The Pittsburgh Gazette.

PUBLISHED DAILY, BY

PENNIMAN, REED & CO., Proprietors.

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OFFICE:
GAZETTE BUILDING, NOS. 84 AND 86 FIFTH ST.

OFFICIAL PAPER
Of Pittsburgh, Allegheny and Allegheny County.

Terms—Daily.		Semi-Weekly.		Weekly.	
One year	$8.00	One year	$2.50	Single copy	$1.50
One month	75	Six mos	1.50	5 copies, each	1.25
By the week (from carrier.)	15	Three mos	75	10 " " and one to Agent.	1.15

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1869.

WE PRINT *on the inside pages of this morning's* GAZETTE—*Second page: "After Many Days," a choice English story, complete. Third and Sixth pages: Financial, Commercial, Mercantile and River News, Markets, Imports Seventh page: February Fashions, Miscellaneous Reading Matter.*

U. S. BONDS at Frankfort, 82.

PETROLEUM at Antwerp, 58½@59f.

GOLD closed in New York on Saturday at 135¼.

THE lower branch of the West Virginia Legislature votes for Parkersburg as the Capital of the State.

BECAUSE a prominent Ohio politician lately resigned the Presidency of a railway in a hurry, his neighbors at once concluded that GRANT must have sent for him, to enter the Cabinet. Could'nt they have found a reason nearer home?

A NATIONAL LEAGUE, of all favorable to the protection of home-industry, is to be organized at Philadelphia, on Wednesday, the 17th. Manufacturers, miners and all others interested in the health and growth of our home industry are invited to attend. Will not Western Pennsylvania be fully represented?

AN ATTEMPT of the Erie folks to unload some of their Cleveland and Pittsburgh stock, in Wall street, on Thursday, found the street "unprepared to take it." The stock *was* very desirable, and probably it is yet, but it got a terribly black eye when that crowd seized it, and this seems to be Wall street's idea about it.

GEORGIA resolves to elect Congressmen in April next. She adopted this resolution after learning that her bogus Electoral vote had gone through as good as any, and that a Joint Convention had accomplished what the regular legislation of Congress had failed in—her recognition as a completely reconstructed State. Why should she neglect her advantage now?

THE CLOSE of the testimony taken in the contest of the election in the Third Congressional District, finds the title of Mr. MYERS conclusively established; Mr. MOFFET, (Dem.) who now holds the certificate, has failed to vitiate more than twenty or thirty Republican votes, while at least three hundred of his own ballots are proved illegal. His ostensible majority was only 127, and is demolished more than twice over.

SATURDAY was a day of great interest at Washington. We have elsewhere spoken of the interview between a Committee of Congress and the President elect. The legislative proceedings of the day were of an unusually important character, especially in the House. Now that fifteen working days of the session remain, we may look for the maturing of a large amount of the public business, and our columns will be fully taxed with the daily reports.

EVENTS in New York indicate an urgent need for an instant and radical reform in the administration of the laws, for the protection of life and property against the army of villains who have been stuffing their ballot-boxes, running their Courts and robbing the taxpayers all through the medium of the municipal authority. Personal outrage has become so flagrant and reckless that no one is any longer safe, even in theory. The city is therefore very nearly if not quite ready for the correctional and effective interposition of Vigilance Committees.

THE ALLEGED compromise of the difficulties in the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railway, is denied, in quarters usually well-informed.

The consolidation of the railways from Buffalo to Toledo has been finally perfected.

The capital stock of the Indianopolis and Terre Haute road, originally $625,000, has since been "watered up" to $3,000,000, on which it has paid handsome dividends.

The North Pacific Railroad Company, despairing of its chances for any subsidy at the present session of Congress, now proposes to go to work, relying upon its own credit—a sensible example for the rest of the railway lobby.

A CONVENTION of Philologists is to be held at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., July 27th next. It is proposed then, to organize a permanent National Society for the promotion of philological studies and research in America. Papers will be read by distinguished linguists, and the Convention will discuss the study of language in all its phases, particularly considering the question of the relative importance of familiarity with ancient or modern tongues not our own, and in what directions the study of all language should be divided up. We are not surprised to perceive that the call is signed by more than one hundred of the most eminent scholars and instructors of the country. It is gratifying, too, to know that questions of so much concern to a just and useful system of education are about to gain a practical consideration in the most needful quarter.

