

CITY COUNCILS.

The regular meeting was held yesterday afternoon.

SELECT BRANCH.

A note was received from the Board of Health calling their instance at the foot of Deal and Memphis streets, the Highway Department having been notified of the communication, expressing their inability to abate it. Referred to the Committee on Highways.

A communication was received from G. F. Gordon, Inspector of Streets. The Chair announced it to be a very voluminous document.

Mr. Burnet requested its reading, inasmuch as he had offered a resolution of inquiry why the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Wards have not been visited by the public scavengers.

The communication was read. Mr. Gordon admits the justice of the complaint. He says that over two hundred written complaints have been received, and that the contractors for the district have hitherto neglected their business. Many complaints referred to the Board of Health have been returned "unanswered," to whom not a thing has been done concerning them. The Upper Delaware avenue has been touched but once in two months, and in the Wards named one hundred and four streets have not yet been touched by the present contractors. The writer says that despite the covert action of interested parties he shall continue to perform his duty, until upon the confidence of his fellow citizens and the support of His Honor the Mayor.

Mr. Van Cleve said that the entire tenor and purport of this communication should receive the condemnation of City Councils. This official seems to have only one ambition, which is to annual and break these contracts. His present communication is a tissue of falsehoods from beginning to end. He had no sooner been the recipient of the appointment than he openly stated that he would break up the contractor for the northern district. There were no complaints from the southern district, yet it was in a worse condition than the northern districts, for ample reason why these contractors cannot be driven into the spirit and letter of the contract they have taken. They require a little time to get their dumping places. The speaker knew that the Mayor did not endorse Gordon's communication. He knew that the Mayor had told Gordon that reasonable time must be given to the contractors to do their work. Instead of doing this he has continually annoyed them, and unless he desists the speaker would at an early day move for the abrogation of his office.

Mr. Gray expressed the belief that this was a very unusual and captious attack upon himself, which he believed to be correct in all his statements. As compared with the upper district the southern section of the city is in good condition, and the speaker believed that the Mayor is sick at heart that he ever gave the contract to the party who had it.

Mr. Evans said that he had introduced the resolution before some parts of his own and the Nineteenth Wards the dirt was two feet deep; complaints were coming in to him at a rate so annoyingly that it would have been false to his duty as a representative had he not introduced the resolution. Since then, however, the contractors had been at work in the districts complained of, and the dirt had been cleaned.

Mr. Van Cleve said that the resolution had prevented the contractor from working for three weeks, and at the time of the resolution he had not yet reached the district complained of.

The subject was ultimately referred to the Police Committee.

An ordinance paying Thomas Robertson remuneration for injuries received, as previously reported, was adopted.

Mr. Wagner, Committee on Law, presented bills to divide the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-seventh Wards into election divisions, which were passed.

Mr. Pollock, chairman of the Committee on Health, made a report relative to the alleged entry of the contents of cesspools in the streets by certain parties. After close investigation this committee found the charge to be true, and recommended prosecution of the guilty parties.

Mr. Pollock presented a report from the Committee on Health, providing that all small-pox subjects in the county prison and other public institutions shall be placed in the municipal hospital. Adopted.

The bill making appropriation to repair certain station houses was concurred in.

Mr. Miller moved the discharge of the Investigating Committee of the Gas Trust from further consideration of the proposition to request the opinion of the City Solicitor in regard to the power of the committee of investigation to compel the attendance of witnesses.

Mr. Page objected. For the present, at least, the resolution should remain with the committee.

The motion to discharge was agreed to. The resolution then came before the Chamber.

Mr. Barlow took exception to the conduct of the Page, chairman of the committee, while a member of the committee, as overbearing, and in his opinion, the committee had no authority to do the work.

Mr. Page said he was very glad to know how Mr. Barlow stood. No gentleman would insult him (Col. Page); no blackguard can do so. He was glad to see where Mr. Barlow stood. He had done every thing to the satisfaction of the committee and he was glad that he was the only one of the Twentieth Ward, who acted as Chairman of the Gas Works, in refusing to answer the questions of the committee.

Mr. Page went on in a long speech, in which he spoke of Col. Manuel for defying the authority of the committee and of Mr. Barlow in obstructing and embarrassing the investigation before the committee.

Pending the discussion of the question the Chamber adjourned, there being no question.

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A communication was read from the Board of Health, stating that information had been lodged with the Highway Department of the filthy condition of the interior of Deal and Memphis streets.

The street was repaved, and there is no appropriation in the Department to have the thoroughfares kept in proper condition.

Another communication from the same source called the attention to the highway at Thirteenth and Reed streets. Stagnant water has accumulated there, and the misery of the health of the vicinity.

The only remedy for the evil suggested by the Board is a sewer or watercourse along Reed street to Tenth, which is not yet opened.

