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**District of Penn.**—By an act of the Assembly, entitled "A further Supplement to the Act entitled 'An Act to Incorporate the District of Southwark,' passed on the 19th day of April, 1843, James Markoe, Andrew D. Cash, Wm. Esher, Jacob Heyberger, and Edward T. Tyson, were constituted a Board of Commissioners, with full power and authority to elect and appoint one or two competent surveyors or surveyors, to be surveyors or surveyors, or surveyors and regulators, of that part of Penn Township, in the County of Philadelphia, lying between the north boundary line of the District of Spring Garden and a line parallel with and at the distance of one hundred feet north of Susquehanna avenue, and between the middle of Delaware Sixth street and the river Schuylkill, to lay out streets, sewers, &c., &c."

By this act the Commissioners named were invested with similar powers for pitching and paving the streets as possessed by the Commissioners of the District of Spring Garden, with similar powers for collecting, &c., and to lay an annual tax.

The same act authorized the Court of Quarter Sessions to supply any and all vacancies that might occur in said Board of Commissioners, and that all Commissioners so appointed be required to give security for the faithful performance of their duties and the application of all moneys which come into their hands, as the said Court shall require.

Under the Act of Assembly making the appointment, the members of the board, viz:—Jacob Heyberger, James Markoe, William Esher, Edward T. Tyson, and Andrew Cash, met on Tuesday, the 2d of May, 1843, at Woodvale Cottage, the residence of James Markoe, Esq.

Jacob Heyberger was called to the Chair, and Andrew D. Cash was appointed Secretary.

Messrs. Heyberger and Markoe were appointed a committee to consult counsel in relation to such matters as might require legal advice, especially with reference to the security required of the Commissioners under the act, and E. T. Tyson was appointed Treasurer, with a salary of \$50 per annum.

At a meeting held May 22d, 1843, Geo. M. Wharton, Esq., was appointed Counsel for the Commissioners, and Messrs. Fox and Haines were elected Surveyors and Regulators of the district.

The last meeting of this board, was held Thursday, March 14, '44, a supplemental act having been passed by the Legislature, Feb. 26, 1844, by which the inhabitants of the District of Penn, and their successors, forever, were constituted a Corporation and body politic, in fact and in law, by the name, style and title of "The Commissioners and Inhabitants of the District of Penn."

By this supplemental act, the inhabitants of the District, who were qualified voters, were authorized to elect, on the third Friday in March, nine Commissioners, viz: three for one year, three for two years, and three for three years, those elected to meet on the second Monday after their election, and organize by electing a President, Clerk, Treasurer and Solicitor.

The election for Commissioners took place as provided for, and the members elect held their first meeting at the house of Michael Deimer, March 25, 1844.

James Markoe was elected President. George M. Wharton, Esq., Solicitor. Jacob E. Esher, Clerk. George Esher, Superintendent.

The Treasurer and Clerk soon afterwards resigned, when the two offices were merged, and Wm. S. Cox was elected Treasurer and Clerk.

In 1845 another election for Commissioners was held, and at the organization of the Board, March 31, 1845, James Markoe was re-elected President, Mr. Cox Clerk and Treasurer, and J. Murray Rush, Esq., Solicitor.

The meeting of the Commissioners in May was held, for the first time, at the Hall at the corner of Thompson and Tenth streets.

March 30, 1846. The new Board organized by the election of

Athanasius Ford, President. John K. Hyneman, Clerk. George A. Binder, Treasurer. J. Murray Rush, Solicitor.

In August of this year, George W. Bradley was elected Clerk.

March 9, 1847. The Board organized by the election of A. Olive, President, and Mr. Wm. Bache was appointed Clerk pro tem.

At this meeting the members met in the Surveyor's room in the Hall, the hall or meeting room of the Board not having been opened, the Clerk, as stated in a resolution passed by the Board at that meeting, having either lost or desigedly kept the key unlawfully in his possession.

Samuel Miller was appointed to open the room, which being done, the members repaired thither and proceeded to transact business.

George W. B. Felton was then elected Clerk, and E. T. Tyson, Treasurer.

At this meeting a resolution was passed, deeming it inexpedient to have a Solicitor of the District.

It appears that during this year John K. Hyneman acted as Clerk of the Board.

There is a blank in the minutes of the proceedings of the Board from March 10, 1845, to August 9, 1845.

At the latter date, a special meeting of the Board was held, and Simon M. Gail was elected Clerk, to act until the third Monday in October, there being no clerk at that time, as the record states.

During the time from March 10, 1845, to August 9, 1845, it appears that four members of the Board met and transacted business without a quorum, the Board consisting of nine members. In this period of time, the three Commissioners elect were kept out of their seats, and the court finally set the election aside, and ordered a new election in October of this year, 1845.

Then, at a stated meeting, held on the 16th of October, the returns of the election of William R. Bannan, Thomas S. Davis and Samuel Ogdin were read, and they were admitted to their seats.

Anthony Felton was then elected Treasurer, and Horn R. Kneass, Esq., Solicitor.

