

VOTERS TO DECLARE

Whether They Will Adopt the Plan of Councils to Pay the City's Debt

ON OLD STREET CONTRACTS

The Ordinance on the Question Has Passed Both Branches.

LIVELY DISCUSSIONS ABOUT GAS.

Members of the Common Differ on the Philadelphia Company's Bill.

DOINGS OF THE LOCAL LEGISLATORS

Councils were in session a long time yesterday afternoon. The select branch spent most of time arguing on the merits of the ordinance for a popular vote on the issue of bonds to pay street contractors. After failing, and for want of a legal majority, the ordinance was again taken up and passed finally. It now goes to the Mayor for his signature. Common Council labored in vain on the Philadelphia Company's bill for gas at the water works. The discussion was animated and lengthy, but bore little fruit.

The bond ordinance was scarcely announced in Select when Mr. Fitzsimmons on his feet to announce his objections to its passage. The attack was not a surprise, as it had been generally understood that several members were against the ordinance, and were prepared to do battle to it. Mr. Lambie had been named as one of these, but he soon dispelled such an impression by heartily championing the bill.

Mr. Fitzsimmons—I am not willing that the question of increasing city debt shall be submitted to a popular vote. A large number of improvements were made under the act of 1887, when it was known to be unconstitutional. Now that the Supreme Court has declared it so, it is a question whether the money can be collected.

CONTRACTS NOT PROPERLY DONE.

"In addition to this," continued Mr. Fitzsimmons, "I am reliably informed that a considerable portion of the work done does not come up to the contract specifications and is not what the people want. If the work is defective the contractors should suffer. They are not entitled to any money for inferior work. It should be carefully established that the work is properly and efficiently done, and that the property supposed to be benefited is really liable to assessment for the improvement, before the city assumes the debt as provided by this ordinance. Under the court's decision, in the case of Jones vs. the City, the contractor has two years in which to establish these points before their money is really due and if that is done, then will be plenty of time for the submission of the question to a popular vote."

Mr. Lambie—I must confess that while I am heartily in favor of the ordinance I do not like the title in its present shape. It is misleading. Instead of being worded, "increasing the city indebtedness," it should have been "refunding the city indebtedness." There is no doubt in my mind that the unpaid assessments for street improvements are already a city debt, and my opinion is based entirely on the decisions of the courts. In the suit of Evans vs. Jones against the city, the city's liability was clearly set forth and it was shown that Mr. Jones' claim, like those of the other contractors who did work under the old acts, was a standing debt against the city. The court did hold, however, that Mr. Jones must wait two years before he could compel payment, but after waiting for three years the city must pay him whether he collected the money from the benefited property or not.

THE MONEY MUST BE SECURED.

"It may be," continued the speaker, "that some of the work had not been completed according to contract, as Mr. Fitzsimmons had averred, but certainly the Chief of the Department of Public Works will carefully look after that part of the agreement, and if not lived up to he can declare the contract invalid and the city be none the loser. But of one thing I am certain. If this ordinance fails to pass I and all the people feel that we are in a bad way. It will be a matter of necessity to provide for the money needed to pay these claims in the next appropriation ordinance, and the people will be very sorry for it. There are not two years from now when the money must be paid, but two years from the completion of the contracts. Some of the payments will be due inside of a year. The controller, I am sure, will not issue the bonds until the money is due. In a test case and the Supreme Court finally placing beyond doubt the cost of improvements on benefited property holders the money can be collected and paid over direct without issuing the bonds. In a test case and the Supreme Court finally placing beyond doubt the cost of improvements on benefited property holders the money can be collected and paid over direct without issuing the bonds. In a test case and the Supreme Court finally placing beyond doubt the cost of improvements on benefited property holders the money can be collected and paid over direct without issuing the bonds.

OBJECTS TO DOUBLE PAYMENTS.

