The Pittsburgh Gazette

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

ALLEGHENY COUNCILS.

Adjourned Meeting--Annual Reports of Committees.

An adjourned meeting of Allegheny City Councils was held Thursday evening, January 16th.

Select Branch.

Members present--Messrs. Brown, English, Hall, Irwin, Metheral, Myler, McCormick, Patterson J. C., Smith Wm., Thomas, and President McMyler.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

STREETS, &c.

Mr. Myler presented the monthly report of the Street Committee, accompanied by an ordinance repealing an ordinance providing for the grading and paving of Carroll street.

The President said that as this was a special meeting, it would require a suspension of the rules before Councils could take action on the matter.

The rules were suspended, and on motion of Mr. Myler the report was received and the ordinance passed finally.

Mr. Myler presented the report of the viewers on the opening of Pitt alley.

Also, the report of the viewers on the opening of Morton alley.

On motion of Mr. Hall, the above reports were laid over for two weeks.

Mr. Brown presented the act prepared by the Special Committee on Sewerage, and moved that the Committee be instructed to have it printed. The motion was adopted.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT.

Mr. Hall presented the report of the City Controller, of which the following is an abstract:

The Controller, Mr. Francis, submits a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the city for the fiscal year ending December31, 1867:

The aggregate receipts have been, from all sources, $948,029 95; of this there was realized from the sale of city bonds, $15,915, and from notes discounted, $44,271 56, leaving the net revenues derived from ordinary sources of income, $127,841 63.

The aggregate expenditures, and due from the Treasury, have been $284,018, 27; to this is to be added $15,000 of city bonds issued in payment of the Fire Alarm Telegraph, which will swell the amount to $299,018 27; thus increasing the debt in one year considerably over $100,000.

This large increase has been mainly for extending water pipes to the lately annexed district of Manchester, for the permanent improvement of the wharf, and for the fire alarm telegraph, all deemed indispensable to the welfare of the city. From the first named city, it is presumed, will in time derive a handsome revenue.

Of the liabilities of the late borough of Manchester assumed by the city, there has thus far been paid $9,257 46, leaving yet to be paid $11,000; one thousand of which falls due in May, next, and the balance maturing in July, 1874.

The Controller calls attention to the need of creating a sinking fund for the redemption of the city bonds. He also suggests that better means be devised for the collection of personal taxes. The loss to the city for a year from such sources will be $3,400, and the school and water taxes will swell the sum to more than double.

EXPENDITURES.

The following are the expenditures showing the amount in each department:

Salaries	$ 16,199 48
Interest	20,291 47
Engine and Firemen	15,632 24
Printing	2,237 70
Streets and bridges	16,427 27
Wharves and landings	1,055 80
Taxes	2,943 83
Police	18,246 96
Contingent fund	20,829 93
Water Works	26,286 97
Unpaid warrants and claims	8,312 78
Gas	7,618 36
Sinking fund for bonds	20,000 00
Wharf bond fund	148 08
Improvement of wharf	26,999 18
Bills payable	1,972 75
Canal sewer	53 19
Total	$287,018 27

Financial Statement.

Funded Debt	$218,272 62
Bond and Mortgage to A. A. McEwen	5,433 34
Floating Debt	83,146 90
	$304,852 92

ASSETS.

Government Securities and Bonds	$117,609 41
Delinquent Taxes	28,073 39
Water and Business Tax Due	8,475 53
Manchester Borough Assets	1,540 02
Bonds Issued (Sesquicentennial)	1,223 54
Cash Due	1,925 76
Cash in Treasury	643 45
	$161,119 07

On motion, the report was received and ordered to be printed in the usual form.

REPORT OF STREET COMMITTEE.

Mr. Myler presented the annual report of the Street Committee, of which the following is an abstract:

The Committee report the total amount expended in keeping the streets in proper condition the past year to be $10,454 22. The cost of grading, paving, and repairing crossings and sidewalks, was $203,660 70, of which sum $122,239 88 has been a local, leaving a balance of $81,401 12 yet due.