The other officers were continued. March 26, 1849.—The Board organized and Wm. Esher was elected President; Thomas Hope Palmer, Clerk; Wm. Binder, Treasurer, and Horn R. Kneass, Esq., re-elected Solicitor.

March 25, 1850.—The Board organized, and Saml. Ogdin was elected President; Thomas Hope Palmer, Clerk; Wm. Binder, Treasurer, and Horn R. Kneass, Esq., Solicitor.

It appears by the record that at this meeting the members elected at the election immediately preceding, were not admitted to their seats, there being two sets claiming.

The matter was before court, and during April there were no meetings of the Board for want of a quorum. A meeting of the Board was held on the 13th May, when Messrs. Wm. Esher, Birch, Sheble and Biggs having been declared duly and legally elected by the Court of Common Pleas, took their seats.

Wm. Esher was elected President, in place of Mr. Ogdin, who stated that he had assumed the duties of President only until the complete organization of the Board. The new members, upon leave granted, recorded their votes in favor of the officers of the corporation elected at the meeting in March.

David Webster, Esq., was Solicitor of the District for several months, having been elected to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of H. R. Kneass, Esq.

Feb. 18, 1851, an act was passed by the Legislature, providing that on the third Friday in March next six Commissioners of the District should be elected, in addition to those annually elected, two for three years, two for two years, and two for one year, and that annually thereafter five should be elected for the term of five years.

March 31, 1851, the Board organized under the new act, when G. W. Manson, Robert Pollard, John S. Nicholas, James Wilson and Wm. L. Harney, took their seats for three years, Samuel Ogdin and L. R. Peters for two years, and Edward T. Tyson and Christian Lawrence for one year.

Samuel Ogdin was elected President, Geo. W. B. Felton, Clerk; Anthony Felton, Treasurer; and Henry T. Grout, Esq., Solicitor.

March 29, 1852. The stated meeting of the Board was held for the purpose of organization, when G. A. Coburn, Jacob Peters, Jr., Jacob Meel, Thomas Ryan and Philip Rump were, upon resolution, admitted as members elect.

Messrs. Meel, Rump and Peters handed in their certificates of qualification and took their seats.

The certificate of election presented was a fraud, inasmuch as the votes of the First Ward were excluded from the returns, and the members elect having a majority of the votes in the District, were refused their seats accordingly.

At this meeting both parties, the Reformers and Regulators, met in the Hall, and proceeded to organization.

It is due to Mr. Coburn and Mr. Ryan to state that they did not ask to take their seats in the Board, both of them asserting that they had not been elected.

The Regulators elected Samuel Ogdin, President; Henry T. Grout, Esq., Solicitor; Geo. W. B. Felton, Clerk; and Anthony Felton, Treasurer.

The Reformers elected Jacob D. Sheble, President, Joseph Wood, Clerk, Wm. Binder, Treasurer, and Henry T. Grout, Esq., Solicitor.

The Regulators maintained possession of the Corporation, against proceedings taken upon *quo warranto* taken by the Reformers, and transacted business until June 22, 1852, when Messrs. Gratz, Binder, Dickerson, Snyder and Tyson, members elected on the Reform ticket, were admitted to their seats.

At a meeting on the 25th of June, Mr. Ogdin resigned as President, and the Board as then constituted by the admission of the members elect, organized by the election of Mr. Sheble, as President, Joseph Wood, Clerk, Wm. Binder, Treasurer, Henry T. Grout, Esq., Solicitor.

The several Officers of the Corporation were elected, and entered upon their duties.

March 28, 1853.—The Board met to organize, and Messrs. Jacob D. Sheble, Samuel Bates, John R. Conard, Joseph S. Silver and Charles Sims, members elect, took their seats.

Jacob D. Sheble, was re-elected President; Jos. Wood, Clerk, Wm. Binder, Treasurer, and Henry T. Grout, Esq., Solicitor.

The former Officers of the Corporation were continued.

The act of consolidation rendered it unnecessary for any election of members at the usual spring elections in March, or any organization of the Board at the annual stated time, and therefore the corporation is continued as previously constituted, and will act until superseded by the City Councils. The funded debt of the District is a little over two hundred and sixty thousand dollars, and the floating debt but a few hundred dollars. There is a considerable sum due the corporation for taxes, piping, paving, grading, &c.

Ten years in existence, the District has improved in the laying out of streets and other public work to a great extent, but would doubtless have been more, forward and flourishing had the corporate powers been in proper hands.

Its management has been proverbially bad the greater part of the time, and its character and credit depreciated. For two years past, the District has been in better repute. The political contests have been severe and oft repeated, the Courts having on many occasions adjudicated cases growing out of the violent disputes, and the alleged frauds charged upon the political parties in the District.