Mr. Miller, Chairman of the Highway Committee, reported resolutions. To pay Otis street, from Richmond street to the Delaware river, to grade and tramway Canby and Ristine streets, also, to repair Trenton avenue from York to Elmeline street. Also, an ordinance appropriating \$1,650 to complete the masonry bridge at the same place, from Frankford plank road to Branchton. All were passed.

The Police Committee presented an ordinance creating a new police district, by dividing the first and second police districts and forming a new one, the seventeenth, the station house at Moyamensing Hall. The question was debated at length and finally voted.

EDUCATION.

The same Committee also reported an ordinance for the purchase of a lot of ground at Cotton and Main streets, Manayunk.

Mr. Simpson explained that a new schoolhouse must be erected at Manayunk, the old one is tumbling down. It was built years ago by the old borough of Manayunk and cost the city nothing.

That a new station must be built no one will deny who has ever passed an hour in the house.

The matter was postponed for one week. At the request of Mr. Griffith, the Commissioner of Fire was discharged from the committee, and the ordinance to pay the Good Will and Fairmount Engine companies the warrant for Manayunk and Fairbury, during which months the companies were suspended.

Mr. Wolbert presented a resolution to secure more perfect unanimity in number of members, and that all the old numbers remaining on houses be at once removed. Agreed to.

Mr. Palmer offered a resolution that as the Inspector of Streets had advertised that the citizens must only place ashes on the footways of the streets on certain days, and as the people generally have placed boxes on the pavements and the ashes have not been been removed, the Inspector of Streets be instructed to report to Councils the reason of this action, and that he be also instructed to have published three times, in three daily papers, the contract for cleaning the streets, that every citizen may know whether the contractor has been kept.

A motion to table failed.

Mr. Harper moved to indefinitely postpone, in order that the subject may be ventilated. Citizens of certain districts have placed ashes on footways on days when the advertisement called for it, and the people have been compelled to remove the ashes.

Mr. Wolbert said the matter belonged to the Mayor of the city of Philadelphia. The whole city knows that a bitter malignant attack has been made on the contractors for the northern district, and the attack is false.

The contractors have had no opportunity while they have been appointed for only two months that have been dragged into committees, into Councils, and into court.

The charges against them are, that the lie should be nailed and traced to its source.

Mr. Evans said that so far as the Fifteenth Ward is concerned the contractors have only a few hundred feet to clean, and the ashes were removed but in the alleys and the little streets where the people are not claiming for redress, the ashes have never been taken from the boxes where they were first deposited.

Fox advocated the position. The northern contractors had met with unexpected difficulties. The ashes were called upon to remove, have, in many cases, been the accumulation of four or five months prior to the date of the contracts.

The motion to indefinitely postpone was lost—yes, 6, nays, 20.

Mr. Evans offered the following substitute: "We stand out all the word 'resolved' and add, 'that the Chief Inspector of Street Cleaning be instructed to inform Councils at their next meeting the cause of the non-removal of the ashes from the sidewalks."

Mr. Wolbert moved to strike out the words, 'the Chief Inspector of Street Cleaning' and insert 'the Mayor.'

Mr. Holzer moved to refer the entire subject to the Committee on Streets.

Mr. Evans asked why Councils are afraid to direct the Chief Inspector to report the cause of the delinquency? The report of the council can be criticised. It will be before Councils, and they can review it. If there will be nothing to conceal, but if Fox's motion finds that the contractors are false to their duty, then the evil will be apparent, and Councils can remove it.

Mr. Wolbert said he was neither an advocate of the Inspector nor of the contractors. He was not a friend of either the northern or southern contractors. He simply asked that the report should come from the Mayor.

Mr. Fox said that all the Councils ought to do is to cut off the head of the Chief Inspector of Streets without delay.

Mr. Stokley said the Mayor should have the case in his hands. The Mayor is the man of Appeal in this case. The Chief Inspector has withdrawn the Mayor, and then haunted the Street Cleaning Committee until he has disgraced the Committee; and the resolution introduced this afternoon has been brought here for the benefit of the Chief Inspector. Since Gordon has been in the department he has been tireless in his efforts to bring down the contractors for the Northern District.

The bill making appropriation to repair certain station houses was concurred in.

Mr. Miller moved the discharge of the Investigating Committee of the Gas Trust from further consideration of the proposition to request the opinion of the City Solicitor in regard to the power of the committee of investigation to compel the attendance of witnesses.

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AMUSEMENTS.

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T H I S E V E N I N G ,

BENEFIT OF EDWIN ADAMS,

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EDWIN ADAMS,

EDWIN ADAMS,

A GREAT DOUBLE BILL,

THE SCULPTOR'S DREAM,

THE SCULPTOR'S DREAM,

THE SCULPTOR'S DREAM,

EDWARD ADAMS,

EDWARD ADAMS,