"For myself I have paid the assessments on all my property benefited and do not feel like paying for other people's improvements by means of an increased tax levy. The passage of this ordinance is the only way to prevent that. If the contractors are paid by an increased tax levy the city will never be able to collect the money back from the benefited property holders. This ordinance pledges the payment or redemption of the bonds to be issued with the money collected from the repayment of betterment affected by the Supreme Court decisions. I think it only right and proper that the people should have an opportunity to vote on the question. There will be plenty of time before the vote for a full and fair understanding to be gained of the ordinance by all the people. The people will learn that this is not an increase of the city's debt, but an easy, intelligent plan to refund a debt that already exists.

No further comment was indulged in, and the ordinance was put on final reading, and the vote resulting 18 for and 3 against passage.

The next order of business was the report of the Finance Committee. Chairman Ford decided the ordinance had failed for want of a majority, 18 being only half the membership of the Council.

Shortly after, when a few more members came in and took their seats, Mr. Keating asked that the ordinance be brought up again. Prompt action, he said, was necessary, in order to prepare for the vote provided for on December 8. On being ordered, the ordinance was again brought up and voted on by a vote of 21 to 3. The negative votes were cast by the same members as before.

New Ordinances Proposed.

In the two branches the following papers were presented and referred to the proper committees: An ordinance, in blank, to amend the city code, title "carriages," relating to vehicle licenses and reducing the charges therefor; ordinance locating Brookline avenue; resolution requesting the Chief of the Department of Public Works to report on the repairing of Butler street; petition for water main on Hamilton avenue; ordinance for grading Iowa street; and paving Harding's alley.

granting Philips Mining and Supply Company the right to lay a switch track on Greenbush street.

FIGHT OVER A GAS BILL.

Common Council Spends Considerable Time Discussing the Philadelphia Company's Bill—A Difference of About Twelve Thousand Dollars—May Result in a Split.

Common Council spent most of the time discussing the report of the special committee appointed to investigate the bill of \$25,602.28 of the Philadelphia Company for gas furnished the water works. The report said that the balance due the company for March was \$308.94, charges for April, May, June, July and August at \$5,000 per month, \$25,000; total, \$25,308.94. On this the city is entitled to a credit of \$12,558.18 for a warrant of July 8, 1891. The committee estimated the charges on last year's contract of \$5,000 per month. They presented a resolution to pay the company the difference, \$12,558.18, in full to August 31.

Mr. Magee—"I would move to amend by inserting that 'the acceptance of the amount tendered shall not prejudice the claim of the Philadelphia Company for the original amount.'" I do this because when we first came in there was no dispute that the city owed the money, and no evidence had been produced to the contrary so far. I wish to leave the company free, should it choose to enter suit for this account.

Mr. Wright, Chairman of the Committee—"The company's statement shows a balance of \$29,280 on May 31; for June the charge was \$5,012.41; for July, \$5,820.20; for August, \$7,807.24; total, \$23,639.85. No credit is given for the warrant issued. If this credit is given the difference between the company and the committee would be but \$293.40.

Mr. Ferguson—"The company will have the right to sue, anyway. Mr. O'Donnell—I think Mr. Magee's position is right and honest. Mr. Wright—Did not the Controller send a letter to the city saying the amount claimed was exorbitant? Mr. Magee—Not to my knowledge. But I do know that the officers of the city told me the gas had been used and the charge was not offered to the company. If the city it would be used after the old contract expired.

WANTED AN INVESTIGATION.

Mr. Ferguson—I think there should be an investigation at the works. It is my opinion coal has been used while the bill for gas has not been offered to the company. If the water department for information. It cannot be secured there. The committee should go to the works.

Mr. Plinn—"The amendment of Mr. Magee is equivalent to a confession that the city really owes the money. I will not vote for it. Mr. McDermott—If this was an individual transaction the amount believed to be due would be offered to the company. If the latter then thought it deserved more it could sue for it.