The entire cost of grading and paving all the streets and alleys in the city, which are thirty-one and thirty-four hundredths miles in length, amounts to $1,239 35.

The report contained a resolutions authorizing that a warrant be drawn for $200 in favor of the Street Commissioner of the Manchester district, in addition to his present salary of $600.

The report was received and the resolution finally passed.

REPORT OF WATER COMMITTEE.

Mr. Thomas presented the report of the Water Committee, of which we give the following abstract:

The Committee report the total cost and expense of laying pipe and running the Water Works the past year amounted to $27,289 35; of which sum $24,226 77 was expended for permanent improvements, and the remainder, $13,664 08 for current expenses.

On motion the report was accepted and ordered to be printed.

WATER RENTS AND WATER WORKS.

Mr. Thomas presented the report of Mr. Davis, the Assessor of Water Rents. The total amount of assessments for 1867 was $57,000. The Assessor gives a detailed statement of the assessments, from which it appears that there were 5,217 buildings taking water from the city. The report was received and ordered to be printed in the usual form.

Mr. Thomas presented the report of the Superintendent of the Water Works, which was read, received and ordered to be printed in the usual form.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Metheral offered a resolution authorizing the payment of one hundred dollars to the Water Manager, Mr. Manchester Wharf, as additional compensation. The resolution was lost.

Mr. Myler offered a resolution authorizing the payment of one hundred dollars additional for extra services, to the Janitor of the City Building.

Mr. Thomas moved to amend by making it fifty dollars.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted.

Common Council.

Members present--Messrs. Cutler, Dunham, Drennan, Dill, Hanna, Kirkpatrick, Kerr, Kraus, McDonald, McNeil, Reiter, Slagle, Voegley, Windsor, and President Riddle.

Absent--Messrs. Horn, Harper, Ingham, Letzkus, and Zoller.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

SALARY OF MESSENGER.

The President stated that a resolution, appropriating fifty dollars to Augustus Hunsalbaugh, Messenger of Councils, for extra services, passed at last meeting. Which was non-concurred in by Select Council.

Mr. Dill moved that Common Council adhere to its former action, and appoint a committee of conference. Agreed to S. C. concurred in previous action of C. C. C. C. receded and concurred.

SANITRA HOSE COMPANY.

The Committee on Engines presented a report, recommending that the Sanitra Hose Company of the Fifth ward be received into the Fire Department on the same conditions as the Friendship of the Seventh ward. The report was read and referred to incoming Council for their consideration.

WHARVES AND LANDINGS.

Mr. Megraw, from the Committee on Wharves and Landings, presented the annual report of the Committee. The receipts for wharfage during the past year were $5,859 04, being an increase of $805 67 over the year 1866. The Committee stated that the report was very gratifying, considering the low stage of water during a portion of the year, and the consequent obstacle to the transaction of business on the wharf. The year just closed has witnessed the initial step towards the formation of a wharf, such as is demanded by the necessities of the citizens doing business thereon, and by the increasing commerce and interests of the city. The amount expended in permanent improvements on the wharf was $24,999 03, not including drains made at an expense of $378 48. Total expenditures for repairs and temporary improvements, $1,441 42. The report was received and ordered to be filed.

FIRE ENGINES AND HOSE COMPANIES.

Mr. Read, from the Committee on Engines, presented the following report of the cost of maintaining the Fire Department during the past year:

Hope	$ 3,653 31
Friendship	3,221 45
General Grant	5,738 50
Elsworth	618 55
Columbia	1,188 50
Fire Alarm Telegraph	636 16
Total	$15,605 70

In referring to the fire alarm telegraph, which cost the city $15,000, the Committee say that it has not rendered general satisfaction, a fact not attributable, they think, to any demerit of the telegraph itself, but wholly to the want of proper care and attention on the part of the Superintendent, which it would be impossible for him to give at the present salary he receives ($300 per year), as it would require all his time to attend to it properly, and they recommend that the Superintendent give it all the time and attention it requires, and that he be paid a sufficient sum to enable him to do so. They recommend the thorough organization of the department, and the appointment of a Chief Engineer. The Committee recommend the sale of the present steamers, and the purchase of lighter ones in their stead. They further recommend the purchase of ground and the erection of a stable for the "General Grant" Company.

