

Proper decorum being observed, the Chief Clerk, Benjamin H. Haines, then called the roll of the members holding over and read the credentials of the following new members:—

1st	Ward	William K. Park.
10th	"	William B. Hanna.
12th	"	William E. Littleton.
14th	"	R. W. Downing.
16th	"	T. J. Smith.
17th	"	T. H. Spence.
19th	"	William F. Miller.
22d	"	James R. Gates.
26th	"	J. B. Alexander.

Mr. Hanna—I move that Select Council now proceed to the election of a President. Agreed to.

The Chief Clerk then appointed Messrs. Marcus, Fourth ward, and Littleton, Twelfth ward, as tellers.

Mr. Hanna—I respectfully nominate Mr. Samuel W. Cattell.

Mr. McCall—I move the nominations close. Agreed to.

Mr. King, from the Eleventh ward—I move that the gentleman nominated be declared elected by acclamation. Agreed to, *nem. con.* The same gentleman (Mr. King), the oldest Democratic member of the chamber, then administered the oath of office to the new President, and the latter then delivered this address:

PRESIDENT CATTELL'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of Select Council:—I thank you for the honor which you have just conferred upon me, and promise that I will to the best of my ability endeavor efficiently and impartially to discharge the high duties which your favor has placed upon me. Among these duties is that of now calling attention to some of the many important matters which will claim our careful consideration during the coming year.

A brief review of the past year may not be unprofitable as a guide for the future. Many undertakings were begun, continued, or finished by the Councils of last year. Among them we find the completion of a "Morgue," where the distressed, the unfortunate, and the unknown who have met death by accident, self-destruction, or otherwise, can be placed for recognition.

The code of rules and regulations provides that an accurate description of the body, its clothing and effects, shall be kept, so that even after decomposition and burial the lost may be found again. Though the proper committee and officers a large and well-situated tract of land has been purchased and a contract made for the erection of a House of Correction. The work of construction is already commenced. Rules and regulations for its government have been approved, and a board of managers elected, so that all necessary arrangements may be made to receive inmates as soon as the first wings of the building are ready. The interests of the city demand that, while closely scrutinizing every part of this work, we should to the utmost of our ability aid and forward its progress.

There are at this time a greater number of works of engineering in progress under the direction of the city than at any previous time, all of which will in their completion so add to the general benefit of the city that their cost will be more than repaid in increased healthfulness, and in the greater facilities of communication between now distant points. I allude particularly to the sewers and bridges now under construction. The enhanced value of property in consequence of these improvements will undoubtedly so increase the revenue as not only to pay the interest upon the loans contracted therefor, but to create a sinking fund for their final liquidation. Notwithstanding the many difficulties encountered in the shape of quicksands and freshets, the Cohocksink sewer is nearly finished, and the early summer will enable us to open a commodious street upon what is now a repulsive open ditch. The amount thus far expended on this work is $160,000.

The Mill creek sewer, also, has been progressing rapidly, and is so far advanced as to justify the hope that before next autumn the valley of Mill creek, which has heretofore been a barrier to the advance of improvements beyond Forty-third street, may be so improved as to furnish a thoroughfare of importance from Chesnut street to Baltimore avenue, and permit the extension westward of the intervening streets. Both of these sewers drain very large areas; they are the largest within the city limits. The latter is probably the largest sewer in the world. Two hundred thousand ($200,000) dollars have now been expended upon it.

The bridge over the river Schuylkill at South street, which is being constructed under the supervision of commissioners appointed by the Legislature, and under the direction of our Engineer, is progressing satisfactorily. The contract was executed in March last, and already the abutments and piers upon the meadows of the Almshouse grounds are well advanced. It is hoped that it may be ready for use during the summer of 1872. Its completion will open a new era for the southern section of the city, heretofore cut off from any communication west of the river, except at great loss of time and labor. The advantages to this section will be felt by the city at large. The amount of loan created for the work is $800,000, and the amount expended is $93,000.

Our Chief Engineer and Surveyor is now preparing for another great structure, the bridge at Fairmount, intended to replace the Wire Bridge, and to furnish a safe crossing over the Pennsylvania Railroad at Bridge street. This bridge will probably be one of the largest in the country. It will have a width of 84 feet between curbs, with an 8-feet footway on each side, and a clear span over the river of 840 feet. It will have two roadways, one above the other, the lower one to connect Callowhill street with Bridgewater and Haverford streets, and the upper one to connect Spring Garden street, at Twenty-fifth, with Bridge street, westward of the Pennsylvania Railroad. All authority for the erection of this bridge has been granted by Councils, by approval of a general plan therefor, and the creation of a loan.