Mr. Magee—I differ from the gentleman in this matter. I believe the city owes the money; the auditing officers of the city have so reported. But in order to let the company get such money as it can I will not press my amendment, but will vote for the report. I do not believe the report of the committee is honest, although I do not mean to reflect on the integrity of the members. Mr. Magee's amendment being withdrawn Mr. Bigham moved to strike out the words that provided for a receipt in full before any money was paid.

Mr. Wilson—"This is simply a business transaction. The company presents a statement and neglects to give credit for a payment made by the Controller's books show made. If the company gave this credit the difference between the company and the committee would only be \$293.40. It would be absurd to pass Mr. Bigham's motion.

TALKING ON TECHNICALITIES.

Mr. Bigham—"The date, August 31, being in the resolution, covers the point. I want the words 'in full' stricken out, because they are not customary on city warrants. His amendment was lost. Mr. Bigham—"The date, August 31, being in the original resolution, I desire to vote in the negative, as I do not believe the report of the committee is honest. Mr. Hight—"I object to the gentleman proposing the committee's books show, simply standing up for the city's side. I never heard of that \$12,000, and fail to see why the company does not give credit for it. Mr. Wright—"The Controller's books show that the warrant was issued, and we supposed the company got the money. Mr. Magee—"It was not my intention to reflect on any member of Councils. I am not in that business.

After some further talk the resolution was adopted, Mr. Magee alone voting "no." A representative of the Philadelphia Company in speaking of the matter afterward said the statement given by his company to the committee only showed the sums due and not the total charges and credits. The company had gotten the warrant of July 8 and still claimed \$25,000. The difference in the figures of the company and the committee came in this way. When last year's contract expired on April 15 the city, while still using gas, refused to accept the new contract tendered by the company. The gas was used until August 31, when coal was substituted. The company then charged from April 15 to August 31 at the rate offered by them. The committee made its charges at last year's rates and this made the difference.

THE LITTLE BUSINESS DONE.

A Number of Minor Matters That Were Given Concomitant Attention.

An ordinance was presented in Select granting the Mt. Olive Railway Company the right to use and occupy certain streets. It provides for an electric railway route beginning on South Washington street at the intersection of Maple street, thence along Maple to Lillian street, east along Lillian street, thence south along the city line at Hartwood street. The ordinance allows single or double tracks and an overhead electric system.

In Select Council Mr. Benz presented two resolutions, one providing for a committee to secure information relative to putting into use the \$100,000 appropriated by Councils for a free bridge across the Monongahela river, the other providing for a committee to ascertain what steps will be necessary to secure the abolishment of the toll-gate on Eighteenth street, inside the city limits. Both resolutions provide for committees of five, of whom three are to be from the Common Branch and two from the Select Branch. They were adopted in both branches.

In Common Council the Select Council ordinance authorizing S. E. Warren to lay a switch across Thirty-third street and Spring Alley was taken up. Mr. O'Donnell said the track would take up a great deal of room, there was a remonstrance against it, and he moved that a special committee be appointed to investigate. The motion was adopted.

Fall and Winter Overcoats.

This is overcoat week at the P. C. C. C. 10,000 men's fine overcoats, light or dark shades, lined or plain, serge-lined, silk-lined or cloth-lined, with a velvet collar or cloth collar. Come and take your choice at \$10, \$12 and \$16. We sell the best in the world at the lowest prices. Remember our motto: "We never sell what we cannot show." When we make a statement, we always back it up with goods and prices. P. C. C. C., Pittsburgh Combination Clothing Company, corner Grant and Diamond streets.

The Swiftest Neckwear in Town.

Gentlemen, see the latest New York and London novelties. Just the neckwear that is worn by the highest class of the high rollers. Neckwear and kerchiefs to match. JOS. HORNE & CO.'S, Penn Avenue Stores.

THERE IS NOTHING SO NUTRITIOUS OR HEALTHY FOR A BEVERAGE AS THE CELEBRATED PILSENER BEER, MADE BY THE IRON CITY BREWING CO., PHILADELPHIA.