NEVER BEFORE SINCE Pittsburgh was erected into a municipality have its prospects been better or more encouraging. Our population is rapidly increasing, a good class of people constantly pouring in from all parts of the country and settling down to active life in our midst. What were a few years ago rural districts, devoted to garden purposes, are being transformed into closely populated neighborhoods, and it is not beyond the range of the memory of our youngest citizens since pic nic parties were held in localities now forming the heart of the business city. The effect of the consolidation with the outlying districts is commencing to be felt and evidences are everywhere apparent that fresh individual and municipal enterprise were imparted to the people and city by that wise movement. Private improvements in the way of costly residences and palatial places for the transaction of business are vigorously going forward on all sides, while the City Councils are developing an activity and enterprise which clearly betoken that they are in the lead of the people in their ideas of municipal progression and advancement. All the improvements and reforms which now secure the attention of those well constituted bodies must necessarily come in the course of time. The propriety, however, of their adoption at this particular date, is questioned by many. It is not our purpose to discuss at this time the merits or demerits of a Paid Fire Department, the wisdom of creating a Water Commission, or the necessity of making a move towards securing for the people a breathing spot free from the sulphurous atmosphere of the city. Each of the projects will be safe in the keeping of Councils, in whose judgment, prudence and discretion we have the utmost confidence, and we feel that the people will heartily acquiesce in any action they make take, favorable or adverse, as the case may be.

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

General GRANT was, on Saturday, formally notified of his election to the Presidency. The official certificate thereof was delivered to him by a Committee of Congress. The interest of the occasion was increased by the remarks both of the Committee and of the President Elect. The declaration by Gov. MORTON, that the new administration would be supported by many citizens who had not usually given Republican votes, was reinforced by Mr. PRUYN, a Democratic Representative, that the administration would be sustained by the Democracy in carrying out the principles which General GRANT had just pledged himself to enforce. These, as he announced them emphatically, are to be honesty, economy and retrenchment. The revenue laws in particular are to be faithfully executed. All subordinate officials are to be held rigidly responsible for their fidelity to these leading ideas of his administration.

The people will welcome these renewed declarations of their President-elect with the greatest satisfaction, not because there has arisen a shadow of a doubt that General GRANT would be faithful to his former pledges in the same direction, but in view of the multiplying proofs that the public service has been, and yet is more and more, dishonored and betrayed by corrupt and even dishonest officials of every grade. With each day, come such fresh revelations of the flagrant, shameless and unmeasured venality of those who fill the public employments, that each renewed assurance, of the reformation which is about to be inaugurated, and in that all-powerful quarter, is eagerly welcomed. We already feel that the better day is dawning, and our only fear is that the enemies of the public credit and honor will be able to retire with full hands before the hour comes for that relief which all honest men pray for, and which President GRANT will give us.

THE NEW CABINET.

We have at last, from the President-elect, the explicit statement that the names of his Cabinet-advisers will not be made publicly known, nor even to the gentlemen themselves whom he shall select, until he sends them to the Senate for confirmation. This defers the matter until the 4th of March, when, after his inauguration, the Senate will sit awaiting his first communication. Until then, nothing will be known. Since, however, it can hardly be possible that General GRANT will nominate those seven high officers without a reasonable certainty of their willingness to serve, or that they are prepared to come to his side without any delay, we presume that few, perhaps not one of them, will be entirely without some informal previous intimation.