The plan of bridge submitted to Councils, and upon which action was had, was necessarily only a general one. The labor and study necessary for the proportioning and working out of the important details of so great a structure require time. Much energy has already been expended upon it, and there has been no unnecessary delay. From personal examination I am gratified in being able to say that the work of construction will begin in the coming spring. Much difficulty has been met with in obtaining information as to what there was or is to build upon, no plans of the masonry of the Wire Bridge being in existence. The importance of this bridge as a means of protection to our citizens using Bridge street from the Wire Bridge westward is beyond measure; for the want of it the lives of many are in daily peril.

The Councils of last year by ordinance created a Paid Fire Department and elected a Board of Commissioners. To organize and arrange this department will require time, energy, and judgment. We have yet to learn whether the hopes entertained by its friends will be realized—hopes not only of decreased destruction of property, lessened rates of insurance, less disturbance of the public peace, but hopes that our youth and young men may escape the contaminating influences that for years past have emanated from the engine and hose houses, despite the influence of many good and true men connected with the volunteer department. The experiment is a new one in our city, and to succeed will require fostering care and support. Let the effort have a fair trial. Let it stand or fall upon its own merits.

Our citizens were authorized to vote at the October election upon a site for the public buildings. A very large majority voted in favor of locating them at Penn Square. Because of the urgent necessity for these buildings, it is to be regretted that the last Select Council refused to authorize the special tax for the amount required by the Commissioners. Unless this neglect be speedily remedied by the present Councils, their demands must be paid from the funds raised for the annual appropriations, and at the end of the year we shall find a deficiency to the amount used by them. We should do our part in executing the expressed will of the people. The law may not suit our views and wishes, but while we live under it we must obey it.

In the effort of procuring a better supply of water much progress has been made during the past year. One of the reservoirs at Belmont has been partly completed, so as to enable a supply to be drawn, and water is now distributed from it. One of the pumping engines of the Worthington patent contracted for is in operation and has proved a complete success, fulfilling in every particular all that was claimed for it by its builder. The connecting main from this point to supply the Twentieth and Twenty-eighth wards will soon be completed, and will give them much needed relief. After much delay, in consequence of leaks which were difficult to find, water is now being pumped into the Roxborough Reservoir, and the mains connecting that with the Mount Airy Reservoir have been completed, assuring to Germantown and its vicinity an increased supply of water. The embankments for the new reservoir at Kensington are finished to the required height, ready for lining next summer.

More than one-half of the 36-inch ascending main for this work has been laid. Other work, either finished or in progress, will be detailed more fully in the annual report from the Water Department.

I regret that no system of street-paving better than the cobble-stones has yet been determined upon. Many experiments are on trial, and in course of time results may be obtained that will justify the Highway Department in reporting favorably upon something better, more convenient and economical.

The commission charged with the purchase of and maintaining our beautiful park are progressing carefully with their work, and as expeditiously as circumstances will permit. An examination of their annual report, which will in a short time be submitted to you, will give you a better idea of the magnitude and importance of their work than I can here. It must not be forgotten that we have a far more useful purpose in the purchase of so large a tract of land and devoting it to public uses than mere pleasure. The $5,000,000 heretofore appropriated, twice told, if so much should be required, would be a trifle compared with the preservation of the purity of the present source for supplying the city with water, and the cost of procuring it from any other source yet known, and I submit to you that every dollar expended for the purchase of ground for our park, whereby we preserve the purity of the Schuylkill water is just that much more money expended for the health and well-being of our constituents, even of those who may never be within the park limits.

An appropriation has been made for lighting the lamps of our city all and every night this year. In addition to the convenience, it is thought this measure will be equal to an additional police force. I trust it may be so, yet with the continually expanding limits of our growing city, I respectfully suggest that more men are needed, and that an increase of our police force is an absolute necessity which we cannot ignore without great injury to the interests entrusted to us. I ask your careful consideration of the matter, that you may by your own enactment make a judicious increase of the present force, or seek such other legislative aid as shall seem best to you.