THE FOURTH ESTATE.

Delegates at the Ecumenical on the Religious Newspaper, ITS FUNCTIONS AND ITS TRIALS.

Not All Agreed as to Whether It Should Discuss Politics.

Religious papers should have an expert corps of assistants to the chief editor. Attention should be given to the advertising columns. There had been much slandering, but there was not so much now, although he did see an advertisement of quack medicine consumption cure—opposite an unctuous article on help to higher life. [Laughter.]

ATKINSON RAISES A LIVELY TILT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—A colored delegate occupied the chair at the opening of today's session of the Methodist Ecumenical Council, and another colored delegate delivered the opening prayer. Bishop Hood, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, of Fayetteville, N. C., was the former, and Bishop Gaines, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was the latter. Another colored man, Rev. Dr. C. H. Phillips, of the A. M. E. Church, of Washington, read the Scripture lesson.

The topic of the morning session was "The Church and Her Agencies," and Bishop R. S. Foster, of Massachusetts, proceeded to address the council on "The Responsibilities and Qualifications of the Preacher." Rev. John Bond, of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, London, England, followed with an address.

An address was made by Rev. William H. Day, African M. E. Zion Church, Harrisburg, on "Church Agencies." In the five-minute discussion of the topic under consideration, Bishop C. D. Foster, of Philadelphia, spoke on the intellectual and spiritual equipment of preachers. Several others made short talks, and the session then took a recess until 3 o'clock. At 1:30 President Harrison held a reception for the delegates, who were introduced by Bishop John F. Hurst, of Washington, D. C.

A PITTSBURG PREACHER'S VIEWS.

Among the delegates who followed Bishop Foster in short talks was Rev. G. W. Clinton, of Pittsburg, who said that the preacher should be an ambassador of Christ, and that he should give an adequate idea of his heavy responsibility. Singleness of purpose was a pre-eminent qualification. He should be able to turn all knowledge into the single useful purpose which he must have in mind.

When the Council reassembled, Rev. M. T. Meyers, of the United Methodist Church, Rochdale, Eng., took the chair. The topic for discussion was "The Function of the Religious Press." Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, of London, delivered the essay. Dr. Hughes began with a history of the birth of the journal, the first daily appearing, he said, in 1799. There were now 4,000 daily papers. Was it not strange that this great agency had rarely received the consideration of the churches? It was now the fourth estate, the greatest engine of the world, and became so without the aid of the church or its blessings. Christian churches must face the fact that this great engine is in the hands of men who were in some cases indifferent to the church, and in others absolutely full of hatred for it.

THE FUNCTIONS OF A NEWSPAPER.

What are the functions of this engine? First, to collect news, and enormous were the expense and results. Through the telegraph every man might know what transpired in the whole world. Christ came to enlighten the world, and to do this he used the signs of the times. A great function of the press was the definition of public opinion. It was well to know the prevailing opinion, no matter what it was. Another function of the press "was to influence the public; to impress upon it the views of the editor.

It has been said that the newspaper is mightier than the pulpit, and perhaps that is true. The creation of the press, used on the right side, was enormous and irresistible. The great majority, even of Christians, were so preoccupied that they did not realize the evils that came from the creation of the press. For the signs of the times, a great function of the press was the definition of public opinion. It was well to know the prevailing opinion, no matter what it was. Another function of the press "was to influence the public; to impress upon it the views of the editor.

SKETCHES OF THE PRESS.

It has been said that a large proportion of the journalists of the secular press were skeptics or agnostics. That might be so, yet the press was a parasite on the Christian religion that even the agnostic journalist might and did believe to be good and worthy of extension. Everybody recognized the fact that the day of the coming of the kingdom of heaven on earth is near.

"The preacher had learned from the journalist," said Dr. Hughes in conclusion, "and God grant that they may now learn a little from us, for united we and the journalist can hasten the coming of the kingdom of Christ by bringing to all lands, in which there shall be no room for or sign of misery."