In deferring his announcements to the latest moment possible, General GRANT follows many precedents. General JACKSON'S Cabinet was not semi-officially proclaimed until February 27th, and two of the names were subsequently changed. HARRISON announced his Secretaries February 13th. POLK made no announcement until March 1st. General TAYLOR relieved public anxiety on the the 3d. PIERCE'S Secretaries were apparently named February 17th, but only one of them kept place on the list, the actual appointments not transpiring until their names were sent to the Senate. BUCHANAN made known his choice February 26th. Mr. LINCOLN'S selections were not positively known until the very eve of his inauguration. It is thus seen that General GRANT proposes to himself the same policy in this regard which has been adopted by most of his predecessors, and will be likely to succeed quite as well as any of them in keeping his own counsel. It is his privilege, nay more, it is his duty to take all possible precautions that his administration shall enter office freed from the embarrassment to which he pointedly alluded on Saturday. It is enough for the country, and for the great party which elected him, to know that, whomever he may call about him as his Secretaries and confidential advisers, these are certain to be men in whom the country can trust, and who will have, as they now have, the absolute confidence of the Republican masses. A few prominent men who are merely politicians, and who are at heart only anxious about "axes to grind," may find the delay irksome and decidedly unfavorable to the little combinations and "slates" which they love to make up, but all these must possess their souls patiently, and exercise their talents in ingenious conjecture.

Washington Items.

The measure agreed upon by the Reconstruction Committee, relative to the case of Mississippi, is intended only as a temporary relief. It authorizes the old Convention to convene within thirty days and not to remain in session to exceed one month, and re-submit the Constitution heretofore framed, to the people, with or without amendments, as they may indicate, the Convention to appoint a Provisional Governor with full power to appoint or remove all State or county officers.

It is said that the Senate Committee on Judiciary has determined to report in favor of modification of the constitution of Virginia, as suggested by the committee of nine.

It is now believed that General Grant neither expects nor favors any legislation by which he can be restored to his position as General-in-Chief of the Army at the expiration of his Presidential term; that Sherman will be appointed his successor, and that Sheridan will be selected Lieutenant General in the place of Sherman.

The certainty that a thoroughly Republican Cabinet will be called around General Grant is everywhere conceded, a fact which entirely destroys the theory that Seward will be invited to remain in the State Department.

The pardon of Dr. Mudd, one of the conspirators for the assassination of President Lincoln, has been signed by the President, The pardon is accompanied by a report of the Attorney General, reciting the various considerations moving the Executive to grant the same, which are chiefly that there now appears to be some doubts as to the complicity of said Mudd in the conspiracy, he only rendering aid by attending to the wounds of the chief conspirator; that the medical profession of Hartford county, Maryland, have satisfactorily shown that it was the professional duty of said Mudd, as a physician, to attend Booth when called upon, and further, that he was attentive to the sick at the Dry Tortugas during the prevalence of the yellow fever at that post last summer, saving the lives of many officers and soldiers. It further recites that his pardon has been recommended by thirty-nine Senators and members of the House of Representatives, by over three hundred of the officers and soldiers of the Dry Tortugas, and others.

There is every indication that the President elect will not allow himself to be associated in any way with Andrew Johnson during the inauguration ceremonies.

General Grant gives it as his opinion that one of the best Governors in the South is General Clayton of Arkansas.

In a recent conversation between Gen. Grant and a prominent politician the General spoke very frankly of the efforts of certain of the Democratic papers to produce a breach between him and the Republican party, and added that any man who would undertake such a task, after Andrew Johnson's attempt, would be a madman indeed. The General seems to understand the whole drift of the opposition, and is evidently resolved to co-operate with the great party which elected him.

THE particulars of the shocking fratricide in Clinton county, Missouri, Sunday, are said to be as follows: The name of the two brothers was Evans. The younger of the brothers had been to church, and on returning found an old horse had broken into the oat stacks. He was unable without assistance to get the horse out, and called to the house for some one to help him. Failing to get any response, he went to the house much excited, took a pistol and started back, threatening to shoot the horse. The older brother caught up a hatchet and followed on. As he came close to his brother, he raised the hatchet (as is believed to scare him) in a striking attitude. The brother with the pistol turned and fired, killing him instantly. The affair is the source of the greatest distress to the family and the community, as the young men were highly respected, and no quarrel had ever before occurred between them.

ON Thursday last a Celestial sailed from San Francisco for China, with $18,050 worth of goods stolen from California merchants. The victims at once sent a dispatch describing the thief to New York, whence it was forwarded to London via the Atlantic Cable, and from there telegraphed by the Persian Gulf cable to Ceylon, in time to catch the Hong Kong steamer. When the Celestial reaches Hong Kong, the officers there will have been fully a week on the lookout for him, and of course they will recover the goods and send the swindler back to San Francisco. This incident marks a wonderful progress in telegraphing during the past five years. The time cannot be far distant when offenders will be tripped by lightning in the most remote corners of the globe.