The constant growth of our city requires increasing expenditures for the opening, grading, and lighting of our streets, the building of schoolhouses, the construction of water works, and a proper system of drainage. These and many other improvements that our citizens everywhere petition for demand inquiry as to how, when, and where we are to obtain the means required for these purposes. Upon all sides we hear complaints of high taxes, and I respectfully submit that it is our duty to carefully examine this subject. By a comparison of our system of assessing property, real and personal, with that in use elsewhere, it may be found that we can from the same resources raise a revenue sufficient to meet all our expenditures with a much less tax rate and without resorting to the present method of creating loans, and accumulating a debt burdensome to posterity. By the general law a great amount of personal property can be and is taxed in all the cities, towns, and villages outside of Philadelphia. Why should it not be so here? I cannot think that any community can be prosperous or satisfied where taxation is partial and the burdens unequally divided. Is it right that capital, whether invested in houses or lands, machinery, goods, wares, merchandise, or stocks, should be unwilling to bear its proper share of the expense of that protecting and fostering care which it requires and should always receive?

In the cities of Pittsburg, Newark, New York and Boston, and elsewhere, every kind of property, whether real or personal, including debts due, are subject to and *compelled to pay* a proportion of the annual tax. We consequently find that New York, with its immense expenditures for 1869, required a tax levy of only $2·27 upon the $100 of valuation; Boston but $1·37 upon the $100; while the owners of real estate in Philadelphia were compelled to pay $1·80 upon the $100. On examination as to the cause of the great difference, we find by a comparison of the assessment returns of the two cities with our own that here personal property pays little or no tax, while with the others it bears its equal share.

For the year 1869 the returns of taxable property in New York were as follows:—

Real estate	$684,183,918
Personal	281,142,696
	$965,326,614

Tax, $2·27 upon $100 valuation.

For the same year in Boston:—

Real estate	$332,051,900
Personal	217,459,700
	$549,511,600

Tax rate, $1·37 upon $100 valuation.

For the same year in Philadelphia:—

Real estate	$470,851,800
Personal	8,188,873
	$479,040,673

Tax rate, $1·80 upon $100 valuation.

Can it be possible that $8,188,873 is the sum total of the whole personal property of all Philadelphia, with its warehouses and its stores, its foundries and its factories, its mills and its workshops, and the machinery therein, its merchandise, stocks, bonds, and the other investments, including furniture, horses and carriages? It has been said that these returns are not more complete because our State laws are defective. Surely this cannot be so. The same laws operate in Pittsburg. There and throughout the State, even on our borders, we find the laws strong enough and good enough to procure a return sufficient to justify a tax levy very much below our own.

Cannot we, then, without retarding either enterprise or industry, find some revenue from one or all of these sources, and so relieve the heavy burdens borne now by house owners and tenants? By thus sharing our responsibility one with the other, we would encourage the mechanic and workingman as well as the capitalist to invest in building enterprises, and make our city in reality, as well as in name, a city of homes.

Gentlemen, much more might be said on this subject, but this, I trust, is enough to attract your attention. I ask you, for the best interests of all, to give the subject a careful consideration.

My fellow-members of Select Council, your confidence has again promoted me to the highest office in your gift. I would not be a man if I did not feel deeply sensible of this high honor, this one more act of courtesy added to the many already bestowed upon me during my membership. Words cannot express how deeply I feel your kindness. Sensible of my inability to do all I would do, I ask your indulgence for errors either of omission or commission that may occur in the discharge of my official duties. I am sure of your help in promoting the true interests of our city. As representatives from different portions we must remember that general as well as local interests are to engage our attention. While not forgetting the less, let us attend to the greater of our duties. A kindly feeling and a proper understanding of the rules will greatly assist us. Let us so work together "that, having a good conscience, we may with well-doing put to silence the ignorance of foolish men." And may He who is God over all direct us and guide us in all our doings. Gentlemen, I wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.

The new members then formed in a semicircle before the President's desk and were qualified according to law.

Mr. Fareira, Ninth ward, moved to go into an election for subordinate officers. Agreed to.

Mr. Bumm, Eighteenth ward, nominated for Chief Clerk Benjamin H. Haines. Nominations closed.

Mr. Hanna, Tenth ward, nominated Robert H. Bethell as Assistant Clerk. Nominations closed.

Mr. Downing, Fourteenth ward, nominated Mortimer L. Johnson as Messenger. Nominations closed.