The report was read and ordered to be filed.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS OF POOR.

Mr. Megraw presented the annual report of the Directors of the Poor, embracing the following statistics: Inmates in the House, January 1, 1867, eighty-two; admitted during the year, one hundred and fourteen; births in the Institution, nine; deaths, twelve; discharged, one hundred and one; number at present in Home, ninety-two; average number in Institution during the year, ninety-eight; insane department, twenty-one. Expenses of maintenance for the year, $9,381 74, or 95 dollar and eighty-three cents per week for each person. Average number of insane persons in Dixmont Hospital during the year, nine. Expense, $1,854 15. Thirty-nine resident families received weekly or monthly relief, and 350 temporary relief at a cost of $1,823 62. During the year $1,109 74 have been expended for permanent improvements to buildings and grounds.

The receipts of the institution for the year were: Taxation, $11,632 99; other sources, $2,971 29. Total $17,691 28. Expenses, $13,263 67. Balance unexpended, $4,327 61.

The Directors state that they do not deem it advisable to reduce the tax for the current year, and recommended a continuance of a three mills tax for the poor.

The death of Dr. A. Parchment, Physician to the Home, made it necessary to appoint a successor, and Dr. W. V. Marquez was selected, who has also been in charge of the Insane Department, and is rendering efficient service.

During the year, in accordance with a resolution of Councils and an act of Assembly, the Poor Farm has been subdivided and lots sold, the aggregate amount realized being $30,254 15. Fifty-one deeds have already been delivered, and seventeen have not yet been called for.

The Directors also state that they have received offers from forty persons who desire to dispose of their farms to the city. Several of these farms have been visited, but no selection has as yet been made. It is hoped, however, that by the opening of spring a judicious selection will be made. The Directors acknowledge the services rendered them by the Committee on Poor Farm, and action to improvements of the Home and care of the poor.

The report was accepted and ordered to be filed.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS, &c.

Mr. McNeil offered a resolution returning the thanks of Council to President Riddle for the satisfactory and impartial manner in which he discharged the duties of the position during the past year. Mr. Riddle acknowledged the compliment in a few appropriate remarks.

The thanks of Councils were also tendered to Mr. Charles Davis, City Engineer; Robert Dilworth, Esq., City Solicitor; Hutchinson, Wharfmaster, and Augustus Hunsbaugh, Messenger.

THE RETIRING PRESS.

Mr. Hanna stated that as this was the last meeting of the year, he would, in the absence of other business, be gratified to hear from those members who would not have an opportunity of meeting with the Council during the coming year.

COL. DILL'S SPEECH.

Col. Dill stated that the Republican party was in favor of economy in the city, and as his party friends had failed to return him, the Common Council would be compelled to dispense with his services during the coming official year. He had, therefore, endeavored to do his entire duty during his term, and if he had failed it was not his fault. A number of important measures had been introduced during his term of service, and he would always be gratified to remember that he had belonged to the Council of 1867.

A FRIEND OF CONSOLIDATION.

Mr. Windsor, a representative of the Manchester district, was next called upon. Mr. Windsor stated that he felt a peculiar gratification in speaking at this time to the consolidated Councils of Allegheny City, and he hoped that when he next represented his district it would be in the consolidated district of Pittsburgh. He had studied the matter of consolidation thoroughly, and believed that it would be to the advantage of Pittsburgh and Allegheny to combine their interests. He had endeavored to do his duty faithfully and honestly, and if he had not succeeded it was not through any lack of interest. He retired from Council with the best feeling toward all fellow members, and if he had offended any one in debate he hoped the offense would be forgotten.

ADJOURNED SINE DIE.

There being no further business, on motion of Mr. Kirkpatrick, Council adjourned *sine die*.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

Suffering Among the Poor Classes--Scarcity of Labor--Better Prospects Ahead--The Cholera--Its Origin--Its Progress--Prevalence of the Cholera at Havana--Sewerage Matters--Opening of Fire's Opera House, &c.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

NEW YORK, Jan. 13, 1868.

