CITY COUNCILS.

Both branches of Councils held a stated meeting yesterday afternoon.

SELECT BRANCH.

JAMES LYND, Esq., president, in the chair.

The portrait of Washington in this chamber has been handsomely decorated with American flags, and pendant from the beak of the eagle which surmounts the portrait flow red, white, and blue ribbons.

Several ladies appeared in the chamber and took seats on the sofas near the desks of some of the members. The object of these ladies, we understood, was to endeavor to get a street paved.

A message was received from the Mayor relative to bounties.

Mr. CATTELL (U.) introduced a bill providing that hereafter no moneys shall be paid to recruits or substitutes unless credited to the First, Seventh, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-sixth wards.

Also, that the sum of $400 be paid to all recruits, whether for one or three years.

Mr. KING hoped the bill would be referred to the Committee on Defence and Protection. He said that the city of Philadelphia had expended for bounties, from April 19, 1861, to December 12, 1863, the sum of $5,189,921.70. He also said that the whole appropriations for war expenses had added to the debt of the city $15,000,000.

Council refused to refer the bill to the Committee on Defence and Protection.

Mr. SPERING (U.) moved to amend the bill so as to make the bounty $250.

Mr. BARLOW (U.) strongly opposed any reduction in the bounty, saying it was doing gross injustice to the drafted men.

Not agreed to—yeas 5, nays 13.

The bill was then passed as introduced.

Mr. VAN CLEVE (U.) submitted the following resolutions in honor of the surrender of the rebel army under Lee to Gen. Grant, and the capture of Richmond:

Resolved, By the Select and Common Council of the City of Philadelphia, That we hailed the surrender of the rebel army under Lee, to our great and noble General Grant, the capture of Richmond, and the glorious achievements of our army and navy over the rebels in the present struggle for the perpetuation of the Union, the citizens of Philadelphia, who rejoice in the downfall of treason and the suppression of the rebellion, be and are hereby invited to illumine at their respective places of business and abodes on Monday evening, the 17th.

Resolved, That the Commissioner of City Property, under the direction of the committee appointed under these resolutions, is hereby directed to illuminate the public buildings in his charge, on the evening of the day aforesaid.

Resolved, That the day aforesaid be set apart as a general holiday, and that the citizens and all corporations be and are hereby invited to close their places of business.

Resolved, That the citizens be and are hereby invited to display the glorious emblem of our nation, as far as in their power lies, on the day aforesaid.

Resolved, That a general mass meeting be held at Broad and Penn Square, on the day aforesaid.

Resolved, That the sum of $1,000 be and is hereby appropriated to pay the expenses thereof, and that warrants therefor be drawn in accordance with existing ordinances.

Resolved, That a committee of six from each Chamber be appointed by the presidents thereof to carry out the provisions herein contained.

Mr. ZANE (U.) asked that the resolutions from Common Council be read, which was done.

Mr. VAN CLEVE (U.) said that the resolutions did not suit him, and he asked that those he introduced be acted upon.

The clerk proceeded to read the resolutions of Mr. Van Cleve, and they were adopted.

Mr. SPERING (U) offered a resolution instructing the Committee of Defence and Protection to inquire into the expediency of reducing the bounty to four volunteers. Agreed to.

Mr. GRAY (U.), chairman of the Committee on Water, made a report appropriating $45,000 for the purpose of sinking a crib in front of Fairmount dam. Passed.

The CHAIR presented a bill from Common Council giving authority to the American Telegraph Company to erect poles on certain streets. Concurred in.

The bill providing for depositing ashes in Passyunk road was passed.

The resolution relative to fast driving of steam fire engines through the streets was referred to the Committee on Trusts and Fire Department.

The CHAIR submitted a communication from the Board of School Controllers asking for the purchase of a lot of ground on Callowhill street, west of Tenth street, for the purpose of building a schoolhouse. Referred to the Committee on Schools.

Also, a communication from the Commissioners of the Municipal Hospital, inviting Council to be present at that institution at the opening of the street on Hart lane, on Tuesday next, 18th inst. Accepted.

Mr. SPERING (U.) read in place a bill appropriating $500,000 to pay for printing, advertising, and posting bills for the Hancock Corps. Referred to the Committee on Defence and Protection.

Also, a bill supplementary to the one providing for the erection of a screen-house. The bill appropriates an additional sum of $800 for the purpose. Passed.

The Council now proceeded to the Common Council chamber for the purpose of electing a Chief Engineer and Surveyor. After the return of Council to the chamber, the President announced that the joint convention had elected Strickland Kneass Chief Engineer and Surveyor.

The bill providing for opening streets around the Municipal Hospital was passed.

The bill appropriating $500,000 for bounties was concurred in.

The bill from Common Council relative to the celebration of the late victories was taken up.

It was stated that Common Council had adjourned, and consequently no action could be taken by them in any amendment made.

The bill was concurred in. Adjourned.

COMMON BRANCH.

President STOKLEY (U.) in the chair.

ILLUMINATION.

The matter of illuminating the city having been under consideration at the time of the adjournment of Councils on Thursday last, that business was the first that was taken up.

Mr. EVANS (U.) asked leave to withdraw the resolution, which was agreed to.

Mr. EVANS then offered an ordinance appropriating — dollars to the Commissioner of City Property for illuminating the public buildings on Monday next.

Mr. SIMPSON (U.) moved to insert $2,000.

Mr. BURNS (U.) moved to amend by inserting $1,600. Agreed to, and the ordinance as amended passed.

WIRES, &c.

The Committee on Trusts and Fires offered a resolution authorizing the Reliance Fire Company to remove from New street, above Second, Sixth ward, to Eleventh and Anlta streets, Twenty-sixth ward. Passed.

The same committee offered an ordinance appropriating $1,500 to the Western Steam Fire Engine Company, said company being been located as a steam fire engine. Agreed to.

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