Mr. Marcus moved that these gentlemen be elected by acclamation. Agreed to. The subordinate officers were then sworn in.

The President then appointed George Moser as Page of the chamber and Thomas Hamilton as Doorkeeper.

Rev. Dr. Rudder, rector of St. Stephen's Church, was then invited to invoke the Divine blessing upon the new Council. Prior to this he read from the Gospel according to St. Luke, 28th verse, 6th chapter.

Mr. Hanna offered a resolution to appoint a committee of two members to inform Common Council that Select Council is organized and ready to proceed to business. Adopted.

The President appointed Messrs. Hanna and King as that committee.

Mr. Harkness (Twentieth ward) offered a resolution for the appointment of a joint committee of three members from each chamber to inform the Mayor that Councils are ready to receive any business he may wish to communicate. Adopted.

The President appointed to represent Select Council on this committee Messrs. Marcus, Littleton, and Harkness.

Mr. Shoemaker offered a resolution accepting the rules and regulations of the late Council for the guidance of the new. Adopted.

Also, a resolution continuing the Joint Special Committee on Centennial Celebration. Adopted.

Mr. Marcus offered a resolution ordering that all unfinished business with the old Council be referred to the appropriate committees of the new. Adopted.

Mr. Fareira offered in place and had read an ordinance for the regulation of all standing committees, which requires that each of said committees shall hold at least one stated meeting in each month and as many more as may be deemed necessary. Passed.

Mr. Hanna, chairman of the committee to visit Common Council, reported that they had performed the duty assigned them.

Mr. Marcus moved that the members now proceed to the drawing of seats. Agreed to.

The members then vacated their seats, and a scene of considerable confusion ensued. The slips with the names written on them were well shaken up in General Charles Thompson's new and rakish-looking felt, and then came the drawing. The first name drawn was that of the sprightly and loquacious member from the Second ward, Dr. C. E. Kamerly; as he was not present,

Mr. Shermer moved that he be permitted to retain his old seat.

Mr. McIlvain here interposed an objection. Mr. Kamerly, in his opinion, was a very pleasant member to be associated with, but, nevertheless, should take the seat that was left, inasmuch as he was not here to make the selection now. The motion was disagreed to.

Mr. McIlvain, Twenty-seventh ward, moved that Mr. Hodgdon, of the Eighth ward, being the oldest member in the chamber, be permitted to retain his old seat. Agreed to.

Mr. Fareira, of Eleventh ward, made the same motion regarding Mr. King, but the latter gentleman, who regarded the honor of being the next oldest man in the chamber as questionable, declined in lively style.

The seats being all drawn,

Mr. George A. Smith, Twenty-eighth ward, offered the following:—

Resolved, By the Select and Common Council of the city of Philadelphia, that, until otherwise directed, the Fire Commissioners be authorized to meet in the Police Committee rooms, southwest corner Fifth and Chesnut streets, and that they be requested to meet for organization at 10 A. M., Jan. 3, and Clerks of Councils are hereby directed to notify said commissioners of the passage of this resolution. Adopted.

Mr. Hanna offered a resolution of thanks to Rev. Dr. Rudder for his services. Adopted.

The chamber then took a recess of twenty minutes.

After the recess, when the chamber had reassembled, a committee from Common Council, headed by Mr. John Martin, reported that their chamber had organized.

Mr. Harkness, chairman of the committee to visit the Mayor, reported that his Honor had nothing to formally communicate, but he presented to the members the compliments of the season.

Bills from Common Council were then received.

One fixing a special tax rate for public building purposes.

Mr. King hoped that this bill would be postponed, from the fact that it was not customary to present such business at a meeting for organization.

Mr. McCall thought that it was folly to show such captiousness whenever the matter was brought up. The buildings should go up, and the levy ought to be ordered at once.

Mr. King did not wish the gentleman who had just spoken (Mr. McCall) to interrupt him while on the floor. He thought that it was not proper to spring this discussion on the members who had just been sworn in.

Mr. Shoemaker hoped that the matter would be postponed, from no other reason than that the Supreme Court would on the 4th instant render a final decision on the questions at issue relative to the public buildings. When this decision was rendered, it would be a proper time to pass this levy.

The ordinance was postponed.

The chamber then adjourned until Thursday next at 3 o'clock.

Common Council.