Rev. Fr. E. H. Dewar, editor of the Christian Guardian, of Toronto, held that the church had not yet found a sufficient high estimate of the influence of the religious press and had not used it to its full capacity for good. Any instrument that could be made the instrument of bringing light and truth to darkened minds, was sure to be used in the Master's service by the saintliest hands. The same reasons which justified the use of the pulpit and the platform justified the use of the church journals.

RELIGIOUS PAPERS NOT ORGANS.

"The religious press should not be regarded as a rival to the pulpit. It supplements and does not supplant the preaching of the preacher. The church must have her own press as well as her pulpits, but I dislike to hear the religious paper called the 'organ' of the church, as if its main business was to make the organs of the various denominations like a papal syllabus; or as if it was an instrument of which certain tunes were to be played to order.

In times of moral degeneracy, when the public conscience is paralyzed by selfish views of duty, the religious press should fearlessly rebuke prevailing sins, whether it brings popularity or opposition and reproach. A time-serving press is the curse of any country.

"The church paper should be liberal in spirit, but loyal to Christian truth. While open to the reception of all duly attested truth, whether in harmony with previous beliefs or not, the religious paper that will be a power for good must not be a tempering weathercock."

RELIGIOUS PAPERS AND POLITICS.

Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Ferguson, President of the Primitive Methodist Church of England, could not say Amen to all that had been said, and especially where he said that religious papers should not take cognizance of politics. ("Oh, no, no.") In England there were thousands of papers that received their politics not from the daily papers, but from the weekly religious journal. Occasionally it becomes necessary that religious political questions should be treated by them. [Mutual disapproval.] He would not go further into that subject because he saw it troubled his Wesleyan friends. [Cries of "Oh, no, no."] Many parts of this great country, he had been told, were influenced strongly by the Roman Catholic power. It might be because that power was concentrated, but might it not also be because of their use of the press? He also objected to their use of the press not subject to censorship, but to its freedom, should that press not recognize the fact that Christ was the living force of national life? The churches should ally themselves with the daily press, give their sympathy to the head of the great dailies which would treat that alliance. The great questions of the

ON ITS LAST WEEK.

Just Six Days of the Big Show Down at the Point Now Remaining.

THE ATTENDANCE NEVER BETTER.

People Going Twice a Day, in Order to Make Up for Lost Time.

SOME OF THE PROMINENT EXHIBITS

Like a candle fluttering brightly just before it goes out, the Exposition in its last week outshines all its former brilliance. The attendance is larger than ever, because, in addition, there are present the procrastinators who have delayed going for the reason that "there still were several weeks before them." A great many people are wishing now that they had tried the excellencies of the big show at the Point a few weeks sooner.

They are doing the best they can now by visiting the Exposition twice a day and spending at least part of the time near the music stand. This, according to Cappa, is still better. He has arranged a programme for to-day in compliment to the Odd Fellows, and musicians say it is a very choice one. Cappa's "days" are strong rivals of legal holidays. To-day he plays his seventh and to-morrow his eighth concert, with no art collection at the Exposition has never been frequented than the present one. Our out-of-town cousins evidently only require their love of art to be encouraged a little until they will rival ourselves in their enthusiasm. Few, however, expect to be leaving, leaving that for the townspeople to do, but Manager Johnston expects a change this week in the rather chilly attention of the buyer. The loan pictures are giving much pleasure, as every body seems to like seeing what Pittsburg's wealthy men decorate their walls with.

IMPROVED LOCKS.

A System Designed to Expedite Slackwater Navigation—Other Inventions of Value to Rivermen.