IT IS estimated that there are nearly thirty thousand young men in Boston under marriage engagements, waiting for better times.

CITY COUNCILS.

(Continued from Eighth Page.)

of the several buildings and premises and property and appurtenances thereto, and all apparatus, hose, implements and tools of any and all kinds, which at the time of the appointment of the Commissioners aforesaid, were under the charge and control of any and all city officers or officers of the Fire Department in said city, for the use and benefit of the Fire Departmeht of the city of Pittsburgh. And it shall be the duty of all persons and officers in possession of any property, real or personal, belonging to or set apart for or in use by or for the Fire Department of said city, to deliver the same to the possession and control of said Pittsburgh Fire Department.

SEC. 7. The Treasurer of the city of Pittsburgh shall be the custodian of all moneys of the Department. He shall, on checks or vouchers drawn by the said Commissioners and approved by the City Controller, disburse and use all moneys raised for the purpose of said Pittsburgh Fire Department.

SEC. 8. The Pittsburgh Fire Commissioners, the Mayor of the city of Pittsburgh, the Presidents of the Select and Common Councils, the Chairman of the Finance Committee of said Councils and the Controller of said city, shall constitute a "Board of Estimate," and shall annually, on or before the first Monday of January in each year, estimate the sum required for the support and maintenance of the said Department for the ensuing fiscal year, and order and cause to be levied, raised and collected upon estates, property and all things subject to taxation according to law within said city. The sum so as aforesaid and estimated for the annual expenses authorized by this act and the monies so collected shall be deposited in the city Treasury and placed to the credit of the Pittsburgh Fire Department, and in making such estimate and raising and collecting said sum it shall be lawful for said Board of Estimate to assess anually upon all fire, marine, mutual and life insurance companies doing business within said city of Pittsburgh a special tax, the payment whereof shall be precedent to the right of any such company or companies or their agent or agents to do business in said city; all of which taxes shall be collected as other city taxes are now by law collected.

SEC. 9. The Board of Estimate created by section 8th of this act shall immediately after the organization of the Pittsburgh Fire Department make an estimate of the probable expenses of the said Department for the year 1869, and thereupon proceed at once to levy, assess, and collect the same in the manner provided in section 8th of this act; and in the meantime it shall be lawful for the said Pittsburgh Fire Commissioners to negotiate a temporary loan, not exceeding the full amount of said estimate so as aforesaid made.

SEC. 10. The said Commissioners shall provide such offices and business accommodations as may be requisite for the transaction of its business and that of its subordinates in said city of Pittsburgh.

SEC. 11. The said Commissioners shall have power to select a Secretary, Chief and Assistant Engineers, and as many officers, clerks, firemen and appointees as may be necessary, and the same shall at all times be under the control of the said Commissioners, and perform such duties as may be assigned to them by the said Commissioners, and may be removed by said Commissioners. The firemen and employees mentioned in this section shall be selected as far as practicable from the active and honorary members of the present "Fire Department of the city of Pittsburgh."

SEC. 12. The aforesaid officers and men, with their apparatus of all kinds, when on duty, shall have the right of way at any fire, and in any highway, street or avenue, over any and all vehicles of any kind, except those carrying the United States mail, and the passage of street cars, and any person in, or upon, or owning any vehicle, who shall refuse the right of way, or in any way willfully obstruct any fire apparatus, or any of said officers, while in performance of duty, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and be liable to punishment for the same, and be subject to a penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars.

SEC. 13. On and after the organization of the Department, all real estate, fire apparatus, hose, implements, tools, and all property of whatever nature then or therefor in use by the firemen or Fire Department of the city of Pittsburgh, shall be transferred by all persons having charge of the same, to the keeping and custody of the "Pittsburgh Fire Department" (hereby created) and for the use of said Department thereafter. But the said property shall remain the property of the city of Pittsburgh, subject to the public uses of said Department, as aforesaid, and for the purposes provided by this act. And whenever any of the said property shall no longer be needed by the said Department for the purposes of this act, they shall dispose of the same to the best advantage and apply the proceeds to the "Fire Department Fund."

