MEETING OF COUNCILS.

The Act Defining the Duties and Liabilities of Passenger Railway Companies—The Ocean Steamship Project—The National Tax on the Chestnut-street Bridge; Penrose Ferry Bridge—The Bill to Prevent the Erection of Wooden Buildings—Resolutions Relative to the Death of Joseph S. Riley.

Both branches of the City Councils held their regular stated meeting yesterday afternoon.

SELECT BRANCH.

Mr. LYND, president, in the chair.

Petitions and Communications.

From the Central Passenger Railway Company, asking for a revision of a portion of their route.

From the Cohocksink Steam Fire Engine Company, asking for a fire-alarm box in their house.

Passenger Railway Companies.

Mr. CATHERWOOD offered a resolution requesting the Governor to withhold his signature from the bill entitled an act to define the duties and liabilities of the passenger railway companies of Philadelphia.

Mr. BRIGHTLY offered as an amendment that a committee of three from each Chamber be appointed to proceed to Harrisburg to protest against the bill, believing that the operations thereof would be most prejudicial to the interests of the city.

The resolution as amended was agreed to.

From the Taylor Fire Company, asking the location of a fire-alarm box.

For the location of lamps in Bridesburg, Twenty-third ward.

National Tax on the Chestnut-street Bridge.

A communication was received from the Chief Engineer stating that the contractors for the superstructure of the Chestnut-street bridge had been called upon by the United States assessors for a tax upon the work of the bridge, assessing the same as "bridge castings," and requiring a monthly payment upon the work done at the rate of one dollar per ton. There is now due about $700, and as the contract was executed April 8, 1862, the city becomes liable for the payment of said tax.

Statement from the City Treasurer.

A communication was received from the City Treasurer, in reply to a resolution of Councils inquiring by "what authority large amounts of the receipts from taxes are detained in the hands of the treasurer, and styled by him city debt account, and not used to meet demands upon the treasurer, but retained in his hands to meet the interest in July next." In reply, the City Treasurer states that the last clause of an ordinance passed December 11, 1855, says: "And the said treasurer shall forthwith pass such proportionate amount to a separate account, to be called the 'city debt account,' and the money included in the said account shall not be applied to the payment of any particular claim, or to any purpose or object other than the interest; and after that is discharged, to the principal of the public debt of the city, as is hereinbefore set forth; and any encroachment on the said fund for any other purpose or object than as aforesaid, shall be a misdemeanor in office on the part of the said city treasurer." The Treasurer also states that he was not retaining in his hands any funds to the neglect of "demands upon the treasurer," as he was then paying all demands against the city presented.

The communication was referred to the Committee on Finance.

From the city solicitor, informing Councils that they should give the Board of Health all aid possible to secure some place for the interment of persons afflicted with contagious diseases until a suitable building can be erected.

Penrose Ferry Bridge.

Mr. ARMSTRONG offered a resolution, placing the Penrose ferry-bridge under the charge of the Department of City Property, and for the appointment of four watchmen, at a salary of five hundred dollars each per annum. Referred to the Committee on Highways.

Mr. O'BRIEN, from the Committee on Health, reported an ordinance making the pay of vaccine physicians twenty-five cents for each successful case reported to the Board of Health. Agreed to.

The same committee also reported an ordinance prohibiting fat, offals, intestines, &c., from being kept or brought about any of the city market houses during the months of June, July, August, and September, under a penalty of five dollars.

Mr. MILLER moved, as an amendment, "nor shall any person smoke a pipe or cigar therein."

Mr. BRIGHTLY moved to add, "nor in the Select Council chamber." [Laughter.]

The CHAIR declared the motion out of order.

The resolution, as amended, passed.

Unfinished Business.

The bill postponed at the last meeting, requiring the Controller to withhold his signature from all bills not approved by a majority of the proper committee, was called up.

An amendment was offered, that a majority of the committee convened should have power to pass the bill. Not agreed to.

Mr. WETHERILL offered a further amendment "provided such ordinance shall not apply to bills not brought before committees."

Mr. WETHERILL stated that the object of his amendment was to protect officers, whose bills did not come before committees.

Considerable discussion ensued relative to the amendment, and the neglect of certain committees.