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**GLAZING OF SHEET-IRON WITH GLASS.**—A Correspondent of the Scientific American gives the Paris process for protecting sheet and wrought iron by means of a thin coat of glass. The articles are first to be scoured bright, and washed with dilute acid, then dried and brushed over with a solution of gum arabic. The glass is then dusted over them by means of a sieve. The ware is next dried in an oven, heated to 300 degrees, then put into another oven, where it is brought to a bright red heat, until the glass is in a melted state, which is ascertained through suitable openings in the furnace. After this it is taken out and put in a closed chamber, to prevent sudden cooling. If necessary, a second coat is to be put on in the same manner. The glazing is composed of 130 parts of flint glass, 40 parts of carbonate of soda, and 12 parts of boric acid, carefully mixed and melted in a glass-house pot. This glass, after casting and cooling, is pulverized under a steel pestle, and sifted through a bolting cloth; it is then fit for use. This covering for iron is transparent, and does not scale off, nor split, by the action of heat, and it resists sudden changes of temperature. Acids, even concentrated and hot, do not act in a notable manner on the iron coated with this composition. On the other hand, boiling solutions of caustic potash or soda seem to dissolve small portions of the silica and boric acid. Among the manifold applications of this process, is the very useful one to cooking implements, as a substitute to tinned ware; its advantages are cleanliness and absence of metallic taste in food. Stove pipe is by this means kept from rusting. Among the latest applications is the coating of pots for sugar refineries, crystallizing vats for fatty acids, and other articles of sheet iron. It can be applied to the cast-iron plates used in candle stuck presses, these plates and presses being liable to rust and stain the fatty matters.

**MACHINE PUNCHES AND SHEARS.**—A pair of

### USE OF WATER IN STREET CLEANING.

Has Philadelphia an adequate supply of water? This question may startle some persons who have a pleasant habit of doubting of nothing, and taking everything for granted; but if one not so credulous observes certain facts which are patent and notorious, he will think the interrogatory we have just put quite pertinent and proper. Nobody will deny that if there is a deficiency in so necessary a means of public comfort and health, the truth should be known, so that measures may be immediately adopted to secure ampler provision for our wants; while, on the other hand, if there is really an abundance of water at our command, it becomes equally important to understand why the authorities make so little use of it for the common benefit of the community. If the capacity of the works at Fairmount were estimated according to the freedom and liberality with which the fire plugs are allowed to pour their streams into the streets of the city for the purpose of keeping them clean and wholesome, a stranger might very justly feel sceptical even of their existence.

Now, this exceedingly limited use of the water of the city in such ways as would make it tributary to the general advantage of the population, is a serious matter, and if there is, indeed, no satisfactory reason why it is applied so sparingly for such ends, then those who have control over this branch of our municipal resources are not wisely and faithfully discharging their trust. No great metropolis can, with any propriety, be said to have a sufficiency of water, if the supply is only great enough for domestic consumption, and the extinguishment of fires. That element is a most essential part of the efficient sanitary means of a large town, and its value in this respect should be regarded as being of too much magnitude not to receive earnest attention. Our water-works have really been performing but a portion of the service they were designed to render. It is certain that the enlightened and enterprising men who originated and planned the project for erecting them, contemplated, as one of the chief benefits they were to confer, an increased salubrity to be derived from their employment in cleansing the highways of the city. A principal utility of such improvements is neglected when they are not made to contribute freely and effectually to the important end suggested. Our streets and courts and alleys should be thoroughly washed daily, especially in the summer season, when they are foul with filth that rapidly infects the air, so that we are made literally to breathe poison three or four months in every year. With this fact before us, need we be astonished that mortality is augmented at a fearful rate, during a period when the thermometer indicates a hundred degrees of heat, and the scorching sun is exhaling from gutters and thoroughfares, filled with putrifying garbage, the subtle agents of disease and death. We have been compelled in the midst of July and August to pass through quarters of the town where the impurity of the atmosphere was so offensive that it seemed we must at every step be inhaling pestilence. Heaps of offal from kitchens and elsewhere, were rotting in the ways, while the gutters were rank with putrid water which had remained stagnating since the last rain. There was no evidence that the scavenger had done his work there, or that the hydrants were ever opened to aid in the vital business of purification. This sort of neglect, so aggravated in certain sections, exists to a greater or less extent in all parts of Philadelphia, which, though the cleanest city of its size in the country, generally considered, is yet not nearly so well cleaned as it might and ought to be.

The fault in this matter lies mainly in not using the water of the Schuylkill as an auxiliary of the scavenger. His broom and his cart, though not exercised as actively and efficiently by half as they should be, must always execute their office most imperfectly without the aid of that potent agent, which seems endowed with a natural antagonism for dirt, and one of the especial functions of which is to refresh and purify. What is the reason that our hydrants are not, at least during the hot months, opened regularly, night and morning, in all the main and cross streets of the town; and the water permitted to flow through them for the space of ten or fifteen minutes? Were this done punctually, and the avenues well swept twice or even once a week, the health of the community would be greatly promoted.

Will the Watering Committee say whether they really have any adequate justification for so rigidly proscribing one of the most necessary uses for which the apparatus and basins at Fairmount were intended? Do they imagine that the works were meant only for private purposes, and that in their administration of them, the only thing they have to consider is how they can realise the largest possible revenue to the city treasury? This appears to have been the narrow conception of their duty, which has thus far actuated them. It is a grave wrong