SEC. 14. The Department hereby created may adopt a common seal and direct its use, and may institute and maintain suits and proceedings, (and may pay any costs, expenses or judgments therein) for the enforcement of its rights and contracts, and for the protection, possession and maintenance of the property under the control of said Department, and all sums recovered shall be for the benefit of said Department Fund.

SEC. 15. It shall be the duty of said Department annually to present to the Select and Common Councils of the City of Pittsburgh, in the month of January in each year, a full, complete and detailed statement of its expenditures during the previous year, and to set forth therein generally the action of said Department and the classification and number of its officers and men. The first report of said Department shall contain a copy of the Rules and By-laws adopted by said Department, and the several subsequent annual reports shall set forth all amendments to said Rules and By-laws.

SEC. 16. It shall be the duty of the Department hereby created, and of the police force of the city of Pittsburgh, their respective officers and men, to co-operate together in all proper ways, and the said police force and this Department may respectively provide for the protection against fire, and for the arrest of all persons who may, at or near any fire, commit or attempt to commit any crime against the laws of this Commonwealth, or may violate any rule or regulation of said Department, and on the first Monday of February in each year, the officers and men under the control of the Pittsburgh Fire Commissioners shall be sworn, in like manner as the police force of said city, and in case of emergency, the Mayor of said city shall have power and control over them as he has over the police force of said city.

SEC. 17. This act shall take effect immediately.

WM. PHILLIPS, Chairman.
John Shipton, John J. Torley,
A. M. Brown, R. D. Herron,
Andrew Scott, R. C. Elliot,
John H. Stewart.

Mr. Rafferty moved an amendment that the matter be referred to a vote of the people.

Mr. Holmes moved to lay Mr. Rafferty's amendment on the table. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Schmidt moved that the act be published in the official papers of the city one time.

On motion of Mr. Hailman, the matter was postponed until next meeting.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Torrens presented a petition requesting Councils to reconsider their action in locating Ridge street. Referred to the Survey Committee.

Also, a petition for a board walk from Minersville to Lawrenceville station, and an ordinance authorizing the same.

The petition was received and the ordinance passed to a second reading and laid over under the rules.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

The President read a communication from the Secretary of the Board of Health, stating that there were two vacancies in said Board, occasioned by the resignation of David Fitzsimmons and Samuel McKee. Accepted.

WATER WORKS.

Mr. Phillips presented a proposed act relative to the water works, as follows:

AN ACT to create a Board of Water Commissioners *of the City of Pittsburgh, and to provide for the management and control of the Water Works of said City:*

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in general assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that

be and they are hereby named, constituted and appointed as Commissioners of the Water Works of the city of Pittsburgh, who, with their successors in office, shall be known and designated as the Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Pittsburgh, and shall perform all the services herein required of them without compensation.

The members of said Board shall hold their offices respectively during good behavior, subject to removal by Councils in the same manner that elective officers of the city are by law removable, and whenever any vacancy shall occur in said Board by death, resignation, removal from office or removal from the city, it shall be the duty of said Board to notify the said Councils of the fact and nominate some person to fill said vacancy, and if said nominee be approved by a majority of Councils in joint session he shall thereupon become a member of said Board; provided, however, that no person shall be authorized to serve as a member of said Board who is not a resident freeholder of said city of Pittsburgh, and a qualified voter therein.

The said Commissioners shall, within thirty days after the passage of this act, having been duly sworn by the Mayor to faithfully discharge the duties of their appointment, meet and organize the Board by the election of one of their number to serve as President and one as Vice President, who shall hold their offices for such term as said Board shall by bye-law prescribe, and they may also at the same time elect a suitable person as Secretary, who shall hold his office during the pleasure of the Board, and receive such compensation as the Board may determine. A majority of said Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Said Board shall keep full and perfect minutes of all their proceedings, which shall at all proper times be kept open for the inspection of the City Controller, or any committee duly appointed by Councils for that purpose. Said Board shall make report to Councils of their proceedings and of all monies received and expended by them at the last regular meeting of said Councils in December of each year, and at such other times as Councils may by ordinance or resolution direct.