The new members of Common Council, and those whose term of office did not expire at the end of the year, met at 10 o'clock this morning in Common Council Chamber for the purpose of organization.

John Eckstein, Chief Clerk, called the Chamber to order, and read from the roll the names of the members holding over.

The certificates of the newly-elected members were then received.

Mr. John C. Martin moved that the Chamber proceed to an election for President.

The same gentleman nominated Mr. Henry Huhn, from the Fifteenth ward, for that office.

Mr. Gill nominated George W. Nickels, from the Third ward.

The Clerk then appointed as tellers of the election Messrs. Walker and Gill, who, after a vote had been taken, announced that there had been 57 votes cast, of which Mr. Huhn received 46 votes and Mr. Nickels 11 votes. Mr. Huhn was thereupon declared elected President of Common Council, and was escorted to the chair by Mr. Nickels, who administered to him the oath of office.

The newly elected members were now sworn into office by the Chair and required to sign the constitution. This done, the Chair addressed the members of Council as follows:—

PRESIDENT HUHN'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of Common Council:—In assuming the honorable position of President of Common Council, I am fully conscious of the important duties and great responsibility it devolves upon me. The wisdom, patriotic and judicious administration of many of my predecessors, lead me to approach the performance of the duties of the office with a distrust of my own abilities, yet with a firm reliance upon your active and effective co-operation and assistance, it shall be my study and labor, everywhere, at all times, and by every proper means, to advance the interests and promote the prosperity of the whole people of our great city.

To the Councils of Philadelphia, by the act of Consolidation and the supplements thereto, have been delegated and entrusted many varied and important duties, trusts, and powers.

Our population at the present time numbers nearly 700,000 permanent residents, and for this vast number we are called upon to enact such laws and ordinances the wisdom and justice whereof may best protect and secure life and property and subserve the true interests of every citizen and tax-payer.

All are interested, property owner and creditor alike, in an honest administration of the finances; that every appropriation of the people's money should be faithfully expended for their entire benefit, and with a due regard to that true economy which consists not in withholding the means necessary to accomplish needful and important objects, but requires a strict accountability for the faithful and frugal expenditure of the moneys so appropriated.

To the more important improvements projected or already in course of construction, permit me briefly to invite your earnest and careful attention. Of these Fairmount Park and the new public buildings (to the extent of the powers vested in the municipal government by the Legislature), the House of Correction, an abundant supply of water, the proper lighting and efficient cleansing of our streets, the improved paving of our great central avenue, Broad street, the prompt collection of taxes, and the important and radical changes in the manner of extinguishing fires, are earnestly commended to our serious and careful consideration. An honest and determined effort to accomplish progress and reform in these all-important public necessities will inspire confidence in our municipal government, and secure the approval of the popular will, which always, sooner or later, enforces obedience to its behests.

Our highways will require constant care and attention, not only in necessary repairs to those already paved, but as well in the opening and extension of streets in the more recently built-up and rapidly improving portions of the city.

Experience, economy, and comfort have demonstrated the absolute necessity for the introduction and speedy adoption of a system of improved pavement in lieu of the "cobble-stones" at present in use. A result so desirable is demanded by the highest public considerations, and, I am confidently persuaded, would meet with the cordial and hearty approval of the entire community.

In conclusion, gentlemen, let us bring to the discharge of our duties an enlarged and enlightened comprehension of the true wants of the people we represent, and a stern determination that the work allotted to us shall be performed in such manner as will best promote the welfare, greatness, and prosperity of this "the city of our affections, and the home of our business."

As your presiding officer, I promise a strict impartiality and a preservation of that order and decorum which should always attend wise counsel and careful legislation. Gentlemen, I thank you sincerely, earnestly, and cordially for the distinguished honor you have conferred upon me, and, invoking the guidance and assistance of the Divine Father upon all our efforts, I enter upon the performance of the duties which your kindness and partiality have assigned me.

Mr. Martin then moved that an election be held for clerks and messengers, and the following named gentlemen were elected:—

Chief Clerk—John Eckstein.

Assistant Clerk—Abraham Stewart.

Messengers—Gavit Neilson and George W. Johnson.

On motion of Mr. Gill, the gentlemen named were elected by acclamation, after which they were duly qualified.