Mr. BRIGHTLY severely censured the conduct of the street cleansing committee. He thought that if they could not better attend to their duties, they should be discharged.

Mr. ZANE said he thought the gentleman from the Twenty-second (Mr. Brightly) had no right to find fault with any member of a committee, as he (Mr. B.) had never yet attended any committee meeting, and had positively refused so to do.

The resolution as amended passed finally.

The Committee on Schools reported an ordinance making an appropriation of $400 for the purchase of a diploma-plate for the Girls' High and Normal Schools.

Mr. WETHERILL moved to strike out $400 and insert $100.

After some discussion the amendment was withdrawn.

Mr. BRIGHTLY offered as a further amendment, "provided no charge shall be made to the recipient of the diploma."

The bill then passed.

Erection of Wooden Buildings.

The Chamber resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole for the purpose of considering the bill prohibiting the erection of wooden buildings.

The bill was taken up and discussed at length, and passed finally as follows:

"That it shall not be lawful to erect or construct any frame, framed, brick-paned, or other building whatsoever, in any of the compact portions of the city of Philadelphia, hereafter to be erected, within the Twelfth, Eighteenth, Twenty-second, Twenty-fourth, Twenty-fifth, Twenty-sixth, Twenty-seventh, Twenty-eighth, or to enlarge any Twentieth wards, except that part bounded by Montgomery street on the north, by the Schuylkill River on the west, Oxford street on the south, and Twenty-eighth street on the east, of the consolidated city of Philadelphia, or anywhere within that part of the First ward of said city bounded as follows, to wit: beginning at Wharton street and the River Delaware, thence along Wharton street to the Passyunk road, thence along the Passyunk road to Ellsworth street, thence along Ellsworth street to Broad street, thence along Broad street to Snyder street, thence along South street to the Schuylkill, thence along the River Schuylkill to Reed street, thence along Reed street to Broad street, thence along Broad street to Snyder street, thence along Snyder street to the River Delaware, thence along the River Delaware to the place of beginning; or anywhere within that part of the Twenty-fourth ward of said city, bounded as follows—to-wit: Beginning at Shippen street and the River Schuylkill, thence along Shippen street to Forty-eighth street, thence along Forty-eighth street to Lancaster avenue, thence along Lancaster avenue to Girard avenue, thence along Girard avenue to the river Schuylkill, thence along the river Schuylkill to the place of beginning—or anywhere within that part of the Twenty-first ward of said city which embraces the Germantown avenue, in the Twenty-second ward of said city, or anywhere within that part of the Twenty-third ward of said city which embraces the borough of Frankford, or anywhere within that part of the Twenty-third ward which has formerly constituted part of the Nineteenth ward; that any person or persons who shall erect, or construct, or enlarge, or cause to be erected, constructed, or enlarged any frame, wooden, framed, brick-paned building, upon any lot or piece of ground, within the compact or consolidated city of Philadelphia prescribed in the first section of this ordinance, or remove any framed building thereon, except to an adjoining lot, or lots, or place, or place so offending, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of seventy-five dollars, to be sued for and recovered in the same manner that penalties for breach of ordinances are, or shall be, by law recoverable: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this ordinance shall interfere with any building now in the course of erection. That each and every person who shall erect, or construct, or enlarge, or cause to be erected, constructed, or enlarged, any wooden, framed, or brick-paned building, or remove, or cause to be removed, any framed building, in violation of this ordinance, or who shall become the owner of, or have charge of, after the same shall have so built, and who shall omit, neglect or refuse to remove the same within thirty days after notice to that effect, shall forfeit and pay the further sum of fifty dollars, and also the sum of twenty-five dollars for every period of one month for which he shall omit, neglect, or refuse to remove the same, after such notice, which sums or notice aforesaid, to be recovered as penalties of a sound nature are, shall be recoverable, for the use of said city: *Provided always*, That nothing herein contained shall be considered as applying to bath houses or privies attached to dwellings: *Provided*, That the partition between bath houses shall be composed of brick or incombustible materials, or brick slate or zinc sheds, or sheds for the temporary storage of merchandise: *Provided*, That the partition between bath houses shall be composed of brick or other