The said Board of Commissioners are hereby authorized and empowered to purchase such lands and materials and to construct such reservoirs, buildings, machinery and fixtures as may be deemed necessary for a full and ample supply of water to the said city of Pittsburgh, and with a view to a largely increased consumption thereof in the future, and, also, with a view to obtaining a better quality of water than is now supplied to said city, and said Board is further authorized to procure and lay down water pipes in such localities as they think proper, and to maintain and keep in operation said works when constructed, and to regulate, manage and control all lands, lots, buildings, machinery, pipes and fixtures now used in connection with the City Water Works, or which may hereafter be acquired; provided, that all contracts for the erection and construction of buildings, reservoirs, laying pipes, or the furnishing of materials and supplies for or in connection with said Works, whenever the same is practicable, shall be let to the lowest and best bidder upon proposals to be made in writing, and said Board shall give notice of the time and place of receiving proposals by advertisements in the papers authorized to do the city printing, and such other papers as they may think advisable, at least ten days before the time fixed for receiving the same.

Said Board of Commissioners shall have and possess all the powers to borrow money and issue bonds conferred upon the city of Pittsburgh by an act of Assembly, entitled "An act to authorize the city of Pittsburgh to borrow money," approved the twenty-eighth day of February, A. D. 1868, and all bonds issued in pursuance hereof, shall be subject to the provisions of said act; except, that the limitation as to the amount to be borrowed shall be extended to the sum of two millions of dollars.

All bonds which may be authorized by said Board shall be signed by the Mayor, countersigned by the Controller, and sealed by the Mayor with the corporate seal of the city of Pittsburgh.

Said bonds shall be sold under the direction of the Board of Commissioners, who shall report all sales to the Controller, who shall keep a correct and accurate account of all bonds which may be issued in pursuance of this act, and of all money which may be paid for or on account thereof, and shall cancel and file all bonds and coupons which may, at any time, be paid by the City Treasurer.

All money received for the sale of bonds shall at once be paid to the City Treasurer, who shall keep an accurate account thereof.

It shall be the duty of said Board, as soon as practicable after their organization, to make an estimate of the amount required to defray the expenses of the current year, and if the same shall exceed the amount already appropriated by Councils to the Water Fund, it shall be the duty of Councils to add to said appropriation an amount sufficient to make up the deficiency, and said amount shall be provided for by said Board, by the issue and sale of bonds.

In each year hereafter, it shall be the duty of said Board to make out an estimate of the receipts and expendatures of the Water Department for the current year, and furnish the same to the President of Select Council within one week after his appointment for submission to the Finance Committee, and it shall be the duty of Councils to make appropriation to the Water Fund to the amount of expenditures so estimated, provided the same shall not exceed the amount of estimated receipts.

The said Board of Commissioners shall be and are hereby authorized and empowered to make such by-laws, rules and regulations as they may deem necessary and proper for the safe, economical and efficient management and protection of the Water Works, to fix the rates of water rents, provide for the assessment and collection thereof, and generally to regulate, manage and control all matters relating to the supply of water to said city, and the maintenance and management of the Water Works now existing or hereafter to be constructed. All by-laws, rules and regulations of said Board, when adopted, shall be recorded in the same manner and have all the force and effect of city ordinances. All ordinances of said city relating to Water Works now in force shall be and remain in full force and virtue until the same shall be altered or supplied by said Board of Commissioners.

All the powers heretofore conferred upon the Councils of the City of Pittsburgh, or possessed by them, to prevent and punish injuries to the Water Works and the contamination of the water, are hereby conferred upon the Board of Commissioners hereby created.

——— ——— is hereby appointed Chief of the Water Department, whose duty it shall be to superintend all the business connected with the Water Works, and all officers and employees thereof, to keep the accounts of the receipts and expenditures, to see that all contracts are faithfully executed, and perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the Board of Commissioners. He shall hold his office during good behavior and may for any cause be removed by the Board of Commissioners by a two-third vote of the members present at any regular meeting, and when any vacancy shall occur in said office it shall be filled by appointment of the Board, subject to approval of Councils.