The Chair then introduced the Rev. Dr. Beadle, who read passages from the 1st Epistle of Timothy, and offered up a fervent prayer, invoking the blessings of God upon the President of the United States, Congress, Chief Magistrate of the State, the municipal heads of our city, and Councils, that they may be enabled to discharge their duties to the best interests of the people.

Messrs. Hanna and King, of Select Council, at this time appeared in the chamber and notified Common Council that Select was duly organized and ready for business.

The Clerk of Select Council also appeared, and informed Common Council that a committee had been appointed on the part of Select Council to wait upon the Mayor and ascertain if he had anything to communicate.

Mr. Hall offered the following:—

Resolved, That the rules and regulations of the late Common Council be adopted by this Council. Agreed to.

Mr. Nickels moved to proceed to the drawing of seats. Agreed to.

Messrs. Martin and Oram were, on motion, allowed the privilege of selecting their seats.

The drawing then took place, and as the names were called the members advanced and took their seats.

On motion, the Chair appointed on the part of Common Council Messrs. Hall, Greer, and Stockdale to wait upon the Mayor.

Mr. Morton moved that a committee of two be appointed to notify Select Council that Common Council was duly organized and ready for business. Agreed to.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Martin and McAleer on this committee.

A resolution of thanks to the Rev. Dr. Beadle for services in opening Councils was offered and adopted.

Mr. Allison made a motion to continue the joint special committees of the Chamber. Agreed to.

Mr. Wagner offered an ordinance requiring the Board of Revision to levy a special tax of six cents on the hundred dollars for the erection of the new public buildings.

Mr. Martin moved to refer to the Committee on Finance. Lost.

The bill then passed.

The ordinance from Select Council regulating the time of meeting of the different standing committees was called up and slightly amended, after which it passed.

The resolution from the other Chamber relative to unfinished business was concurred in.

The resolution from Select Council relative to the meeting of the Fire Commissioners tomorrow was concurred in.

A resolution continuing the Joint Special Committee on the Centennial Celebration of the Anniversary of American Independence was passed.

Mr. Bardsley offered a resolution requesting the Mayor to cause diligent search to be made for Henry Einecher, whose mind is affected, and who has been missing since the 27th instant. Agreed to.

Mr. Hall, from the committee to wait upon the Mayor, reported that his Honor had nothing to communicate at present, but extended the compliments of the season to the members of Councils.

Mr. Wagner offered a resolution directing the Clerk of Council to refrain from presenting resolutions or ordinances concerning the appointment of committees to the Mayor for approval.

Mr. Wagner thought the present mode of doing business was irregular and contrary to law.

On motion, the resolution was referred to the Committee on Law, when appointed.

Mr. Wagner offered a resolution providing for a joint convention of Councils on Thursday next, to elect a transcribing clerk. Referred to Committee on Law.

Mr. John McGrath and Mr. C. P. McGrath asked leave to record their votes for President of Common Council. Leave was granted, and they voted for Mr. George W. Nickels.

On motion, the Chamber adjourned.

DISHONEST DOMESTIC.—A colored female servant employed in the house of Mr. C. W. Matthew, No. 469 North Seventh street, yesterday decamped, carrying with her clothing, jewelry, etc., to the value of $200.

OPENING OF A SOUP SOCIETY.—To-morrow morning at 10·30 o'clock the Spring Garden Soup Society will commence the distribution of soup to the poor of the neighboring districts.

DAILY NOONDAY UNION prayer-meetings are held at No. 1210 Chesnut street, from 12 to 1 P. M. Music.

SECOND EDITION

WAR NEWS BY CABLE.

The Bombardment of Paris

The Terrible German Batteries.

Fire from the French Forts.

TO-DAY'S WASHINGTON NEWS.

New Year's Celebrations

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Fire Statistics.

Despatch to the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Fire statistics show that the total amount of property reported destroyed during the year 1870 was $200,000. One-half of this sum was by the burning of the Centre Market and dealers' supplies. Four persons were burned to death.

New Year's Celebration.

Hundreds of persons are keeping open house to-day. Nearly all business is suspended, and the weather is bright and calm.

Indian Affairs.

The sub-committee of the Committee on Appropriations has summoned numerous witnesses, preliminary to an examination of the alleged frauds in purchases of Indian goods. The examination, however, will not be commenced until the return of Commissioner Parker, who is daily expected, as it is considered but fair that he should have full knowledge of all the proceedings.