Messrs. Arthur Kirk & Son display a large working model of this interesting invention in Machinery Hall. It is designed to do away with the great portion of the delay experienced by rivermen in taking steamboats through locks. The model should be inspected to thoroughly understand the system, but it may be briefly stated that the device consists of gates worked vertically, raised or lowered by hydraulic pressure (instead of working horizontally as in old-fashioned locks), the pressure being controlled by a simple system of levers and small gears which regulate the inflow of water from the higher level. By this invention it is possible to construct locks in rivers and canals that will enable a steamboat to pass from a higher to a lower level, or vice versa, without slackening speed, and without assistance of lines from the shore.

Mr. Kirk issues a special invitation to the members of the Engineers' Society of Pennsylvania to visit the Exposition, to examine the Pittsburg and Allegheny Councils and to rivermen to examine his patent dam for the Allegheny river, and asks their inspection also of his patent for jetting power on a bar, and his dam was examined last year by many prominent engineers of Europe and America, and without a single exception they pronounced in favor of it. It should be stated, however, that Mr. Kirk is not interested in the river improvements themselves, but he offers \$100 for the production of any invention that will do in a more satisfactory manner what is claimed for his own patents.

In another part of their space Messrs. Kirk & Son display improved steam drills of various sizes, rock crushers, coal slates and stone crushers and other machinery of high explosives, blasting and sporting purposes. It should be stated that these packages are only fac-similes, filled with harmless mixtures, so that an explosion can possibly occur. But it is safe to say that most persons will prefer these imitations to the dangerous substances.

KLEBER'S FAMOUS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Kleber Takes the Lead in Music, as Ever. In addition to the numberless Steinway, Conover and opera pianos and other musical instruments sold during this popular old-time establishment, the Messrs. Kleber have also disposed of quite a number of Vocalion church organs. No one can have any idea of the surpassing musical beauty and excellence of these wonderful vocalion organs without having seen and heard them. At the low price of \$800 the Vocalion furnishes more variety, delicacy and strength of tone than any \$2,500 pipe organ, while for durability it far surpasses the latter.

The Klebers enjoy the confidence of the public for their integrity and also for the superior excellence of their instruments. Anything that comes from Klebers must necessarily be musically perfect and satisfactory. Their store is 506 Wood street.

ROSENBAUM & CO.

510 and 518 Market Street. Who have taken visitors by storm with their elegant displays on main floor, are prepared to astonish their patrons still further by the magnificent stock which they offer this season. Millinery, wraps and jackets for ladies and children, furs and trimmings, hosiery, lingerie, dress and other trimmings, and fancy and art work completed, or the materials for working the same, will all be found at this popular establishment. The cooler weather naturally directs attention to wraps, in which all the new shapes are to be seen.

Cavitt, Pollock & Co.

Have created a most favorable impression by their artistic display of elegant china, glassware and lamps at the Exposition, but their expression will be indelibly impressed upon the mind by a visit to the large establishment at 935 Penn avenue, where they are showing a stock of these fine wares that would astonish those who are not acquainted with the lines usually carried by this firm. There is nothing lacking in any of the departments of china for the table or toilet, fine table cut glassware and lamps in banquet, library, piano and vase styles. No one desiring really elegant and useful goods of these kinds should fail to call at the earliest possible moment and inspect the stock carried by Cavitt, Pollock & Co., 935 Penn avenue.

The Stevens Chair Company.

Have you one of those only too comfortable, adjustable reclining chairs in your house? If not, you don't want to lose any time in securing one, for it is a fact that these chairs which can be used to assume 50 different positions have become a necessity of the period. The company has also the rolling chairs for invalids, and an immense line of desks and office furniture, all desirable and moderate priced. You are invited to call at 316 Sixth street and examine their stock.

An Exhibit to Be Sold.

Messrs. Hopper Bros. & Co. have announced that they will sell the magnificent furniture, etc., which has been so much admired at their display in north gallery. Well, the people who secure these things are to be congratulated, for they are well having, they are not only handsome and fashionable, but they are undeniably good. Who will be the fortunate possessor of this favorite exhibit? The prices asked are far below cost.

Approved by the People

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

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