The Chief of the Water Department shall, before entering upon the duties of his appointment, make oath before the Mayor to faithfully discharge the same, and give bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars, with sureties, to be approved by the Board, and shall receive in compensation for his services the annual salary of four thousand dollars.

The said Board of Commissioners shall by resolution or by-law direct the employment of such superintendents, clerks, assessors, engineers, surveyors and other persons, as in their opinion may be necessary for the proper performance of the duties mentioned in this act, and to determine the compensation to be paid to those so employed. They shall also direct what officers and employees shall give bonds, the amount and terms thereof, and the sureties required therein.

All such officers and employees shall be appointed by the Chief of the Water Department, subject to the approval of the Board, and may be removed or dismissed by him subject to the same approval. Provided, that the officers now serving, who have been elected by Councils, shall retain their respective positions until the end of the term for which they were elected.

The Chief of the Water Department shall make monthly statements in detail of all transactions of the Water Department to the Board for their information.

It shall be the duty of the President of the Board of Commissioners to certify to the Controller, in writing, all claims approved and allowed by the Board, who shall certify warrants for the amount thereof, upon the Water Fund, if there is at the time any money in said fund undisposed of, which warrants when signed by the Mayor shall be paid by the City Treasurer from the money in said fund.

No Commissioner, officer or employee shall be interested directly or indirectly in any contract entered into by them or any of them for or on account of said Water Works, nor shall they be interested directly or indirectly in the sale or purchase of any real estate or of any materials for the use or purposes of said Works, and any contract in which any of said parties may be so interested shall be null and void, and no suit or suits shall be maintained against the city of Pittsburgh on the same or for or on account of anything that may have been done under or in pursuance thereof. And any moneys which may have been paid by said city on account thereof, may be recovered from the party receiving the same in an action of debt or assumpsit in the name of said city.

Whenever said Board of Commissioners shall desire to procure any lands for the purpose of erecting thereon basins, reservoir, engine-houses, or other buildings necessary for said Water Works, or to be used in connection therewith, and are unable to agree with the owner or owners thereof for the sale and purchase thereof, or by reason of the absence or legal incapacity of such owner or owners no such agreement can be made, it shall and may be lawful for the District Court of Allegheny county, on application thereto by petition of said Commissioners, in the name and on behalf of the city of Pittsburgh, to appoint three disinterested freeholders of said county, neither of whom shall be residents or owners of property in said city, and appoint a time not less than ten nor more than twenty days thereafter, when they shall meet upon the premises, and having been first duly sworn or affirmed to faithfully discharge their duties, appraise and value the ground proposed to be taken, of which meeting notice shall be given at least ten days before the time appointed therefor to the attorney of the city of Pittsburgh and to the owner or owners of said property, or in the case of absence or legal incapacity of the owner or owners, to the agent, guardian, committee or other representative of such owner, if such agent or other representative reside in the county of Allegheny, and if not in at least two newspapers published in the city of Pittsburgh, and in such other paper as the Court may direct.

Said viewers having viewed the premises shall estimate and appraise the value of the property so to be taken, at its fair cash value, and within ten days after said meeting report the same to said Court, which report shall be filed in said Court, and if no exceptions thereto be filed within ten days thereafter, the same shall become absolute and binding upon all parties; but if exceptions shall be filed by either of said parties, within the time aforesaid, the said Court may make such order for disposing of the same as may seem proper, and if deemed necessary may order an issue in such form as the Court may direct, and try the same before said Court and a jury, and after final judgment either party may have a writ of error from the Supreme Court, as in other cases.

When the report of viewers shall have been made and returned to Court, as aforesaid, said Commissioners may, if they think proper, tender the amount of the appraised value of said grounds to the owner or owners, his, her or their agent or representative, or may pay the same into Court, and may thereupon take possession of and use and occupy the grounds so appraised.

When said proceedings shall be determined, and final judgment given thereon, and the amount of the appraised value of the grounds fixed, and the same shall have been paid or tendered to the owner or owners, his, her or their agent or representative, or paid into Court, the grounds so appraised shall become vested in the city of Pittsburgh in fee simple.

Whenever said Board of Commissioners shall desire to occupy any grounds for the purpose of laying water pipe or constructing conduits thereon, viewers may be appointed to appraise the damages which may be done to the owner