Representative Fargent, of Committee on Appropriations, will, on the reassembling of Congress, report the Indian appropriation bill. The amount will be one million dollars less than the bill of last session.

FROM THE WEST.

Mild Weather in Minnesota—Grand Regatta in Duluth Harbor.

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 31.—A grand regatta came off this afternoon in Duluth harbor, from the Grain Elevator to the Citizen's Dock, and return, the distance of the round trip being one and a quarter miles. Nineteen boats and three birch-bark canoes were entered for the race, which was witnessed by over one thousand spectators. The time occupied by the race was from nine to twenty minutes.

A schooner has just arrived from Bayfield, and reports Lake Superior entirely free of ice. The thermometer here is forty degrees above zero.

FROM EUROPE.

The Bombardment of Paris.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—I have received from the New York *Herald* correspondent at Versailles a letter dated December 27, giving an account of the operations before Paris to that date. Your correspondent writes:—

SEVERE FIRE FROM THE FRENCH FORTS.

Christmas Eve was rendered memorable by one of the severest bombardments from the French forts which the German investing army has been called upon to sustain since the siege began. The French opened a veritable *feu d'enfer* about midnight. It soon after ceased, however, and the remainder of the night was undisturbed save by an occasional shot only. Christmas day was passed in quiet till about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when the French forts suddenly fired a volley and then relapsed into silence. On the part of the Germans there was no reply to the cannonade. The investing army preserved its wonted silence, and made no sign which could indicate where the heavy guns are. I would state, however, that the German siege guns are now fully in position and prepared to attack the forts.

RANGE OF THE FRENCH GUNS.

The weather is and has been so intensely cold that it makes the sound of the French guns sharper and more distinct than usual. This state of the atmosphere also aids in creating the belief that the guns have a longer range than they have yet reached, but such is not the case altogether. It is certain, however, that the guns of Fort Mont Valerien have thrown solid shot into the bank of the Seine below the terrace of St. Germain, west of the fort, and a distance of over six miles.

EVERYTHING READY FOR THE BOMBARDMENT

I may now state, without fear of the information being regarded as premature, that everything is in readiness for the bombardment of Paris on the most terrific scale conceivable. All the German batteries are complete, guns mounted, and ammunition in sufficient quantity. They will open simultaneously upon the devoted city from the following points, the whole length of the lines forming a semicircle.

THE GERMAN SEMICIRCLE OF BATTERIES.

Beginning at a point on the heights above St. Denis, and consequently north of Paris, the German semicircle of batteries extend in a southwestern direction to the town of Argenteuil, on the northern bank of the river opposite the peninsula on which Fort Mont Valerien stands. The line then continues across the river to Colombes, nearly opposite Gennevilliers, whence it continues in a southerly direction to Garches (?), opposite Fort Mont Valerien. It then takes a southeast course, passing between St. Cloud and Versailles to the heights of Meudon, where it faces the southern fortresses of Paris. The batteries have now a shorter range. From Meudon, which is opposite Fort Issy, the line extends eastward to Clamart, opposite Fort Vanvres, thence to Fontenay aux Roses, opposite Fort Montrouge, and continues eastward opposite Forts Bicetre, Ivry, and Charenton, turning at the peninsula of St. Maur, the scene of Ducrot's late sortie, and runs in a northward direction, opposite Forts Nogent and Rosny.

FREEDMEN'S ANNIVERSARY.—This afternoon and evening there will be interesting exercises commemorative of the great day "upon which the shackles were struck from four million bondmen," in Odd Fellows' Hall, Frankford, under the auspices of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of that place. Mr. Isaiah C. Wear and Professor W. H. Day will speak on the occasion.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTS.—The Board of City Trusts will meet at 3 o'clock this afternoon for the purpose of organization. The only change in the membership is Mr. Henry H. Huhn, the President of Common Council, who becomes a member of the Board ex officio in place of Mr. Wagner.

THIRD EDITION

AFFAIRS AT THE CAPITAL.

The Outrages in the South.

A Special Presidential Message.

Another Proposed New State.

The San Domingo Question.

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Southern Outrages.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—It is reported here that the President will send a special message, as soon as Congress reassembles, relating to the condition of the Southern States. Accompanying the message will be a considerable amount of testimony in the shape of reports, etc., from military and other officers, which, in the judgment of the President, show that a very bad state of affairs exists in many sections of the South.