The severity of the present weather is a source of much suffering to the poor class in our city, and we will all of us have reason to rejoice at an early return of a milder temperature, when work will not delay more than another month in making its appearance. Scarcity of labor makes itself indeed more perceptible than for many years previous. However, we understand that as soon as the weather will allow the erection of new houses in our up-town section, this branch of business will become quite brisk this year. The public would therefore be benefited, the rents would continue to be pretty fully would necessarily fall, and thousands of unemployed hands would find occupation, which at this time when three to five dollars a day had to be paid for common labor.

The papers have probably informed you by this time of the sad havoc which the cholera has caused among the Hungary emigrant ship Leibnitz, arrived at quarantine last Saturday. Out of four hundred and eighty-five passengers one hundred and five have fallen victims to that dreadful disease, and it seems very unusual and singular that in the month of November and December the weather should be so warm as it is represented by the officers of the ship to have been in the latitude in which the vessel sailed. The cholera had already prevailed in Mecklenburg, where the majority of the emigrants had come from, and this circumstance accounts for the rapid spreading of the disease, of which the seed was already in the constitution of many a passenger.

Private advices from Havana inform us that the same epidemic commences to rage in that city, and it is feared that it will spread rapidly; the weather being very warm there at present and the precautions taken by the authorities have never excelled for their efficiency. We may therefore look for more vessels in quarantine before long; if the above news, which comes from reliable sources, is confirmed. As for our city, we have no cholera weather, and since Mr. Seward's purchase of Walrussia, seems as if we were gradually approaching the climate of that benighted country; at all events our new fellow-citizens near the North Pole, Moscowites as well as Esquimaux, would be in no way quite comfortable on our "ice pends," which are daily crowded with a host of skaters of both sexes. The ice is excellent, owing to the fact that no snow has fallen for several weeks, much to the relief of sleigh owners, but nevertheless to the great satisfaction of the public generally, for it is no fun for business men to be two or three hours on a street car, incumbered by masses of snow ahead. The sweeping machines, it is true, are a partial relief, but in case of wind it would require a machine for almost every car, for your correspondent has seen the snow blown back on the track as fast as the machine proceeds. For operatical and theatrical enterprises the present dry weather is not unfavorable.

We have to record the opening of Pike's Opera House, which took place last week, in the presence of a very large and fashionable audience. The building is a magnificent one, but we fear that the objection made to the locality by experts, may prove to be well founded and prevent the house from becoming a popular one. It is situated at the corner of Twenty-third street and Eighth avenue, and consequently too far West to make it easily accessible, except for owners of carriages and horses. Much delay is caused to those living east of the said avenue on account of the frequent changes of cars or a long walk for getting there. At all events the building is an ornament to our city and the first performances, under the direction of Mr. Strakosch, were a great success. A former favorite of the New York public made her appearance on that occasion and earned well deserved applause, although the range of tone have of course made their work perceptible in the strength of her voice. We speak of Madame Lagrange, who has made her home familiar in South America and Europe during her long absence from our continent. Madame Ristori will give a few more performances at the French theatre previous to her departure from this city, and bids fair to attract large audiences. At the Academy of Music the Italian Opera is giving its last performances, but the possibility is that it will soon be replaced by other troupes, and thus keep up the excitement of the pleasure seeking public.

JONES.

Bargains in Ladies' Furs, at William Fleming's, No. 139 Wood street. if

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, THURSDAY, December 16, 1868.

Gold was rather weak to-day, the sudden rise on Tuesday brought out a large amount of gold, and the market is well supplied, whilst on the other hand, the exported demand has ceased, some heavy shipments of bonds are being made which supplies the market with all the exchange needed for the present. The reported attempt to force Mr. Stanton from the war office was used last night as a pretext for putting up the price of gold, but early to-day the market opened at a decline of one per cent, subsequently the market rallied from 135¾ to 140¾, and closed heavy at 139¾.