It is believed that he will recommend that Congress appoint a committee of its members to thoroughly investigate the condition of affairs. It is represented that the President's views are very decided as to the need of action by Congress.

Proposed Admission of Indian Territory as a State.

Mr. Van Horn, of the House Indian Committee, has been authorized to report a bill organizing the Indian Territory under the name of "Okahama." The bill carries out the principal provisions of the treaties of 1866. It provides for the appointment by the President of a Governor and Secretary, Supreme Court and District Judges, and a Marshal, all of whom may be white. There is to be a legislative council, with one branch only, the members to be composed of the various tribes. Provision is made for an Indian delegate in Congress, and for six interpreters, who are to prepare the proceedings of the Legislature for publication in the English language. Mr. Armstrong, of the House Indian Committee, is preparing a majority report upon the validity of the Joy title to the Cherokee neutral lands. The report will hold that the question is not one to be decided by legislation, but by the courts. General Shanks has a minority report, favoring the setting aside of the Joy purchase as illegal.

The San Domingo Question.

Mr. Sumner is understood to have prepared an article in support of his position on the San Domingo question, as shown in the recent debate, which will be published in a weekly New York paper. General Logan has written a letter to the President denying that he is opposed to the San Domingo resolution of Senator Morton.

Haytian Affairs.

A number of merchants and others interested in Haytien affairs have forwarded a letter here, which is to be presented to the President, urgently asking that the San Domingo Commission shall consist of gentlemen who are known not to have committed themselves decidedly in favor of annexation. It is supposed that special objection is felt toward Frederick Douglass, who, it is asserted, is an active partisan of the policy.

THE PHILADELPHIA DISPENSARY.—The annual meeting of the contributors to the Philadelphia Dispensary was held this day at noon at the institution, No. 127 South Fifth street. M. L. Dawson occupied the chair, and Dr. Thomas Wistar acted as Secretary.

From the Treasurer's report it appeared that the receipts amounted to $6895·09, including the balance from last year, and the payments were $6873·86.

The annual report of the managers, including reports of the house and district physicians, obstetrical physicians, and the surgeons of the Eye and Ear Department, was submitted, which showed satisfactory results.

The following board of managers was elected for the ensuing year:—Wm. F. Griffitts, Henry J. Morton, John Farnum, George B. Wood, D. Clark Wharton, T. Wistar Brown, John M. Whitall, John C. Browne, Charles Ellis, Joseph P. Smith, Thomas Wistar, William Hacker.

INQUEST IN THE CASE OF THE LAD GEORGE H. FUREY.—Deputy Coroner Sees to-day noon held an inquest in the case of the lad George H. Furey, who was killed on Christmas day at Dickerson street wharf, by a shot from a pistol alleged to be in the hands of Frank Gaughran.

The testimony was in no way different from that already published, and the jury rendered the following verdict:—

That the deceased, George H. Furey, came to his death on Saturday, December 31, 1870, from a gun shot wound in the head, received at the hands of Frank Gaughran, on Sunday afternoon, December 25, 1870, near Dickerson street wharf.

The prisoner was committed for trial.

EXPLOSION OF GAS.—Last night about 8 o'clock an explosion of gas occurred in a room in the house of H. Kretchmar, No. 1221 North Second street. Mr. Henry Krouser, a boarder in the dwelling was badly burned about the face. He is now in the St. Mary's Hospital.

SLIGHT FIRE.—A trifling fire occurred at half-past 5 o'clock this morning in a shed on Second street, below Tasker.

—The San Francisco *Bulletin* estimates the value of the yearly fruit crop of California at $5,000,000.

—In Milwaukee, on Thursday night last, twin infants froze to death in their crib in the same room in which their parents slept.

DIED.

(For additional Deaths see Fifth page.)

BELL.—On the 1st instant, SAMUEL BELL, son of the late John and Julia A. Bell.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, from the residence of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Jane Agnew, No. 1036 South Fourth street, on Tuesday afternoon, at 2 o'clock. Interment at Ronaldson's Cemetery.

GIRARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. N. E. Corner CHESNUT and SEVENTH Streets.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2, 1871.

DIVIDEND No. 25.

A dividend of FIVE DOLLARS per share has this day been declared by the directors of this company payable to the Stockholders on and after this date, free of taxes. ALFRED S. GILLETT, Treasurer.

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