With the decline in gold there was a corresponding reaction in Government bonds, quotations are all lower, Except Five Twenties of 1865, which were in demand for export demand. The advance within the last few days has caused a demand for six per cent. currency bonds which can be had at par from the Treasury.

The stock market is dull and lower, the entire list of Railroad shares is off from 1 to 3 percent. Merchants Union Express declined from 48 to 47¾, and Mining shares are firm at yesterday's quotations.

There is some inquiry for Columbia (oil) and Triumph, which later made a dividend of 3 per cent., though 3 per cent. less than the previous dividend; the officers preferred this to sacrificing a large quantity of oil which the hold in tank.

Money is easier.

The following are New York quotations, received by Ph. R. Mertz, were as follows:

Gold, 139¾@--; 1881's, 108¾@--; 5-20's, 106¾@106¾; 10-40's, 104½@--; Coupons, 106¾@--; 7-30s, 105¾@--.

Cleveland & Pittsburgh R. R. 83¾
Pittsburgh & Connellsville R. R. 57½
Western Union Telegraph 37½
Erie R. R. 36½
Pittsburgh Fort Wayne & Chicago R. R. 97½
Pittsburgh Fort Wayne & Chicago R. R. preferred 97½
Northwestern--preferred 71½
New York Central 97½
Ohio and Mississippi Certificates 25¾
Illinois Southern 99¾
Corydon 1 15
Quicksilver 1 15

The Comptroller of the Currency has just forwarded to all the national banks a request that they furnish to him the name of their approved redeeming agent. He desires to revise his lists. Section 23 of the bank act provides that each association in these leading institutions mentioned in the act shall act as a redeeming agent in New York some approved national banking association. The same section further says that each of the associations in these cities may keep one-half of their lawful money reserve in the city of New York. According to the letter of the law therefore the said reserve may be kept partly somewhere in New York city. Nothing is said about keeping it in a national bank, or a bank of deposit, by the Comptroller. An inquiry leads us to remark here that every national banking association is ordered in the 27th section of the national banking act to make at least once a year an examination of the securities deposited with the United States Treasurer at Washington. The examiner must compare the securities with the "returns" of the kind and amount of bonds examined, and a duplicate signed by the Treasurer shall be delivered to the said clerk.

--The Chicago *Tribune*, of Wednesday, says: The advance in gold caused no little excitement in the money markets at the close of yesterday, and values took a decided jump. Later in the day, however, the excitement in the markets ruled irregular, and, in several instances, the improvement was lost before the most entirely lost. The volume of business was rather large for the time of year, for several weeks, as the speculative element was largely represented. The provision market was somewhat excited for the moment, and the advance was based on the leading products was fully maintained at the close. The general trade of the city, however, is quite dull. This condition is partially owing to the closing up the business of last year, taking stock and the shipping of goods, but largely to trade. Imported goods are generally higher than for years, and the public have the idea, thought by many that all domestic productions will be proportionately high. Stocks of merchandise are low, and there is no disposition on the part of jobbers to make large additions beyond what is required to meet the demands of their trade. Collections are not fair for all kinds of goods. The lumber trade is dull, and there is no plain no little of the difficulty experienced in the shipping season.

--The Philadelphia *Ledger*, of Wednesday, says: Gold was steady at the opening, and quite active especially from the grocery interest, in consequence of the rapid communication between this city and New Orleans. The actions of other stocks and bonds declined, and are generally lower than yesterday's quotations, with sales of Reading Railroad, Pennsylvania Railroad, Lehigh Navigation, Lehigh Gold Loans, Camden and Amboy Railroad, Minehill Railroad, Catawissa preferred, Elmira preferred, Philadelphia and Erie Railroad, Northern Central Railway, Lehigh Zinc, Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Railroad, Pennsylvania Railroad 2nds, Pennsylvania Railroad 3rds, Pennsylvania Railroad 6s, Pennsylvania Railroad 7s, Pennsylvania Railroad 10s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1874s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1875s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1880s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1881s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1882s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1883s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1884s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1885s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1886s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1887s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1888s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1889s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1890s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1891s, Pennsylvania Railroad 1892s, Pennsylvania Railroad